

Society STAR

A PUBLICATION OF THE
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2015

Big Year for State Historic Preservation Office

The National Historic Preservation Act will have its 50th anniversary in 2016, and the Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is already hard at work on projects to celebrate what that has meant for Montana.

“Around the office we are calling it the year of SHPO,” MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg said. “Through its National Register of Historic Places program, its work with all of Montana’s Native American tribes, its efforts to save and protect historic buildings and sites, and other activities like Montana Archaeology Day, SHPO touches and serves literally every county and community in Montana.”

In cooperation with the Montana Department of Administration, SHPO recently completed a detailed study on the history and architectural significance of the buildings

on the Capitol Campus in Helena. It took more than a year to complete. The State Historic Preservation Review Board in September approved the study and with it an application to create an historic district around the Capitol.

Within the 60 acres in the Capitol Complex are 24 buildings, sites structures and objects that would be listed in the register.

In addition to recognizing the historical significance of the area, the research necessary for the application for the first time provides a comprehensive record of the history of how and why new buildings were approved for construction by the Legislature.

“The Department of Administration provided us valuable access to its records and helped fund the project,” SHPO Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Mark Baumler said. “The nomination tells the history of Montana state government in many ways through the state buildings.”

If all goes well, the Montana State Capitol Campus historic district should be approved by next year. In addition to the treasure trove of research material already developed, the designation would provide information for such things as historic signs for walking tours of the area. “Montanans take great pride in their Capitol, and this will provide even more reasons why,” Baumler said.

Since the national preservation act was passed, SHPO has listed more than 1,150 properties in the National Register of Historic Places, reviewed and commented on about



MHS Security Guard Charlie Amundson raises the 150th anniversary flag that has flown throughout the year.

Make Your Plans to join MHS For Its 150 Anniversary Party

The Montana Historical Society wants its members and friends to have the first chance to join in on the fun as we wrap up the year-long 150th Anniversary celebration.

On Saturday evening, Feb. 6, 2016, at the historic Montana Club we'll have a grand evening of fun and history that will include social hour in the member's lounge where

Make Your Plans (cont. on p. 3)



Historic Montana Club.

J DANIELS COUNTY
♣



Daniels County Courthouse

♣

A graphic element for a playing card. It features a large letter 'J' and a club symbol (♣) at the top left. Below is a photograph of the Daniels County Courthouse, a two-story white building with a balcony. Below the photo is the text "Daniels County Courthouse" and another club symbol (♣) at the bottom right.

The Daniels County Courthouse is the jack of clubs in the SHPO playing cards.

Big Year (cont. on p. 4)

Sharing Stories, Building Community

Something is going on. Over the past couple of years, the Montana Historical Society has experienced significant growth in visitation and tours, use of research materials and attendance at public programs and conferences. The “auditorium” at the Montana Historical Society has a capacity for 57 for our regular free public programs. A recent program attracted over 200, and it’s become a regular occurrence to be well over capacity. We’ve adjusted by providing overflow seating and a closed circuit broadcast in our lobby gallery. At the 42nd Annual Montana History Conference in Bozeman in September, 300 folks attended during the three-day conference in spite of a home football game and Homecoming at Montana State University. So what’s going on? It may appear that folks simply are interested in the topic of any given program. Here’s another theory.

In his 2000 book, “Bowling Alone, The Collapse and Revival of America Community”, Robert Putnam documented, with impressive data that the sense of community and social capital in our society is on a rapid decline. Service clubs like Rotary or Kiwanis, church attendance, voter turnout, union membership – all on the decline. Even home construction shows these signs. Remember how we used to build the porch on the front and the garage in the alley

in back. Now we build the garage in front and the deck in back for privacy. Despite these trends, it appears that people are hungry for social interaction, to learn together, to share common interests and develop relationships. The same question has to do with the internet’s impact on our sense of community. Has the internet destroyed libraries and historical societies? No. Libraries, like ours and many others around Montana, are no longer passive repositories of books and information, a quiet outpost of culture and decorum in a noisy world. The Montana Historical Society is an active, lively and responsive part of the community, and a change agent. The internet, it turns out, is one of the reasons people come to the MHS. They find basic information and want to dig deeper. They hit a wall with their own research and need to seek out experts. We help them make sense of what they have found on their own, and provide a sense of confidence in the information they discover. People trust MHS.



More than 200 people spilled out into the lobby of MHS to watch a program on closed circuit TV that was live in the small MHS auditorium.

Similarly, the public programs and exhibits have become community gathering places. Accessible to all, warm and welcoming, somewhat intellectual, providing a chance for people of similar interests to get to know each other in a safe place. A gathering place, like the old town square or corner grocery. People come here looking for information but they find each other.

We welcome people into the MHS to explore collections, or to our events and programs, let’s remem-

Director’s Corner (cont. on p. 4)

SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD

Jeanette Rankin Mail Bag

In the future even snail mail will be a long-forgotten term.

In this age of social media and emails, a mail bag used by Montana Rep. Jeanette Rankin in the early part of the last century and acquired by MHS is significant not just because it was used by the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. It also shows how congress men and women communicated with constituents and their home states.

There are two tags on the mail-bag. One states that it carries public documents, the other is addressed C/O (meaning in care of which also will be a forgotten symbol) W.D. Rankin/ Helena, Montana. Wellington Rankin was Jeanette’s brother and campaign manager.

MHS only has a few artifacts

connected to Rankin, which makes the bag an even more important acquisition. It was donated in memory of D.C. Morrison of Augusta, who bought a bag of used military clothing and found the Rankin mail bag in with those items. ★



Congressional mail bag used by Jeannette Rankin.

About Us

The *Society Star* is published quarterly by the Montana Historical Society as a benefit of membership.

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Historic Delaney Sawmill TeePee Burner in Lincoln

The glow of the Delaney Sawmill's TeePee Burner once lit up the evening skies in the Upper Blackfoot Valley, but it had become a fading memory of the once thriving timber industry in the Lincoln area.

Kevin O'Dwyer and a cadre of dedicated volunteers dismantled the massive burner in 2014 and moved it to Sculpture Park in Lincoln where it was reassembled and opened as a museum and monument to the timber history of the area. The burner is 75 feet tall and has a diameter of 45 feet at the base.

The Delaney Sawmill that employed up to 100 workers closed in

1971 and only the burner was left behind as a reminder to history. The burner was used to get rid of the wood refuse resulting from processing.

The interior includes historic photos and other information that tells the story of the timber industry. It also has space for educational programs and local civic events.

The MHS Research Center took a field trip to the burner in the "Blackfoot Pathways: Sculpture in the Wild" park and say it is well worth the trip. O'Dwyer researched the project at MHS and used the MHS Photograph Archives Collection. ★



Kevin O'Dwyer welding on the inside of the gigantic teepee burner now on exhibit in Lincoln.

SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

Indiana Jones Has Nothing on Amanda Streeter Trum

Silver Screen legend Indiana Jones has nothing on Amanda Streeter Trum, who knows in the real world what it means when you say "it belongs in a Museum."

"When I went to college I was interested in history and archaeology and museums," Trum said. "I thought that Indiana Jones was cool."

Her adventures before joining the Montana Historical Society in 2007 and becoming Curator of Collections in 2013 included working on an archaeological field study in Kenya digging up a half-a-million-year-old *Homo erectus*, to a stint at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., to cultural resource management projects on historic sites across the nation.

After her undergraduate studies at the State University of New York



Amanda Streeter Trum in the MHS art storage vault.

at Potsdam, the northern New York native became a self-described "shovel bum." "When I finally got sick of digging holes, I went to graduate school," she said.

She earned her master's degree in museum studies at the University of Florida in 2007.

"I love the sense of awe you get from viewing artifacts and making a connection to history whether

it is from 500,000 years ago or 50 years ago," she said.

Since coming to Montana, Trum said she has come to appreciate "the deep connection to the land itself" that Montanans have. "That is something that can be seen from prehistoric people to contemporary Montanans. They feel rooted to the land," she said.

On an archaeological dig in the swamps of Louisiana Amanda jokes that she discovered her husband Eric Trum, who now works for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. They have two children, Grayson, 5, and Jillian, 2, both born in Montana.

The kids are not Indiana Jones, but more importantly they are Montana Trums. "It's a badge of honor they can carry for the rest of their lives," she said. ★

Make Your Plans (cont. from p. 1)

millionaires once gathered, dinner in elegant ambiance, special guests, an auction, and other activities.

There are only 150 tickets available for the event at \$150 each. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the event, contributing auction items, or to make your reservation call MHS Development Officer Susan Near at 406-444-4713 or email snear@mt.gov. All proceeds benefit MHS. ★

“Comic Creations” to Honor Stan Lynde

Rick O’Shay and Hip Shot will be there and other fans of legendary Montana cartoonist and author Stan Lynde will want to be there too.

Montana Historical Society staffers are hard at work on a new exhibit, “From the Heart: Stan Lynde’s Comic Creations,” that will have its opening reception on Jan. 21, 2016, at 5 p.m. at MHS

The retrospective exhibit will



Amanda and Bobbi looking through some of the artifacts Lynde donated to MHS.

feature a re-creation of a comic-style Old West town, a re-creation of Lynde’s studio and will showcase many never-before-seen works from Lynde’s early cartooning years. It also will feature artifacts from his life as a cowboy and Montana promoter, and fun gifts given him by his fans over the years.

“I’m really excited to share Stan’s passion for the West and to showcase his many talents. We want visitors to feel immersed in Stan’s comic world and my hope is that people walk away with a sense of how much Stan loved Western life and how skilled he was at presenting it to others,” MHS Museum Curator Amanda Streeter Trum said.

Lynde’s comic strips were published for many year in newspapers across the nation and his memoir has an introduction by famous



MHS Curator of Collection Amanda Streeter Trum (left) and Bobbi Jones-Wallace strike a gunfighter pose with Stan Lynde’s Hip Shot character.

actor and fan Charlton Heston. He and his wife Lynda donated many of his works and artifacts from his life to MHS shortly before he died in 2013. ★

MHS Women’s History Matters Wins Prestigious MPMA Award

The ground-breaking Montana Historical Society “Women’s History Matters” project has been awarded the Mountain-Plains Museums Association Leadership and Innovation Award for 2015.

“Led by MHS Historical Specialist Martha Kohl, “Women’s History Matters” promoted existing resources, created powerful new materials based on current scholarship, and reached new audiences through strategic use of web-based technology,” MPMA officials noted.

To visit the site go to www.montanawomenhistory.org.

Director’s Corner (cont. from p. 2)

ber this point - that the folks are seeking information or entertainment, but they are also seeking each other. And they are seeking ways to enrich their lives and create social interactions and establish relationships. The stories that we tell and that we help others to tell create connections, build social capital and strengthen community. There is indeed something going on at the Montana Historical Society, and it’s powerful, important and necessary in today’s world.

New Tool to Search MHS Magazine Articles

The Montana Historical Society has released an update to its online index of articles in Montana The Magazine of Western History. This means that researchers can now discover articles about all aspects of western history from the first issue of the magazine, published in 1950, all the way through issues published in 2012. Someone searching for articles about Charles M. Russell, for example, could use the search term “Russell” and discover more than twenty scholarly articles about the cowboy artist in addition to many of his artworks reproduced in the magazine. Back issues of the magazine may be viewed free of charge by visiting the Montana Historical Society Research Center. Subscriptions to the magazine are available by calling (406) 444-4708 or online at mhs.mt.gov. To search the index, go to <http://svcalt.mt.gov/his/magazine/ReferenceIndex.asp>. ★

Big Year (cont. from p. 1)

2,000 state and federal projects for potential impacts on heritage sites each year, and documented 55,800 historic and archaeological sites in the state.

Over the next year SHPO will design a Montana Preservation poster celebrating the 50th anniversary, organize a 2016 preservation workshop highlighting its programs, and engage in other special activities including creating a commemorative deck of playing cards featuring a National Register property from each of Montana’s counties.

And, SHPO has just moved into the historic Old Board of Health Capitol Campus building built in 1919 that is just south across the street from the Capitol. ★

MHS Puts Itself at the Top of Russell Art World

Among the many ways in which MHS commemorated its 150th anniversary, a Highlight of the yearlong fete was a three-day symposium held June 18–20 in celebration of Montana's favorite son and MHS' recent opus, "Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society."

Titled "Montana's Charlie Russell: 21st Century Perspectives on the Cowboy Artist," the seminar was attended by 190 Russell enthusiasts who came to Helena from all across the West. Fortunately, for those who missed it—or those who attended but still want to revisit any or all of the fascinating presentations—the sessions were recorded and are now available online at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL99kldTK43lEoAki108EpXZLQqc4zMV6>.

"The most exciting aspect of this once-in-a-lifetime gathering,"

according to MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager and co-author of "Montana's Charlie Russell" Kirby Lambert "was the quality of the presenters who participated and the variety of Russell-related topics they covered. The lineup of speakers truly represented a 'who's who' in the field of Russell scholarship. It was incredible to be able to have so many notable specialists on the same roster. The opportunity to learn from and visit with these people was amazing."

For her part, MHS Senior Curator and Russell catalog co-author Jennifer Bottomly-O'looney felt that the most exciting part of the event was "meeting in person and learning from all of the incredible Russell scholars. And I greatly enjoyed absorbing the excitement and enthusiasm for Charlie that came from everyone attending the symposium. It is amazing to me that Russell holds such a fascination



Charlie and Nancy Russell live on at the Montana Historical Society.

for people today – I can't wait to see what lies ahead in the field of 'Russellania'!"

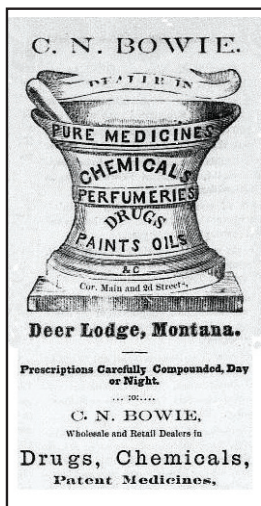
MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg said, "The symposium proves the point that we have known all along that the Montana Historical Society and its Russell collection are at the top of the Russell art world." ★

It Pays to Advertise For MHS Researchers

The Bar is stocked with the finest Liquors and Cigars. Give me a call, boys.
Gem Saloon advertisement, 1876

You can learn a lot about Montana history from the advertisements in historic newspapers.

MHS Research Center volunteer Josef Warhank spent the last two years compiling an index to ads in "The Yellowstone Journal" (Miles City) 1882-1891, and "The New North-West" (Deer Lodge) 1869-1865.



Ads like these can now be searched and help tell the Montana story.

Warhank, who served for many years in the MHS State Historic Preservation Office, created a searchable and sortable spreadsheet on ads identifying businesses, products, and people. Christine Kirkham, MHS coordinator of the Montana Digital Newspaper Project, said Warhank did something the computer couldn't.

Historic ads often use ornamental fonts and have sudden shifts in text style and size. "To achieve the level of accuracy and detail provided in Josef's index requires a human eye," she said. "Josef is not only indexing the names of businesses and the towns where they were located, he also is transcribing their addresses, slogans, products and services, as well as the names of owners and proprietors."

The index is online at www.mhs.mt.gov/research/collections/newspapers/newsindex.

"It is impossible to overestimate the value of this index to researchers," Kirkham said. ★

MHS Big Part of Chronicling America - Reaching 10 Million Pages of History

The national Chronicling America newspaper project recently hit the 10 million page mark for putting national historic newspapers on line, and the Montana Historical Society was a major part of that effort.

MHS has contributed more than a quarter million of those pages and counting. Since 2009, MHS has digitized 257,000 pages from 56 Montana newspapers published from 1864 to 1922. Montana newspaper pages on Chronicling America have been viewed more than 400,000 times by users in 100 different countries across the globe.

"We've heard many historians say that digitized newspapers have 'turbo charged' research," MHS Digital Newspaper Project Coordinator Tina Kirkham said. "Rather than peer at a microfilm reader or pore over crumbling newsprint, a researcher can now enter a search term in Chronicling America and immediately pull up a list of every page containing the term." ★

What's The Difference Between a Wikiup And a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon? Research

History moves on, and in Montana it has gone from native American hunting shelter wikiups to MHS Wikipedia Edit-a-thons.

For those who don't know what a Wikipedia-a-thon is, it is kind of like writing pages of an encyclopedia using computers and publishing it all at the same time.

The Montana Historical Society with some help from friends recently took its first try at this new technology with the help of Helena lawyer and veteran Wikipedian Brenda Wahler. After Wahler gave an hour-and-a-half lesson to staff on the basics of editing Wikipedia articles, the staff went to work.

Wikipedia is a web site that has

information like an encyclopedia but that can be edited and added to by people at any location in the world. For its first foray into Wiki editing, the staff focused on the theme of Montana women's history.

They created new articles for the web site on Montanans Dolly Akers, Helen P. Clarke, Rose Um Lee and Beth Baker. The session was informative and useful, and MHS will be creating more Montana history listings for Wikipedia in the future.

MHS Archivist Jeff Malcomson said it allows for the improvement of Wikipedia articles on Montana history in two ways. "We have excellent access to some of the best sources for Montana history, and Wikipedia



Through the wonders of the new computer age, MHS staff "Wiki" away on getting new information to researchers and the public.

is one of the most used resources on the Internet," he said. "Promoting the use of our sources to help improve the world's largest encyclopedia and its coverage of Montana history is a great example of using technology to tell the stories of Montana past to the widest audience possible." ★

MHS Getting Set For A Montana Christmas

MHS is your home for all that a traditional Montana Christmas means.

A new exhibit on Montana's part in providing national Christmas trees, "Montana Tannenbaum," presents a beautiful history on Big Sky trees that have been the national and Capitol Christmas trees in Washington, D.C.

The last tree so honored was in 2008 when a tree from the Bitterroot National Forest was taken by truck to Washington for display at the Capitol.

Montana singer and songwriter Jack Gladstone performed a song specially written for the tree lighting event "Heart of Montana." A line from the song in a tribute to history and nature: "She's seen Indians and mountain men and growing pains developing, This lady of the Big Sky, Our lady of the Sun."

A trip to MHS is a special event



Christmas is fast approaching and a new exhibit in Montana's Museum lights up the season.

anytime of the year, but especially at Christmas. In addition to decorations and exhibits, the Museum Store is a festive place for holiday shopping. Montana ornaments, season greeting cards, books including "Montana Christmas" by MHS legend Dave Walter, and much more will help you

find the perfect gift that says merry Montana Christmas.

Don't forget, member's get a 15 percent discount on their store purchases. If you can't stop by, use our toll-free number 800-243-9900 or shop the store on line at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org.

The Folks Who Helped Make Our History Conference Great

With the help of our friends this year's MHS History Conference in Bozeman was a huge success. Here are the people and organizations that contributed:

Sponsors: Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation; Montana History Foundation; Rocky Mountain Credit Union; Sanderson Stewart; Dr. Volney Steele; CTA Architects Engineers; and Yellowstone National Park Lodges.

Partners: Courtney Kramer & the City of Bozeman Historic Preservation Office; The Extreme History Project; Gallatin History Museum; Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County; Montana State University; Museum of the Rockies; Sundog Fine Arts; Thomas Nygard Gallery.

MHS Is Still Celebrating And We Have A Gift For You

SUSAN NEAR, DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING OFFICER

The Montana Historical Society's 150th anniversary continues, and we have a gift for you that says Montana.

It is a stunning poster featuring C.M. Russell & His Friends. If you would like to have one of your own you can pick it up at the MHS, e-mail snear@mt.gov or call 406-444-4713 and we'll get one to you.

We've already had a lot of fun this year with our founding day festivities on February 2, the C.M. Russell Symposium, 42nd annual history conference in Bozeman, a record number of public programs, and increased visitation to Montana's Museum and patrons using the Research Center. But there is more to come! Our Thursday evening and Second Saturday programs this fall promise to be the best ever. And there's nothing like



Thanks for joining "Charlie Russell and His Friends" and us in celebrating the 150th birthday of the Montana Historical Society. You can request a copy of this 2 ft. x 1 ½ ft. poster as our free gift to you and a reminder of how big and important Montana history is to all of us.

holiday time at the MHS!

Note the sponsors on page 6 that helped make the History Conference a success. If you know any of these folks, give them a big thanks next time you see them!

Thank you for making Montana history your priority. And... watch for more information on upcoming special events and programs for you in 2016! 🌟

First Door on the Left –

REBECCA BAUMANN, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

It's Become a Member in November month! Do you know someone who enjoys history, has a fondness for Montana? Are you trying to come up with a unique gift for that unique person? A membership to the Montana Historical Society is always an excellent gift for a family member, friend, co-worker, or employee.

At the recent Montana History Conference, we asked a few of our members what it meant to them to be a member. Here's what they said:

Bill Brandt – "I'm from Montana!! I really enjoy the MHS History Conferences and Charlie Russell and other artists of the West. I've learned so much about things I didn't know, and I enjoy meeting those who are interested

in Montana and history as much as I am."

Betsy C. Frantz – "Discovering the Montana Historical Society and its programs, superb publications, welcoming annual conference – all have fed my lifelong interest in history and connection to my home state of Texas. The Texas and Montana shared experiences of cattle drives, extremes of weather, independence, an entrepreneurial spirit, and love and respect of the land and natural resources give me continued pleasure. Thank you MHS! Join! Enjoy! Attend the annual history conference!"

Todd Savitt – "I live and work in North Carolina, but do research and writing on Montana medical history. The MHS,

through its physical collections, web resources, and annual history conference, connects me with the historians and history world of this state."

Al Hendricks – "For most of my life, I've lived in the near-neighborhood of Montana and after years of circling, I've finally landed here. In very short order, I discovered that the publications, programs, and staff of the Montana Historical Society were the surest in-depth sources for all things Montana. The greatest blessing for an eager student is a wise and thoughtful teacher."

What better reasons could you have for signing a new member up? Give me a call at (406) 444-2918, or email: rbaumann@mt.gov. 🌟

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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*We are
thankful for
our members!*



The MHS Research Center staff took a field trip to Lincoln recently to visit the new Delaney Sawmill TeePee Burner exhibit. It isn't often that the staff gets to see the final product of the research they help people out with every day. The timber industry played a major role in Montana history, and the burner represents a part of the story. For more see the story on page 3.