Society STAR A Publication of the Winter 2015 MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MHS: the Vision for Us Begun 150 Years Ago

The Montana Historical Society was established Feb. 2, 1865, by one of the first acts of the Territorial Legislature, making it one of the oldest in the West and giving it a history all its own.

They were tough men seeking fortune far from home where gold and wealth consumed the focus of their daily lives.

In 1865 the Dance and Stuart Store in booming Virginia City, Montana Territory, was filled with the tools and provisions that prospectors needed to dig riches along Alder Creek.

Gold and cattle baron Granville Stuart, his brother James, and Wilbur Fisk Sanders—later to become one of Montana's first U.S. senators—were among the early Montana pioneers who gathered





(above, left) It was at the Dance and Stuart Store on Main Street in Virginia City that the vision for the Montana Historical Society began. (above, right) The quality of the exhibits in the Montana Historical Society today has changed, but its pride in Montana remains constant.

in the store one evening to talk about a promotional history Granville Stuart had written, "Montana As It Is." As the men talked about their experiences they realized that future generations would want to know *MHS Vision* (cont. on p. 4)



MHS Curator of History Maggie Ordon (right) shows a vintage WWI saddle from the MHS collection to Gallatin Gateway students Stuart Patton (far left) and Bode Spring to help them learn more about Montanans who served in the Great War.

Students Look Back at WWI in MHS Research Center

The War to End All Wars seems a distant memory.

The Montana Historical Society is working with Gallatin Gateway School 7th grade social studies teacher Michael Herdina and his students to give new life to the stories of the Montanans who fought in World War One a century ago.

Herdina's students are researching and developing an exhibit on Montanans in World War One that will be exhibited in the American Remembrance Museum in Belleau, France. It was in the Belleau Woods

near the town where some of the fiercest fighting in the "Great War" took place. An American military cemetery is located there.

Working with the MHS Research Center staff, the students excitedly dug through military archive records, historic newspaper accounts, diaries, letters written 100 years ago to and from Montanans serving in the war, artifacts from the war and more.

Herdina made contact with the Belleau museum while on a trip *Students* (cont. on p. 4)

Director's Corner MHS DIRECTOR BRUCE WHITTENBERG

As this is being written, our staff, our Trustees, and our friends are working hard to make the dream for a new Montana Heritage Center as home for the Montana Historical Society a reality.

It is a good time to remind ourselves that work goes on at MHS on our fundamental mission of collecting, preserving, and providing access to the public the history and stories of Montana. As always a lot was accomplished in 2014.

With your help we raised funds for the Bud Lake and Randy Brewer historic Crow photograph collection of nearly 2,800 vintage and incredible photographs of the Crow Tribe. It is history that belongs in Montana, and with your help and generosity we were able to acquire the collection.

In February the eyes of the archaeological world were on MHS as we worked with Faye Case, Calvin and Mary Sarver, Jeanna Fry, and Melvin, Helen, and Sarah Anzick to place the largest and best dated prehistoric Clovis assemblage of points, bifaces, blades and scrapers,

and tools on exhibit in the museum. The tremendous collection was found on the property of the Anzick's near Wilsall and, with the work of Sarah, has been dated back 13,000 years. It is another example of what we mean when we say MHS has world-class exhibits.

Last year we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the act signed by President Abraham Lincoln creating Montana Territory with a major exhibit of treasures from the 150-year-old MHS collections.

With the 150th anniversary of the birth of Montana's own Charlie Russell as a backdrop for events, MHS also fulfilled the dream of many over the past 60 years with the publication of Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society, published by the MHS Press and a true collaboration of all of the staff.

As if that weren't enough, MHS also celebrated all year long with events that culminated in the Capitol Rotunda at the 100th Anniversary of Montana women's earning the right to vote. We also used

new technology to tell an old story with the creation of our website www.montanawomenshistory.org.

To top it all off, in February we celebrated the 150th anniversary of MHS itself with a birthday bash in the Capitol Rotunda where Gov. Steve Bullock, Senate President Debby Barrett, and House Speaker Austin Knudsen all spoke.

Each day brings new and exciting happenings at MHS from new artifacts and archive material, to programs, research, and the faces of the hundreds of excited young students who are introduced to their history and heritage in Montana's Museum.

With your help, the work goes on year after year. We must continue to build for future generations. 🕏

About Us

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

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SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING OLD: TREASURES FROM THE SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

A Glacier Park "Mountain Bike"

If you look at it one way, it could be the first mountain bike in the West.

What it is for certain is that it is an addition to the MHS Museum collection that is part of the evolution of transportation in Montana.

MHS recently acquired a Great Northern Railway tricycle used in the 1940s primarily to move mail sacks and packages to and from the Glacier National Park train depot to the Post Office. MHS has a large collection of Glacier National Park archives and historic photos as well as a tremendous Montana railroad collection. The mail trike adds to that story.



ON THE ROAD TO MONTANA'S GREAT MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Worldwide in Stature, the Bray is a Top Helena Attraction



The Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts is part history, part artistic mecca, part gallery, and all treasure trove of outstanding artwork.

Founded in 1951 on the site of the former Western Clay Manufacturing Company in Helena, the Bray was the first artist residency program in the United States devoted solely to ceramics. For over sixty years ceramic artists from around the world have come to the

The Archie Bray has some of the best ceramics and artists in the world.

Bray to make artwork, share experiences and explore new ideas.

The Bray's facilities feature yearround and seasonal artist studios, a community ceramics studio, sales gallery, rotating exhibition spaces, and kiln facilities.

Galleries and grounds are open and free to the public throughout the year. The Sales Gallery is open Monday–Saturday from 10 am−5 pm and Sunday from 1−5 pm. The Bray is located just west of Spring Meadow Lake in Helena. For more information go to www.archiebray.org. ❖

SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

Rowena Harrington In Touch with Montana History

Every day Rowena Harrington skillfully puts her hands on the precious objects that represent Montana history.

As MHS registrar she deals with accession, cataloging and inventory of the vast MHS Museum artifact and artwork collections. Her interest in the immense variety of objects she sees is matched only by her boundless energy in identifying and describing them, and the role they played in Montana history.

Sometimes people just walk in the door with objects, but usually a donation starts with a phone call, she said. "We ask people to send us images, and we ask them if it has a direct connection to Montana history."

After information is gathered, the object is taken before the Museum Acquisition Team for discussion "and a yea or nay." When asked if there are ever disagreements on whether to acquire an object, Harrington laughed and said, "Oh ya!"

There are some things that are

easy. "For an example, we have 22 sad irons in the collection, and we are not going to take another one," she said. Sad irons are cast iron metal objects heated on wood stoves or in fire places and used to iron clothes. They were important, but very common.

Of course she gets to work with beautiful objects and art works, but there are some "unique" things as well. When doing some back cataloging she came across an item sent over from the Justice Department in an evidence bag related to a riot at the Montana State Prison in the 1980s.

"An inmate had swallowed a hand-cuff key," she said. Officials waited for nature to pass and collected the evidence. "They cleaned most of it off, but believe me, they didn't get it all," she said.

Harrington has a special interest in Native American objects, because of her Indian heritage. When considering a Native American object, she said, Museum staff



Rowena Harrington works on a historic Chinese sleeping mat that will be in the MHS forthcoming "Our Forgotten Pioneers: The Chinese in Montana" exhibit.

work with tribes across the state "and ask should we or shouldn't we, or to ask what the object is."

People with Native American objects should recognize that their cultural importance should be respected. She encourages people to find the proper place where such objects belong. "Unfortunately, too many things are being sold on eBay," she said.

She came to MHS in 2007 where her unique knowledge and skills in history, artifacts and people add to telling the Montana story.

MHS Vision (cont. from p. 1)

their stories and that the history of Montana deserved to be saved and told. That meeting was the beginning of what became known as the Montana Historical Society.

While most historical societies in the West were formed only after the onset of nostalgia for pioneer days, Montanans realized from the start that history matters.

The first Montana Territorial Legislature saw bitter divisions among the lawmakers who had differing feelings and loyalties about the Civil War that was raging in the East. But they agreed wholeheartedly on one thing, to establish the Montana Historical Society.

Later acting Territorial Gov. James Tufts summed up the sentiments of early Montanans: "The importance of this institution to the territory is incalculable. Properly conducted it may be made an epitome of the territory itself, and henceforward at all times illustrate its progress and development more thoroughly than could be done by any of the ordinary researches of visitors, strangers, and savants."

MHS continues to this day to be the backbone for Montanans to tell the real Montana story. That story is told in many ways, from the clash of cultures that saw Native Americans lose a way of life and fight to keep their heritage and



By the early 1900s exhibits were beginning to take hold when MHS was located in the basement of the Capitol Building.

stories alive, to the many ways that people have and continue to find new ways to live in this special land.

Montana's Museum at MHS features 13,000 years of known history on this land. The MHS Research Center has one of the finest archives in the West. The MHS press has published dozens of books on history topics like the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Calamity Jane, Native American oral history, mining, ranching, logging, and of course, Charlie Russell and the West. MHS's nationally acclaimed quarterly magazine Montana The Magazine of Western History, published since 1951, features articles by the best historians in the West and ever-changing perspective on people and events. MHS's State Historic Preservation Office helps preserve historic places like mining sites, Native American places like



In the 1950s when MHS moved into its current building across from the Capitol exhibits like the buffalo jump, which is still a fixture in the Museum, were taking on a more modern look.

Sweet Grass Hills, and buildings where history was made.

The history of MHS is about the past, the present and the future. It is a part of the history of Montana. It is about all of us.

Granville Stuart and those who gathered with him at the founding of MHS couldn't have imagined what MHS would become. Just as we can't imagine what it will be in another 150 years.

We can share a vision with them that Montana is a story that always will be worth telling. 🕏



Gallatin Gateway students Brice Patterson (left) and Benjamin Alvarado (right) at work with their teacher Michael Herdina in the MHS Research Center.

Students (cont. from p. 1)

there, and was able to secure a grant for his class project to create the exhibit.

MHS Historical Specialist Martha Kohl, who maintains an e-mail network for Montana history and social studies teachers statewide, worked with Herdina to identify the MHS research materials for his students.

"It is very exciting when younger generations of Montanans are able to connect to the past in such a meaningful way," MHS Outreach and Interpretation Manager Kirby Lambert said. "This type of project is part of what makes working at the Historical Society so rewarding."

MHS works with schools on local and statewide history, Herdina said, and the future for Montana history looks bright.

"I think we are in a good place right now. A lot of teachers work hard on Montana history just like these kids are working on this project," Herdina said.

Digital Archives Keeping up with Montana History

For nearly 20 years Brian Kahn has been talking to Montanans and searching for the truth that each of them brings to the complex psyche of the Big Sky State.

His half-hour, weekly interview program, "Home Ground Radio," is heard on more than 50 public radio stations throughout Montana and northern Wyoming and KGHL in Billings.

Thanks to a grant from the Lee and Donna Metcalf Foundation, 150 of his programs are now part of the Montana Historical Society Archives permanent collection. They



Radio host Brian Kahn and MHS Archivist Anneliese Warhank with the new digital files now in the MHS collection.

will be available to researchers and the rest of the public to listen to and to learn more about what the people of Montana were talking about at the turn of the 21st century.

"Montanans have shared their stories, opinions, values and yes, their hearts on Home Ground," Kahn said. "It has been a rare privilege to be a part of that. We are deeply honored to have this selection of programs join the archives of the Montana Historical Society—one of the premiere such institutions in the nation."

The programs include interviews of famous Montanans including past governors, Montana Supreme Court justices, and U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield, who gave one of his last interviews on Kahn's program.

The voices of the not-so-famous are perhaps even more important to the Montana story, Kahn said, and the collection includes interviews with people like Evan Smalley, who repairs clocks; the Hagenbarth family's 150-years of sheep ranching; Martin Holt's fight to die with dignity; and businessman Mike Geary's decision to drop everything and go to Louisiana to

help victims of hurricane Katrina.

"These interviews communicate some core values of what Montana stands for," Kahn said. "We thought they should be somewhere in the future where people can listen to them and learn."

With the accession of the Home Ground Radio Show recordings, MHS can provide access to researchers and others in a media format that is rarely found in MHS archives—digital audio recordings of radio shows, MHS Archivist and Oral Historian Anneliese Warhank said.

Born-digital archival collections are beginning to appear in institutions across the country, she said. "It has resulted in archival professionals re-evaluating ways to offer access to their patrons while considering how these new access points may affect the rights and privacies of the individuals who are associated with these documents," she said. 🕏

More Historical Montana Newspapers Now Online

Extra! Extra! You can read all about more Montana history. Nine more historic newspaper editions from across the state have been added to the website that delivers them to your home.

MHS staff continue to update the Library of Congress website Chronicling America with additional Montana newspapers that you can find on line at http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Montana.

Here are the new newspaper editions recently added to the site: Bozeman Weekly Chronicle, 1887–88; Cut Bank Pioneer Press, 1911–17; Dupuyer Acantha, 1894–1901; Ekalaka Eagle, 1909–16; Glasgow Courier, 1915–22; Great Falls Daily Tribune, 1919–22; Madisonian, 1895–96; Neihart Herald, 1891–1900; and The River Press, 1905–14.

SHPO Honors Preservation Projects Statewide

The Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office has honored more than 20 properties, people, and projects that represent the best in state history and heritage across the Big Sky State.

In addition to the presentation of National Register certificates, MHS recognized retiring State Historic Preservation Review Board members Rosalyn LaPier of Missoula and Don Matlock of Hamilton who both served two four-year terms.

This year's 2015 Outstanding Preservation award recipients are:

■ The Havre Historic Post Office

for Outstanding Preservation Rehabilitation Project.

- Montana Project Archaeology for Outstanding Preservation Education and Outreach.
- The Borden Hotel Rehabilitation Project in Whitehall for Outstanding Local Preservation Project.
- The Montana History Foundation for Outstanding Preservation Advocacy.

For a complete listing of additions to the National Register of Historic Places in the past year, log on to mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/NationalReg/Preservation-Awards.

Friends of the Montana Historical Society Honored

The Friends of the Montana Historical Society, MHS's premier volunteer organization, has been honored with a 2015 Serve Montana Award by the Governor's Office of Community Service.

Only seven award winners were selected statewide for the prestigious awards from more than 50 nominations submitted.

"For 42 years, the Montana Historical Society has counted on its volunteers to perform vital work in preserving Montana's rich history," said Dan Ritter, executive director of the community service office. "From cataloging photographs to leading educational

tours, these volunteers embody a strong commitment to this state and demonstrate how a group of dedicated individuals can keep the momentum of an entire organization moving forward."

The 140-member group provides the equivalent of more than three full-time workers each year to the Society.

"It is very fitting that the Friends are honored in this way because their contributions to us are invaluable," MHS Volunteer Coordinator Katie White said. "Now all Montanans know just how important the volunteers are to them as well."

Moffie Funk: Montana History Teacher of the Year

The Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Committee has named Montana City Middle School teacher Moffie Funk as Montana History Teacher of the year.

"I have had the opportunity to observe Mrs. Funk's teaching and student learning in regard to Montana History. It was easy to identify the numerous students who have reaped the benefits of Mrs. Funks's Montana history instruction," Tom Kloker, Funk's superintendent, said.

MHS Historical Specialist Martha Kohl, who works on developing history curricula, said Funk worked closely with MHS on developing its award-winning textbook *Montana:* Stories of the Land.

"Teachers from Bynum to Browning rely on her work each year as they teach Montana history, and I consistently hear praise for her work," Kohl said.

Norma Ashby of Great Falls, who has coordinated the contest since it began in 1989, said Funk is a great example of how important and how much fun Montana history can be if taught with enthusiasm and dedication.

2014 Top 20 Best Selling Books in the Museum Store

As proof that it is flying off the shelves, the MHS Press' new book Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society skyrocketed to number two on the MHS Museum Store's best seller list even though it didn't get into the store until mid-November.

The large-format book features beautiful color reproductions of all of Russell's artwork in the MHS collection and stories about each piece and a history of Russell's career.

If you don't have some of these books, you can catch up using your 15% membership discount in the

Thanks for New Members

REBECCA BAUMANN MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

We had great success on our "Become a Member in November" membership drive, during which we gave away weekly prizes and a grand prize weekend package in Montana. We have many new members from across the United States. THANK YOU SO MUCH for all your efforts to help recruit new members to MHS.

Membership to our organization is instrumental to so many aspects of what we do and how we move forward, for example, the Montana Heritage Center which you have been hearing so much about. Thank you again for all that you do to help foster education, research, and helping to bring our fascinating history to others throughout Montana and the world.

You are always invited to give the gift that keeps on giving—a membership to great adventure into the past! Feel free to call, email, write, or stop by and sign up your favorite person with a membership. As always, I can be reached at (406) 444-2918, rbaumann@mt.gov.

Stop by when you get a chance—I'm the first door on the left!

Museum Store by going online at montanahistoricalsociety.org, or calling toll-free (800) 243-9900. 🕏

Top 20 best sellers for 2014

- 1. Montana: Stories of the Land
- Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society
- 3. Mining Childhood: Growing Up in Butte 1900-1960
- 4. Haunted Helena: Montana's Queen City Ghosts
- 5. Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana
- 6. Good Night Montana
- 7. Historic Helena Walking Tours
- 8. Montana 1864: Indians, Emigrants, and Gold in the Territorial Year
- Girl From the Gulches The Story of Mary Ronan
- 10. Mary Fields: The Story of Black Mary

- 11. Montana Moments: History on the Go
- 12. I Do: A Cultural History of Montana
 Weddings
- 13. Montana Place Names: From Alzada to Zortman
- 14. More Montana Moments
- 15. Montana's Historical Highway Markers
- 16. Montana Territory and the Civil War: A Frontier Forged on the Battlefield
- 17. Montana State Parks: Complete Guide & Travel Companion
- 18. Helena: The Town That Gold Built, The First 150 Years
- 19. Marysville: Its History and Its People
- 20. Frank Lloyd Wright in Montana: Darby, Stevensville, and Whitefish

Tribute and Memorial Contributions to MHS in 2014

Thank you to those who made remembrance gifts in support of MHS. Donations were received in memory of the following:

Ralph Anderson (1929–2014)

A Helena native, Ralph throughout his life was a vital part of his community. He owned and operated Capital Ford, founded Hometown Helena Pride, and was active in many causes.

Martha Bruske (1928-2014)

Born in Billings, Martha lived with her family in Charlo, Ringling, and Missoula before settling in Seattle in 1943. She spent her career in the psychiatric nursing field in California.

Cato Butler (1929-2014)

Cato started his career as a sportscaster while in high school in Helena. He was play-by-play announcer for Montana athletics from the 1940s through the 1980s. He was later news director at KCAP in Helena.

Dorothy Coslet (1924–2014)

Dorothy married Walter Coslet in 1947, and they moved to Helena where she led an active life focused on her family, helping others and sharing the joys of her faith. She was a mother and social worker and established the Volume One Bookstore.

Louise Galt (1923-2014)

Born in Lewistown, Louise Replogle graduated from University of Montana law school and was soon elected Fergus County attorney. She was the 3rd woman in US history to be selected as a prosecutor. She was a Republican Party stalwart.

Sue Hart (1936-2014)

Teacher, writer, and historian Sue Hart came to Montana in 1958 to attend the University of Montana. In the 1960s she joined the English Department at MSU Billings. In 2002 she received the MHS Trustee's Educator Award.

Stan (1919-2014) and **Dora Howard (1924-2014)**

Devoted friends and supporters of MHS, Montana natives Stan and Dora Howard were a dynamic team for over 65 years. Dora taught school and Stan worked for the Montana Extension Service. They shared interests in genealogy and history.

Lloyd Ingraham (1925–2014)

Lloyd grew up in the Ronan area near where his grandparents settled. He was a professional boxer, owner of an oil business, and developer of Flathead

Lake and Schwartz Lake properties. At 38 he became a "country" lawyer.

Helen Kemmerer (1934–2014)

Helen Davis grew up in Thompson Falls where she met her husband Charles Kemmerer. They eventually settled in Helena where they raised their three children. Helen's life was filled with artistic projects and attention to friends and family.

Dorothy Kober (1917–2014)

Dorothy Figgins spent her whole life in Bozeman and was among the first students to attend the newly built Anderson School. She wed Edwin Kober in 1938, and they had two sons. She was an excellent quilter, bridge player, and cook.

C. W. "Bill" Leaphart (1921–2014)

Bill was a founder of the Montana Trial Lawyers Association and practiced law in Helena for over 60 years. Bill played quarterback for the Montana Grizzlies and was a highly decorated flyer during WWII.

Lois Lonnquist (1935-2014)

Author of Fifty Cents an Hour, a history of the Fort Peck Dam builders and boomtowns, Lois was a freelance writer for radio, television, and newspapers. She was a talented musician, often playing with her husband Del or their children.

Helane "Kay" (1921-2013) and Ernie Maack (1912–2008)

Kay and Ernie farmed in Hardin and St. Xavier after living in Harrison, Kay's birthplace, and in Wisconsin following their marriage in 1939. After retirement in 1976, they made their home in Billings. Life on the land and their large family enriched their lives.

Laurence Maillet (1940-2014)

Larry Maillet's roots in Montana were deep. His great grandfather traveled throughout Montana. His grandfather settled in Butte, and Laurence was born in Bozeman. Though he spent his teaching career in Minnesota, his love for Montana remained.

Ernest William "Bill" Parker (1930-2014)

His career as a CPA in Seattle was long and esteemed, but Bill was always a true Montanan. A 1951 graduate of the University of Montana and Helena native, Bill remained close friends with many of his classmates.

Dr. George Watson Rollins (1916-2014)

A history professor at Billings' Eastern Montana College for 39 years, George was elected, and proudly served, as a delegate to the Montana Constitutional Convention in 1972. He was a superb teacher and writer.

Dorthea Simonson (1930-2014)

Dorthea's first home was on the NS Ranch near Cascade. She grew up in Fairfield and taught in a number of rural Montana schools. She and her husband Leslie Simonson eventually settled in Helena. She was a librarian for the Lewis & Clark Library as well as at MHS.

Marjorie Sorenson (1924-2014)

A woman of great intellect and creativity, Marjorie Hope Sorenson's life was full of accomplishments and caring. She and her husband Erwin lived in Helena for 50 years. Her family called her "Grandma the Great" and praised her for instilling a strong work ethic in them.

Placidia "Pete" Stoltz (1931–2014)

Placidia moved with her parents to a farm near Hardin at an early age. She worked the beet fields in her youth and later worked at the Hardin Herald. She and her husband Everett owned and operated Wilderness Outfitters Sporting Goods Store in Livingston.

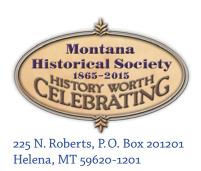
Charlotte Thomas (1930-2014)

Long time MHS volunteer Charlotte Thomas was a dynamo. A Billings native and life-long educator, She and her husband Alve worked at schools in Sheridan, Red Lodge and Helena. In retirement she continued to serve her community and state in many ways.

John Wild (1921-2014)

John's grandfather established the Columbia Gardens in Butte for Copper King W.A. Clark. John grew up at the Gardens for 13 years before moving to Missoula. He was a WWII Navy veteran and an educator. His wife Muriel is an MHS volunteer.

Contact Susan Near, Development and Marketing Officer at (406) 444-4713 or snear@mt.gov for more information on memorials. 🚷



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Raising the Flag for Montana History

The staff and trustees of the Montana Historical Society unfurl the MHS 150th Anniversary Flag for the first time. February 2, 2015, was the 150th anniversary of MHS, and the flag will fly in front of the MHS building throughout the year. Watch for special programs all year long, and plan now to attend our 42nd annual Montana History Conference in Bozeman on September 24–26, 2015, where the history of MHS itself will be part of the gala program. Like our new flag says, MHS has "History Worth Celebrating." See the story on page one for more.