

Stories of the Strength and Power of Montana Women in New MHS Book

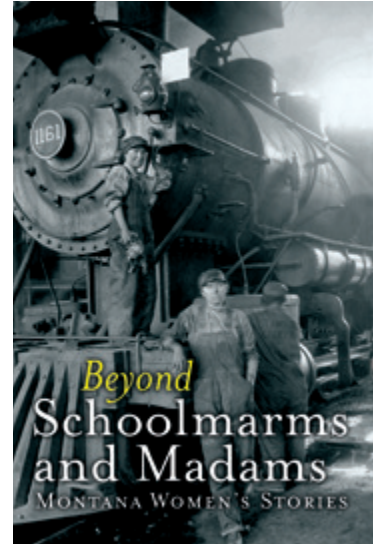
The cover of *Beyond Schoolmarms and Madams: Montana Women's Stories* is a powerful image of the strength of the stories inside the new Montana Historical Society Press book.

Two women with grease on their faces and in dirty overalls stare proudly back from the huge steam locomotive they were working on during World War I. Many people associate World War II with women joining the formerly male work force, but this Defense Department photo taken in 1918

in Great Falls shows that women were already proving their worth and ability before Rosy the Riveter came along.

This is a book not so much about the well-known women of Montana history, although people like the first woman elected to U.S. Congress, Jeannette Rankin, are included. It is about the women who built Montana—from its communities, to its institutions, to all that is often taken for granted today.

Women like White Clay, a Gros



Ventre born in 1806 and captured by a Crow man who had lost his son. He raised her as a warrior. After proving her ability on the battlefield, White Clay was given the Crow name Woman Chief. She was considered a war chief for more than 20 years.

Ruth Garfield was a ranching wife near Red Lodge. Her husband was also sheriff of Golden Valley County in 1920 when he was fatally shot. Despite her grief, Ruth served out her husband's term, becoming the first female sheriff in Montana.

These are stories that have deserved to be told for decades, and women and men alike who want to know the whole story of Montana should read them.

MHS Historical Specialist Martha Kohl edited the 336 page book that includes historic photos and costs \$19.95 paperback. It can be ordered from the MHS Museum Store by calling toll free (800) 243-9900. Our members get a 15% discount.

MHS Helps You Research Historic Newspapers at Home

The Montana Historical Society has some great historic newspapers that it is delivering right to your home.

The new Montana Newspapers repository web site has more than 352,000 digitized pages from 44 Montana newspapers dated from 1885 to 2014 that are full-text searchable. This new web site, which is separate from the Chron-icling America database, is free.

Before digitization, researchers had to painstakingly read page after page of newspapers to find the information they were seeking. It was a process that could take days and even years to accomplish, MHS Digital Services Librarian Christine Kirkham said.

"Digitization grabs every word

of the newsprint and remembers what pages they are on," she said. "It is a giant leap forward for searching newspapers. What used to take days can now be done quickly right in your own home."

In addition to searching for words, researchers can browse by title and date, and zoom in to more easily read the stories. The web site, www.montanane newspapers.org, also has a map that shows the locations of the newspapers available.

More newspapers will be added to the site over time, Kirkham said. If citizens or groups are interested in having their community or school newspapers added to the web site, they can email mhsdigital@mt.gov.

This Was the 150th Year That Was . . .

Thanks to the support and participation of you—our members and friends—on February 6, 2016, at the historic Montana Club in Helena, the Montana Historical Society was celebrated with a black tie evening of fine dining, dancing, and entertainment. With Charlie Russell (Raphael Christy) and Nancy Cooper Russell (Mary Jane Bradbury) regaling the audience with stories of old Montana, and with live music and a fun auction, the evening was successful in capping off a remarkable year celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Society.

Beginning on March 19, 2014 with a celebration of Charles M. Russell's 150th birthday, the "anniversary year" featured some of the biggest and best events in Society history.

Following Charlie's birthday was the release of *Montana's Charlie Russell: Art in the Collection of the Montana Historical Society*, the long-awaited comprehensive catalogue of the MHS's world-class Russell collection. This November 2014 event hosted over 300 guests and also served to celebrate the life and work of Robert F. Morgan.

February 2, 2015, marked the day, 150 years earlier, when the Historical Society of Montana came into existence in Bannack. The Capitol Rotunda was a showcase of the work of the Montana Historical Society. It included remarks by Governor Steve Bullock, Senate President Debby Barrett, Speaker of the House Austin Knudsen, and MHS Board of Trustees President Crystal Wong Shors.

Through the year, Montana's Museum displayed unique objects from the collections in "Montana's Territorial Legacy: The Montana Historical Society."

About Us

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

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In June, MHS welcomed Russell scholars and enthusiasts from across the nation and Canada to "Montana's Charlie Russell: 21st Century Perspectives," a three-day symposium on Montana's legendary cowboy artist. It put MHS at the heart of the Russell world.

A summer workshop, "The Richest Hills: Mining in the Far West," over two weeks hosted 80 teachers from more than 20 states.

In September, the 42nd Annual Montana History Conference was held in Bozeman with more than 300 attendees.

And if all of that wasn't enough, on April 7, 2015, an envelope arrived in our mail box. It contained a brief handwritten message: "I think you may have an interest in the attached." There, from an unknown friend, was the original hand-scribed act of the Territorial Legislature creating MHS dated Jan. 2, 1865, and signed by Territorial Governor Sidney Edgerton.

I could go on and on. The events, publications, exhibitions and projects may be unique in their timing, but the work goes on. Thanks to you, we celebrate Montana's history every year.

We hope you were able to join us for some of these 150th anniversary year events. But there's always more to come.

Happy 151st year to our friends, members, and donors. 🇺🇸

SOMETHING NEW,
SOMETHING OLD

Learning More about Stan Lynde

Stan Lynde taught hundreds of thousands about Montana and the West through his famous *Rick O'Shay and Hipshot* comic strips and novels.

Through a new donation to MHS, we have learned also that he helped teach a generation of young people to read.

Retired teacher Sandra Messick and her husband Robert donated a 1960s "Rick O'Shay Reading Kit," that includes actual Lynde comic strips to teach reading skills. There are numerous teaching tools in the kit such as puzzle cards where the student had to put separate comic strip boxes into the order they would appear in newspapers.

It makes sense. Thousands of kids in the 1950s and 1960s grew up with parents and others reading Lynde's comic strips to them. It had to be fun to have the teacher use those strips to teach reading and comprehension skills.

The "From the Heart: Stan Lynde's Comic Creations" exhibit will be up through the summer at MHS. Stan loved kids and education, and this new donation shows how much his fans loved him. 🇺🇸



Stan Lynde reading kit

Archie Bray Ceramics Gallery Great Stop in Helena

When you come to Helena this summer to visit your Montana Historical Society Museum, there are plenty of other things worth seeing.

The Archie Bray Foundation Gallery has world class ceramics and pottery on exhibit in a venue

that often lets you see guest artists from across the nation and the world at work.

Bray built the Pottery Center in 1951 as the first step in his dream “to make available for all who are seriously interested in the ceramic arts a fine place to work.” Since

then more than 200 ceramic artists from across the world have traveled to Helena to create and show their work.

This is the 65th anniversary of the Bray, and there will be special exhibits up through July 23. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and is located at 2915 Country Club Aveue on the west side of Helena.

When you come to MHS, the State Capitol building and the Original Governor’s Mansion this summer, consider adding a stop at the Bray. 📍



Archie Bray gallery

SOCIETY STAR PROFILE

Rod Coslet Minding the MHS Museum Store for You

From the moment he was born, Rod Coslet was part of a family that was steeped in books and history.

As part of the Montana Historical Society family, Coslet puts his vast experience to work for you. As manager of the MHS Museum Store, he is always on the lookout for the books and Montana-made gifts and other products that enrich your love for the stories and places important to you.

“I try to keep up on what’s new and of most interest to our members and visitors,” Coslet said.

His father Walter was an avid collector of Church of England and other English bibles, and his large collection dated back to 1549. His mother Dorothy ran a Christian book store in Helena for 40 years.

After graduating from Helena High School, Coslet started out at the University of Montana then went to Southeast Missouri State

where he earned a BS in historic preservation with an emphasis on museum studies. He went on to the State University of New York at Cooperstown for graduate work in museum studies.

During his college career, Coslet interned at MHS, Fort Missoula, and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody. It gave him a unique understanding of a broad range of Montana and western history. He also worked in hospitality and retail management, most recently at Macy’s in Helena. In 2012 he was hired as Museum Store manager at MHS.

“Everything I have done has put me in a unique position for what I am doing now at the Society,” Coslet said.

Many of the authors on Montana and other books on the West do research at MHS, Coslet said, which keeps him in touch with new releases even before they are published. “Montana history is



Rod Coslet in MHS Museum Store

so broad and varied that whether you are interested in Native American history, women’s history, Charlie Russell, the Battle of the Little Big Horn, or anything else, we have something for everyone,” he said.

Coslet enjoys talking with people in the store or on the phone, and he has an amazing knowledge of Montana history and the hundreds of books in the store. “We try to get to know our customers and understand their interests,” he said. “We will even call certain customers when things they like become available.”

Stop in or give him a call—you’ll be glad you did. 📍

CELEBRATING OUR 150TH YEAR **A Gala Evening with Charlie and Nancy Russell**

Many of you joined with us February 2 at the historic Montana Club in Helena for an evening with Charlie and Nancy Russell to celebrate the completion of your Montana Historical Society's 150th anniversary and to usher in the next 150 years.

Charlie and Nancy Russell, played by Raphael Cristy and Mary Jane Bradbury, shared stories of their lives in the grand dining room where Russell's masterpiece *When the Land Belonged to God* once hung. It is now one of the treasures in the MHS collection.

Of course Charlie and Nancy were in period dress, but the evening was made even more historic with many in the crowd decked out in top hats and outfits that gave the club the real look of Montana history.

Governor Steve Bullock joined in the fun that included music and dancing on the sixth floor and in the Rathskeller. We thank event sponsors Opportunity Bank of Montana, Montana State Fund, and the Montana History Foundation, as well as the individuals and organizations who contributed live and silent auction items that helped raise \$26,054 for MHS.

Here are some photographs of the event. If you missed this one, we hope you can make it to some future events. You are always invited. 🇺🇸





Check out Museum Collections Online

If you feel like a trip to Montana's Museum but don't have time for the trip, check out our online gallery of art and artifacts.

MHS Museum staff now have more than 200 images of Charlie Russell art and artifacts online including 24 major oils, 33 major watercolors, 40 pen and inks, 15 original models, 60 bronzes, and 34 illustrated letters.

Have Program Will Travel

Our Thursday night programs at MHS are extremely popular, but not everyone can take advantage of them.

For those Montana members who can't make it to Helena for the programs, we also take our speakers' shows on the road.

An example of some traveling MHS programs are Research Historian Ellen Baumler's "Forgotten Pioneers: The Chinese in Montana," Senior Archivist Rich Aarstad's "Montana and the Civil War," and Research Center Manager Molly Kruckenberg's "A Taste of Montana: Food and Cookbook History."

Our colleagues travel the state when they can, presenting programs and workshops on things like preserving and caring for family papers and heirlooms, genealogy, and how to do research on your own.

You can watch for us coming to your town or one near you, or set up a program in your community. We are Montana's Historical Society, and we strive to reach out to people all across the state.

For more information or questions about MHS traveling programs, contact the MHS Research Center at (406) 444-1988 or email mhslibrary@mt.gov. 🇺🇸

Other art and artifacts give you a "behind the scenes" tour of Montana's past, MHS Museum Curator Kendra Newhall said.

"This is a great opportunity for us to show some of the great pieces on our collection that you might not see on exhibit," she

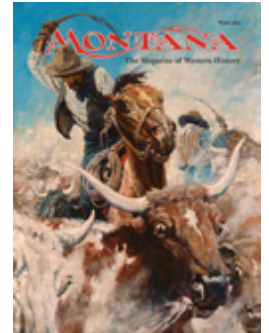
MHS Magazine Wins Another National Award

Montana The Magazine of Western History has won yet another major national award, continuing its place at the top of history publications across the nation.

The Western Writers of America awarded its 2016 Spur Award for best Western Short Non Fiction to the magazine for Michael Miller's article "Cowboys and Capitalists: The XIT Ranch in Texas and Montana, 1885-1912."

said. "Our goal is to slowly add more and more images to our online collection, so be sure to check back and see what has been added periodically."

All you have to do is log on to montanahistoricalsociety.org and click on Montana's Museum and then online collections. 🇺🇸



The Western Writers of America has been awarding Silver Spurs since 1953. "We congratulate you on your achievement in publishing and producing this fine work," the organization wrote in awarding the Spur. 🇺🇸

Great Topics Abound at MHS Montana History Conference

The 43rd annual MHS Montana History Conference September 22 through 24 in Hamilton and Stevensville will provide a fascinating look at the history of the Bitterroot Valley as well as other programs and tours highlighting the history of this special land.

Forests provided jobs as well as controversy in the history of the valley, and "Logging and Lobbying in the Gilded Age" will look at issues from 1882 to 1917 that are still in play today.

The valley was the sight of many confrontations and trials for the Nez Perce on Chief Joseph and Looking Glass's famous trail of tears, and a session will focus on such things as Fort Fizzle and the Battle of the Big Hole.

Horses played an important role in Montana history, and the

valley saw its share of famous race horses that will be discussed in "In the Winner's Circle: How Montana Thoroughbreds Upset the Nineteenth Century's Racing Establishment."

The MHS Archives staff will present a session on those who told the Montana story with "In the Beginning Was the Word: A Brief History on Who Wrote Montana's History."

These and many other programs with outstanding speakers will take place in conjunction with the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's Mission.

To learn more, log on to montanahistoricalsociety.org, email klambert@mt.gov, or phone (406) 444-4741. Make your plans to attend now. 🇺🇸

First Door on the Left

REBECCA BAUMANN, MHS MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Occasionally we feature a member in *your* newsletter and ask, “Why do you want to be a member of the Montana Historical Society?” It’s always good to know what our members are interested in and provides an opportunity to “check-in” and find out how we are doing. This issue features *Society “Star”* members from Scotland—Martin and Sarah Stone. I had an opportunity to talk with Martin by phone and through emails regarding his membership and other related topics, and couldn’t help but wonder what the connection to Montana is for the Stones.

Your commitment to history, your interest in Montana, and your passion for knowledge are the things that help to enhance everything we do. Thank you for all that you do for MHS. Montana history is fun, remarkable, entertaining, and educational—and *it’s all here for you to explore!* Feel free to call, email, write, or stop and sign up your favorite person with a gift membership. As always, I can be reached at (406) 444-2918 or rbaumann@mt.gov. If you get a chance, swing by and visit. I always enjoy talking with our members! I know you will enjoy the story on Martin and Sarah. 🇺🇸

Our Overseas Members Share Love of Montana History

Martin and Sarah Stone traveled from their home in Scotland to Montana in 1999 and fell in love with the beauty of the land and its history.



Martin Stone—one of our members in Scotland

The Montana Historical Society has members in five foreign countries as well as all 50 states. The award-winning *Montana The Magazine of Western History* and other MHS member benefits keep the Stones close to their home away from home in Montana.

Even though a member might not make it back to Montana frequently to take advantage of free admission, other benefits like 15 percent discounts on online or phone-in purchases in the MHS Museum Store and quarterly mailings of the *Society Star* offer great value in more ways than money.

Membership makes a great gift for those who have moved away from Montana for jobs or other reasons like being an active member in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Stones plan to return to Montana one day, and until then they remain loyal MHS members abroad. “In essence though, the magazine is—until our next

Joe Medicine Crow’s Death Reminds Us Why History Matters

Already a legend in his life, Joe Medicine Crow died at age 102 on April 3 after a life that included many honors including being the last war chief of the Crow Nation, World War II decorated hero, and historian.

The recent MHS acquisition of the nearly 2,800 vintage and historically important photographs of the Crow tribe dating from the 1870s into the 1920s acquired with the blessing of the tribe includes people who Medicine Crow knew and depicts a time when his people still lived freely in their land.

Medicine Crow was born when photographers were still taking the photos in this collection. His writings tell many of the stories behind the photographs from the Crow perspective.

He had a vast knowledge and great sense of humor that he shared with the Montana Historical Society including an address at the 1992 Montana History Conference in Miles City, where he received the MHS Trustees’ Award.

In 2006 Joe Medicine Crow was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and received numerous other honors for his educational and historian efforts.

Gov. Steve Bullock said Medicine Crow’s “legacy will forever serve as an inspiration for all Native Americans and all [other] Montanans.” 🇺🇸

visit—the next best thing to being in Montana,” Stone said.

That’s why when we say MHS takes the Montana story to the world, we mean it. 🇺🇸

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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*We are
thankful for
our members!*



Celebrating MHS's First 150 Years in Style

The doorman doffed his top hat to welcome Montana Historical Society members and friends to the historic Montana Club in February for a gala evening culminating the first 150 years of MHS and ushering in its next 150 years. Many of those who attended also dressed in period attire for an evening with Charlie and Nancy Russell and other festive events including a meal in the historic dining room, music, dancing, and a visit from current Montana Governor Steve Bullock. See pages 4 and 5 for more.