

Fred Miller Crow Photo Collection Great Addition to the MHS Photo Archives

Fred Miller was a clerk at the Crow Agency in Montana from 1898 to 1910 and left behind rich photographic documentation of Crow Indian life during troubled times.

That collection is now part of the MHS Photograph Archives and includes 705 vintage albumen prints, 135 original glass plate negatives, and six boxes of Miller's correspondence and documents as well as research done on Miller by Nancy Fields O'Connor.

The collection was donated by

John Fields and Mary Reynolds, both grandchildren of Miller. They said they considered many nationally known institutions for the donation, but chose MHS.

The collection documents Crow life from about 1898 to 1912 including efforts to establish farming and ranching, the importance of horse culture, dances and Powwows, and, most dramatically, a large number of portraits including White Swan, Curley, and American Horse.

Fred was honored with the Crow name *Boxpotapesh* or "High Kicker"

because of his love of football, which he taught to the young people of the reservation. Because of his close association with the Crow, he was able to photograph Crow people as a trusted friend during the last years of their traditional plains life. He also had long friendships with other artists who chronicled the vanishing way of Native American life, including artists Frederic Remington, E.S. Paxson and Joseph Sharp.

"Miller's photographs document a transitional time in both Crow and Montana history, making them important as both artwork and document," noted Molly Kruckenberg, Research Center Manager. ⚡

Author Michael Punke to Keynote MHS Montana History Conference

Well known author Michael Punke will be a keynote speaker at the 44th Annual Montana History Conference talking about his book "Fire and Brimstone: The North Butte Mining Disaster of 1917," which many consider to be one of the best books on Montana history ever published.

This year's conference in Helena Sept. 21 through the 23 is headlined "Montana, 1917: Time of Trouble, Time of Change." It will focus on the 100th anniversary of U.S. entry into World War I and the tremendous affect the war had on Montana.

Punke will talk about the North

Butte disaster that occurred at the time of entry into World War I when Butte was a volatile jumble of antiwar protests, seething labor unrest, and divisive ethnic tension.

All of those elements and more were already causing unrest and tension across Montana as Montanans struggled with anti-immigrant tension.

You can begin to make plans to attend the conference that will be held at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena now, and watch the MHS website, www.montanahistoricalsociety.org, for further information. ⚡



Fred Miller was so trusted by the Crow Nation that they let him photograph things like this planting of sacred tobacco ceremony.

Note:

I dedicate this edition of Director's Corner to the words of the Montana Historical Society's first director and a great Montana historian, K. Ross Toole. I simply can't do any better.

History teaches us...don't be timid

Excerpted from "Director's Roundup," K. Ross Toole, Montana The Magazine of Western History, Vol. 5 #2, Spring, 1955.

"I doubt if anyone can spend much time around the legislature or around functioning state government without getting a touch of the chronic disease known as degenerative timidity. Perhaps the disease is really more ubiquitous and its symptoms are merely more obvious in the relationship between legislators and state employees. It's a lot easier to be timid than not.

In any event, the 34th Legislative Assembly of the State of Montana adjourned a short while ago after the usual sixty days of exercising its 'sovereignty' and the attack of degenerative timidity which afflicted most state employees has subsided. It was caused in the first place, of course, because of the proximity of institutional catastrophe due to hasty and ill considered legislation. *Let me emphasize that I am speaking of a minority of the legislators.*

But minority or majority, how timid ought we really be? I mean, as a department of the state of Montana have we the right to speak up without fear of some awful kind of retribution? Frankly, I don't

know. But this I do know. If we are to create a really fine museum; if we are to set a high standard for the art exhibited in our galleries; if we are to run a good research library; if, in short we are really to run an effective institution, then timidity is the most corrosive of our enemies."

"The legislature is 'sovereign,' true enough. When it acts on the basis of misinformation, too little study and too short a time, then somebody ought object. If it presumes to pass judgement and to act at all, then for God's sake let it do so on the basis of adequate information and sufficient study."

"It would help if some legislators would refrain from approaching all state employees with the hostile belief that they are hogs at the public trough, buck passers' and bureaucratic malingerers. Let this minority also bear in mind that most of the things they so



K. Ross Toole

vociferously criticize about the various departments of state are the very things these legislators themselves made inevitable by the legislation. There are some awfully short memories in this business."

"Well, we haven't yet succumbed to degenerative timidity at the Historical Society. Therefore, to those members past, present or future of the legislature who believe they can administer for us as well as legislate for us, we say this: we stick by our guns."

Excerpted from "Director's Roundup," K. Ross Toole, Montana The Magazine of Western History, Vol. 4 #3, Summer, 1954.

"Montana needs this museum, the research library, the Russell Gallery, the Gallery of Western Art, the Gallery of Fine Art, and the Montana Magazine of Western History, and it is good business – good in terms of tourist dollars and educational content. The reason that one of the finest museums in the country is emerging here (and the reason that this Society as a whole is going full blast) is that we simply can't believe that full support won't be forthcoming." ★



K. Ross Toole and MHS Librarian Virginia Walton in 1955 after that MHS Administration's long battle for legislative support for a new building was over. They were looking at old bank records, which could then be saved and stored properly in the new Veteran's and Pioneer's Memorial MHS building

About Us

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

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www.montanahistoricalociety.org

Glacier County Museum Features Oil, Railroads, Glacier Park, and More

If you're heading to Glacier National Park this summer, stop by the Glacier County Museum and Archives in Cut Bank for another great Montana experience.

Since it began in 1980, the museum complex has grown to 14-acres with a new short term exhibit gallery opening this summer featuring Glacier National Park history and frontier life, as the area grew up to become the Oil Capitol of Montana and a major railroad hub, home to a Great Northern

Railroad roundhouse and division point.

Historic buildings are on the large site including a 1915 homestead structure complete with a garden and chickens, the 1917 Marias homestead school, a 1935 oil workers' house and more. Other exhibits feature Lewis and Clark and famous Glacier woodcarver John C. Clarke.

Summer hours are M—Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information go to gcmuseum@hotmail.com



An exhibit on the life and work of famous Montana Blackfeet tribal member and wood carver John L. Clarke, who beautifully portrayed the wildlife of Glacier National Park is part of the Glacier County Museum experience.

or call 406-873-4904. It is an outstanding example of Montana's many local museums. 🌟

Lory Morrow Picturing Montana History for You

When Lory Morrow first came to the Montana Historical Society in 1973 there were roughly 40,000 images in the Society's photograph collection.

She was hired for a one-year grant position to catalog the photographs, and she has remained on the job ever since. Just noting that the MHS photograph collection now totals more than 500,000 photographs, is witness to her tremendous efforts ever since.

But Morrow's story is actually a story of the evolution of the Montana Historical Society. Her adviser at the University of Montana, where she got her BA and MA degrees in history, was K. Ross Toole, one of the legendary early directors of the Montana Historical Society.

Morrow proposed writing her MA thesis on Montana photographers, but the professors on her graduate committee rejected the topic. "At that time, photographs were not considered primary source materials for research," she said.

As the MHS Photograph Archives manager, Morrow has been at the



MHS Photograph Archives Manager Lory Morrow and one of the more than 500,000 images now in the collection.

vanguard of efforts to promote the acceptance of photographs as visual records that support historical research.

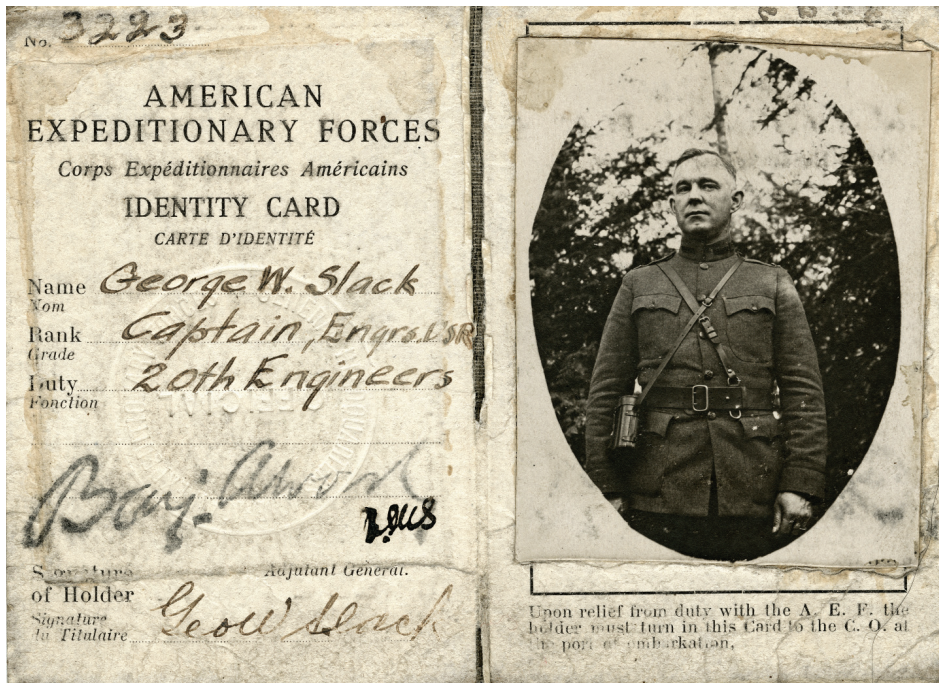
"Many historians are word people," she explains. "They rely on written or printed sources and have difficulty using photographs for anything but illustration. I like to encourage researchers to develop 'the art of seeing' so that they visualize Montana's history through photographs."

In 1978 Morrow played a major role in MHS's acquisition of 30,000 photographic negatives taken by F. Jay and Jack Ellis Haynes,

official photographers for the Northern Pacific Railroad and Yellowstone Park. "The acquisition of this amazing collection put our photograph archives on the national map," she said. "Researchers and donors began to know about MHS and our ability to care for significant photograph collections. Because of this reputation, other great collections have been donated to us."

Over the years, Morrow has worked with famous authors, historians, and movie makers, but she enjoys helping any researcher who is willing to search for what they want. "It is the interest and enthusiasm of the researcher that motivates me to keep looking for them and sharing what we can discover together," she said.

Lory has not slowed down since she first arrived at MHS. She likes to caution her younger colleagues, however. "I always tell them to beware of accepting that first job at MHS because they might find themselves here for a long time," she said with a smile. 🌟



Capt. George W. Slack's World War One identification card.



The Red Cross held hundreds of events to support the war including a parade in Hardin encouraging nurses to go overseas to care for soldiers.



Troops returned to Montana with new ideas and attitudes.

MHS Looks Back on World War I in Montana on 100th Anniversary

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I, and the still young state of Montana was shaken and shaped by the events taking place across the ocean in the “War to End All Wars.”

As the nation attempted to come to grips with the war, the progressive movement was raising major ideological questions about the appropriate role of the government in the economy, whether immigrants were a threat to U.S. culture, and the proper relationship between individual freedom and the common good.

Historian David Kennedy put it this way: “Americans went to war in 1917 not only against Germans in the fields of France but against each other at home.” MHS Historical Specialist Martha Kohl said that was especially true in Montana.

“It is hard to overstate the significance of the U.S. entry into World War I – to the men who served (approximately 17% of Montana men age 18 to 44), to their families, to Montana’s German immigrant farmers, to Socialist Finnish and Irish nationalist miners, to syndicalist loggers, and to everyone living in Montana during the war and to all



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The army used savagery to encourage Montanans to support the war.

World War I and Anniversary

those who came after,” Kohl said.

Kohl was project manager for a major effort by MHS to chronicle that complicated history in a new web-based project titled “Montana and the Great War.”

The website includes revealing and interesting personal stories, historic photographs, oral histories, posters and other documents, and much more. During World War I, Montanans struggled with many of the same essential questions we struggle with today: immigration, security, and what it means to be an American.

“Perhaps by looking back at how Montanans answered these questions during World War I—and the political and social consequences of their answers—we can gain some useful perspective on our own time,” Kohl said.

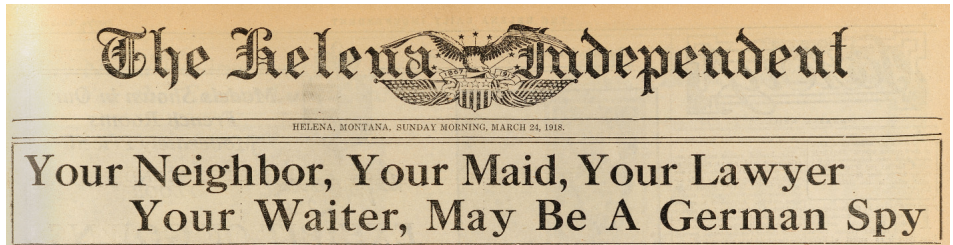
The Montana and the Great War website is at mhs.mt.gov/education/WWI. On Nov. 2nd a major exhibit on Montana and World War I will have a grand opening in Montana’s Museum

that you’ll want to attend. The “War to End All Wars” has lessons from yesterday that need to be understood today. ☼



Image imagery to
ans to enlist.

Bank Note Co. Traung Label and Lithograph Co.
Lithograph Co. Schmidt Lithograph Co.
Lithograph Co. Union Lithograph Co.



Headlines like this one often pitted immigrants, especially of German descent, against those who didn’t consider them true Americans.



This Miles City woman knit 61 pairs of socks to be sent to soldiers at the front for the Red Cross drive in Montana. Women across the state did the same and rolled bandages and other material needed by soldiers at the front.



Troops returned to Montana with new ideas and attitudes.

OGM Features World War I Home Front

When U.S. entered World War I 100 years ago, Gov. Sam Stewart and his family had just become the first residents of the Original Governor’s Mansion and were putting Montana on a war footing.

Throughout the summer you can visit the OGM and experience what that meant for the young state of Montana and how it changed the state in ways that ring down to today.

The piano in the parlor has sheet music with patriotic songs of the era. There are letters and other paper ephemera on a table you can read to get the feel of all the issues the state faced, pamphlets that showed women how to make socks and other things needed by soldiers, and another pamphlet in

the children’s bedrooms on how to roll bandages that are demonstrated on their dolls and much more.

The MHS Outreach and Interpretation program captured the real feel and tension of WWI and will take you on a tour that will remind you of a troubled time when Montana grew up. ☼



Gov. Stewart’s office in the Original Governor’s Mansion reflects the burdens WWI put on him and the young state of Montana.

Conserving History MHS Labor of Love and Responsibility to Future and Past

You could sense the thousands of hands that had worked to raise the bison hide tipi over many years on the plains the Cree called home.

This time the hands carefully touching the tipi to preserve it for future generations to learn from and appreciate were those of Conservator Nancy Fonicello. “The idea is to flatten it out slowly, gently, so that we don’t do any damage when we roll it (back) up,” she said. “You don’t want to make any changes that are permanently changing the object.”

The hide tipi is part of the MHS Museum collection and dates to the mid to late 1800s, making it one of only a handful that still exist today. The tipi was carefully spread out on the floor of the Scriver Center, and Fonicello spent about a week working on it.

Fonicello now lives in Wilsall, but she has worked on tipis and other hide and skin objects across the nation and as far away as New Zealand. She said it was an honor to work on the MHS tipi.



Conservator Nancy Fonicello and the more than 100 year old buffalo hide tipi she conserved for MHS.

“To have eight full sized bison hides represents a time period that is now gone,” she said. “People were actually living in this and using it. There are patches, there is smoke. It was actually a living, breathing object that was used by people.”

Fonicello also worked on a small tipi—probably a kind of doll house for children – that dates to the early 1900s. Before her work, the small tipi was dark and in poor condition. MHS Curator of Collections Amanda Trum said it can now be displayed and used for research.

“We can now clearly see all of the drawings that were put on the tipi and the different colors and brands on the horses depicted. This will be important for research, which is a big part of what we do,” Trum said.

“People know about our great exhibits and our collection efforts, but conservation is a lesser known aspect of what we do to preserve Montana history for future generations,” Trum said. 🌟



MHS Curator of Collections Amanda Trum and conservator Nancy Fonicello examine drawings on newly cleaned and conserved small tipi.

MHS Volunteers Honored for More Than 6,000 Hours of Service in 2016

Theirs truly is a work of love, and Montana history and heritage is far richer because of it.

The Montana Historical Society on Wednesday, May 17 honored the more than 100 volunteers who contributed more than 6,000 hours of service to MHS in 2016. That totals about \$123,000 in monetary value and is the equivalent of about three full time employees.

MHS Volunteer Coordinator Katie White said the real value of the volunteers is measured in the vast experience they bring to providing support in countless ways to MHS and the love of Montana history they engender in others every day.

“Our volunteers work diligently every day and every week in all six departments at the Society,” White said. “They provide hundreds of educational tours to school groups, assist in all our social gatherings and receptions, and contribute many volunteer hours at the Original Governor’s Mansion.” 🌟

You Keep Montana History Alive!

BY SUSAN NEAR, MHS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

It is people like you who have sustained and built the Montana Historical Society into the proud and vibrant institution it is today. I suspect you believe as author John Steinbeck wrote, “I’m in love with Montana. For other states I have great admiration, respect, recognition even some affection. But with Montana it is love.” We love Montana history too!

Recently, you received a request for a special donation in the mail. Please contribute what you can to support the work of keeping Montana history alive—to inspire others and to honor the special place you love.

With your support the Montana Historical Society is able to reach tens of thousands of people each year with the real stories of our

state’s past. Whether reading histories, visiting historic sites, viewing exhibits, or researching the family tree—history touches people in different ways. There is so much to learn from remembering the people, places, and events of the past.

Love of history brings families and communities together, bridging generations. In these times, it is critical to our future. We are all bound by our shared past, and are stronger together than we are alone.

Your gift to the MHS preserves history resources, provides more access to our stories, and motivates others to explore Montana’s heritage. Share your passion for Montana history. Thank you for keeping Montana history alive! 🌟

New Museum Store

BRINGS SHOPPING MONTANA TO YOU

When you can’t make it in to shop the Montana Historical Society Museum Store in person, there is a great new online service that brings the store to you.

“I’m excited to offer this new service,” Museum Store Manager Rod Coslet said. “The new online

store offers an improved shopping experience, a fresh look, and an expanded product selection.”

The online store is more functional for customers to access and use, he said, and now works on computers, smartphones, tablets and other devices. MHS Members still get their 15% discount directly, using the “MHSMEMBER” discount code.

Here are other new features:

Expanded product selection, including books, Charlie Russell prints, Montana gifts and Capitol ornaments.



First Door on the Left

BY REBECCA BAUMANN, MHS MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

We are in transition to a new software program that will give your new membership card(s) a bit of sprucing up -- and making it easier to carry in your billfold. Your membership renewal notices will now be timed a bit differently with the standard three reminders. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions; I’m always happy to hear from you.

I am looking forward to a busy summer—many of you have called to say that you will be traveling to, within, or through Montana and want to stop by and visit. I hope you do, and I look forward to your visit!

Your commitment to history, your interest in Montana, and your passion for knowledge are the things that help enhance everything we do. Feel free to call, email, write, or stop by and sign up your favorite person with a gift membership. Contact me at (406) 444-2918 or rbaumann@mt.gov. 🌟

A “wishlist” that allows customers to save items for later purchase, email to a friend, or post online which allows customers to easily post individual items on Facebook, Twitter, or save them to Pinterest, Tumblr, or other sites.

New ability for customers to register and save billing and shipping addresses.

The online store now accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover, and e-checks.

Check it out at www.montanahistoricalociety.org and click on “Museum Store.” Keep up with what’s new in the Museum Store at www.facebook.com/MHSMuseumStore. 🌟

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana Historical Society

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*We are
thankful for
our members!*

Hip, Hip Hooray for the MHS Volunteers!



Montana Historical Society Volunteer Coordinator Katie White never hesitates to show her pride in the more than 100 volunteers who provide valuable work and enthusiasm in all of the MHS programs. In May the volunteers were honored at a luncheon with a World War I theme. White topped off the luncheon ceremony wearing her best red, white, and blue.