

“A Montanan Through and Through”: The Photographic Legacy of Barbara Van Cleve

The Montana Historical Society has an unparalleled opportunity to add the work of photographer Barbara Van Cleve to its collection.

Throughout her long career, renowned photographer and Montana native Barbara Van Cleve has captured the spirit of the West through her photographs. Deemed a “Treasured Montana Artist,” Van Cleve has documented Montana and western ranch life from the mid-twentieth century through today. Her photographs, described by B. Byron Price as having “left a trail deep and plain over open range,” capture distinctly Montana and western images.

Van Cleve’s heritage is steeped in Montana. Her family’s ranch, the Lazy K Bar, was founded in 1880 on the slopes of the Crazy Mountains. She has held a camera since she was eleven years old. Her youthful interest in photography grew into a lifelong passion. Ranch work also began early for Barbara. At barely six years old, she could be found helping at the corrals or sitting astride a horse. Ever since, she has documented the “true grit” and beauty of her experiences on ranches across the West.

Following an academic career in Chicago, Barbara moved to New Mexico to pursue her photography. She has since returned to her hometown of Big Timber, Montana, where she continues her

Van Cleve (cont. on p. 3)



Educating High Pockets, 1992



F. Sawyer Necking a Calf, 1987

The Season for Gratitude

'Tis the Season for a lot of things. Celebration. Family and friends. Faith. Service and sharing. Gratitude.

I know I speak on behalf of our staff and Board of Trustees in expressing gratitude for what we have at the Montana Historical Society. We have the opportunity to immerse ourselves in the stories of Montana's rich history each and every day. We do so with friends and colleagues who mean a lot to us, with whom we share a passion for the work and an appreciation for the opportunities.

We are grateful for our members and donors who support our work with membership dues, grants, and gifts. I am humbled each day as I write letters of thanks for your gifts. Regardless of the amount, we appreciate each and every donation made to the Montana Historical Society. Thank you.

We are grateful for our colleagues in Montana and across the globe who support our work and help share Montana's stories. Teachers in Montana schools. Academic leaders in our libraries, colleges, and universities. Our friends in Montana's museums and historical societies. Thank you.

We are grateful for our visitors. Those who come to enjoy Montana's Museum, shop in the Museum Store, or dig into Montana history in the Research Center. Or those who simply stop in to say hello. Thank you.

We are grateful for our Friends of the Society. Everyday we are supported by volunteers throughout the Montana Historical Society who give their time, intellect, and experience to enhance the work of MHS. They bring us good work and they bring us smiles. Thank you.

We are grateful for our state government support system. As

an agency of Montana's executive branch, we rely on support from state government. Governor Steve Bullock and Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney have been advocates and friends. Throughout state government we rely on the skill and expertise of many of our colleagues. And of course, the Montana Historical Society receives funding through the state budget. Thank you.

We are grateful for our Board of Trustees who volunteer their time, talent, and expertise to provide the leadership that carries the Montana Historical Society into the future. The Board of MHS is a who's who of Montana leaders. We are proud to be associated with them and rely on their support. Thank you.

And finally, I am personally grateful for our leadership team and staff at the Montana Historical Society. Their love of the work—exploring and sharing the stories of Montana history—inspires me every day. They are my friends and colleagues, and I am honored to be on their team and to be the director of this incredible institution.

So you see, as I write this in the middle of the holiday season, there is a lot for which to be grateful.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season with your friends and families. Have a happy 2019 filled with gifts and gratitude. 🌟

About Us

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

- ❑ MHS Director: Bruce Whittenberg
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 - ❑ Editor: Kirby Lambert
- montanahistoricalsociety.org

Visitors Count! at the Montana Historical Society



This past spring and summer, Friends of the Montana Historical Society solicited Visitors Count! surveys from MHS patrons. Here, volunteer Al Williams and MHS volunteer coordinator Katie White offer a friendly greeting to museum visitors.

MHS recently participated in the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) Visitors Count! program. Over the spring and summer, Friends of the Montana Historical Society collected surveys from patrons who were willing to share their thoughts regarding their experience in our museum galleries. The results have recently been tabulated and analyzed by the Center for Nonprofit Management in Nashville (which works in conjunction with AASLH) to provide us with a picture of how well we are meeting the needs of our patrons. Chief museum curator Jennifer Bottomly O'looney reported, "I am thrilled to see that, in so many ways, we are exceeding the expectations of our visitors. More importantly," she continued, "the report identifies areas where we need to strengthen our operations and focus new efforts." For his part, MHS director Bruce Whittenberg was interested in the survey because it gives patrons "a direct voice in helping us prioritize resources and plan for the future. It's critical to have that input," he summarized. 🌟



Van Cleve (cont. from p. 1)

photography work today.

Van Cleve has offered her collection of more than 10,000 negatives and prints, comprising her life's work, to the Montana Historical Society. This body of work records the land and sky, people and animals that have been a part of her life as well as modern Western history. Stating, "I am deeply pleased that photography students, scholars and historians of the West will have access to my work," Van Cleve acknowledged her pleasure that her "work will come home to stay in my heartland, Montana."

Van Cleve has generously agreed to offer her collection to the Montana Historical Society for \$250,000, as well as donate her personal collection of cameras and family materials. If you are interested in helping the Montana Historical Society preserve and protect this significant Montana history resource, please contact Director Bruce Whittenberg at bwhittenberg@mt.gov or 406-444-5485. ☼



Hurrying Home, 1993



Cow Country, 2014

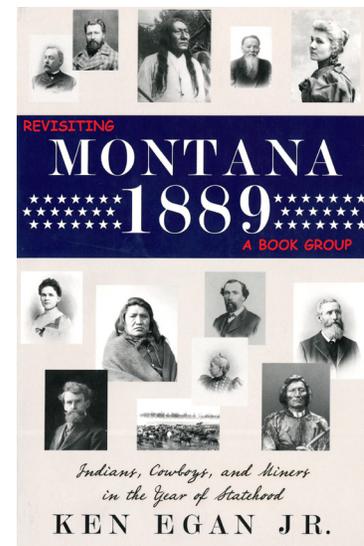
MHS Starts Facebook Book Club

To celebrate the 130th anniversary of Montana statehood, MHS is launching a virtual book group that will study Ken Egan's 2017 publication, *Montana 1889: Indians, Cowboys, and Miners in the Year of Statehood*. Each month throughout 2019, the author will post prompting questions to the group and respond to readers' comments to facilitate lively conversations about topics that are still important to Montanans today. MHS Photo Archives manager Jeff Malcomson will assist Egan by suggesting further reading in related areas of Montana and Western history and helping to answer any history-related questions that readers may have. The group is being organized by MHS reference librarian Barbara

Pepper-Rotness, who noted that, since Montana is the proverbial small town with long streets, she is "super excited to carry on a neighborly conversation that utilizes the advantages offered by social media to bring people together."

To begin this journey back through the year 1889, Egan will host an on-site presentation to introduce himself, his book, and the Facebook reading club. The kickoff will be held in the MHS auditorium on January 15 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be livestreamed on YouTube and on Facebook Live, for those unable to attend the on-site presentation. For more information about the group and how it works, contact Pepper-Rotness at bapepperrotness@mt.gov or 406-444-9526. To

order a copy of the book, contact the MHS Museum Store at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org or 406-444-4767. ☼

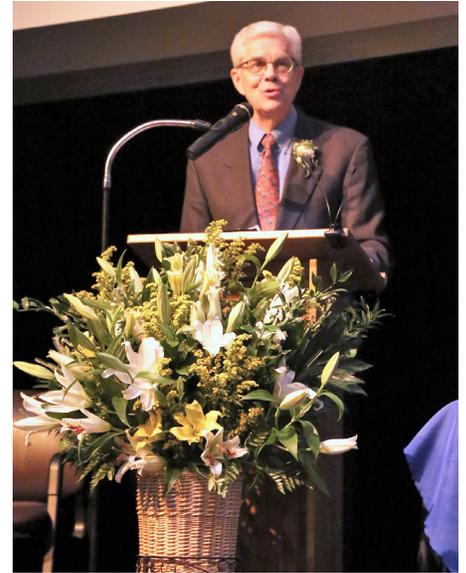


Notable Achievements in Historic Preservation Recognized

The Society's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is pleased to announce five recipients of the biennial Montana Historic Preservation Awards for 2019. They are: Montana State University professor Máire O'Neill Conrad for Outstanding Service to Historic Preservation—John N. DeHaas Memorial Award; Billings architect Randy Hafer for Outstanding Contributions to Historic Preservation; the McGraw Building in Fort Benton for Outstanding Historic Preservation Rehabilitation Project—Governor's Award; the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Mountain-Prairie Region for Outstanding Historic Preservation Stewardship; and historic preservation photographer Kristi Hager of Missoula for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation. "Recognizing

our outstanding heritage places and the special people who help preserve them is important to the success of historic preservation in Montana," reported State Historic Preservation officer Dr. Mark Baumler. "This is a very significant event for us, as well as a lot of fun."

These awards, along with certificates for owners of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the past two years, will be presented in a biennial ceremony and catered reception to be held at the Myrna Loy Center, 15 North Ewing, in Helena on January 18 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney and MHS director Bruce Whittenberg will assist Baumler in making the presentations. The event is open to the public, and MHS members are encouraged to attend! ☀



Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney will once again participate in SHPO's upcoming, biennial awards ceremony honoring preservation projects and the people who have made notable contributions to saving Montana's past.

Lookout Cave Listed in National Register

Following approval by the Montana Historic Preservation Review Board in May, Lookout Cave was officially listed in the National Register of Historic places on October 22, 2018. Located in Phillips County, the cave contains north-central Montana's largest assemblage of pictographs, which, combined with the cultural materials also found there, are of enormous value in understanding the pre-contact cultures of the northern plains. The cave's twenty identified rock art panels depict paint smears, lines, handprints, an outline bison at the rear wall of the inner chamber, and more than twenty anthropomorphs. In addition, recovered cultural materials include a large number of stone tools and more than a thousand normally perishable items of wood, feather, shell, and sinew.



Newly listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Lookout Cave in Phillips County contains north-central Montana's largest assemblage of pictographs.

The composition of the assemblage combined with the remote setting of the site strongly suggests that it does not represent a conventional campsite/habita-

tion site, but instead a ceremonial complex predominantly dating to the Late Prehistoric Period. ☀

Link, Haire, and Steele Join Gallery of Outstanding Montanans

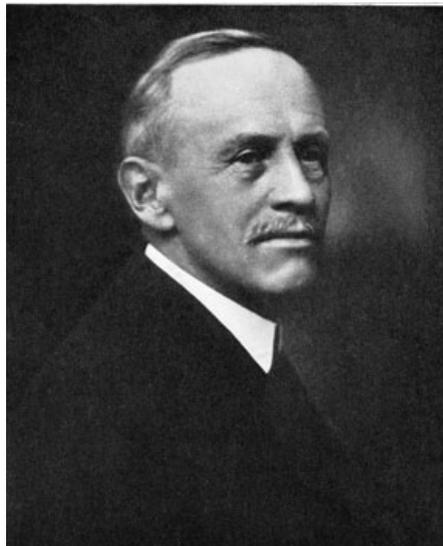
On Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda, architects John G. Link and Charles S. Haire and champion bronc rider Fannie Sperry Steele will become the newest inductees into the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans.

Working independently and in partnership, John G. Link (1869–1954) and Charles S. Haire (1857–1925) shaped Montana’s built landscape. In 1906, the two joined together to form Link and Haire, Architects, which quickly grew into one of Montana’s most prominent architectural firms. In addition to providing plans for a third of the state’s county courthouses and contributing to the capitol’s 1912 expansion, Link and Haire designed schools, churches, hospitals, office buildings, libraries, and private homes. Their buildings, many of which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, embrace the period’s eclectic and classical tastes.

Fannie Sperry Steele (1887–1983) grew up near Helena and learned to ride almost before she could walk. In 1907, Sperry began participating in women’s bucking horse competitions. At the Calgary Stampede in 1912, her ride earned her the title “Lady Bucking Horse Champion of the World.” Sperry rode exhibition broncs until she was in her fifties. She was the first woman in Montana to receive a packer’s license, and with her string of pintos, she guided hunters on trips into the mountains. Widowed in 1940, she continued to run her family’s ranch until she was seventy-eight. 🌟



John G. Link, 1914



Charles S. Haire, 1914



Fannie Sperry Steele on Napoleon, Sperry Ranch, ca. 1915, PAC 2018-56.

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MHS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Ewen Cameron and Reno Walters
Evelyn Cameron Photographer, MHS Photograph
Archives, Helena, Pac 90-87.A3.p5.e

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.

Montana
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Stillwater County Reaps Benefits of Archival Grants

Connect with the MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY on social media. You'll find programs, blogs, photographs, historical facts, and more. Use the information below to access MHS via the web or your favorite app.

Visit the MHS home page!
montanahistoricalsociety.org

Ask Us!
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(800) 243-9900 ext. 0

Or, do it yourself!

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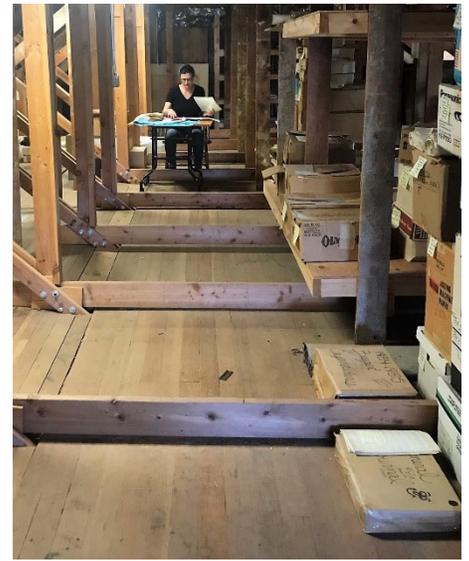
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Cut along the dotted line to save this bookmark as a handy reference for accessing MHS's social media sites!

In 2018 the Montana State Historic Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) awarded the Museum of the Beartooths (MOB) in Columbus two grants—a Student Archivist Grant and a Montana Archives Blitz Grant—that, together, greatly improved archival management and storage in Stillwater County.

MOB director Penny Redli has been working for several years with Stillwater County officials to establish a county archives. To advance that goal, SHRAB awarded the MOB the Student Archivist Grant this past summer and matched Redli with Gayle O'Hara, a Master of Library and Information Science graduate student from San Jose State University in California. O'Hara came to Montana enthusiastic for archival work and highly experienced in government records. She spent ten weeks identifying materials of historical significance, conducting an extensive inventory, and working with museum staff to rehouse the permanent records and move them to more acceptable storage, where they are now available for public use.

Blitz Grant recipients receive training and assistance to support a week-long work session at their facility. The MOB began work on its Blitz Grant in early October with SHRAB members Anne Foster, Yellowstone National Park Archives, and Heather Hultman, MSU Special Collections, providing training for MOB staff and volunteers. The training focused on cleaning, repairing, and storing historic Stillwater County maps, some dating back to the 1920s. Training was followed by a hands-on work session, which was held October 22–27 in Columbus. Thirteen people participated, and



As part of a Student Archivist Grant, Gayle O'Hara evaluates historic records in the Stillwater County Courthouse.



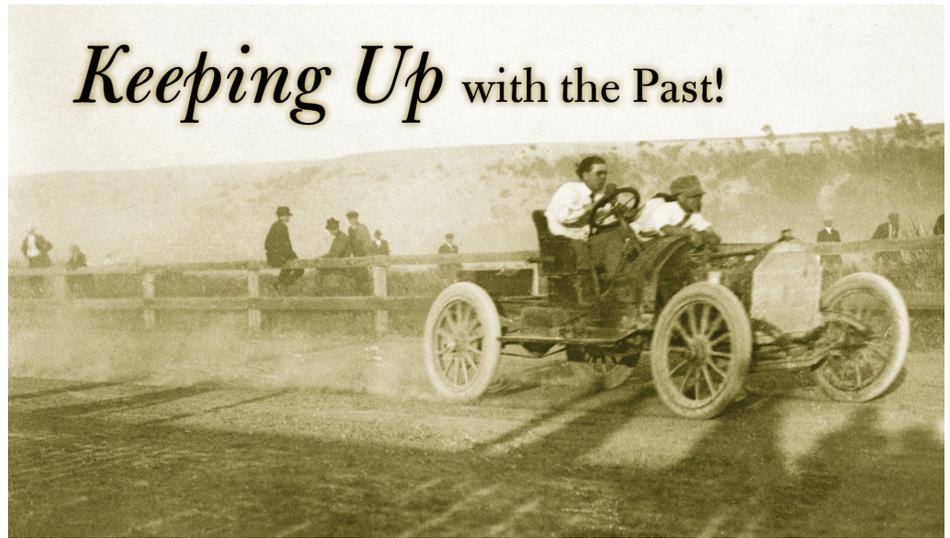
Yellowstone National Park archivist Ann Foster instructs participants as part of the Museum of the Beartooths Blitz Grant, received to improve the care of historic Stillwater County maps.

nearly four hundred maps were cleaned, repaired (as needed), and rehoused.

The Student Archivist and Montana Blitz grants are funded by the National Historical Records and Publications Commission (the granting arm of the National Archives), and administered by SHRAB. Both grants are awarded annually. If your institution has a project that might benefit from one of these grants, contact Jodie Foley (jofoley@mt.gov) for more information. 

Save the Date!

Join us for the 46th Annual Montana History Conference where we will be **Keeping Up with the Past!** Mark your calendars now for September 26–28 in Helena. Session proposals are due March 4. For more information on submitting a proposal, visit <https://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops> or email klambert@mt.gov. 🌟

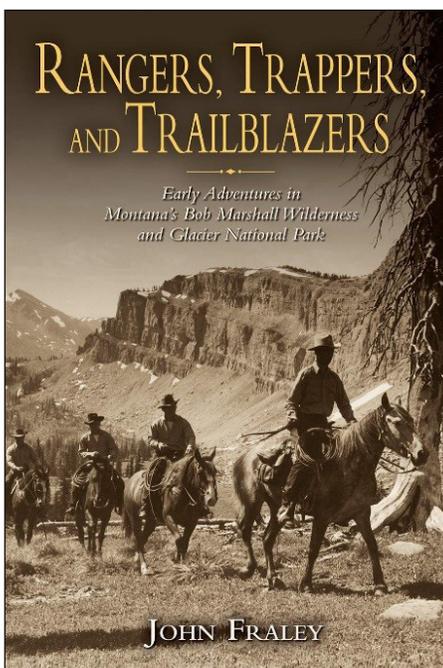


From the Museum Store: Winter Reading

BY RODRIC COSLET, MUSEUM STORE MANAGER

When the snow flies and the temperature drops, it's a good time to catch up on your winter reading! Here are a few suggestions for those cold days, from the staff in the MHS Museum Store.

Rangers, Trappers, and Trailblazers: Early Adventures in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness and Glacier National Park by John Fraley. Softcover, 280 pages. \$14.95

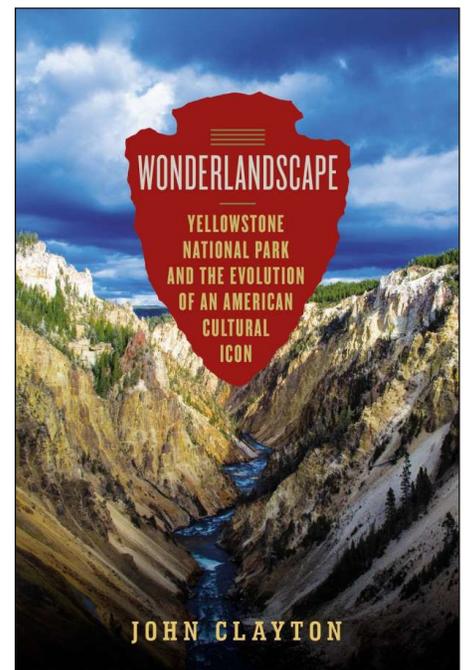


The North, Middle, and South Forks of the Flathead River drain some of the wildest country in Montana, including Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. In *Rangers, Trappers, and Trailblazers*, John Fraley recounts the true adventures of people who earned their living among the mountains and along the cold, clear rivers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Tragedies and near-misses abound: a fatal shootout, tangles with bears and packrats, a devastating train wreck, and a missing airplane. But these are balanced with tales of courage, endurance, and remarkable personal achievement. Fraley tells all in intriguing detail wrested from primary sources.

Wonderlandscape: Yellowstone National Park and the Evolution of an American Cultural Icon by John Clayton. Hardcover, 384 pages. \$27.95

Wonderlandscape is an evocative blend of history and nature writing that tells the story of Yellowstone's evolving significance in American culture through the stories of ten iconic figures.



As America's premier national park, Yellowstone is often a byword for conservation, natural beauty, and a way for everyone to enjoy the great outdoors. But it was not always this way. *Wonderlandscape* presents a new perspective on Yellowstone, the emotions that various natural wonders and attractions evoke, and how this explains the park's relationship to America as a whole.

These titles and more can be ordered online at www.montanahistoricalsociety.org or by calling the Museum Store directly at 1-800-243-9900 or 406-444-2890. 🌟

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Upcoming travel plans? Don't forget your doll's suitcase. Museum donor Nancy Nicholson certainly didn't. While growing up in Billings in the 1950s, she used this suitcase to transport her dolls and their clothes to her friends' homes or when her family traveled. MHS #2018.07.01.