

Good Beer Here Exhibit Opens

The grand opening of the new exhibit “Good Beer Here: Montana’s Brewing History” drew a standing-room-only crowd to the Montana Historical Society on February 27.



More than 350 people spent the evening quaffing cold brews while eating beer-related appetizers and learning about Montana’s complicated yet longtime love affair with beer.

Director Bruce Whittenberg noted that this is a fun exhibit for all involved, and probably historic in that it’s the last one that will be created in the Northeast Gallery. The exhibit is expected to be in place for two years while the new Montana Heritage Center is under construction.

The idea hatched as Anneliese Warhank, an MHS archivist and oral historian, was working on an oral history project a few years ago. Her work included recording MHS board member and beer aficionado Steve Lozar. Whittenberg teased the two about coming up with the idea for the exhibit in one of the local taprooms.

“I’m not sure which taproom Anneliese hatched this idea in, but I’m pretty sure Steve was involved,” Whittenberg said, laughing. “She took two years doing deep research exploring and engaging the beer industry.”

The exhibit walks visitors

through the earliest beer brewing years, which took place a few decades before Montana achieved statehood. It shows early brewing equipment, along with slogans and sales pitches.

Two wooden saloon doors that graced the Mint Bar in Great Falls — one of Charlie Russell’s favorite hangouts — lead into a room that explores the 1916 passage of the state law prohibiting alcohol sales by 1918. The exhibit explains how, during Prohibition, many of Montana’s brewers turned to dairy or soda products, while other small breweries closed shop.

That wasn’t the end of Montana’s connection to brewing, however. The exhibit also explores the synergies between beer and agriculture as the state grew to become an industry leader in barley production, selling to brewing giants like Budweiser.

In addition, the exhibit reviews the recent rise in home brewing and microbreweries, featuring oral histories with some of those instrumental in passing legislation that legalized brewery taprooms in Montana and those who hopped on board during the latest brewing boom in the 1990s.

Displays include historic cans, bottles, and beer steins; a wide range of historic brewery signs; a home refrigerated “Serv-O-Draft” keg case from the 1930s; and a risqué Italian marble statue that may have graced one of Helena’s barrooms.

The exhibit opening was a family-friendly event that celebrated Montana’s beer history with brewery-themed decorations crafted by MHS volunteer coordinator Katie White, trivia, games, and samples of root beer from Canyon Ferry Brewing in Townsend, Montana. ⚙

MHS Closes Galleries

The Montana Historical Society has closed its museum galleries, Research Center, Museum Store, and the Original Governor’s Mansion until further notice to protect the public and staff during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The closures are in line with Gov. Steve Bullock’s recommendations on social distancing to slow the spread of coronaviruses.

“We will continue to serve the public by staffing the Research Center desk for calls and email and encourage access to collections through our various digital channels,” MHS Director Bruce Whittenberg said on Tuesday. “Remember that access to the Montana Historical Society collections is not just about walking through the door.”

The research center can be reached by phone at 406/444-2681 or 444-3112 or by email at mhslibrary@mt.gov. Montana Historical Society is online at mhs.mt.gov. From there, navigate through the tabs at the top of the page to access online collections and information. ⚙

Changing the Tires While the Car's Moving ...

Fasten your seatbelts, members and friends! Exciting times are ahead!

At this writing, plans are going “full blast” (to borrow a term from K. Ross Toole) in the planning of your new Montana Historical Society complex, which includes the Montana Heritage Center. After some fifteen years of alternating excitement and frustration, we are now in the process of designing a new campus for the Montana Historical Society, across from the State Capitol in Helena. We know you share our excitement that the project is, at long last, under way.

Even with the magnitude of a major development like the Montana Heritage Center, we don't have the luxury, or the desire, to make that our sole focus. We're simply not going to pull the car to the side of the road while we change the tires.

At the Montana Historical Society, the work in each of our six programs will continue, right through the disruption. A major exhibit, “Good Beer Here: Montana's Brewing History,” recently opened in Montana's Museum. This spring, an exhibit of portraits from the fine art collection will debut. Book projects are under way at the MHS Press, the Research Center is working on major acquisitions, the State Historic Preservation Office will be awarding grants for historic preservation projects, and *Montana The Magazine of Western History* will keep winning national awards.

Now, here's an update on the project.

The siting process was completed in December with the selection of the “6th and Roberts” site across from the Montana State Capitol (see the last issue of the *Society Star*). We are now in the “design phase” of the project, which involves, to put it simply, determining what



Bruce Whittenberg made a few comments about the origin of the Good Beer Here brewing exhibit. Behind him are Steve Lozar and Anneliese Warhank, who came up with the idea for the exhibit.

goes where. That includes parking, galleries, archives, collections storage, education space, museum store, café, event center, and offices and public spaces. We expect this phase to continue through the summer and construction to begin this fall or early next year.

Construction will be completed in phases. The first phase will establish the new parking area to serve the Montana Heritage Center, the Capitol, and the entire campus. The second phase will build the new 65,600-square-foot Montana Heritage Center. The third phase will renovate the Veteran's and Pioneers Memorial Building, originally constructed beginning in 1950. As much as we love this building, we're sure that will be an interesting process with a seventy-year-old building. The total 159,000-square-foot complex will significantly increase available parking on the Capitol Campus while adding amenities and ensuring room for future expansion.

This process is not ruled by architects and engineers. Virtually every member of the Montana Historical Society staff and Board of Trustees will be heard as the design comes

together.

At the same time, we are working to keep our commitment to the legislature and the community to raise \$10 million in private donations. These private gifts generally will be applied to the interior of the building — galleries, public spaces, and exhibits — and provide naming rights for generous gifts.

To keep tabs on our progress and give comments on the design process, visit the Montana Heritage Center website at <https://heritagecenter.mt.gov>.

You don't have to stand on the street corner as this car whizzes by. Hop in and come along for the ride. 🚗

About Us

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

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Pete Brown to Head SHPO

Governor Steve Bullock appointed Pete Brown as Montana's newest State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) at the end of January.

In addition to his work as historic architecture specialist, Brown has served as Acting SHPO since Mark Baumler's retirement in July 2019. He's eager to move into his new position full-time and take on a broader role.

"Work at the SHPO constantly presents new subject matter and learning opportunities. In my time at SHPO, I've seen the Modernist architecture that early preservationists rallied against become historic in its own right," Brown said. "Modernism's pragmatism, idealism, and use of post-war manufacturing capabilities, crystalized America's post-war mindset. It's

equally fascinating to learn about a prehistoric stone tool and consider what it says about its maker."

Brown obtained his Master of Science degree in historic preservation from Ball State University in 2001 with a focus on historic building technology. He joined SHPO in 2002 but worked in historic preservation since 1996 in Philadelphia, Indiana, and Boston. His introduction to preservation was through hands-on work as an AmeriCorps member in Philadelphia. His favorite aspect of preservation is righting the wrongs in old houses wrought by the elements and neglect.

He and his wife, Christine Brown, MHS interpretive historian, have rehabilitated a couple of houses, including a 1912 Arts and Crafts-style four-square, and



their current 1954 transitional ranch-style house, which they live in with their son, daughter, and mutt Gus. 🌟

Sad Farewells to Friends

We were saddened to lose two dear friends recently.

Betty Jones died in January and Chuck Jezick died in December.

Serving for forty years, Betty Jones was the longest active volunteer at the Montana Historical Society. Betty started volunteering in 1980 as a docent conducting tours. She later coordinated museum tours, assisted at receptions, and helped in many departments. Betty sat on the Friends of the Society volunteer board four different times during her tenure. She was an extremely dedicated volunteer, most recently assisting the Research Center in collating the newspaper collection. We will miss Betty's smile. We were lucky to call her a friend.

While Chuck Jezick was only a volunteer for two years, he was a member of the Society for fifty



Chuck Jezick

years. He loved history and especially enjoyed telling stories of his youth growing up in Helena. Although Chuck donated his volunteer hours to the Original Governor's Mansion, where he worked as a docent, the entire Montana Historical Society was like family to Chuck, and the



Betty Jones

feeling was mutual. The staff embraced his knowledge and enthusiasm for history. Chuck never missed a history conference or historical program. It's not the same around here without him. 🌟

New Employees at MHS

Evilsizer Promotes Compliance



Laura Evilsizer is the new review and compliance officer for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Evilsizer said she is thrilled to join the team at SHPO. She has worked as an archaeologist for the U.S. Forest Service and for an archaeological consulting company.

Evilsizer earned her Master of Arts degree in anthropology from the University of Montana. She grew up in Helena and currently lives in the valley with her husband, one-year-old twins, and a tiny dog.

Grotzke Helps with Exhibits



Robert Eric Grotzke is the new exhibit technician at the Montana Historical Society.

Grotzke is a life-long Montanan.

He was born in Lewistown and grew up in Ennis, where he spent many hours in nearby Virginia City and developed a deep respect for the efforts involved in the presentation of Montana's history.

He and his family, including his wife, three children, a dog and two cats, moved to Helena eight years ago. Grotzke has worked in a range of construction fields, including brick masonry, before being hired by MHS.

"In construction and as a brick mason, I saw firsthand some of the challenges involved in maintaining and or restoring parts of historic buildings," Grotzke said. "I value working with good people, and I strive to be a positive influence on those around me. I look forward to the opportunity to learn, contribute, and grow with the Montana Historical Society."

Byron Raising Awareness of MHS

Longtime Montana journalist Eve Byron is the new public information officer for the Montana Historical Society.

She brings more than thirty years of communication expertise to the position, including twenty-three years at the *Independent Record*



in Helena and three years at the *Missoulian* and *Ravalli Republic*. She also served as the communications director at the nonprofit National Institute on Money in State Politics, and as the information officer for the Montana State Library.

Byron will conduct outreach to journalists across the state and the nation in her new role, sharing the stories of Montana's people and places. For more information, contact Byron at (406) 444-6843 or eve.byron@mt.gov.

Codieck Updating Rankin Collections

Intern Barrett Codieck is currently processing addendums to the Jeannette Rankin and Wellington Rankin collections, making new material on our nation's first congresswoman and her brother available for researchers in time for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment's ratification.

Codieck is a native Oregonian with an academic background in history and archival studies, and recently completed a post-master's degree certificate in archival studies from Western Washington University. As an early career archivist, he is pur-



suing short-term project positions around the country. His most recent effort involved a six-month position at the Yellowstone National Park archives.

Those familiar with the Jeannette Rankin collection will find new aspects of Rankin's career, including her second congressional term and antiwar activism. The Wellington Rankin collection also will be expanded with more material from his political campaigns, ranching enterprises, and legal profession.

This project has given Codieck valuable experience working with historic manuscript collections, touching on all aspects of archival processing including arrangement, description, and outreach. He said he's grateful to the Montana Historical Society for giving him the opportunity to further hone his professional skills working with the records of such fascinating people.

Meredith Brings Library Skills to MHS

Maggie Meredith is the new library technician at the Montana Historical Society's Research Center.

Meredith is a native Montanan who has lived all over the Treasure State. She has worked in public, academic, and special libraries as well as in a variety of records management positions.

She also previously worked in state government, as a reference librarian and statewide technology consultant at the Montana State Library. Meredith said that after working outside the library world for the past several years, she's excited to be back in her field again.

"I am looking forward to working with the amazing people and materials at MHS," Meredith said. 🌟

MHS Staff Offer New Book

Kate Hampton and Tom Ferris, two Montana Historical Society employees, recently collaborated to create *The Best Gift: Montana's Carnegie Libraries*.

Hampton is the community preservation officer at the Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office. Ferris is MHS's longtime archival photographer. The project was funded by the Montana History Foundation.

The book looks at seventeen libraries in Montana that were built using financial contributions from industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Today, those libraries

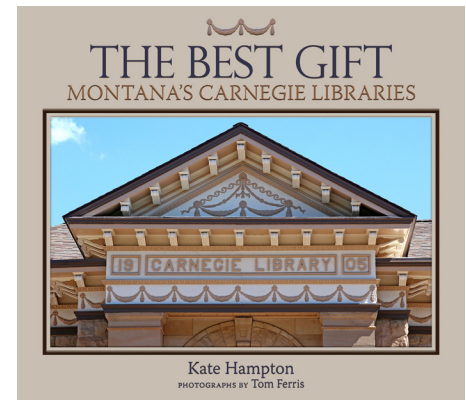
continue to play an integral role in their respective communities' cultural and educational lives.

Hampton wrote the stories about the buildings' construction, the role of women in their establishment and use, and the individuals who carry on the legacy of the libraries. Along with the people, Hampton explores the architecture of the various buildings, providing opportunities to understand the significance of the structures and the importance of preserving them for years to come.

Photographs in the book include architectural renderings and historical snapshots, as well as present-day photos by Ferris.

His newer photos provide insight into how the libraries continue to provide for their communities.

Purchase the book in the MHS Museum Store in Helena or at local bookstores. All book proceeds will benefit Montana's public libraries. 🌟



MHS Accepting Applications for Centennial Farm and Ranch Properties

The Montana Historical Society (MHS) is accepting applications for the Centennial Farm and Ranch program. New inductees will receive a framed certificate signed by the governor, recognition at the "Ag Day" ceremony in the State Capitol during the 2021 legislative session, the ranch/farm history printed online and in our periodic Centennial Farm and Ranch yearbook, and a durable roadside sign. These 24-by-36-inch UV-coated metal signs are a new addition to the program this year, thanks to support from the Montana Department of Agriculture and the Donnelley Family Foundation.

Since 2009, the MHS Centennial Farm and Ranch program has recognized our state's agricultural traditions by celebrating the perseverance and stewardship of Montana families on their farms and ranches. By honoring families who have owned their land for 100 years or more, we help preserve Montana's strong agricultural roots and the stories and traditions that

define our rural communities.

Requirements for induction include:

- Must be a working farm or ranch with a minimum of 160 acres or, if fewer than 160 acres, must have gross yearly income of at least \$1,000.
- One current owner must be a Montana resident.
- Proof of founding date and continuous ownership by members of the same family, spanning minimally 100 years. For homesteaded properties, ownership begins with claim filing date (not patent date).

Applications for this year's cycle will be accepted until December 1, 2020. To download all requirements and the application, visit <http://bit.ly/MTCFRapp>.

For more information, contact Christine Brown, Interpretive Historian, at (406) 444-1687 or Christine.brown@mt.gov 🌟

"Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch," a presentation by MHS historian Christine Brown featuring the stories of Montana's intrepid Centennial Farm and Ranch families, may be coming to your town. **Save the date!**

- **Tuesday, April 21 at noon**, Sheridan County Courthouse, Plentywood
- **Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.**, Mondak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave., Sidney
- **Thursday, April 23 at 7 p.m.**, Huntley Project Museum, 770 Railroad Hwy., Huntley

Trainings for Teachers

Save the date for these Montana Historical Society professional development trainings for K-12 educators in Great Falls, Butte, Billings, and Helena this spring and summer.

“Integrating IEFA: Interdisciplinary Approaches,” by award-winning educator Jim Schulz, takes place April 21 at the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls and April 23 at the Butte-Silver Bow Archives in Butte. The six-hour workshop offers new resources from MHS to help teachers engage

students in active learning while integrating math, art, geography, and English language arts with Indian Education for All content.

“What’s Hot in History!” happens June 8 at the Western Heritage Center in Billings. This six-hour workshop features presentations by members of the Society’s Teacher Leaders in Montana History Fellows. Join our outstanding fellows and share their enthusiasm for Montana history education with colleagues across the state.

“WWI 360: Teach Like an Ace” is June 25 at the Montana Historical Society in Helena. This National World War I Museum seminar, offered by the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, will highlight MHS and National World War I Museum resources.

For more information or to register, visit the [“Conferences, Workshops, and Special Events”](#) page on the Montana Historical Society’s website, or contact Martha Kohl at mkohl@mt.gov or (406) 444-4740. 🌟

New Website, App, and Exhibit Showcase Montana’s National Register Properties

The Montana Historical Society (MHS) is pleased to introduce **Historic Montana** (HistoricMT.org), our expanded and redesigned website, mobile app, and iPad exhibit. *Historic Montana* features narrative histories, photographs, and links to sources for hundreds of Montana buildings, neighborhoods, and cultural sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Its abundant content is reproduced from the thousands of National Register interpretive signs at properties across the state.

MHS first published the histories from our collection of National Register sign text in 2017 with the launch of ExploreBig.org. This website and app initially included information on 250 individual properties and several historic district and themed tours. In January 2019, the MHS Outreach and Interpretation team began efforts to make a good thing even better by uploading our entire treasure trove of National Register sign texts compiled during the past 30 years.

Historic Montana now comprises nearly 1,800 colorful essays on a dizzying array of Montana historic sites that include everything from grand business blocks, churches,

and schoolhouses to railroad depots, brothels, mansions, homes, and more. Most properties listed in *Historic Montana* also have at least one photograph and links to further reading and additional images. Users can also choose from 75 different curated tours, including historic districts such as Butte, Red Lodge, and Virginia City, or themed tours such as early Montana, railroads, courthouses, or labor temples.

Visitors to the Historical Society can try out the app on a dedicated iPad outside the second-floor MHS Research Center. Anyone can download the app for free from the Apple or Google Play stores to any personal device. While the app requires an internet or cellular connection to fully function, users who plan to be offline but still want to use the app can download the text before heading out to explore.

“Whether you’re sitting in your living room, shopping downtown, or driving down a rural road in Eastern Montana, *Historic Montana* is the go-to resource to learn about many of Montana’s National Register historic sites,” said Christine Brown, MHS historian and project manager. “It’s an invaluable tool for students and teachers, researchers, genealo-



gists, and curious travelers delving into place-based Montana history.”

Work on *Historic Montana* is ongoing. MHS historians create about 50 to 100 new National Register signs every year and that content will be added to the site monthly. The public is also invited to submit historic and contemporary photos for inclusion in the website and app. Email jpeg files (max 1 MB per photo) with the property name and address to Christine.brown@mt.gov. Mail print copies to Christine Brown, Montana Historical Society, PO Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620. Print copies will not be returned. For more information about purchasing a MHS National Register of Historic Places sign for your property, visit <https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/Signs>. 🌟

Museum Store Spring Clearance Sale

The Museum Store offers select overstock Montana books and DVDs at clearance prices. You're sure to find something interesting on this list!

Frank Little and the IWW: The Blood That Stained an American Family, by Jane Little Botkin, \$21.

An Antietam Veteran's Montana Journey: The Lost Memoir of James Howard Lowell, edited by Katharine Seaton Squires, \$15.

Montana Americana Music: Boot Stomping in Big Sky Country, by Aaron Parrett, \$12.

Over There! Montanans in the Great War (World War I exhibit catalog), by H. Rafael Chacon and the Montana Museum of Art & Culture, \$12.

Statue of Jeannette Rankin, Presented in the Rotunda, United States Capitol (official program), \$10.

An Honest Try: An Essay in Bronze (The Rodeo Series), by Bob Scriver, \$10.



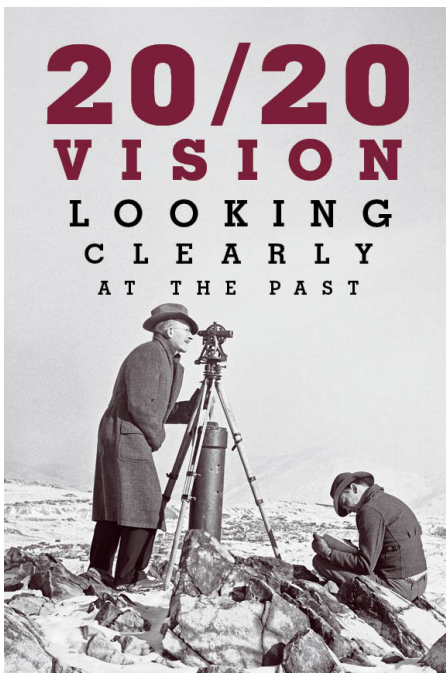
Stop in and check out our new handmade buckskin and leather items from Buckskin Jim, a new "Made in Montana" vendor from Great Falls. We have a great selection of leather drink cozies, coasters, luggage tags, key rings, buckskin bags, arrowhead necklaces, wallets, journals, and nostalgic games for the kids!

Against the Darkness: A Tribute to the Montana Coal Miner (DVD), hosted by Joseph Campanella, \$10.

Pauper's Dream: A Tribute to the Montana Hard Rock Miner (DVD), directed by John Wheeler, \$5.

Order online at www.montana-historicalsociety.org or call (800) 243-9900. (Member discounts do not apply.) ☼

History Conference Coming to Butte



Save the date for the 47th annual Montana History Conference! Join us in Butte, September 24–26, 2020, where we will be "Looking Clearly at the Past." The full program will be posted online, and conference registration opens July 1.

Connect with your Montana Historical Society on Social Media. Like our three Facebook Pages: Montana Historical Society; *Montana The Magazine of Western History*; and Montana Historical Society – Museum Store. Follow us on Twitter @MTHist and on Instagram at mthistoricalsociety. Don't forget to check out our YouTube videos, and if you can't come to us you can always stay informed at mhs.mt.gov. ☼

Montana Preservation Road Show



Venture into the field with scholars, preservation leaders, and local historians for a behind-the-scenes look at White Sulphur Springs' and the surrounding area's most spectacular historic sites this summer during the **Preservation Road Show, June 10-13**. This award-winning, three-day conference takes participants out of the conference room and into rural landscapes to see where history happened. More information at <http://www.preservemontana.org/2020-road-show>. ☼

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People of all ages enjoyed playing games and eating popcorn at the *Good Beer Here: Montana's Brewing History* exhibit opening.

The Society's newest temporary exhibit, "Good Beer Here: Montana's Brewing Industry," opened Thursday, February 27. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about the state's long brewing history!

