



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
presents

The 42nd Annual  
**Montana History  
Conference**

September 24–26, 2015, Bozeman



## Conference logistics *(See maps on page 26.)*

**Note:** September 25–26 is homecoming weekend at MSU. Be sure to make your hotel reservation early! The history conference will be headquartered at the **Hilton Garden Inn Bozeman**, 2023 Commerce Way. A block of rooms at a special conference rate is being held until **August 19**. Be sure to ask for the **Montana History Conference rate!** Reservations can be made at [www3.hilton.com](http://www3.hilton.com) or by calling (406) 582-9900.

Additionally, two nearby hotels are also offering special rates to conference attendees. Be sure to ask for the **Montana History Conference rate!**

**Comfort Suites**, 2515 Catamount St., [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com) or (406) 587-0800 (cutoff date for special rate is August 19).

**Days Inn**, 1321 N. 7th Ave., [www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com) or (406) 587-5251 (cutoff date for special rate is September 5).

Other nearby accommodations can be found at [www.visitmt.com](http://www.visitmt.com).

**Teacher Credit:** Up to 19 OPI Teacher Renewal Units are available for conference attendees. Teachers desiring renewal credits may obtain forms and additional information at the conference registration table.



MHS Mulvaney Postcard Collection Box 1-10 Bozeman 093

# Hit the Trail to Bozeman!

Please join us for the 42nd Annual Montana History Conference, which will be held September 24–26 in Bozeman. As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Montana Historical Society throughout 2015, we are thrilled to invite you to our annual conference, which each year celebrates Montana’s past—the people, events, and milestones that make our heritage so rich and exciting. This year, we will focus much of the conference on the history of this special Montana community, as well as Gallatin County and the surrounding region, including Yellowstone National Park. Believe it or not, this is the first time that the Montana History Conference has ever been held in Bozeman, so it is appropriate that this weekend is also Montana State University’s homecoming, a time when alumni return to Bozeman to revisit their own personal pasts. (Go ‘Cats!)



We have assembled a stellar lineup of speakers on topics ranging from baseball to bicycling and early roads to Spiritualism. Workshops will offer specialized training for educators, archivists, and preservationists, while field trips and a progressive reception will showcase some of the area’s prime historical attractions.

Many thanks go to the great partners who helped prepare the Montana History Conference this year, including the Gallatin History Museum, Museum of the Rockies, Historic Preservation Board of Gallatin County, The Extreme History Project, Montana State University, Thomas Nygard Gallery, Sundog Fine Art, and many other organizations and individuals.

Don’t miss the fun. Hit the trail to Bozeman, where you can learn more about Montana’s heritage while enjoying all that this region has to offer. We look forward to seeing you there.

Bruce Whittenberg, Director  
Montana Historical Society

Unloading pipe for the Bozeman  
water main, April, 1928



Courtesy of City of Bozeman Public Works

*Please note: The conference schedule is subject to change.*

## Thursday, September 24

- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Made in Montana Tour** (departs from the Hilton Garden Inn; limited to twenty participants; wear sturdy boots or shoes and bring lunch money—the tour will stop for lunch, but cost of lunch is not included in the tour)



Gallatin Creamery Co., ca. 1920

MHS PAC 2008-36.107

This year's tour will focus on agriculture, beginning with a visit to the Horticultural Farm at Montana State University, where we will hear about agricultural research being conducted on this eight-acre farm. Bruce Selyem, a longtime advocate for the preservation of Montana grain elevators, will show us both a working elevator and the historic Misco Elevator, which has been converted into apartments and a workshop/gallery. Participants will also visit the Amaltheia Dairy and goat farm

near Belgrade, which produces organic goat cheese and vegetables for the local Bozeman market. Bozeman has developed a reputation as the state center for high tech; as an overview of both new and old computer technologies, the group will get a guided tour of the world-class American Computer & Robotics Museum. The day will conclude with a visit to the RoughStock Distillery, Montana's first distillery to open since Prohibition.

- 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Educators Workshop** (lunch included)

This year's Educators Workshop will focus on **Indian Education for All**. Presenters will include MHS staff Martha Kohl and Deb Mitchell, who will share lesson plans from the Montana Historical Society, and Professor Christine Rogers Stanton (MSU Department of Education), who will lead an exploration of "Representations of Montana Native Leaders throughout History." After lunch, Crystal Alegria, Courtney Agenten, and Shane Doyle of Project Archaeology will introduce participants to the research-based curriculum guides "Project Archaeology: Investigating a Plains Tipi" and "Investigating the First Peoples, the Clovis Child Burial." These inquiry-based, cross-curricular guides include performance-based assessments and incorporate indigenous voices. Participants will come away with practical classroom lessons and techniques

for engaging students from grades 4 through 12. Special attention will be paid to integrating primary sources into instruction and alignment with the Common Core.

**10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M. Archives Workshop** (limited to twenty participants; lunch included)



Crow Indian Camp, Calfee & Catlin photographers

**Backlog? What Backlog?** It's been estimated that only approximately 45 percent of archival collections in the United States have inventories accessible online. This is primarily due to huge processing and cataloging backlogs in most archival repositories. In response, archivists have streamlined procedures that allow safe access to collections more rapidly. Workshop attendees will learn how to implement these techniques through reappraisal; developing processing plans, policies, and benchmarks; and integrating processing into accessioning procedures. The workshop will also focus on setting up a "Processing Blitz." Building on a concept used by librarians to deal with cataloging backlogs, the "Processing Blitz" provides a framework for small institutions to host regional archivists, volunteers, and allied professionals to process collections in a weeklong intensive session. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring a small collection—under one linear foot—to work on during the hands-on portion of the workshop.

**1:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. Preservation Workshop**

The Preservation Workshop will provide in-depth presentations about two exciting historic preservation programs in Montana. A panel discussion focusing on the **Montana History Foundation's Preserve Montana** grant program will be hosted and moderated by Charlene Porsild, president and CEO of the MHF, with short presentations by 1) Gena Ashmore, the program officer, about the application process; 2) TBA: a past successful grantee, about the application and execution of their project; and 3) past review committee member Jennie Stapp of the Montana State Library, about what the selection committee is looking for in the proposals. The panel is intended to be interactive, with plenty of time for audience members to ask questions about how to apply, what kinds of projects are fundable, and what it takes to create a successful project. The second half of the workshop will feature Dr. Tim Urbaniak's presentation, **The Digital Documentation of Bannack State Park Structures and Surrounding Landscape**.

Accomplished by students of the MSUB Drafting & Design program, this project assists in the preservation of Bannack State Park structures and surrounding landscape through digital documentation techniques that include LIDAR scanning, photogrammetry modeling, current CAD software modeling, and three-dimensional printing. The resulting data is being provided to the park as support for park documentation and site management of the area. Learn how Dr. Urbaniak's techniques can provide innovative data and essential tools in historic property planning, interpretation, and preservation.

**5:30 P.M.—7:30 P.M. Progressive Reception—Sundog Fine Arts (17 E. Main St.) and the Gallatin History Museum (317 W. Main St.)**

Meet and greet fellow conference-goers while enjoying the finest in Bozeman art and history. Join hosts Sundog Fine Arts and Thomas Nygard Gallery for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and special exhibits of Native American and folk art at the Sundog Fine Arts gallery. Then journey west four blocks, and hundreds of years back in time, to enjoy local history at its best, as well as a selection of fine desserts, at the Gallatin History Museum, located in Gallatin County's 1911 jail.

**7:30 P.M.—9:00 P.M. Opening Program—Masonic Lodge No. 18 (14 S. Tracy Ave.)**

Following the progressive reception, join the Extreme History Project for the premiere of their new reader's theater, **Fort Parker: In Their Own Words**. The silent site of Fort Parker, just east of Livingston, belies the bustling activity of its past incarnation. The first Crow Agency, which was established by treaty in 1869, integrated people from disparate backgrounds.

Through various accounts, the people of Fort Parker will share their story: Chief Blackfoot pleads for the treaty's promises, Agent Pease struggles with crops in the windy Great Plains, Young Pretty Shield recalls the fluidity of moving a Crow camp, interpreter LaForge reminisces about courting his Crow wife Cherry, Commissioner Brunot negotiates with the Crow chiefs, and a visiting earl contemplates the future of Indians in America. Life at Fort Parker emerges through the vivid reading of these accounts.



MHS Surveys Box/USGS

Ranch of Major Pease, Yellowstone River, ca.1871, W. H. Jackson photographer

# Friday, September 25

7:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration

7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. Plenary Breakfast

Following a brief welcome by Montana Historical Society director Bruce Whittenberg, Courtney Kramer from the Bozeman Historic Preservation Office will provide an overview of Bozeman’s history through her presentation of **Town and Gown: Montana State University and the Development of Bozeman**. Awarded to Bozeman as a runner-up prize for the 1892 state capital vote, Montana State University has provided a stable economic base while shaping the community’s physical development and communal attitude.



9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions

**Montana Sports** In their examination of **Montana Baseball History**, award-winning journalist Skylar Browning and researcher Jeremy Watterson will reveal Montana’s relationship with America’s favorite pastime from 1866 to the present day. The two authors of a recently published book of the same title will discuss the fights, booze, cheating, and gambling that fueled the state’s first professional league in 1892; the star-studded barnstorming tours and threats of bloodshed that marked the turn of the twentieth century; and the ways in which Montana players who made their way to big league diamonds helped change the sport on and off the field. In her discussion of **“The Inspiration of a New Land”: The Montana Years of Ina E. Gittings, 1914–1918**, Dr. Pamela Stewart, Arizona State University, will detail how Gittings—who served as director



of the University of Arizona’s Department of Physical Education and Athletics from 1920 to 1954—devoted her career to “educating the body” and used physical education as a path to gender equality. During Gittings’s time in Montana, she not only directed women’s physical education at the University of Montana, but also homesteaded and advocated to keep her position at UM while she served in Turkey at the close of World War I.

Ina E. Gittings, University of Nebraska, 1905

Courtesy of University of Nebraska—Lincoln Archives and Special Collections Libraries

**Montana Homeland** In “My Heart Now Has Been Changed to Softer Feelings”: A Northern Cheyenne Woman and Her Family Remember the Long Journey Home, John H. Monnett, professor emeritus at Metropolitan State University of Denver, will recount the story of Mah-I-ti-wo-nee-I (Susan Iron Teeth), whose memoir records the Northern Cheyennes’ 1878–1879 exodus from Indian Territory to return to their homeland in southern Montana. In **Bluetongue, Bison Diplomacy, and the Lakota Taking of the Powder River, 1858–1868**, University of Montana Native American Studies professor Richmond Clow will examine the environmental and cultural issues at play in the complicated territorial conflict between the Lakota and Crow over the Powder River Country and the ways in which the U.S. government engaged with both parties in the Fort Laramie treaties of 1851 and 1868.

**Building Bozeman** In **The Story of Nelson Story**, Gallatin History Museum director Bill Jones will discuss the legendary Bozeman pioneer and entrepreneur who is credited with bringing the first Texas cattle to Montana Territory in 1866. The ambitious businessman invested in milling, ranching, banking, and real estate and, for his family home, built Bozeman’s first true mansion, an imposing 1888 Second Empire–style residence that sat for fifty-two years on Main Street. Preservation architect Leslie Gilmore will explore the history and architecture of **Bozeman’s Masonic Lodge No. 18**, which has served Bozeman’s Masons for the past 125 years. The evolution of the building’s architecture since its construction in 1890 represents both the lodge’s desire to keep up with changing styles (evident elsewhere on Main Street) and an economic response to the building’s maintenance needs. That evolution continues, as currently planned alterations reflect the lodge’s desire to have a building that is both more visible and more in keeping with Bozeman’s historic Main Street.



MHS 940-540

Nelson Story Home, Main Street, Bozeman

**10:45 A.M.–12:00 P.M.** Concurrent sessions

**The Business of History** Gallatin Gateway middle school teacher and Manhattan, Montana, native son Michael Herdina will reflect on the colorful history of his hometown through the lens of a local institution, the Garden Café. In **Lions and Fights and Burgers: Manhattan’s Historic Garden**





Gallatin City—Three Forks of the Missouri, from J. L. Campbell's *Idaho: Six Months in the Open, 1864*

**Café**, Herdina will examine Manhattan's evolution as a community as well as the role played by such local legends as Bud Lilly, Dave

"Kid" Johnston, and Charlie Hodges. The only known extant documents from the short-lived community of Gallatin City are two ledgers from Gurden Campbell's store. In **Object Report: The Gallatin City Ledgers**, Museum of the Rockies registrar Pat Roath will use information gleaned from these ledgers—recently rediscovered in the collections of the Museum of the Rockies and the Headwaters Heritage Museum in Three Forks—to provide an intimate glimpse at daily life in this short-lived pioneer town.

**Montana's National Parks: Two Views** The town of Cinnabar, Montana, no longer exists, but when it did, it served as the immediate railroad gateway for a generation of visitors to Yellowstone National Park. When the Northern Pacific reached the tiny town in 1883, Cinnabar became the jumping-off point for visitors on their journey into "Wonderland." In **Gateway to Yellowstone: The Raucous Town of Cinnabar on the Montana Frontier**, Yellowstone National Park historian and prolific author Lee Whittlesey will bring this Wild West town, and the heyday of railroad tourism, back to life. Conversely, Blackfeet historians Smokey and Darnell Rides At The Door will look north to the area that is now Glacier National Park to recount ways that the Blackfeet used the land for thousands of years before the arrival of Euro-Americans. In **People Before the Park**, the Rides At The Doors will share traditional stories, foodways, and hunting techniques, games, and spiritual beliefs associated with this special area that was—and remains—extremely significant to the Blackfeet.

**Early Roads and Trails** By 1864, with a variety of strategic roads leading to and from the Gallatin Valley, the region served as the primary agricultural center of southwestern Montana. In **Taming Big Sky Country: A Short Overview of Montana's Early Roads**, Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline will look at several of these important roads leading into Montana Territory, including the Montana-Utah Road, the Mullan Road, early



Trail Blazers—Willson and Pion Teams, East Main Street, Bozeman, 1872

toll roads, and, of course, the Bozeman Trail. In researching **North to the Gold Fields on the Montana Trail**, Montana Historical Society Museum technician Vic Reiman learned why it was a bad idea to sit on the upwind side of a stagecoach when the driver was chewing tobacco. He will share that and other gems in his discussion of emigrant travels to Montana in the 1860s, especially via the trails north from the Emigrant Road in southern Idaho and, later, from the railheads at Corinne and Ogden, Utah.

# THOMAS NYGARD

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Harvey T. Dunn N.A. (1884 - 1952)

*Sons of the Frontier Meet* • 16 x 36 1/4 inches • Oil on canvas

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🕒 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. Lunch

**Montana’s Most Unexpected Treasure** Though not exclusively linked to Montana’s storied past, the 1862 Morrill Act—which allowed for the creation of land-grant colleges—and the 1887 Hatch Act—which established agricultural experimental stations—have significantly influenced Montana’s social and economic history. Montana State University president Dr. Waded Cruzado, a passionate champion of the land grant’s tripartite mission of education, research, and public outreach, will explore the ways in which these acts have impacted, and will continue to impact, life in the Treasure State.



🕒 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**Real Voices from the Montana Extension Service** Like its counterparts around the nation, Montana State University’s Agricultural Extension Service celebrated its one-hundredth anniversary last year. In 1914 Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act for the purpose of “extending the knowledge and research being conducted at the Land Grant Colleges and the Ag Experiment Stations to farmers and other residents of the nation.” Today, MSU’s extension service operates seven research stations around the state and offers programs focusing on youth development (including the iconic 4-H program), crops and livestock, community development, gardening, home and family, and energy. In this “**Real Voices**” panel, retired extension agents will discuss their memories of the extension service, the difference the service has made to Montana communities, and the role the service can play as it enters its second century.



MHS PAC 97-72.16

Richard LaRock (right) with his 4-H Grand Champion “purebred Shorthorn baby beef” at the Montana State Fair, Helena, 1931

**Good Medicine** In **The Life and Work of Maurice Hilleman**, Professor Mark Jutila, PhD, head of Montana State University’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology, will discuss the work of America’s most prolific

vaccinologist, Maurice Hilleman, who was born in Miles City and graduated from Montana State University. After leaving Bozeman, Hilleman created over forty vaccines, including those for measles, mumps, and chickenpox. In **Typhoid and the Emergence of Public Health in Montana**, Helena physician Dr. Spencer Shropshire will examine the failure of early Montana public water systems along the Hi-Line in the early twentieth century. The failure resulted immediately in a typhoid epidemic and, ultimately, in the emergence of Montana's public health system.




Steamer *Zillah* on Yellowstone Lake, ca. 1890, F. Jay Haynes photographer

MHS H-5126

**Yellowstone by Bike and by Boat** During the last decades of the nineteenth century, a number of wheelmen and wheelwomen tested their mettle, and that of their machines, by pedaling through some of the most amazing scenery—and the worst roads—that North America had to offer. In **Wheeling through Yellowstone: A History of Early Bicycling in the First National Park, 1883–1898**, historian and Yellowstone park ranger Wes Hardin will explore the fascinating stories of some of these intrepid cyclists. In **Steamship Travel on Yellowstone Lake**,

longtime Yellowstone tour guide Leslie Quinn will look back to the years 1890–1920, when visitors to the world's first national park could travel across Yellowstone Lake on large steamships and power launches. Operated by the outrageous Captain Ela Collins Waters, and later by famous park guide “Uncle Billy” Hofer, these were the halcyon days for passenger travel on the lake.

 3:30 P.M.–4:45 P.M. Concurrent sessions

**History Between the Lines** Letters constitute some of the most powerful and personal documents in archival collections. In **A Voyeur's Paradise: Epistolary Gems from the Montana Historical Society Archives**, Montana Historical Society Archives staff members Jodie Foley, Rich Aarstad, Jeff Malcomson, Caitie Patterson, and Anneliese Warhank will share their favorite letters from the collections. From soldiers' letters home, to immigrant letters to family abroad, to angry or heartfelt missives of the betrothed, to chatty accounts of everyday life, these rich and revealing sources bring the past to life.

**Yellowstone Tales and Trails** Harry and Adelaide Child founded a Yellowstone National Park dynasty that lasted more than sixty years. Harry managed the park's transportation and hotel companies from

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# Schedule at a Glance

The conference schedule is subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn.

## Thursday, September 24

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- 7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 8:30 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Made in Montana Tour (limited to 20, departs from Hilton Garden Inn)
- 9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Educators Workshop (lunch included)
- 10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M. Archives Workshop (lunch included)
- 1:00 P.M.–4:00 P.M. Preservation Workshop
- 5:30 P.M.–7:30 P.M. Progressive Reception, Sundog Fine Arts (17 E. Main St.) and the Gallatin History Museum (317 W. Main St.)
- 7:30 P.M.–9:00 P.M. Fort Parker: In Their Own Words, Masonic Lodge No. 18 (14 S. Tracy Ave.)

## Friday, September 25

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- 7:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:45 A.M.–9:00 A.M. Plenary Breakfast—Town and Gown: Montana State University and the Development of Bozeman
- 9:15 A.M.–10:30 A.M. **Concurrent sessions**  
Montana Sports  
Montana Homeland  
Building Bozeman
- 10:45 A.M.– 12:00 **Concurrent sessions**  
The Business of History  
Montana’s National Parks: Two Views  
Early Roads and Trails
- 12:30 P.M.–1:45 P.M. Lunch— Montana’s Most Unexpected Treasure
- 2:00 P.M.–3:15 P.M. **Concurrent sessions**  
Real Voices from the Montana Extension Service  
Good Medicine  
Yellowstone by Bike and by Boat
- 3:30 P.M.–4:45 P.M. **Concurrent sessions**  
History Between the Lines  
Yellowstone Tales and Trails  
A Tale of Two Cities

- 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations
- 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet— Hops and History: Connecting Contemporary Audiences with Montana’s Brewing Past

**Saturday, September 26**

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- 7:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Conference Registration
- 7:45 A.M.–8:45 A.M. Plenary Breakfast—Summoning the Dead in the West
- 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. **Concurrent sessions**  
Recent Research, Emerging Scholars  
Women’s Hidden History  
Power and Water
- 10:30 A.M.–11:45 A.M. **Concurrent sessions**  
Giving Voice to Oral History  
Murder and Mayhem  
A Fighting Spirit
- Noon–1:30 P.M. Lunch—Beef Fudge, Pork Cake, and Huckleberry Pie: What Can Food Tell Us about Montana History?
- 1:45 P.M.–4:30 P.M. Madison Buffalo Jump
- 2:00 P.M.–3:30 P.M. Adventure through Time Historic Walking Tours  
Ghosts of Bozeman’s Past: The Sunset Hills Cemetery (Meet at the front entrance to Sunset Hills Cemetery off of E. Main St. directly south of Lindley Park)  
Murders, Madams, and Mediums (meet in front of the Western Café located at 443 E. Main St.)  
Family Matters: Bozeman’s Historic African American Community (meet at Beall Recreation Center, located at 415 N. Bozeman Ave.)



Gallatin Valley wheat field, Albert Schlechten, photographer

Lot 32 BR11.05



**MONTANA HISTORY**  
FOUNDATION

The Montana History Foundation brings communities together by providing resources for history and culture across the state. We raise money and give out grants to save, preserve, and interpret Montana's important and diverse past.

THE MONTANA HISTORY FOUNDATION IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE  
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1901 until his death in 1931, when his daughter and son-in-law succeeded him. Adelaide oversaw the furnishing of new hotels, including Old Faithful Inn and the Canyon Hotel. In **Harry and Adelaide: A Montana-Yellowstone Love Story**, longtime Old Faithful Inn tour guide and author Ruth Quinn will delve into the Childs' personal lives and their enduring impact on the park, and on Montana. Historically, Yellowstone's trail system played a vital role in the development of the park and visitors' experiences therein. In her presentation, **Blazing through Yellowstone: Trail Blazes of Yellowstone and Montana**, Kerri Keller Clement—a high school history teacher, avid backcountry hiker, and Montana State University graduate student—will investigate these trails and trail blazes within a spatial and cartographic framework.

**A Tale of Two Cities** Like many communities that began as mining towns and were later reshaped by tourism, Cooke City has accumulated its share of myths. Of these, none is more mysterious than the unsubstantiated but popular belief that the town once bore the name of “Shoo Fly.” Kelly Hartman, director of the Cooke City Museum, will explore some of the legends surrounding Cooke City in her presentation, **What's in a Name?: Understanding the “Shoo Fly” Myth**.

Willow Creek schoolteacher and Historical Preservation Board of Gallatin County board member Christopher McAdam-Mantei will delve into his hometown's past by focusing on one longstanding institution. In **Willow Creek Methodist Church and Community History**, McAdam-Mantei will analyze the role played by the church—one of Montana's oldest continuing congregations—in the bigger picture of the region's history.



Main Street—Cooke Mont.,  
Looking West

🕒 5:30 P.M.–6:30 P.M. Cocktails and Conversations

🕒 6:30 P.M.–8:30 P.M. Awards Banquet

**The Montana Historical Society's Board of Trustees' Heritage Keepers Awards** honor exemplary work, commitment, and effort in identifying, preserving, and presenting the history and heritage of Montana for current and future generations. The award recognizes those individuals, families, organizations, educators, historians, and others whose efforts have had a significant impact on generating interest in, and the preservation of, the rich and diverse history of Montana.

## MHS Board of Trustees 2015 Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Eastern Montana

### Henry L. Armstrong

For more than four decades, Henry L. “Hank” Armstrong has led the Geraldine community and Chouteau County in preserving and presenting history to a wide audience. One of the founders of the Geraldine Historical Society in the 1970s, Armstrong coauthored the highly respected community history book, *Spokes, Spurs and Cackleburs*, in 1976, and the sequel, *More Spokes*, in 2012. An avid researcher, Armstrong has published five other books important to central Montana history.



Armstrong’s contributions extend beyond publications. A charter member and on the board of trustees of the nonprofit River and Plains Society, Armstrong was instrumental in the formation and development of the Fort Benton history complex, including the Museum of the Northern Great Plains, the Montana Agricultural Museum, and the Schwinden Library and Archives/Overholser Historical Research Center, where he also served as photo archivist and historian.

Passionate about historic preservation, Armstrong has authored several National Register nominations for sites in Geraldine and Square Butte, including the Square Butte Jail, the Lone Tree Stage Station, the Square Butte Quarry, and the Geraldine Depot. Most recently, Armstrong helped plan Geraldine’s 2014 centennial celebration, and, as part of that celebration, he identified thirty-four area farms eligible for the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program.

Armstrong’s commitment to preserving and sharing central Montana history has impacted thousands, from local schoolchildren to visiting researchers. Lauded as a “historian, geologist and all-around smart, generous soul,” Armstrong was born in 1927 east of Geraldine in southern Chouteau County on the family farm, now recognized as part of the Centennial Farm and Ranch Program. He graduated from Geraldine High School in 1944. After serving in the Marines during World War II, Armstrong returned to the farm, where, with his wife Norma, he raised four children. He still lives in the homestead home of his grandparents near Geraldine, where his tireless efforts to preserve and promote the region’s history make him the epitome of a “heritage keeper.”

## MHS Board of Trustees 2015 Heritage Keeper Award Recipient

Western Montana

### Phyllis Smith

A prolific author, Phyllis Smith has brought the history of Bozeman and Gallatin County alive for readers, preserving important stories for generations to come. Her books include *Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley: A History*, *Montana's Sweet Grass Country*, *Montana's Madison Country*, and *Sweet Pea Days*, among others. She is also the author of many articles, including two published in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, and a number more published in local magazines like *Outside Bozeman*, *Tributary*, and *Explore*. Eight of her articles published in *In Celebration of Our Past* grew from presentations she gave at the Gallatin County Historical Society and Pioneer Museum's annual history conference.



Those who have read Smith's work recognize her passion for Montana history in all its varied forms: her writings explore such diverse topics as British ranchers, the Gallatin Valley's pea industry, the death of John Bozeman, and the history of the Bozeman Public Library.

In addition to sharing the region's stories in writing, Smith has worked to make Gallatin Valley history accessible to other researchers through less glamorous library and archives work. Smith volunteered for eleven years as an archivist, cataloging the photograph collection at the Gallatin County Historical Society and Pioneer Museum, and another ten years at the Bozeman Public Library, where she created indexes and compiled vertical file materials. She also staffed the library's Montana Room, assisting patrons with their research.

Phyllis Smith's well-researched and lively writing, and the generosity with which she has shared her knowledge, "speaks to the heart of what it means to be a Montanan." They also make her eminently worthy of the Heritage Keepers Award.

## Hops and History: Connecting Contemporary Audiences with Montana's Brewing Past

Curator of history Michael Fox will outline the Museum of the Rockies' efforts to share Montana's rich brewing traditions with a new generation of regional brewers, farmers, and beer drinkers. The museum's "Hops and History" program brings together local beer enthusiasts for a monthly discussion of what makes Montana's current craft beer resurgence so appropriate and so historical.



## Saturday, September 26

🕒 7:45 A.M.–8:45 A.M. Breakfast

### Summoning the Dead in the West

Marsha Fulton—cofounder of Bozeman's Extreme History Project—will reveal the role of Spiritualism in nineteenth-century Montana. Her talk will trace the growth of Spiritualism as a movement that offered communication with the deceased as a balm for an insoluble nation aching from the human toll of the Civil War. Fulton will examine stories, events, and practitioners to trace the progress of Spiritualism across the Treasure State in the latter half of the nineteenth century.



Terri R. Spray photographer

🕒 9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. Concurrent sessions

**Recent Research, Emerging Scholars** This session will feature a juried panel of three graduate-level students from Montana State University presenting their recent research findings. Nicolas Bergmann, a first-year PhD student in the Department of Earth Sciences (Environmental Historical Geography), will discuss **A Crucial Synthesis: The American Conservation Movement and the Science of Game Management in the Yellowstone River Basin, 1972–1978**. Jennifer Woodcock-Medicine Horse, a doctoral candidate in the Department of American Studies (Museum Studies), will examine **Green Museums Waking up the World: Indigenous and Mainstream Approaches to Exploring Sustainability**. Daniel Zizzamia, who recently received a PhD in history, will present **Mars and the Malleable West: Energy, Geohistory, and Dominating Nature**. Barry Sulam, who is with the American Studies Doctoral Candidate Program, will act as moderator, and Drs. Bill Wyckoff and Eric Austin, who

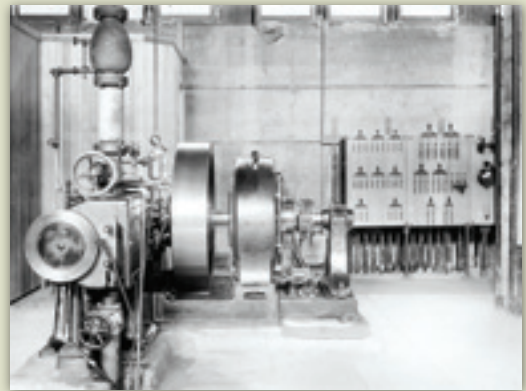
served as the faculty jury for submitted student papers, will offer commentary after the presentations.

**Women’s Hidden History** In **“To be Free”: Women’s Resistance to Wife Assault in Butte, Montana, 1910–1950**, Montana State University doctoral candidate Natalie Scheidler will discuss the ways in which Butte women contested the patriarchal social and legal structures that often granted men an extra-legal right to be abusive. Her study includes women who fought back using both physical means and legal channels. In **Virginia City’s Silent Sisters: The Oldest Profession from the 1860s to the 1930s**, MHS interpretive historian Ellen Baumler will offer a new look at the lives of prostitutes in Montana’s mining camps. By utilizing a variety of primary sources—census records, Sanborn maps, newspapers, and archaeological discoveries—Baumler has uncovered real facts about these ubiquitous, yet historically silent, women to provide a glimpse into a little understood aspect of Virginia City’s storied past.

**Power and Water** Kelsey Matson, who is pursuing a PhD in history at Montana State University, will explore the historical relationship between humans and energy— particularly electricity—in “Wonderland.”

Her presentation, **“Full of Life and Energy”: Electricity in Yellowstone National Park**, will look at the ways in which early park concessionaires and administrators differed in their interpretations of the landscape, and in the tools and technologies they used to power the park and construct the national park experience. In her talk, **Bozeman’s Water Works: Topography, Control, and Politics**, Bozeman Historic Preservation officer Courtney

Kramer will tell how the City of Bozeman has utilized natural topography to deliver domestic water from mountain reservoirs to private properties. Her presentation will also detail how voters chose, in 1890, to purchase the Water Works over the objections of Nelson Story and William A. Clark, and the battles—from lawsuits to physical confrontations and the use of explosive devices—that have occurred in Gallatin County over water.



Electrical generator and switchboard in the Canyon Hotel, Yellowstone National Park, ca. 1900, F. Jay Haynes photographer

MHS H-5747

## **Giving Voice to Oral History** In **Electronics Research**

**Laboratory: An Oral History of Electrical Engineering in Montana,** Montana State University History of Science PhD candidate Clinton A. Colgrove will trace the development of the Electronics Research Laboratory (ERL). Founded by Dr. Donald K. Weaver Jr. in 1956, ERL provided the opportunity for electrical engineering faculty, staff, and graduate students to develop cutting-edge technology that offered technical expertise for local, state, and national interests as well as a means for economic development for Montana. In **A Half-Century of Nursing Narratives in Butte, Montana, 1900–1950,** Henrietta Shirk, associate professor of communications, and Elaine Hunter, assistant professor of nursing, both at Montana Tech, will offer highlights of an ongoing collaborative research project examining nursing in Butte during the first half of the twentieth century, a transitional period in which nursing moved from a barely respectable vocation that required no formal training to a recognized profession that demanded extensive education.

**Murder and Mayhem** Was territorial Montana the violent frontier typically portrayed in popular culture, or was the public violence of highwaymen and vigilantes an aberration from a more settled culture that developed between 1864 and 1889? MHS photograph archivist Jeff Malcomson will answer that question in his presentation, **Homicide in Territorial Montana: A Violent Frontier? In Shot through the Heart,** Dr. Kristin Ruppel, associate professor of Native American Studies at Montana State University, will recount the 1953 murder of William and James Seyler, two mixed blood brothers in Twin Bridges. Linking their killing to larger themes of Native-white relations, Ruppel will uncover the story of the murderer’s trial and eventual acquittal in Virginia City, as well his subsequent demise.

## **A Fighting Spirit**


From the Bataan Death March and D-Day to the liberation of Holocaust victims and the postwar

Montana State College R.O.T.C. cadets “Gilman and Rothwell,” ca. 1918



MHS PAC 88-94, A1 p.37

occupation of Japan, the sons and daughters of Park County and Yellowstone National Park were witness to and participants in many of the crucial events of World War II. In **How We Fought**, independent historian Susan Kraft will feature stories and images highlighting their contributions to this global conflict. In **George Ahern, From Montana Explorer to Imperial Forester**, executive director of the Montana Council for History and Civics Education James Bruggeman will describe the remarkable life of George Ahern: West Point graduate, U.S. Army lieutenant in the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiment (“Buffalo Soldiers”) in Montana and the Dakotas, witness to the Wounded Knee Massacre, “explorer” of Glacier National Park, and founder of the Montana State College ROTC and forestry programs.


 12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M. **Lunch**

## **Beef Fudge, Pork Cake, and Huckleberry Pie: What Can Food Tell Us about Montana History?**

Old recipes, new ingredients. Montana’s foodways reflect the dynamic relationship between immigrant cultures and new environments. Drawing upon the Montana Historical Society’s impressive cookbook collection, Dr. Mary Murphy, professor in Montana State University’s Department of History and Philosophy, will explore the ways in which the serious examination of food dishes up new ways of thinking about our shared past.



## **Post-conference Field Trips**

 1:45 P.M.–4:30 P.M. **Madison Buffalo Jump** (departs from the Hilton Garden Inn; limited to twenty participants; wear sturdy boots or shoes for walking over uneven terrain)

Join park manager Dave Andrus and other interpreters in an exploration of Madison Buffalo Jump State Park. Situated on the edge of a broad valley carved by the Madison River, this high limestone cliff was used by many different tribes for at least 2,000 years—ending as recently as 200 years ago. The bus will leave the conference hotel at 1:45 and arrive at the jump at approximately 2:15. After a brief orientation to the site in the visitor parking lot, interpreters will lead a guided tour along the two mile hike to the top of the cliff, where rock cairns, fasting beds, tipi rings, and other archaeological remains provide evidence of the importance of this site to Montana’s native peoples.

**🕒** 2:00 P.M.–3:30 P.M. Choose one of three **Adventure through Time Historic Walking Tours** offered by **The Extreme History Project**. Each tour begins at the address indicated and lasts approximately one-and-a-half hours.

### **Ghosts of Bozeman’s Past: The Sunset Hills Cemetery**

(Meet at the front entrance to Sunset Hills Cemetery off of E. Main St. directly south of Lindley Park.) Established in 1865, the early residents of Bozeman laid their loved ones to rest in this sanctified ground overlooking the town. Join this tour to learn about Bozeman’s early movers and shakers and the stories that make up the town’s historical narrative.

### **Murders, Madams, and Mediums**

(Meet in front of the Western Café located at 443 E. Main St.) From horrific murders to notorious madams and mediums who communicated with the spirit world, Bozeman’s seedier history comes to light in a walking tour designed to send a shiver up your spine. Join us as we explore Bozeman’s dark side on our Murders, Madams and Mediums tour.

### **Family Matters: Bozeman’s Historic African American Community**

(Meet at Beall Recreation Center, located at 415 N. Bozeman Ave.) The African American community in historic Bozeman is nearly invisible until you begin to examine the historic census records, newspaper accounts, and city directories. Join us as we follow these founding families and uncover a history that has been silent for over a hundred years.

### **Save the Dates!**

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Join us for the 43rd Annual Montana History Conference, September 22–24, 2016, in the Bitterroot Valley, where—in addition to other offerings—we will be commemorating the 175th anniversary of the founding of St. Mary’s Mission with a special Founders Day observance in Stevensville. In 2017, we will return to Helena on September 21–23.



St. Mary’s Mission Founders Day



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# Montana History Conference, September 24–26, 2015

Register online at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops> or complete this form and return it to the address below:

Name .....

Organization (if applicable) .....

Street/Box No. .... City/Town .....

State/Prov. .... Zip/Postal Code .....

Phone .... Email .....

Please list any dietary restrictions (i. e. vegetarian, kosher, etc.) .....

**Note:** Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Pre-registration closes Friday, September 18. Limited on-site registration will be available beginning Thursday, September 24, if space allows.

**Full conference registration** includes reception and program on Thursday; all sessions, breaks, breakfast, lunch, and banquet on Friday; and all sessions, breakfast, and lunch on Saturday. Workshops and field trips are extra, as indicated below. All amounts are U.S. currency.

	<b>Advance registration (by Sept. 18)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<input type="radio"/> Regular	\$155	_____
<input type="radio"/> College student (ID required)	\$95	_____

## Workshops & Field Trips

<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Made in Montana Tour (limited to 20; bring lunch money)	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Educators Workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday Archives workshop (lunch included)	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Thursday: Preservation Workshop	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Madison Buffalo Jump (limited to 20)	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Ghosts of Bozeman's Past (limited to 15)	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Murders, Madams, and Mediums (limited to 15)	\$10	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday: Family Matters (limited to 15)	\$10	_____

## Single Day Registration

<input type="radio"/> Friday only (includes all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and awards banquet)	\$115	_____
<input type="radio"/> Saturday only (includes breakfast and lunch)	\$50	_____

## Extra tickets for guests of attendees

<input type="radio"/> Extra reception tickets, Thursday night reception and program	\$20	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon tickets, Friday noon	\$25	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra banquet tickets, Friday evening	\$35	_____
<input type="radio"/> Extra luncheon ticket, Saturday noon	\$25	_____

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: MHS Prospector Members or higher** receive a 15% discount on the total amount. Member number: \_\_\_\_\_ -15% \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount due** \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of payment

Check enclosed      Charge to my:    MasterCard    Visa    Discover    American Express

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**Mail registration form and payment to:** History Conference, Montana Historical Society, P.O. Box 201201, Helena, MT 59620-1201. Or register on-line at <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/ConferencesWorkshops>.

**For conference questions call (406) 444-1799 or email [jlewis@mt.gov](mailto:jlewis@mt.gov).**

Big Sky, Big Land, Big History,  
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**Historical Society**

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