

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society



Untitled Wood Carving (Wolf) by John L. Clark, ca. 1930, gift of Don Gunderson

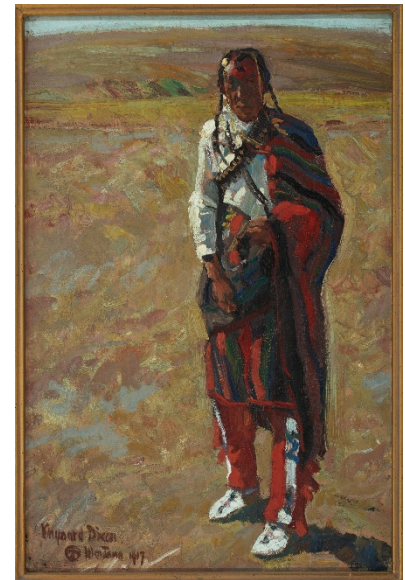
**Biennial Report to the Governor and the Legislature
Of the Activities of the Montana Historical Society
For Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020**

Molly Kruckenberg,
Director

The **Montana Historical Society**, founded in 1865 by the Montana Territorial Legislature, continues to pursue with passion the mission of promoting an understanding and appreciation of Montana's cultural heritage. Through collecting, preserving, and providing access to fine art, artifacts, photographs, and documents, we strive to educate Montanans and visitors through programming, publications, research collections, fine art and artifact collections, online resources, and, of course, the exhibits within Montana's Museum.

Strategic Activities

A key aspect of the mission of the Montana Historical Society is **education**. Our vast collections and many publications are accessible to all for research, learning, exploration, and enjoyment. Our work with teachers throughout Montana, in and out of the classroom, is expansive. Our Teacher Leaders in History program brings instruction to teachers from around the state to promote Montana history instruction. In the past two years, educators from 13 towns across Montana participated in this program.



"Old Many Guns," Maynard Dixon, 1917, gift of Rex & Judy Rieke

The Montana Historical Society aims to continually increase **engagement and access** with our visitors. We strive to engage with Montanans and all our visitors through exhibits, programming, digitized collections, online programming, and web-based resources. This biennium our online engagement increased significantly through Montana Newspapers, a freely accessible online database that hosts newspapers from 48 Montana towns. Our annual Montana History Conference and other public programs reach thousands of people every year, as well.

Collecting the resources that document Montana's history and heritage is fundamental to the work of the Montana Historical Society. The Museum and Research Center programs continually acquire art, artifacts, books, maps, photographs, archival documents, state records and many other types of materials that tell the stories of Montana's many peoples. Below are highlights of the acquisitions from the past two years.

Art and Artifact Acquisitions:

- 6 pieces of art by John W. "Jack" Beauchamp.
- Trunk and other personal items originally belonging to C.W. Cook.
- Joe Gans collection of Archie Bray art.
- Artifacts relating Alexander Swayne's long carrier in the military from the Spanish American War, WWI, and after.
- Painting by Dale Livezey "The Confluence - Headwaters of the Missouri," oil, 2017.
- Watercolor painting, "Portrait of an Indian," by CM Russell.
- 16 items related to the O'Brien stagecoach stop in Sidney.
- Chair that was originally part of the Capitol furnishings, possibly dating from when the Capitol was housed in the Lewis and Clark County Court House.
- Pair of Cree or Ojibwe gauntlet beaded gloves.
- Late 1800s farrier cabinet or chuck-wagon box with painted brand on left and right sides (Miller, McCown & Co.).

- Two bronzes by Montana artist Ralph "Tuffy" Berg, "Mountain Sheep" and "Mountain Goats."
- John Clarke carving, "Wolf."
- 9 cartoon sketches by Mary C. Wheeler.
- Ace Powell painting titled "Sod Buster."
- 11 Montana Senior Olympics sports medals won by Flora Wong .
- Card table, ca. 1940s, that once belonged to Octavia Bridgewater.
- Buffalo coat, hat, and mittens originally belonging to post trader Joseph Sherburne.
- Original painting by Maynard Dixon, "Old Many Guns."
- 186 items from the estate of Joseph Scheuerle's grandson, including art by Scheuerle, J.H. Sharp, CM Russell, and Maynard Dixon.
- Lee Metcalf's personal footlocker from WWII made from a German gasmask case.
- 1939 WPA sign from Wolf Point.
- Book, *Congressional Directory 1st Session, 51st Congress* belonging to T. C. Power.
- Book, *Blackfeet Indians*, by Winold Reiss, with personal annotations by Elizabeth Lochrie.
- Hexagonal star quilt, quilt owned by the family of Grace Stone Coates.
- 40 pieces of art from the William M. and Barbara J. Spilker Collection.
- 5 early to mid-1900s commercial calendars from the Basin Liquor Company, Helena Independent, Allen's Grocery, Harlowton, 1903 M. Reinig Grocer, Helena, and The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S., Helena branch.

Photograph and Manuscript Acquisitions:

"Star Shower" by Barbara P. Van Cleve
 "Three Chiefs" orotone by Edward Curtis
 "Yellowstone Pete" Photographs
 "A Journey & it's Impressions from Madison, WI"
 AERO (Alternative Energy Resources Organization)
 Al Furstnow Shop records
 Allis Stuart papers
 Ancient Order of United Workmen records
 Armstrong, Dahler & Co. records
 Arthur M. Hough papers
 Beaverhead County Watchmakers Ledger Books
 Ben Pykoski letter
 Brooke & Stanley Family papers
 Brown Family / Leslie Jorud Photographs
 Butte Clerks' Protective Union No. 12 records
 California Mining Co records
 Canyon Ferry Recreation Association records
 Centennial Farm and Ranch records
 Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad postcards
 Citizens Opposing Political Corruption Website records
 Claudette Morton papers
 Cora House Swedblom Albums

David A. Julian papers; Daniel M. Popovich papers
 Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry
 Department of Montana, G.A.R. Wadsworth Post #3, Helena Roster of Members
 Dorothea M. Susag papers
 Earl Barlow reminiscence
 East Helena Flood Photographs
 Eastern Montana Photographs album
 Edward Camillus Mulroney Scrapbook
 Elmer "Deke" Reish transcript
 Evening Quartz Lode mine lease
 Evening Quartz Lode mine lease
 Fairgrieve and Wayman families Photographs
 Fairgrieve Family papers
 Fannie Sperry Steele Photographs
 Faulstich and Robison Family Photographs
 Faulstich Family papers
 Flathead Backcountry Horsement records
 Flathead Valley Girl Scouts Scrapbook
 Glacier National Park Photograph Album
 Glacier Park Photograph Album
 Governor Rickards papers
 Granite Mountain Mine Maps (digital)
 Harold Craven papers

Harvey Syverud papers
Helena Abstract and Title Company
Helena Pioneer Cabin History manuscript
Hellgate Cash Book
Henry H. Swain papers
Home Ground Radio
Home Ground Radio
Isdell Mercantile Company
Jack Hayne's Family Videos
James and Ruth McIntyre papers
James F. Watkins papers
James McIntyre Photographs
Jeanette Rankin papers
Jessamine Spear Johnson and Elsa Spear
Edwards Byron Photographic Album
Jim Posewitz papers
John Boland Photographs
John Driscoll papers
John Joseph Holmes papers
John Kinna Photograph
John Tubbs Photographs
John W. Bonner papers
John Wheeler, Jr. Moving Images
Joseph Gardepi Photographs
Kampgrounds of America Photographs
Keas Family Photographs
King Mine (Kentucky Vermillion Mining
Company) Report
KRTV Audiovisual Materials
Lee Sam Fong papers
Leonard Acton papers
Les Jorud Family Photograph Albums
Lillian P. Russell album
Louis E Fowler Papers
Lyman C. Harris Family Photographs
Marilyn Grant research collection
Mary Cochran Autograph Book
Mary Emma "May" Fletcher letter
Mary Gertrude Schenck Shaffer Riordan and
Georgiana Frances Dalin papers and
photographs
McBee Family Photographs
McCullough Family letters
Migngon Waterman papers
Mike O'Connor Photographs
Miles City Saddlery Co. records
Mills and Purcell Family photograph collection
Montana Air National Guard Photographs

Montana Archaeological Society
Montana Bird Records Committee records
Montana Chapter of the National Hairdressers
and Cosmetologists Association Beauty Salon
Week Scrapbook
Montana Girl Scouts Scrap Book
Montana Library Association records
Montana Pioneer Farms
Montana postcard views
Montana Public Employees Association
Montana State Prison Warden Louis Boedecker
collection of autographed portraits
Mueller Family papers
National Organization of Women Yellowstone
Valley Chapter records
Norman and Belle Fligelman Winestine
collection
Northern Pacific Rail Road Co. Treasurer's Office
correspondence
O'Brien family Photographs
Oro Fino Mine Custom Ore Settlement
Padden Family Letters
Parchen Family Photographs
Parrott Family papers
Patricia Helvey Photographs
Photograph of Andes School in Andes, Montana
Photographic print view of Flathead Lake
Photographic views of Earthquake Lake (Quake
Lake)
Photographs of Northern Pacific Land Office
(#118) and the National Biscuit Company
building (#141) Helena, Montana in October
1935.
Photographs of 1953 Helena City Commission
Photographs of All Class Reunion in Edgar,
Montana
Photographs of Birken Foot Form Store in
Billings, Montana
Photographs of Broadway Mine in Silver Star,
Montana
Photographs of Great Northern Railroad
construction in northern Montana
Photographs of Jardine, Montana
Photographs of Montana State Legislators of
the Twelfth Legislature
Photographs of the 1935 Earthquake
Pioneer Mountain Farm Photographs
Plevna, Montana Photograph

Poad Family Papers
 Portland Cattle Loan Co. records
 Potowatomie Camp Fire Girls records
 Renato Bianchi papers
 Reverend Jacob Mills Photographs
 Richard A. Conklin papers
 Rick Applegate papers
 Robert Henkel Moving Images
 Robison Family papers
 Rocky Fork and Cooke City RR Co. records

Samuel T. V. McBee papers
 Scott Stern and Ed Regan interview
 Stanely J. Morrow Stereographs of the Battle of
 Slim Buttes
 Thomas J Walsh photos
 Warren McGee Photographs
 Wayne Montgomery papers
 Wellington and Louise Rankin Portraits
 Women's Protective Union Scale Card

The State Historic Preservation Office, a program of the Montana Historical Society, works with all Montanans for the **Preservation of Historical Places, Sites and Monuments**. SHPO is responsible for the statewide historic preservation plan, documenting historic buildings and archaeological sites, listing Montana sites on the National Register of Historic Places, assisting local governments with historic preservation; administering federal tax incentives for the preservation of historic buildings; and assisting federal and state agencies to identify and protect historic properties and archaeological sites affected by their projects. In meeting these goals and responsibilities, SHPO completed the following work.

- Adding 1,915 new properties to the Montana cultural resource site files and state antiquities database.
- Adding 1,129 new reports of cultural resource survey and studies to the statewide inventory files and Cultural Resource Annotated Bibliography System database and clearinghouse.
- Overseeing the acceptance of *The Sentinels of the Airways: Montana's Airway Beacon System, 1934-1979 MPS* documentation by the Keeper of the National Residence.
- Adding 24 Montana properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Property Name	Location
Andrus Hotel	Dillon
Bottler, Frederick and Josephine, House	Emigrant vicinity
Canyon Resort Airways Beacon	Dillon vicinity
Cougar Peak Lookout	Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District, Lolo NF
Cow Creek Skirmish Historic District	Winifred vicinity
Cow Island Landing Skirmish Site	Winifred vicinity
Dillon City Hall	Dillon
Glacier Park Women's Club	East Glacier Park
Glenn's Dam Historic District	Anaconda vicinity
Homestake Airway Beacon	Butte vicinity
Jefferson Canyon Highway Historic District	Cardwell Vicinity
Lookout Cave	Zortman vicinity
Lyman-Neel Residence	Helena
McCrossin Cabin	Hamilton Vicinity
Morning Eagle (boat)	Glacier County
Quinn's Garage	Augusta
Shaffer's Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church	Butte
Silver Bow Airway Beacon	Ramsey vicinity
Silver City Cemetery	Silver City vicinity
Stillwater County Courthouse	Columbus

The Heritage Museum
Valley Masonic Lodge No. 21
Whitetail Airway Beacon
William F. Henneberry Homestead

Libby
Townsend
Whitehall vicinity
Dillon vicinity

- Awarding \$450,000 to 8 historic rural Montana properties through the Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage brick-and-mortar grant program, including: Basin Creek Caretakers House, Butte-Silver Bow; Broadway Apartments, Lewistown; Central School Apartments, Roundup; Dion Block, Glendive; F. M. Mack Mercantile, Augusta; I. G. Baker House, Fort Benton; Montana Hotel, Anaconda; and the Waterworks Museum, Miles City.



Dion Block, Glendive

- Administering the federal tax credit program for the rehabilitation of commercial, income-producing historic buildings at the state level. Among recent successfully completed projects is the Freedom's Path project at Fort Harrison Veterans Administration, Helena, which is an \$11,370,000 project. Freedom's Path rehabilitated 11 formerly mothballed buildings to establish 42 residential units for military veterans and their families at risk of homelessness.
- Sub-granting \$163,281 (10% of its federal preservation funding) to local communities and counties participating in the Certified Local Government program for historic preservation. Grants were awarded to local historic preservation offices in Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, Billings-Laurel-Yellowstone County, Bozeman (Gallatin County), Butte-Silver Bow County, Carbon County, Columbus-Stillwater County, Deer Lodge (Powell County), Great Falls-Cascade County, Hardin-Big Horn County, Havre-Hill County, Helena-Lewis & Clark County, Lewistown (Fergus County), Livingston (Park County), Miles City (Custer County), Missoula (Missoula County), and Virginia City (Madison County).

Programs and Projects:

In support of the strategic activities that sustain the mission of the Montana Historical Society to promote an understanding and appreciation of Montana's cultural heritage, MHS offers many different programs and services.

The **Publications** program produces the award-winning journal *Montana The Magazine of Western History* as well as books from the MHS Press. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Publications program published John C. Russell's *Treasure State Tycoon: Nelson Story and the Making of Montana* and received several awards for magazine articles.

- Flannery Burke’s “‘Worry U.S.A’ Dud Ranch Advertising Looks East, 1915-1945,” (Summer 2019) won the 2020 Western Writers of America Spur Award.
- David Beyreis’ “‘If you had fought bravely I would have sung for you’: The Changing Roles of Cheyenne Women During Nineteenth-Century Plains Warfare” (Spring 2019) won the 2020 National Cowboy Museum and Western Heritage Center Wrangler Award.
- Richmond L. Clow’s “Crossing the Divide from Citizen to Voter: Tribal Suffrage in Montana, 1880-2016” (Spring 2019) won the 2019 Paladin Award.
- Rodger C. Henderson’s “The Pikuni and the U.S. Army’s Piegan Expedition: Competing Narratives of the 1870 Massacre on the Marias River” (Spring 2018) won the 2019 Arrell M. Gibson Award and was a 2019 Finalist for the Western Writers of America Spur Award.
- Peter H. Hassrick’s “Art, Agency, and Conservation: A Fresh Look at Albert Bierstadt’s Vision of the West (Spring 2018) won the 2019 Western Writers of America Spur Award.

The 2009 Montana Legislature created the **Montana Centennial Farm and Ranch Program** to recognize and commemorate the agricultural traditions of Montana. Through this program, farm and ranch families that have owned or lived on their land for 100 years or more may be recognized for their contribution to Montana’s history. Thirty-six farms and ranches located in 17 counties were recognized for this accomplishment.

In 2019 MHS expanded and renamed our place-based history website and app to better reflect its content and appeal to a broader audience. **Historic Montana** now contains interpretive text and photographs for 1,798 National Register-listed properties and 74 curated historic district and themed tours from around Montana.

Montana’s Museum features both long-term and temporary **exhibits** featuring the many collections preserved by the Montana Historical Society. Currently, three long-term exhibits—the *Montana Homeland Exhibit* including a new installation *Montana in the Time of the Ice Age, Neither Empty nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark*, and the *Mackay Gallery of Charles M. Russell Art*—provide a big-picture overview of Montana history. In the past two years the Museum mounted multiple special temporary exhibits, including *Times of Trouble, Times of Change: Montana and the Great War; Hooked; Fishing in Montana; Straight-Shootin’ Women; Joe Scheuerle and His Remarkable Indian Gallery; Good Beer Here: Montana’s Brewing History; Through the Eye of the Needle: A Detailed View of Historic Textiles* and a special exhibit at the Original Governors’ Mansion - *Doing Our Bit: Montana’s Home Front during the Great War*.



The SHPO’s ongoing project **Identifying Montana’s African American Heritage Places** expanded over the past two years, as MHS received grants from the Montana Cultural Trust, Humanities Montana, and the National Park Service, to support the documentary film “Documenting and Sharing Montana’s African American History.”

Critical Issues for Achieving the Goals of the Montana Historical Society

The **Covid-19 pandemic** has disrupted normal visitation, reference services, and programming at MHS. MHS closed its doors in March, with the Governor's stay at home directive. We were able to reopen our exhibits and research functions in June, with the necessary restrictions and sanitization protocols in place, but public gatherings have continued to be shuttered. Despite these issues, senior management and staff at MHS have found creative ways to continue to connect with patrons. Our online resources – the MHS website, African American Heritage Resources, Montana Memory Project, Montana Newspapers, and many others – have been promoted to remote users and have seen increased usage. Our "Quarantine Activities" webpage invited Montanans to explore how pandemics have affected Montanans in the past and provided activities for individuals and families to use at home to explore their experience with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Outreach & Interpretation program designed and hosted an array of entertaining and informative online sessions for the 47th Annual – and 1st virtual – Montana History Conference.

In 2019 the Montana Legislature passed the Montana Museums Act to provide additional funding for the **Montana Heritage Center** project. In partnership with the Department of Administration, Cushing Terrell, and Sletten Construction, MHS has moved forward with construction of the Montana Heritage Center. In fiscal years 2019 and 2020, site selection and design development were completed. The new Montana Heritage Center will reflect Montana while being respectful to and compatible with the Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Montana Heritage Center will directly improve MHS's ability to achieve our mission. It will feature exciting new spaces while addressing critical collections storage concerns. A commons area will provide vital, interactive public space connecting a café, gift shop, exhibits, research area, and event center while offering views of the Capitol and surrounding landscape. The event center will provide a multipurpose space for large group meetings, conferences, and public events. New and reconfigured gallery spaces will deliver expanded opportunities for a revised and inclusive interpretation of Montana history. A new reading room will afford up to date technologies and better access to collections. Additional and renovated behind the scenes spaces will support increased collections storage, improved conservation and exhibit design areas, and enhanced staff workspaces. Progress on the project can be followed at montanasmuseum.org.



Montana Heritage Center

The Montana Historical Society has begun planning for a **capital campaign** to raise \$10 million in private funding, in compliance with SB338 of the 2019 Legislature. Pledges and other gifts designated for the Montana Heritage Center project, amounting to \$5 million, have been received.

In addition, the following issues have been identified as **critical areas of work** for the Montana Historical Society. Institutional tactics have been developed by MHS senior management to address these issues.

Marketing and development:

- Maintain continuity in our public message and refine our branding.
- Utilize customer research and data in decision making.
- Strengthen and strategize private funding for projects and publications.
- Promote and celebrate MHS work and success stories in communities across Montana.
- Consider how the Montana Heritage Center project affects marketing and development.

Digital Strategies

- Back up digital content to the Miles City data center to ensure preservation of critical digital resources.
- Implement preservation of digital materials, including archival and government records; develop a plan for sustainability of digital projects; and explore transfer of Electronic Records Archivist position and funding from Legislative Services Division.
- Implement digital options for publications.
- Sustain social media activities, including analytics, platforms, usage, and effectiveness.
- Keep the MHS website fresh and innovative, recognizing it as an important portal to the MHS Experience.
- Maintain and enhance email strategies for efficiency and quality in community with stakeholders.
- Continue improvement in integration of online customer service functions and upgrade of business systems by maximizing the capabilities of Versai; utilize the support of ITSD effectively.
- Continue growth of SHPO State Antiquities Database.

Collections: Access, Preservation, Acquisition and Security

- Continue to improve security functions, skills, and technology.
- Consider space and storage needs, completion of storage projects in the Museum and Scriver Center, highway storage, and new Montana Heritage Center facilities.
- Assess public spaces for safety, comfort, access, support.
- Implement HVAC improvement for climate control and health issues utilizing NEH implementation grant; integrate into plans for the Montana Heritage Center.

Outreach and Relationship-Building

- Pursue opportunities for outreach outside of Helena, particularly in eastern Montana.
- Improve tribal outreach; utilize photograph collections and publications to develop new projects with tribal stakeholders.
- Develop strategic partnerships with Universities, tribal agencies, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and students.

Long-Term Strategic and Operational Planning

- Address changing staffing needs, reporting relationships, skills and priorities, while maintaining a solid base of qualified historians; take advantage of our various memberships for training and learning opportunities.
- Develop a career ladder to address pay levels to bring MHS employees closer to current market values for compensation and provide professional development incentive, subject to Legislative approval and funding.
- Pursue position re-classification with the Department of Administration as appropriate.
- Develop a long-term funding model for the MHS Press.
- Continue succession planning, identifying key positions and high growth potential individuals.
- Pursue state general fund appropriations for certain SHPO functions.
- Address critical needs of the current building, in the context of MHC planning.

Leadership Succession

On September 30, 2020, Bruce Whittenberg retired as Director of the Montana Historical Society. His nearly decade-long tenure saw many changes as MHS, including securing funding for the Montana Heritage Center project. Bruce will be missed, but his legacy will have an impact on MHS. On October 1, 2020, Molly Kruckenberg took over as Director of the Montana Historical Society.

On behalf of the MHS Board of Trustees and our excellent staff, we thank you for your continued support to ensure that Montana's history and our shared cultural heritage are preserved and available to the people of Montana.