Dave's notes

Joe Hill - Chas Kerr

Butte Was Home That - Joe H. Duffy

Coralton - Larry W. Calvert

Champagne in a Tin Cup - Geo Everett

Looking Back from Hell - Recollections of Butte People

Buttie Poodle - Columbia Gardens - Pat Kearney

Historic Uptown Butte - John H. De·Haas

Butte: Town & People - Steve Devitt

Butte Central Collection - Neil Lynch

Butte (Park Stree)

Butte, MT - Shorey 1967 facsimile
Dane's Stash
Looking for Business

Butte Voices: Mining, Neighborhoods, People, Pat Kearney

Smoke Wars: Anaconda Copper, Montana Air Pollution and the Courts, 1890-1920, Donald MacMillan

Tracing the Veins of Copper, Culture & Community, Janet L. Finn

Motherlode, Legacies of Women's Lives & Labors, Janet L. Finn and Ellen Crain, eds.

Butte's Memory Book, Don James
check Butte ethnic neighborhoods:

Irish: Dublin Gulch

Italians: Meaderville

Finntown: below the Neversweat Mine (Berkeley Pit now?)

Chinatown (self-explanatory?)

Cornish: Centerville

Slavs?

Welsh?
did Norwegians live in Finntown or elsewhere?

--check Butte City Directory for Petersons etc.
Italians 102
Finlanders 163
Africains 8
Russians 1
Hungarians 25
Scattering 9
Total Employees 5534

Anaconda Mont. Oct. 1st, 1891

Marcus Daly Esq.
Genl. Ass't. Anaconda Mining Co.
Anaconda Mont.

Dear Sir,

Complying with your request of Sept. 23rd asking for a statement of amount of wages paid by the Anaconda Company for a period as far back the figures are available, at all points in the state and number of men employed at the present time with their nationalities I submit the figures as above; same being taken from the records of this company and covering points asked for.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Anaconda Mining Co.
day and three-night affairs; bands played, the women keened, men reminisced and grieved, celebrated and told lies—about the deceased and about themselves. It was said that more rock was broken at an Irish wake than could possibly have been loaded and taken from the mines. The wakes represented, in other words, the same mix of solemnity and hilarity as they had in Ireland. They were just as culturally determined and as culturally necessary in the new world of Butte as in the old world of West Cork or Donegal.85

Funerals were as carefully organized. The associations bought the flowers and wreaths, arranged the funeral mass, and provided a formal escort for the family of the deceased. The AOH had a policy of fining members for unexcused absences from another member's funeral, but there is no evidence that any fines were assessed. Full attendance at funerals was the rule, if for no other reason than that members wanted to insure full attendance at their own. The point was always to give back some of the dignity that workplace deaths had taken away. It was for this reason, too, that the RELA disinterred the remains of Miles Burke from Warm Springs and moved them to “the Catholic Cemetery where he could have a headstone.” A collection was taken up for Phil Fogarty “to insure him a decent burial.” The AOH sent a committee “to attend to the remains of our late brother William Hyland when taken from the mine.”86

Both organizations also maintained plots at St. Patrick’s cemetery; the RELA’s was (and still is) dominated by an eighteen-foot memorial, complete with harps and shamrocks and dedicated to Ireland and the Clan-na-Gael. The Hibernians had a cemetery house, befitting the “position, strength, and dignity of the AOH in this community.” The plots were carefully tended, money being appropriated for mowing, watering the flowers, and general upkeep. Celtic crosses were much in evidence.87

VI

Thus did this community of Irish miners attempt to deal with the insecurities and hazards, both physical and psychological, of life in the world's greatest mining city. Eric Hobsbawm has written of the importance to manual workers of safeguarding against their “primary life risks . . . namely accidents, sickness and old age, loss of time, unemployment, periodic unemployment, and competition from a labor surplus.” He could have been speaking of Butte and of its Irish miner enclave. Led by its Irish associations, the enclave found steady employment for its members, then attempted to absorb and blunt some of the risks that employment entailed. In the process it freed public agencies—and to a lesser extent, the Miners’ Union—from having to provide these services, and freed the Irish from having to attach themselves to non-Irish organizations to get them. Ethnic loyalties were, as a result, enhanced rather than surrendered, even to the point that Irish and miner became mutually reinforcing roles.88

There were countless instances of community-provided support and relief, and no Irishman, however young and healthy, can have missed the lessons taught by each. When John O’Leary, a member of the RELA, spoke of “our people” and how he “hoped the brothers [would] do all they can to help each other out”; when Patrick Kelly of the AOH urged the “brothers to stay by each other and always support a brother in distress,” they were believed. There were no self-congratulatory cries of individualism from this associational working class.89

Nothing makes the importance of the community’s assumption of risk clearer, however unconscious the lesson, than a U.S. Navy recruiting notice that appeared, curiously, in the Montana Socialist. The date was May 13, 1916, almost two years after the outbreak of the Great War and less than a year before America’s entrance into it. No one, in other words, could have assumed that this was recruitment into a guaranteed peacetime Navy. Even war, however, was made to seem preferable to life in Butte’s mines.

Mining jobs, said the Navy, were uncertain; there were strikes, layoffs, and the omnipresent threat of illness; even a mild one meant lost wages and high medical costs. The Navy promised steady work, paychecks that came whether sick or well, and free medical and hospital care. A disabling illness or injury meant economic catastrophe for the miner, no job, no prospect of a job, no income. The disabled Navy man received a “generous pension.” Accidental death in the mines, “stuffy, gloomy” places at best, left “your family with only what you’ve saved.” The Navy’s death benefits were six months’ pay and full pension benefits to the survivors. In the mines, promotion was slow and uncertain and marked by favoritism. In the Navy it was sure and quick and “the best man wins.” Old miners were not just scarce, they were unknown. Illness and age related debilities meant their jobs went “to younger men.” Navy men, on the other hand, retired after only thirty years’ service, service spent, moreover, in “fresh air, sun, sea, clean, healthful, athletic life,” at three-fourths their pay at the time of retirement.90

This was a remarkable set of comparisons. But what marks it, other than an unintentional gallows humor, was how near the AOH and the RELA came to providing the same kinds of security the Navy promised. The point is not that military service was a form of early twentieth-
77. AOH D1, MB, Oct. 11, 18, 1899. Evidence that physicians routinely misrepresented certain diseases in order to insure sick benefits comes from Industrial Commission, Mining at Butte, 1915, p. 3837. Other checks on fraudulent claims, including fines and expulsions, are mentioned in AOH D1, MB, Aug. 31, 1898; Aug. 30, Sept. 27, 1905; AOH D3, MB, Dec. 17, 1906; AOH, Silver Bow Co. Board of Directors, MB, June 1, 1906; Oct. 10, 1908; Sept. 29, 1909; Article III, revised bylaws, AOH, Silver Bow Co., effective Jan. 1, 1910.

78. For examples of back dues being paid up see RELA, MB, Dec. 12, 1889; June 15, 1904; AOH D1, MB, Oct. 21, 1903. The RELA paid AOH dues for Ed Sheehan; RELA, MB, Dec. 19, 1907. For dues paid out of sick benefits and then another round of sick benefits begun, see AOH D1, MB, July 26, 1905; AOH D3, MB, Apr. 23, 1906. Benefits were paid in advance according to AOH D1, MB, Feb. 3, 1904, and AOH D3, MB, Feb. 24, 1908. Out-of-town Hibernians and Clan-na-Gael members were routinely aided. See, for examples, AOH D1, MB, May 5, 1889; Nov. 18, 1891; May 18, 1892; July 21, 1897; Mar. 29, Nov. 22, 1899; RELA, MB, Dec. 22, 1898. Members paid up for life are noted in AOH D1; MB, Oct. 17, 1900; RELA, MB, Dec. 10, 1903; Apr. 14, Dec. 1, 1904; Oct. 27, 1921; Membership and Dues Ledger, 1899-1903. One RELA member was paid up after he had died. Lawrence Muldoon, RELA #93, died on July 7, 1902; he was placed in “good standing,” in other words his back dues were paid up, three days later. His wife thus became eligible for his death benefits. RELA, Membership and Dues Ledger, 1899-1903.

79. For Pat McNichols see AOH D1, MB, May 8, 1895. For Charles Kennedy see ibid., Apr. 5, 1905. In 1910 Kennedy was the proprietor of the Shamrock Saloon in Dublin Gulch (Polk, City Directory, 1910). For Noon see AOH D1, MB, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, 16, 1904; Mar. 29, 1905. For Hurley see ibid., Apr. 7, Dec. 15, 1886.

80. For Curley see RELA, MB, Nov. 16, 1887. For Shields see ibid., Jan. 2, Feb. 27, 1896. For McLaughlin see ibid., Aug. 9, 1906. For McBride see ibid., May 7, 1903. For McGrath see ibid., Oct. 17 and 31, 1901. For Galena see ibid., Apr. 5, 1899; July 10, Nov. 13, 1902; Oct. 5, 1905; Apr. 20, 1916.

81. RELA, MB, passim, but see, for examples, May 12, 1892; Dec. 12, 1895; Sept. 8, 1898; May 14, 1903; Nov. 2, 1905. The AOH, particularly in the early years, also assigned nurses. See, for example, D1, MB, Mar. 25, 1886; Nov. 6, 1889; Dec. 3, 1890.

82. References to resolutions being sent to such Irish newspapers as the Chicago Citizen, Irish World, Gaelic American, and Butte Independent are found in AOH D1, MB, Dec. 3, 1902; RELA, MB, Sept. 5, 1895; Jan. 4, 1912. The “resolution of condolence on the death of Michael Deehan,” for example, was “mailed to his family in Ireland” (AOH D3, MB, Apr. 30, 1906). The AOH use of form resolutions is noted in D1, MB Oct. 14, 1903. For Ed Gilmore see RELA, MB, Nov. 26, 1914. For Peter Harrington see ibid., Jan. 16, 1914. For Con Murphy see AOH D1, MB, Nov. 17, 1886.

83. For Eugene Sullivan see AOH D1, MB, Mar. 1, 1899. For McGrath see ibid., Feb. 22, 1899. Miller, Emigrants. The “memorial” for Anthony Shovlin is from RELA, MB, Jan. 4, Feb. 12, 1912.

84. McGee’s accident and death, with a copy of the resolution of condolence, are recounted in RELA, MB, June 19 and 26, July 10, 1902. For other reference to “untimely” deaths see (for Colman Tierney) AOH D1, MB, Aug. 1, 1898; (for Peter Hale) RELA, MB, Aug. 11, 1905; (for Pat Hanley) ibid., Sept. 21, 1905.

85. For wakes, see examples in AOH D1, MB, Nov. 16, 1898; AOH D3, MB, Mar. 11, 1907. For a fictional account of a Butte wake, complete with the Marcus Daly-like Magnus Dunn in attendance, see Murphy, Glittering Hill, pp. 141-67. See also Hand, “Folklore,” p. 158; Duffy, Butte, p. 298; WPA, Copper Camp, pp. 186-89. For a general discussion of waking see Miller, Emigrants, pp. 291, 558; Wilentz, “Industrializing America,” pp. 538-84; Cantor, “Introduction,” p. 10. On the significance of funerals to “lower classes” see Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll, pp. 201-2.

86. AOH D1, MB, May 18, 1892; June 27, 1896; Feb. 15, 1899; AOH D3, MB, Apr. 9, 1906; RELA, “Quarterly Expenses,” Apr., 1910, Cash Books. For Miles Burke see RELA, May 18, 1893. For Phil Fogarty see ibid., June 1, 1905. For William Hyland see AOH D1, MB May 18, 1892.

87. For the Emmet monument see RELA, Financial Ledger, Dec. 1, 1898, Cash Books; contract with R. A. Kitchen, July 12, 1902, noted in MB, July 17, 1902; Apr. 23, 1903. There are repeated references to cemetery plot maintenance. See, for example, RELA, MB, Dec. 1, 1898. The AOH cemetery house was described in P. J. Brophy to “Officers and Members, AOH,” Apr. 28, 1903, Brophy Papers.

88. Hobbsman, “Artisan and Labour Aristocrats,” p. 259. Many of the non-Irish and/or non-Catholic organizations, though not formally condemned by the Church, were considered to “have tendencies dangerous to Catholics”; Bishop John Brondel to C. J. Follet, Oct. 9, 1890, Brondel Papers. The Hibernians even sought a “Hibernian Wing” for Butte’s St. James Hospital (AOH D1, MB, Sept. 11, 1901).

89. O’Leary’s comment is from RELA, MB, Dec. 12, 1907. Kelly’s is from AOH D3, MB, Apr. 9, 1906.

90. Montana Socialist, May 13, 1916. It may be worth noting that no Irishman listed himself as “retired” in either the 1900 or 1910 manuscript censuses.
HUGE THRONG AT BURIAL OF WAR HEROINE

First Military Funeral in Butte for a Woman Given Annette Markland, Ambulance Driver for the Army in Battle Zone.

TRIBUTE BY THE CHAPLAIN


With full military honors and the presentation of thousand of flags, Annette Beatrix Markland, ambulance driver in France, was laid to rest yesterday evening in Holy Rosary cemetery.

Beginning early yesterday morning, those who were to attend the funeral of the French ambulance driver for the Army in Battle Zone, began to arrive at the church, the largest building in Butte, where the funeral service was to be held. The church was packed with those who came to pay their last respects to the young woman who had worked so hard for the French people during the war.

Flag Draped Casket

Carried Through Streets.

The funeral cortège, under the direction of the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Legion, paraded down Main Street at 10:30 last evening in front of where Annette's funeral chapel was located. The procession included the body of the ambulance driver, covered with the French flag, lying on a casket. The body was carried by the standard bearers of the American Legion, who were preceded by the flag bearers of the Women's Auxiliary, followed by the members of the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary, who were followed by the members of the American Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary, who were followed by the clergy and the clergy and the clergy. The funeral cortège then proceeded to the church, where the funeral service was held.

BIG CROWD ATTENDS MINES BAND CONCERT

The band concert given by the Butte Mines band, under the direction of Mrs. Fred Togus, on Saturday night, was another success. The concert was given for the purpose of raising money for the support of the Butte band, which has beenIdle for some time. The band has been Idle for some time. The band has been Idle for some time. The band has been Idle for some time. The band has been Idle for some time. The band has been Idle for some time.

Memorial Day in Butte

Memorial Day Marked in Butte by Impressive Ceremonies at the Courthouse and Cemeteries.

VETERANS OF THREE WARS IN BIG PARADE

High School Auditorium is Packed to Capacity to Hear Patriotic Address by Fred Togus.

The audience of the Butte band, under Mrs. Fred Togus, was packed Monday afternoon in the high school auditorium for the patriotic address given by Mr. Fred Togus. Togus, who is a well-known band director and musician, gave a spirited performance of the national anthem, which was followed by a recital of the patriotic poetry by the students of the high school. The concert concluded with a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner," which was recibed with great enthusiasm by the audience.

Memorial Day in Butte

The Memorial Day ceremonies at Butte were held Monday, May 28, 1934. The ceremony was held at the courthouse and cemeteries. The ceremonies included the laying of flowers at the graves of those who fell in the war, the playing of "Taps," and the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." The ceremony was attended by a large crowd of people, who came to pay their respects to those who gave their lives in the war.

TRIBUTE TO WAR DEAD PAID BY MINING CITY CITIZENS

Flecks of Snow

on Chilling Winds.

The day dawned clear and bright and promised excellent conditions for the outdoors. However, as the hour for the start approached, the weather began to change. A cold wind began to blow, and the flags of snow began to flutter across the sky. However, at 8:30 there was a brilliant showing of clouds at the courthouse, which was the rendezvous for the public.

For half an hour, from 8:30 to 9:30, a shower of snow fell on the ground and there were flecks of snow. However, at 8:30 there was a brilliant showing of clouds at the courthouse, which was the rendezvous for the public.

The ladles were completely covered by their hoods and little children, eager to learn the glory of American patriotism, from their elders mingled with the throng. Some of the veterans were accompanied by their children, who were willing to be a part of the ceremony.

The American flag, which is a symbol of the country, was carried by the children. The children carried the flag with pride, and the crowd was filled with admiration for their patriotism.

Military Parade

As the crowd gathered, they were greeted with cheers and applause. The parade began with the junior and senior high school bands, which played a variety of patriotic music. The bands were followed by the masonic and veterans' organizations, who carried the American flag and other symbols of patriotism.

The parade proceeded through the streets of Butte, with the flag bearers in the front, and the organizations following. The crowd was filled with enthusiasm, and the atmosphere was one of pride and patriotism.

Opening March in Honor of Legion

At the conclusion of the March, the Butte Mines band, under the direction of Mr. Fred Togus, gave a spirited performance of the national anthem. The band was followed by the masonic and veterans' organizations, who carried the American flag and other symbols of patriotism.

The performance of the band was greeted with cheers and applause, and the crowd was filled with admiration for their patriotism. The parade concluded with the masonic and veterans' organizations, who carried the American flag and other symbols of patriotism.
MHS, phone call 21 March '08

Zoe Ann checked library sched June 5-6 for me, said it looks OK; I said I'd call again before we come, and wd also let them know what I'm looking for.

I asked abt on-line catalog, she said archives/small collections etc. is there, pub'ns not. Ssh To reach the site:

Google Montana Historical Society; "1st 2 hits" bring you to library; there's a green bar; click on "research center", then on "search catalog"
check w/ Rich and Brian:

"Wobblies" derives from foreign-accented IWWs saying "I-wobble you-wobble-you"?
MT Mag of History--article on lawsuits about arsenic poisoning of livestock etc. around Butte
Montana Inspector of Mines report, 1917 & 1919
Christie Leskovar: Butte book (recommended by Laskin?)
grade school where Rab teaches
vertical file: check Butte subjects

--Marcella says it's in reading rm, you can just go use it.
check Wyman & Swibold bibilios for items not avbl (marked) at UW
30 May '08

four-page fax to Ellie Arguimbau, MHS Research Center

Ellie, hi--

Here's the follow-up on our phone conversation, the materials (the 7 circled items) that would get Carol and me started on our Butte 1919 research when we show up the morn of June 5. On the oral history interviews, I'm after the transcripts, not the tapes. I'm also going to want the 1919 R.L. Polk Butte city directory, please.

As you may have heard, my next novel--the World War II one--is on its way into print this fall, and the whole library gang of you are justifiably in the Acknowledgments. Looking forward to picking your formidable brains about Butte.

See you next week,
30 May '08

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See you next week,
Personal Author: Stone, Bess, 1885-1956
Title: Bess Stone Reminiscence 1890-1951

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)SC 1475
1 MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE

Personal Author: Emmons, David M.
Title: The Butte Irish: class and ethnicity in an American mining town, 1875-1925 / David M. Emmons.
ISBN: 0-8203-1051-5 (pbk.)

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)978.668 EM67B 1990
1 BOOK NON-FICT

Corporate Author: Butte Mines Band.
Title: Butte Mines Band Records, 1913-1954

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)MC 308
1 MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE

Personal Author: Holland, Curtis, 1871-1952.
Title: Curtis Holland reminiscence, 1946-1952.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)SC 866
1 MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE

Personal Author: Dunn, Jennifer.
Title: Defining the other: Southern, Central and Eastern European immigrants in Butte, Montana, 1900-1920 / [by] Jennifer Dunn.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)PAM 4304
1 PAMPHLET STACKS

Personal Author: Sherman, Edward H., d. 1938.
Title: Edward H. Sherman records, 1891-1906.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)MC 327
1 MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE

Title: Edward P. Sullivan interview, 1982 Feb. 25 and Mar. 10.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1)OH 243
Title: Faye Miller Landis and Robert Bruce Landis interview, 1982 Oct. 18.

Personal Author: Poor, Frances Holly
Title: Frances Holly Poor Papers 1916-1927

Title: The Frank Little episode and the Butte labor troubles of 1917 / by Donald A. Garrity.

Title: Grace Cunningham interview, 1982 Mar. 11.

Title: Gwen Mitchell interview, 1987 May 24.

Title: Harry Reidinger interview, 1973 Nov. 25.

Title: Hugo Kenck and Margaret McMann Kenck interview, 1982 Dec. 8.

Title: Joe Strozzi interview, 1986.

Title: Lillian Fellows Kirkemo interview, 1987 Aug. 31.
1) OH 1034
MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE no circ

Personal Author: Trbovich, Mary, 1912-
Title: Mary Trbovich interview, 1987 Nov. 4.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1) OH 1042
MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE no circ

Personal Author: Edwards, Jim.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1) 978.668 ED967B
BOOK NON-FICT

Personal Author: Wilson, Myra N., 1904-2002.
Title: Myra Wilson interview, 1990 Apr. 3.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1) OH 1209
MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE no circ

Personal Author: Byrnes, Michael.
Title: The truth about the lynching of Frank Little / Mike Byrnes and Les Rickey.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1) 364.134 B989T 2003
BOOK NON-FICT

Title: Victor Giuseppe Segna, Sr., interview, 1983 May 3.

MT-HIST CALL NUMBER
COPY MATERIAL LOCATION
1) OH 579
MANUSCRIPT ARCHIVE no circ
Martha 3/21

on-line:

archive # small collection

MHS Google green bar

1st floor electrical on center

search catalog
Zoe Ann @ MHS 30 May '08

1) I'm because websites logged me out.
2) I don't have a library card or ID or etc.
   - can we remedy that (for both of us?)
3) Is theirs
4) Why called Wobble?
   Cor. Cup 5K-10K
   be there May 5-6, Mon 9-5

Long - still doing pics

NEW Digital Archives
   Box folder inventories /
   select library (ex.)

wobble wobble
MHS 202 Ann
- Pop MT in 1940 559, 456
- Mead MT 2,237
- Ness 858

Rick / Wotthas
MS / Logging cold NW MT

UM # copy

1870 ←
Rich Arstad of library staff did UM master's thesis on IWW in NW MT lumber camps; will bring in a copy for our use if we let him know.
Miners' lingo
miner's folklore and songs
check "Butte sources at UW" file and use at MHS if there's time

--only any that Marcella doesn’t have
Dimly lit basements, stale air, dusty shelves heaped with leather-bound volumes and rolled-up maps... ah, the romance of historical research in the imagination of the moviegoer or fiction reader. The reality is, of course, that resources belonging to a historical society or museum are not moldering away but are diligently cared for by collection custodians eager to share the materials with the public and to preserve them for generations to come. In fact, the twin goals of access and preservation, coupled with the ever-growing demand for on-line content, have revolutionized the way people find and use historical documents, including those at the Montana Historical Society (MHS).

Until a few years ago, people interested in MHS collections had to visit in person to locate what they needed among the more than fifty thousand books, twenty-five thousand linear feet of archival records, four hundred thousand photographs, thirteen thousand reels of newspapers on microfilm, and seven thousand maps. Today, however, on-site searches are no longer necessary thanks to the Montana Shared Catalog. This on-line database describes the collections of some eighty Montana libraries, including the MHS Research Center. Users can search for MHS Library materials accessioned after 1983 (books, maps, newspapers, periodicals, and pamphlets); Photograph Archives materials accessioned after 2003; and all the holdings of the Archives (oral histories, state and local government records, legislative records, and the papers of private individuals, businesses, and organizations). The Montana Shared Catalog allows researchers to gather detailed information before making a trip, thus maximizing the time spent on the premises.

To use the Montana Shared Catalog, call up www.montanahistoricalsociety.org and proceed to the Research Center webpage. In the box above the “Search Catalog” button, enter a search term. If this word does not yield suitably precise results, click on “New Search” from within the results screen for more options. Here you decide whether to pursue a keyword search or another that is more specific, such as for author or title. Advanced search options allow you to narrow your results by format, date, and library.

After finding a promising title, try accessing the catalog record. This record contains many layers of information, the most basic of which duplicates a traditional paper catalog card. Further digging will usually uncover additional information, including links to digital images and/or full inventories of archival collections.

For now, those seeking MHS Library materials acquired before 1983 or photographs acquired before 2003 need to use on-site catalogs, but these records will become available on-line as retro-cataloging proceeds.
The Montana Shared Catalog allows patrons to gather detailed information about collections before visiting MHS. Those interested in territorial history might request to see this oath signed by twenty-four members of the Vigilantes, a citizens’ group that took extralegal action in response to a rash of thefts and murders near Virginia City during the fall and winter 1863. By April 1864, the Vigilantes had hung thirty-two road agents, including Sheriff Henry Plummer. Although no one knows the names of all the participants, it was whispered that they included several men who later became the territory’s most prominent leaders. This Vigilante oath states: “We the undersigned writing ourself[es] in a party for the laudable purpos[e] of arresting thieves & murderers & recove[r]ing our sacred honor each & all others; solemnly swear that we will reveal no secrets, violate no laws of right & never desert each other or our standard of justice so help us God as witnes[s] our hand & seal this 23 of December AD 1863[.]”
Among items found in the twenty-five thousand linear feet of records in the MHS Archives is this letter from prisoner of war Robert C. Harrison. His letter provides a first-person perspective on World War II: "Waiting the war out is tedious, but not dangerous. Lord though it makes one think of home. Believe the wanderlust has gone. Had so much time to evaluate what I want and it all adds up to Montana and my family." Harrison was killed after escaping from a German prison camp in April 1945.

In addition, the Montana Shared Catalog also contains links to full inventories for collections in the MHS Archives. These are part the Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA), a regional database that contains inventories for collections in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Alaska, and Washington. Because the MHS inventories are a part of this larger database, researchers can access them by clicking on the link to NWDA in the Montana Shared Catalog or through the NWDA website (http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu). In other words, a researcher interested in photographer Evelyn Cameron could type her name into either database and call up a detailed inventory of personal papers.

To address interest in viewing actual collection items on-line, the Research Center recently joined the Content Cooperative Pilot Project. This project allows digital images of original materials to be added to the Montana Shared Catalog through links in WorldCat, the bibliographic database used by libraries worldwide. Now a student researching railroads in the state can examine a real promotional brochure from the MHS collections. Still in its infancy, this digital image project will soon open yet another door to the Society’s rich and varied holdings. To date, nearly 840 images have been added to 281 catalog entries. Links to these images appear in the related catalog entry as a url link labeled “More Information.”

Despite an abundance of on-line finding information, most researchers eventually must come to Helena to read books or view manuscripts. On-line tools simply give a head start: patrons arrive prepared to request exactly what they want, knowing it is here. Those unable to visit Helena can take advantage of research services. Patrons make requests on-line, and staff, for a prepaid fee, answer the questions and send the materials. Learn more about on-line services by visiting www.montananhistoricalsociety.org.

Jodie Foley is the Montana state archivist and manager of the MHS Archives. A Missoula native, she has worked for the Society for seventeen years. Roberta Gebhardt, born in Whitefish, is a thirteen-year veteran of the library field and serves as the Society’s technical services librarian.
You've always wanted to be a writer. You've loved the written word since you were a small child. Over the years, you've read everything from comics to romance novels, Charles Dickens to Tolstoy. One day, you lay aside the novel you're reading and you think, "I could do that. I could write something like that." So you take pen—or pencil, or word processor—in hand, and begin. You read books on writing. You join a writers' group. Above all, you write. You write at home, late at night when the house is quiet. You write at the library. You write over cold coffee at your favorite restaurant.

And then, one day, your manuscript is finished. You know it's finished because you've written down everything you wanted to say. You like it. It feels right. You show it to your spouse, your siblings, and your best friends. They like it, too. All right, now what do you do?

Maybe you do what I did back in 1995. My wife, Lynda, and I were living in the Kalispell area at the time, and I had just completed the manuscript of my first novel, The Bodacious Kid. I liked what I'd written, but before sending it off to an agent or publisher I wanted the book to be the best it could be. I found a teacher at a local high school who agreed to look over the manuscript and followed her suggestions for improvements. Then I began what quickly became a frustrating search for an agent.

Literary agents perform two basic services for writers: they find buyers for manuscripts and they negotiate deals. Major book publishers, with few exceptions, consider only agented submissions. For a newcomer especially, finding an agent is at least as difficult as finding a publisher. The catch-22 principle prevails—agents are interested only in published writers, and writers can't get published unless they have an agent. My own queries to agents, including those recommended by author friends, were consistently rejected.

Six years earlier, in 1989, Lynda and I had formed our own company, Cottonwood Publishing, to publish material from my comic strips Rick O'Shay, Latigo, and Grass Roots. Over the next six years, our company put out fourteen cartoon books. When the manuscript for my first novel failed to interest an agent, it seemed natural to publish the book through Cottonwood. We hired an editor, worked with a graphic designer to produce the book's interior and cover, and reached an agreement with a printer.

Partly because the printing cost per book goes down with larger runs, we printed ten thousand copies of The Bodacious Kid. The books arrived promptly, only to confront us with a new problem. All those books had to be kept somewhere. Like other self-publishers before and since, at first we stored our inventory in our garage and home. Later we arranged to warehouse the books with a distributor.

Between 1996 and 2004, we published three more of my novels: Careless Creek, Vigilante Moon, and
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   Wilson, Myra N., 1904-2002

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   Kirkemo, Lillian Fellows, 1898-1990

Faye Miller Landis and Robert Bruce Landis interview, 1982 Oct. 18
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