



THE MONTANA HISTORY
FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monuments Conservator Visits Butte as Part of 48 State Tour

Monuments conservator Jonathan Appell will hold a workshop at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Butte on Friday, September 11th as part of a national gravestone preservation tour. Appell will visit cemeteries in 48 states - in 48 days - to help workshop attendees learn how to clean gravestones and monuments and perform common repairs.

St. Patrick's Cemetery is one of Butte's oldest cemeteries, where many of Butte's earliest residents are laid to rest. Among them: Frank Walker, a longtime adviser to President Franklin Roosevelt and a U.S. postmaster general, D. J. Hennessy, who founded a mercantile in Butte in 1886 that became a dynasty of department stores and Manus Duggan, hero of the Granite Mountain Mine Disaster. St. Patrick's is also the final resting place for members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Spanish American War veterans.

There are a number of gravestones in St. Patrick's that will need attention, according to John Mulcahey with the Ancient Order of the Hibernians. Multiple larger stones require proper leveling, headstones of the Spanish-American war veterans need cleaning, and there is a prominent monument with a large angel statue that has been badly damaged.

"What was once desired was to restore our past," says Appell. "A duplication or reproduction is no longer considered an ethical alternative to conserving the original fabric of what remains. Gravestone conservation and historic stone preservation has become the art and science of preserving all we can of our heritage carved in stone."

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The Butte workshop is scheduled from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Hands-on workshop participants are pre-registered, however spectators are encouraged to attend. We ask that you please practice social distancing and follow other current health safety measures.

You can learn more on the [48-state tour website](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information on the Butte workshop, please contact Aubrey Jaap, Assistant Director of Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, at (406) 782-3280. The local workshop is sponsored by the BSB Archives, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, and the Montana History Foundation.

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