SPRING WORKSHOP SERIES

Please join us on Thursday, March 18th, for an online lecture with Kate Hampton, author of *The Best Gift: Montana’s Carnegie Libraries*. The book profiles each of Montana’s 17 Carnegie libraries that were built between 1901 and 1922 with the help of funding provided by Andrew Carnegie, the era’s richest man. Today, fifteen of those libraries are still standing in Montana and nine of them still libraries. Hampton will share more of Andrew Carnegie’s background, the origins of his library program, and the stories of those who played an instrumental role in making Montana’s libraries a reality. **This event is free to join, but registration is required.**

Register here

TRAVERSALS WITH 'FLAT LUCY'

If you haven't had the chance to meet Lucy yet, be sure to follow us on social media to see her travels across the state. Lucy is our office dog and our new ambassador. This cardboard cutout of Lucy is virtually traveling Montana to visit organizations that have received History Foundation grants. So far she's been to Ekalaka, Butte and most recently, Red Lodge. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** to see where Lucy goes next! And if you'd like 'Flat Lucy' to visit your organization, email **melissa@mthistory.org**.
CENTENNIAL BELL NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for the 32nd annual Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award. This year’s award will honor the Montana History Teacher of the Year for grades 4-6. Montana grade school principals, superintendents, fellow teachers or librarians from public and private schools are asked to nominate a teacher who has done an exemplary job teaching Montana history during the 2020-2021 school year.

Nominations are due March 30th. View full details - including where to send your nomination - here.

REMEMBERING PENNY WILSON

It is with great sadness that we share news of the passing of one of our longest-serving board members and great friend of the History Foundation. We will deeply miss Penelope Wilson's guidance, wisdom, and wit. Gods speed, Penny! And thank you.

Read more on Penny Wilson's life & legacy
If you would like to make a gift in memory of Penelope Wilson, please click here.
Nine Mile Community Center
Historic Stark Schoolhouse Exterior Repairs and Repainting

The historic Stark Schoolhouse, built in 1915, currently serves hundreds of families as the main building for the Nine Mile Community Center. Weather and local wildlife (woodpeckers) have taken a toll on the exterior of the National Register building. A 2020 History Foundation grant helped to repair and repaint the exterior of the building.

Stark Schoolhouse was built for the children living in the rural mining and lumber area in west-central Montana. The Stark community thrived in the late 1880s and early 1900s as a mining camp and grew further during that time when the Anaconda Company located its logging operations there.

The schoolhouse served students of the Nine Mile area for just 15 years and eventually became a community center in 1948 through the efforts of local residents. This photo depicts the schoolhouse in the 90s, when it was painted all white with no additional color to highlight the building’s features.

For the 2020 project, the Nine Mile Community Center board of directors studied historic photos to decide how the exterior should be painted. Even though the photos were all black and white, the research helped them come up with a plan for how the painting would be completed. Community members voted on color options, giving them a chance to be involved in the final result.

The painting project was completed in the fall of 2020 and was not delayed by the Covid–19 pandemic. The outcome is an amazing transformation for this National Register–listed historic schoolhouse that is ready to welcome its community back for many more years of celebrations and events to come.

Read more about this month's featured project, Historic Stark Schoolhouse, on our website!