

Montana Women's Web Sites

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Montana Memory Project (MMP)

[Search Tutorial for MMP - Watch to learn how to Search the MMP **click here**](#)

The Montana Memory Project (MMP) is an online source for digital collections relating to Montana's cultural heritage. In part, these collections document the Montana experience. Access is free and open through the Internet. Many of these

items are digitized copies of historic material, some items are contemporary. All serve as a resource for education, business, pleasure, and lifelong learning.

Women's History Matters, [access through the MMP](http://montanawomenshistory.org/)

Created as part of a commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of women's suffrage in Montana, Women's History Matters is designed to help the Montana Historical Society promote an increased appreciation and understanding of the role of women in the Treasure State's past.

<http://montanawomenshistory.org/>

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EXHIBITS

MMP Collections, [access through the MMP](https://mtmemory.org/digital/custom/collections)

<https://mtmemory.org/digital/custom/collections>

Mountain West Digital Library, [access through the MMP](https://www.mwdl.org/)

A central search portal for digital collections about the Mountain West region

<https://www.mwdl.org/>

Digital Public Library of America, [access through the MMP](https://dp.la/)

Discover over 34 million images, texts, videos and sound from across the United States

<https://dp.la/>

Chronicling American Home Page, [access through the MMP](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)

Chronicling America (ISSN 2475-2703) is a Website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). NDNP, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC),

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Montana Newspapers in Chronicling America, [access through the MMP](https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Montanaðnicity=&language=)

Montana specific historic newspapers in chronicling America

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Montanaðnicity=&language=>

Montana Newspapers, [access through the MMP](http://montananewspapers.org/)

MONTANA NEWSPAPERS is a freely accessible web resource by the [Montana Historical Society](#), developed in keeping with the Society's mission to provide access to Montana's historical resources. Funding for this project is provided by the Montana Historical Society and by libraries, foundations, and other supporters.

<http://montananewspapers.org/>

Women's History Matters, [access through the MMP](http://montanawomenshistory.org/)

Created as part of a commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of women's suffrage in Montana, Women's History Matters is designed to help the Montana Historical Society promote an increased appreciation and understanding of the role of women in the Treasure State's past.

<http://montanawomenshistory.org/>

[Montana Historical Society](#)

Women Exhibits at the University of Montana

Mansfield Library, University of Montana

The Poetry of Patricia Goedicke

Patricia Goedicke published 13 books of poetry from 1968-2009 and taught Creative Writing at the University of Montana from 1981-2003

<http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/goedicke-literary-papers>

A Matter of Perspective: Women Writers and Montana 1890-1930

The exhibit tells the story of several prominent women authors in Montana.

[Helen Fitzgerald Sanders](#)

[Georgina M. Synge](#)

[B.M. Bower](#)

[Grace Stone Coates](#)

[Mary MacLane](#)

[Dorothy E. Pilley](#)

<http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/women-writers>

Women in Montana Politics: A Timeline

NOVEMBER 7, 1882

Helen Piotopowaka Clarke Elected Lewis and Clark County Superintendent of Schools
She was the first Native American woman to hold a political office in Montana.

December 26, 1889

Ella J. Knowles Haskell was the first woman admitted to the Montana Bar

JUNE 8, 1898

First Graduates of UM are Women Ella Robb Glenny (Bachelor of Arts) and Eloise Knowles (Bachelor of Philosophy) are the first two graduates of UM.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1902

UM Hires First Librarian Marguerite Gertrude Buckhous hired as the university's first professional librarian.

JULY 1, 1907

Mary Stewart hired as UM's first Dean of Women

NOVEMBER 7, 1916

Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to the United States Congress

NOVEMBER 7, 1916

Ingalls and Hathaway Elected!

Emma S. Ingalls and Maggie Smith Hathaway were the first two women elected to the Montana State House of Representatives

NOVEMBER 7, 1924

Sloan Elected County Attorney

Emily Sloan was the first woman elected to the office of County Attorney in Montana. She served Carbon County.

NOVEMBER 7, 1944

Ellenore Bridenstine was the first woman elected to the Montana State Senate

APRIL 7, 1947

Juliet Gregory was elected the first and (to date the only) woman mayor of Missoula

NOVEMBER 9, 1953

Edna Hinman was the first woman appointed treasurer of the State of Montana

JULY 4, 1964

Juliet Gregory served as Montana's delegate to the Republican National Convention

November 1970

Dorothy Bradley won a seat in the Montana House of Representatives where she served as the only woman in 1971.

MARCH 22, 1972

Montana Constitutional Convention, nineteen female delegates out of 100

<https://archive.org/details/montanaconstitut01mont/page/n3>

1. Betty Babcock, Helena
2. Grace C. Bates, Manhattan
3. Virginia Hogan Blend, Great Falls
4. Jean M. Bowman, Billings
5. Daphne Bugbee, Missoula
6. Marjorie Caine, Libby
7. C. Louise Cross, Glendive
8. Dorothy Eck, Bozeman, chosen honorary vice president from the Western District
9. Marian S. Erdman, Great Falls
10. Rachel K. Mansfield, Geyser
11. Katie Payne, Missoula
12. Katherine Howell Pemberton, Broadus
13. Arlyne E. Reichert, Great Falls
14. Mae Nan (Robinson) Ellingson, Missoula, was 24 at the time, the youngest person to serve at the ConCon
15. M. Lynn Sparks, Butte
16. Veronica Sullivan, Butte
17. Lucile Speer, Missoula
18. Edith Van Buskirk, Havre
19. Margaret S. Warden, Great Falls

Nine of the nineteen female delegates elected to the 1972 convention **were League of Women Voters** members, including Bates, Bugbee, and Eck

1974-1981

Ann Mary Dussault

Montana House of Representatives, Helena, Montana eight years including two as Montana's first female Majority Leader

JANUARY 1, 1977

Suzanne Pennypacker Morris served as a Montana Delegate to the National Right to Life Committee

AUGUST 31, 1989

Justice Diane Barz was the first woman appointed to the Montana State Supreme Court

NOVEMBER 5, 1996

Diane Sands elected to the Montana State House of Representatives She was the first openly gay elected member of the Legislature

MAY 22, 2000

Lois Muir appointed Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs for UM. To date, she is the highest-ranking woman in the history of the UM administration.

NOVEMBER 7, 2000

Judy Martz was the first and to date only woman elected Governor of Montana, she also was elected the state's first female lieutenant governor four years earlier when she ran on Gov. Marc Racicot

JANUARY 1, 2001

Karla Gray was the first woman elected Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court

NOVEMBER 4, 2008

Denise Juneau was elected Superintendent of Public Schools of Montana. She was the first Native American woman in the country to be elected to a state office. She was reelected in 2012. She is the first LGBT person in the state to run for federal office.

NOVEMBER 4, 2008

Linda McCulloch was the first woman elected Secretary of State for Montana. She was reelected in 2012.

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

Angela McLean appointed Lieutenant Governor of Montana

<http://exhibits.lib.umt.edu/women-in-politics/timeline/elsewhere>

Montana Museum of Art and Culture

'Intimate West' surveys pioneering female artists' take on region

Francis Carroll Brown

Fra Dana

Josephine Hale

https://missoulain.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/intimate-west-surveys-pioneering-female-artists-take-on-region/article_64ef0242-3f12-591c-aeef-6317a10fe247.html

<http://www.umt.edu/umpress/umpress-books/intimate-west.php>

<https://missoulacurrent.com/art/2017/01/montana-museum-art-women/>

International Women's Day

[Sacagawea](#)

[Mary Ronan](#)

[Sarah Bickford](#)

[Dr. Mollie Atwater](#)

[Dr. Maria Dean](#)

[Jeannette Rankin](#)

[Emma Ingalls](#)

[Maggie Smith Hathaway](#)

[May Trumper](#)

<http://southwestmt.com/blog/great-montana-women-international-womens-day/>

Books

Bold women of Montana: Trailblazers, culture savers, justice warriors and pioneers

consists of eleven biographical chapters about fifteen-plus women (including two sets of sisters and one women's union).

Bold Women tells of

1. Blackfeet warrior Running Eagle (Pitamakan);
2. African American homesteader and army cook Annie Morgan;
3. Crow grandmother Pretty Shield;
4. America's first Congresswoman, Jeannette Rankin;

5. the Women's Protective Union of Butte;
6. the Fligelman sisters, writers and much more;
7. Hollywood starlet Myrna Loy;
8. artist and rancher Isabelle Johnson;
9. rodeo queens Alice and Marge Greenough;
10. former state librarian Alma Jacobs; and
11. champion of Native-American landowners across the nation, Elouise Cobell.

<https://www.mtpr.org/post/bold-women-montana-history>

<http://www.greatfalltribune.com/story/life/2017/03/24/author-names-slate-women-stood-montana-history/99569152/>

<https://books.google.com/books?q=editions:ISBN1560443634&id=an5QvgAACAAJ>

Aronson, Peter. ***Jeannette Rankin : America's First Congresswoman***. New York : Double M Books Inc., 2019.

D'Ambrosio, Brian. ***Montana Entertainers : Famous and Almost Forgotten***. Charleston, NC : The History Press, 2013.

Contents:

Born between 1875 and 1910

Born between 1911 and 1960

Born between after 1960 and Modern Careers

Carter, Sarah. ***Montana Women Homesteaders : a Field of One's Own***. Helena, Mont. : Farcountry Press, 2009.

Contents:

1. Mattie T Cramer
2. Adelia Elizabeth Hawkins Strum Glover
3. Metta M. Loomis
4. Grace Binks, Ina Dana, Margret Majors
5. Nan Pitchard Francis
6. Laura Etta Smalley Bangs
7. Evelyn Cameron Photographs of Montana Women Homesteaders
8. Mia Anderson Vontver
9. Mildred Bell Hunt
10. Women Homesteaders in the Montana Press
11. Ada Maud Melville Shaw
12. Catharine Calk McCarty
13. Pearl Dannel

Ellis, Kristine, et al. ***Montana Women from the Ground up: Passionate Voices in Agriculture & Land Conservation***. Charleston, SC : History Press, 2018.

Contents:

Colleen McGowan Gustafson

Arlene Birkeland Pile

Eva Hultin Amundson and Connie Amundson

Valerie Miller Wadman

Dorothy Whitten Hahn

Glenna Krueger Stucky

Donna Fritz Griffin

Lauraine Whitworth Johnson

Betty Johnson Hedstrom

Janet Goggins Endecott

Margaret Small Julson

Pauline Adams Webb

Celeste Ward Schwend, Linda Schwend Finley and Dana Weatherford

Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart

by Caroline Patterson (Editor), Farcountry Press, Sue Hart (Introduction)

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/378775.Montana_Women_Writers

Contents:

Judy Blunt's Breaking Clean,
Maile Meloy's Half in Love,
Sandra Alcosser's Except by Nature.

Writers of the past include

Grace Stone Coates,
Mildred Walker, and
Dorothy M. Johnson;

Contemporary writers include

Debra Magpie Earling,
Patricia Goedicke, and
Mary Clearman Blew

Shirley, Gayle Corbett. ***More than Petticoats. Remarkable Montana Women.*** Guilford, Conn. : Globe Pequot, 2011. Profiles the lives of **sixteen** of the state's most important historical figures in women from across the Treasure State, from many different backgrounds, and from various walks of life. With enduring strength and compassion, these remarkable women broke through social, cultural, or political barriers to make contributions to society that still have an impact today.

Contents:

1. Mary Fields, The White Crow, a Tennessee-born former slave as big and tough as any man, who became a Montana legend for her loyal service at a mission for Native children and as a pioneering postal driver.
2. Lucia Darling Park, Pioneering Teacher
3. Helen P. Clarke, Indian Advocate
4. Mother Amadeus, Woman Black Robe
5. Mattie Castner, Mother of Belt
6. Pretty Sheild, Crow Healer, the Crow medicine woman whose rare interview with a biographer in the 1930s helped preserve Crow heritage for later generations and countered stereotypes about Native American women.
7. Maria Dean, Woman of Medicine
8. Nannie T. Alderson, Homestead Bride
9. Ella Knowles Haskell, Belle of the Bar
10. Evelyn Cameron, Frontier Photographer
11. Fra Dana, Star-Crossed Impressionist
12. Fanny Corey Cooney, Mother First, Artist Second
13. Nancy Cooper Russell, Women Behind the Man
14. Jeannette Ranking, Representative for Peace
15. Mary MacLane, Wild Woman of Butte
16. Fannie Sperry Steele, Champion Bronc Rider

Ivy, Tabby, et al. ***A Timeless Legacy : Women Artists of Glacier National Park.*** Kalispell, Montana : The Hockaday Museum of Art, 2015.

http://www.hockadaymuseum.org/index.cfm?inc=page&page=559&page_content=A%2DTimeless%2DLegacy%2D%2D%2DWomen%2DArtists%2Dof%2DGlacier%2DNational%2DPark%2DCommemorative%2DItems%2Dfrom%2Dthe%2DOff%2Dthe%2DWall%2DGift%2DGallery%2Dat%2Dthe%2DHockaday%2DMuseum%2Dof%2DArt

Gray, Donna. ***Nothing to Tell : Extraordinary Stories of Montana Ranch Women.*** Guilford, Conn. : TwoDot, 2012.

Contents:

1. Helen Clark Wonder
2. Madge Switzer Walker
3. Marie Walker Converse
4. Ulma DeLong Taylor

5. Winifred Chowning Jeffers
6. Clara Peterson Nickelson
7. Eva Eyman DePuy
8. Kaia Lien Cosgriff
9. Lillian Moline Mehlhoff
10. Ethel Goudy Briggs
11. Beatrice McIntyre Murray

Montana Artists who have received the Governor's Arts Award

https://art.mt.gov/gaa_past

Lela Autio, 2015
 Joanna Barker, 2001
 Judith Blegen, 1983
 Dana Boussard, 1987
 Deborah Butterfield, 2010
 Gennie DeWeese, 1995
 Debra Magpie Earling, 2015
 Becky Eiker, 2005
 Judy Ericksen, 2003
 LaDonna Fehlberg, 1983
 Edith Freeman, 1993
 Donna Forbes, 2010
 Dorothy Johnson, 1983
 Isabelle Johnson, 1983
 Oshanee (Agnes) Kenmille, 2001
 Neal and Karen Lewing, 2016
 Myrna Loy, 1989
 Mary E. Moore, 1997
 Jo-Anne Mussulman, 1999
 Myrna Paulus, 2001
 Amy Ragsdale, 2010
 Mary Agnes Roberts, 1991
 Miriam Sample, 1997
 Frances Senska, 1988
 Virginia Sprague, 1985
 Shirley Steele, 1992
 Susan Talbot, 1994
 Agnes Vanderburg, 1983
 M.J. Williams, 2016
 Jessie Wilber, 1988

List of People from Montana

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_from_Montana

Academics

Judy Blunt	1954–present	Born near Malta ; attended college in and lives in Missoula	Memoirist ; associate professor at the University of Montana
Janine Pease	1949–present	Lives on the Crow Indian Reservation	Founded Little Big Horn College

Artists

Anne Appleby	1954–present	Lives and works part time in Born in Jefferson City	Abstract color field/landscape painter
Deborah	1949–	Lives part-time in Bozeman	Sculptor who makes horses out of found objects;

Butterfield	present		married to fellow sculptor John E. Buck
Ethel Hays	1892–1989	Born in and raised in Billings	Syndicated cartoonist specializing in flapper -themed comic strips

Photographers

Evelyn Cameron	1868–1928	Lived in Terry	Photographer; moved to Terry in the late 19th century with her naturalist husband Ewen; together they took pictures of Montana prairie life
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Authors

Dorothy Baker	1907–1968	Born in Missoula	Novelist
B. M. Bower	1871–1940	Lived most of her youth near Big Sandy	Author of novels, short stories ; and screenplays about the American Old West
Grace Stone Coates	1881–1976	Moved to Montana as an adult; lived in Stevensville , Butte , and Martinsdale	Short story writer , novelist; poet; journalist
Margaret Craven	1901–1980	Born in Helena	Short story writer ; novelist; journalist
Barbara Ehrenreich	1941–present	Born and raised in Butte	Columnist; essayist; political activist ; feminist
Dorothy M. Johnson	1905–1984	Moved to Whitefish as a child; attended college in, lived in, and taught college in Missoula	Author of American Old West fiction
Mary MacLane	1902–1918	Attained international fame in 1902 with her memoir of three months in her life in Butte , <i>The Story of Mary MacLane</i> . She referred to Butte throughout the rest of her career and remains a controversial figure there for her mixture of criticism and love for Butte and its people.	Pioneering feminist author, film-maker, and media personality
Cyra McFadden	1939–present	Born in Great Falls ; lived in Missoula	Novelist; memoirist
Maile Meloy	1972–present	Born and raised in Helena	Fiction writer; sister of Colin Meloy

Clergy

Elizabeth Clare Prophet	1939–2009	Lived on Royal Teton Ranch near Gardiner , died in Bozeman	New Age religious figure
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Entertainment and performing arts

Jean Parker	1915–2005	Born in Deer Lodge	Actress; appeared in 70 movies 1932–1966; ^[123] attended Pasadena schools and graduated from John Muir High School ; ^[124] had a successful career at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer MGM Studios	^{[125][126]}
Martha Raye	1916–1994	Born in Butte	Actress; standards singer; nurse; strong supporter of American military; toured with the United Service Organizations (USO) during World War II , Korean War , and Vietnam War ; only woman buried in the Special Forces cemetery at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was buried with full military honors there though never on active duty; known as "Colonel Maggie" to the American military; an honorary Green Beret; awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1993 for her lifetime support to the American military	
Michelle Williams	1980–present	Born and raised in Kalispell	Academy Award-nominated actress	

Journalists

Molly Wood	1975–present	Born in Helena ; attended college and graduated from University of Montana	Technology journalist; host of CNET 's video series <i>Always On</i> with CNET TV
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Judges

Karla M. Gray	1947–present	Lived in Butte and Helena	Second female justice and first female chief justice of the Montana Supreme Court (1991–2008, chief justice 2000–2008)
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Pioneers (pre–1900)

Calamity Jane	1852–1903	Lived in Miles City , Livingston and Paradise Valley	Also known as Martha Jane Cannary Burke ; frontierswoman ; professional scout ; acquaintance of Wild Bill Hickok ; fighter of Native American Indians
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Politicians

Elouise P. Cobell	1946–2011 ^[183]	Born and lived on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation	Accountant; banker; rancher ; lead plaintiff in Cobell v. Salazar , a successful \$3.4 billion class action settlement on behalf of Native Americans against the federal government
Ella J. Knowles Haskell	1860–1911	Moved to Montana from New Hampshire after finishing college; lived and worked in Helena , Butte , and then Glendive	Pioneer of women's rights in Montana; teacher; first woman to practice law in Montana and the first woman ever to plead a case before the U.S. Circuit Court; first woman to run for state Attorney General
Denise Juneau	1967–present	Lived in Billings , Browning , Bozeman , Missoula , and Helena	Teacher; Montana State Superintendent of Public Instruction; head of Montana Office of Public Instruction ; first American Indian woman to be elected to statewide executive office in Montana; member of Mandan and Hidatsa tribes
Jeannette Rankin	1880–1973	Born near and attended college in Missoula	First female member of the United States Congress (1917–1919, 1941–1943); only member of Congress to vote against United States entry into World War II ; sister of Wellington D. Rankin

Scientist

Torey Hayden	1951–present	Born in Livingston ; attended high school in Billings	Child psychologist ; non-fiction author; special education teacher
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Others

Alma Smith Jacobs	1916–1997	Born in Lewistown ; grew up in Great Falls ; lived in Helena ; died in Bozeman	Librarian; head of Great Falls Public Library (1954–1973); first African American Montana State Librarian (1973–1981)
Susan Wicklund	1954–present	Lives in Livingston	Physician; operated women's clinics in Bozeman and Livingston

Montana Authors:

<http://www.humanitiesmontana.org/map/#>

All but the Waltz

By Mary Clearman Blew

American Copper

By Shann Ray

Breaking Clean

by Judy Blunt

The Miseducation of Cameron Post

by emily m. Danforth

Montana Women Authors

Dorothy Johnson

Mary Ronan
Nannie Alderson
B.M. Bower
Mary Maclane
B.M. Bower
May Vontver
Grace Stone Coates
Gwendolen Haste
Freida Fligelman
Mildred Walker

<https://www.distinctlymontana.com/article/women-writers-legacy>

The Women Writers (Contemporary Writers)

Catherine Browning

Catherine spent thirty-five years teaching Spanish and German to high school students eager to learn (tongue in cheek here). She spent ten more years selling real estate and even more years refinishing and selling antiques. During all that time she wrote her family history starting in the 1700's in France.

Catherine grew up in the valley in Montana that is home to Flathead Lake with Glacier Park shoring up the northern edge. The legends and history are fascinating. Her first book, *The Best Revenge*, explores the legend of the Flathead Lake Monster. The book can be found on Amazon. The second novel now under construction deals with the possibly true account of a stolen train payroll said to be buried in the wilderness we now label the Bob Marshal.

catherinebrowning.author@gmail.co Facebook page: Catherine Browning Books@cbbooks76, or
fb.me/cbbooks76 Messages: m.me/cbbooks76

Leslie Budewitz

Leslie writes two national-bestselling light-hearted mystery series, the Spice Shop Mysteries set in Seattle's Pike Place Market, and the Food Lovers' Village Mysteries set in fictional Jewel Bay, Montana. In *CHAI ANOTHER DAY*, the fourth Spice Shop Mystery (Seventh St. Books, June 2019), Spice Shop owner Pepper Reece overhears an argument in an antique shop, and finds herself drawn into a murder that could implicate an old enemy, or ensnare a new friend.

DEATH AL DENTE, first in the Food Lovers' Village Mysteries, won the 2013 Agatha Award for Best First Novel, making Leslie the first author to win Agatha Awards for both fiction and nonfiction. Set in a lakeside resort community in NW Montana and featuring Erin Murphy, the manager of Glacier Mercantile, a regional specialty food market, The series proves the old adage: it takes a village to catch a killer!

Leslie also writes short stories. "All God's Sparrows" (Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, May-June 2018), set in Montana Territory in 1885, is nominated for the 2018 Agatha Award for Best Short Story. (Free download on her website). In "With My Eyes" (Suspense Magazine, Jan-Feb 2018), a young Seattle banker meets a Greek woman and sees what he wants to see; it's nominated for the 2018 Derringer Award, given by the Short Mystery Fiction Society, in the "best long story" category. (Links to those and a free download of "Carried to the Grave," a Food Lovers' Village short story, on her website.)

A lawyer with more than 30 years of experience, Leslie is the author of *BOOKS, CROOKS AND COUNSELORS: How to Write Accurately About Criminal Law and Courtroom Procedure* (Quill Driver Books), winner of the 2011 Agatha Award for Best Nonfiction. She [blogs regularly for writers](#) on how to use the law in their fiction.

Leslie served as 2015-16 president of [Sisters in Crime](#), an international organization of more than 3,500 writers, readers, librarians, booksellers, and publishing pros, formed in 1987 to promote the ongoing advancement, recognition, and professional development of women crime writers. She now serves on the board of [Mystery Writers of America](#). Want more? Visit [Leslie's website](#), on [Facebook](#) or [follow her on Twitter](#).

Kathy Dunnehoff

Kathy Dunnehoff is the Amazon Bestselling author of...Four Romantic Comedies *The Do-Over*: a #1 Romantic Comedy with over 100,000 copies downloaded! *Hollywood Beginnings*(A Novella) *Plan On It*: a #1 Contemporary Romantic Comedy! *Back To U*(A Romantic Comedy)

Kathy has an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of Montana, an encouraging husband, two creative daughters, and the ability to bring writing and life together with insight and humor. Her screenplays have placed in

numerous competitions, and she was a recipient of a Zola Award for fiction from the Pacific Northwest Writer's Association.

Kathy lives in Northwest Montana where she is currently working on her next novel, screenplay, cup of tea, or writers' conference.

For more, [visit Kathy's web page.](#)

Deborah Epperson

Born and raised in the Deep South, Deborah Epperson grew up during the era of the Civil Rights Movement, integration, and Vietnam. After receiving a BS degree in biology and English in Texas, Deborah moved to Atlanta to pursue post graduate studies in chemistry. She enjoys writing stories and characters steeped in the lyrical traditions and mystical surroundings of the Deep South where she grew up.

Deborah lives in Montana with her family and when not working on her next novel, she enjoys doing pet therapy work and volunteering in animal rescue.

See Deborah's novels: [Shadows of Home](#), [Breaking Twig](#), on Amazon

M.F. Erler

M.F. (Mary Frances) Erler is a music teacher, outdoor educator, and author of fantasy fiction and non-fiction. Her teaching career has spanned over 25 years, and she has been writing most of her life. Her first Christian-based science-fiction book, "The Peaks at the Edge of the World" has been re-written and revised in 2017. It is now being published by First Steps Publishing. Contact her at mferler@peaksandbeyond.com

She has also re-written and revised the sequel to "The Peaks." This new book is entitled "Searching for Maia," and is also available through First Steps Publishing. Both books are designed to appeal to young adults and all who are young at heart.

Among her many hobbies, Erler especially enjoys music and travel. She has been to several countries, including China, New Zealand, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Russia, and Western Europe, as well as Canada, Mexico, Jamaica, and 43 of the 50 States.

Facebook page: M.F. Erler Author Page

Blog: mferler.blogspot.com

Email: mferler@peaksandbeyond.com

Betty Kuffel MD

Medical school and years of experience in Emergency Medicine after a career in nursing provide a basis for many aspects of Betty's writing. A willingness to participate in activities with some risk-taking like: sailing, climbing Mt. Rainier, obtaining a pilot's license, flying a sail plane to 20,000 ft, aerobatic lessons, dog sled racing in Alaska and surviving a plane crash in the snowy mountains of Idaho with her husband and dog, all offer interesting experiences for story lines and characters.

Betty writes before dawn in many genres and watches the sun rise over the Rocky Mountains. Deer wandering through the yard and her dogs keep her company. You'll find her Lipstick Logic monthly column in Montana Woman magazine with co-author, her sister, Bev Erickson. Visit Betty on: [Facebook Author Page](#), [Amazon Author Page](#)

Blogs: www.bettykuffel.com, www.LipstickLogic.com

Marie F. Martin

Marie F. Martin, author, storyteller and weaver of suspense, spunk and sass in her Historical Fiction, Thrillers, and Mysteries. Together her novels have over 500,000 Kindle downloads and over 700 five-star reviews.

Marie lives in a fertile valley at the base of the Rocky Mountains. She enjoys a quiet life where laughter comes easy, love easier. She invites you to join her on her website and read about her rich, rural memories in a memoir of her early childhood and raising her own family of four children. If you have any questions Marie will be happy to answer them.

Her email address and other social media are listed on her website. <https://www.mariefmartin.com>

Check out [her Amazon page.](#)

Janice McCaffrey

Janice McCaffrey is a genealogist. She credits her passion for detecting ancestral lines and researching past eras with launching her as an author. Her first of two novels is a fictional biography of James Fitchett, her seventh great grandfather. A blacksmith, James joined the first Scottish colonists in New Jersey as an indentured servant, then went on to become a strong influence on education in Richmond, Staten Island, NY. The second novel is a time travel romp involving Madge, an adventurous senior with a sense of humor, not unlike the author herself. Janice reared five children, part of that time as a single parent. She calls those years both the best and worst of her life. When her fledglings flew the nest, she enrolled in the University of Utah where she earned two degrees a BA in Communication then a Master of Social Work. Since retiring, she's engaged in another passion: international travel. Janice lives and writes just outside Glacier National Park in Northwest Montana.

Lise McClendon

Lise McClendon is the author of seven books in the Bennett Sisters mystery series. The series begins with ***Blackbird Fly***; the latest is ***Blame it on Paris***. She wrote two mystery series, the Alix Thorssen and Dorie Lennox mysteries set in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and World War II-era Kansas City (***The Bluejay Shaman***; ***One O'clock Jump***). She also writes stand-alones as Rory Tate. ***Jump Cut*** is a romantic thriller set in Seattle; ***PLAN X*** is a Shakespearean thriller featuring a Montana policewoman.

Her short story, *Forked Tongue*, is featured in the 2017 anthology, ***The Obama Inheritance***, edited by Gary Phillips. In 2015 she released (as Thalia Filbert) the darkly comic culinary thriller she wrote with four other well-seasoned crime writers, ***Beat Slay Love: One Chef's Hunger for Delicious Revenge***.

Traditionally published for many years, Lise now runs a small press with her fellow author, Katy Munger: Thalia Press. A former national board member of Mystery Writers of America, she lives in wilds of Montana near Yellowstone National Park and online at lisemcclendon.com.

Here is my Amazon Author Central page: <https://amzn.to/2yUBMzo>

And my Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LiseMcClendon>

Ann Minnett

Ann Minnett grew up in Denver and considered the Rocky Mountains as home. However, she spent the following decades in Dallas working as a Developmental Psychologist and Program Evaluator for social service agencies. She conducted research in child and family development and was affiliated with The University of Texas–Dallas, as researcher, lecturer and Adjunct Associate Professor. In that time Ann collaborated on one self-help book and published research reports in the fields of Education, Psychology, and Program Evaluation. Meanwhile, she quietly wrote stories for pleasure and self-expression.

Ann is a mother of two, grandmother to two, and now lives with her husband in the Salish Mountains of NW Montana with views of the Whitefish and Swan Ranges—not to mention distant peaks of Glacier National Park—out her back door. She's set aside her research career to incorporate what she learned into her fiction. Ann published her first novel, *Burden of Breath*, in 2013 and a second, *Serita's Shelf Life*, in 2014. She's currently working on a third set in Montana.

Find out more about Ann and her books [on her official website](#).

[Visit her blog!](#)

Or [like her on Facebook](#).

P.A. Moore

A Navy brat, P.A. Moore (the author's pen name) spent her early years traveling from one military post to the next before her family settled in Colorado. At 27, P.A. married her husband, a young prosecutor in the San Francisco Bay Area, who inspired her to enter U.C. Hastings law school when their daughter turned three. In the middle of her second year, P.A. gave birth to their son. After she passed the California bar exam, P.A. started her own career as a deputy district attorney, trying over 90 jury trials to verdict, mostly felonies, involving every conceivable crime against humanity. Still, spending 60 hours a week in the bowels of the criminal justice system while parenting two young children eventually took its toll. P.A. and Jack packed up the kids, sold their house, quit their jobs, and moved to Montana, where they knew no one. They opened a mom-and-pop law firm in the little town of Whitefish, then switched sides of the courtroom – from putting the 'bad guys' in jail to getting them out. In their new law practice, the couple

rocked the boat down at the local courthouse, irritating the good old boy network in the process, but leveling the playing field, at least a bit.

[Find out more about Ms. Moore on facebook.](#)

Rose Ottosen

Rose Ottosen, a Montana native, is a perpetual student of the aspirations, motivations and struggles of the human heart. Her writing weaves together personal observations gained through her life experiences as a decades-long teacher and volunteer chaplain. By threading bits of wit and wisdom alongside timeless principles, she creates verbal portraits that offer vistas of hope and courage to the human spirit.

Rose holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts and a M.A. in Biblical Studies and is a certified English teacher, professional editor, adjunct professor and volunteer chaplain. She enjoys substitute teaching at a local country school and spends her spare time, in part, writing inspirational literature. Currently, she is drafting her first novel about a tenacious young widow, who is determined to survive and to make a lasting contribution in the turbulent mining town of Butte, Montana, during the late 1800's.

She has been married to her husband, Don, for 50 years. The couple lives year-round in their handcrafted, Victorian-style home near Flathead Lake.

Karen Wills

Karen Wills lives with her husband Jerry a few miles from her beloved Glacier National Park in Northwest Montana. She spends her time writing, reading, hiking, and visiting with family and friends. She is also an active volunteer for social justice.

Karen has practiced law, representing plaintiffs in civil rights and other cases. She also taught English and writing on college and secondary public school levels, including on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, and in the Inupiaq Eskimo village of Wales, Alaska. She's encountered bears, both grizzly and polar, and still believes passionately in the value of wild creatures and country.

Karen is the author of two young adult books and wrote the bio section of a book on Lord Byron. She self-published her first novel *Remarkable Silence*, an archaeological thriller inspired by the need for religious tolerance, now more than ever before. She became a hybrid author when Five Star Publishing published her second novel *River with No Bridge*. It reflects her admiration for those immigrants who defied poverty and prejudice and settled in the wilderness near what is now Glacier National Park.

Her third novel *All Too Human* will be published by Five Star Publishing and is scheduled for release in 2019. It's a time-woven story involving two women, one who arrived in Montana's frontier just after the Civil War, and another who became the first to practice law in Kalispell, Montana, in 1905. The attorney's life will be altered by the discovery of diaries written by the earlier woman as her life took dark and unexpected turns.

Karen's current project, working title *Garden in the Sky*, focuses on another strong frontier woman and will be the second in the series begun with *River with No Bridge*.

Christine Schimpff-Carbo

Christine has an MA in English from the University of Montana and has honed her word-smith ability over 20 years. She taught writing, linguistics and literature courses at the college level for over a decade and has worked as a professional technical writer for various companies. She is currently teaching in a different realm as the owner of a Pilates studio. When she's not teaching, she's writing and plotting her next psychological mystery or enjoying the Montana wilderness and lifestyle.

Marlett Bess

Marlette Bess was born and raised on the sunny southern California coast. By her early twenties she found herself alone with no family and fulfilled a lifelong desire for adventure and travel.

Her impetuous naïveté and shoestring budget lead her to Israel where she worked long hard hours on a kibbutz to save cash for further travel. On her own she ventured on to Europe, no longer innocent about the ways of the world.

With her travel mate/future husband the next big journey was to Africa. They crossed the Sahara Desert to West Africa from Nigeria to Senegal in the drought of 1973.

While others were celebrating the 1976 bicentennial, they were on a bus loaded with people, parcels and pigs, traveling through Central America.

Marlette has lived in California, Oregon and Montana. Her travels have taken her to any parts of the world: Thailand, Turkey, India, Burma, Botswana, Zambia, South Africa, and much of Europe. Through her many world travels, she has developed a renewed interest in the beauty and mystery of North America. She writes Contemporary Fiction with a focus on relationships.

Gail Ranstrom

Gail made her first sale in 2001. Her current releases number ten historical novels and three anthologies. Another historical novel is scheduled for release in September 2013. Her novels have been translated into Spanish, Italian, French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Polish, Chechen, Portuguese, Greek, Japanese, Manga and English. Yes, English. Gail is not allowed to discuss her early life due to the conditions imposed by the Witness Protection Program, and if anyone mentions Bubbles LaRue, she will deny that she does now or has ever owned two feather fans and a bubble machine. Lest you think she is paranoid, she has, in fact, been attacked by chimpanzees in Montana, accosted by a naked man in a ladies room, found rattlesnakes coiled outside her office door, dodged a swat team and survived a major earthquake in California, ducked Bonnie, Charlie, Francis, Ivan and Katrina in Northeast Florida, and has finally found rural peace in Northwest Montana, where the worst she has had to face are blizzards, forest fires, marauding grizzlies and tourists.

Gail enjoys hearing from readers, and you can visit her at www.gailranstrom.com, reach her at gail@gailranstrom.com or connect with her at <https://www.facebook.com/GailRanstrom> or <https://www.facebook.com/gail.ranstrom1>

Patti Dean

Living in the most beautiful part of the country, North West Montana with her rescue dog, every day at the crack of dawn, Patti studies, researches the provenance of the law, writes and learns newness. She keeps spiritually fit by engaging in service work. Her passions include reading, design, law and the depths of our connectedness to all living things.

Spending most of her childhood in sunny California – her father an inventor, her mother an artist, and with the enrichment of older brothers, there was a great deal of freedom growing up.

As a child Patti remembers taking trips constantly with kids, dogs and new red convertibles along with ice cream fights in those convertibles.

Learning early that your power in life lies in the choosing, she made the choice to continue traveling, learning about the world and how to live life on life's terms while having fun at the same time. Her jobs took her to places she never even heard of before and left her wondering if she would ever return...She spent more on suitcases and shoes than most people spend on houses.

Patti is subject to a daughter and a grandson whom force her to forge paths into regions where she dares to go – to try to illuminate experiences that are somehow familiar to us yet may remain just beyond the reach of expression.

Brand new to the publishing world and almost finished with her first novel, a thriller, the book came about by enjoying the fellowship of Montana Women Writers and Authors of the Flathead, for which Patti is eternally grateful.

Anne B. Howard

Anne grew up in the same small Kansas town where she and her husband were born. At the age of forty she packed up the family's belongings, auctioned what wouldn't be needed in the move, and with more pioneer courage than common sense, realized her life-long dream—a home in the mountains of northwest Montana. "It wasn't always easy, sometimes downright terrifying, but we knew from the start we were meant to be here."

Memoirist and Narrative Nonfiction writer, Anne B. Howard, is a retired twenty five year veteran Psychiatric and Mental Health RNC. She is an avid advocate for abused children, an autism spectrum activist, a cancer survivor, a paranormal witness and most recently, Montana Supreme Court appellant in a disturbing case involving an abused boy with Asperger Syndrome unfairly sentenced to adult prison. Writing what she knows, Anne translates her long lifetime of extraordinary experiences into vivid, memorable nonfiction prose. A member of the National Association of Memoir Writers, she echoes the battle cry: "*Be Brave—Write Your Story.*"

Araphel Grace-In the Presence of Evil, her first full length Memoir, will be out sometime in 2014, followed by ***When the Bough Breaks, Our Failure to Protect***, a work of narrative nonfiction depicting the tragic failures of mental health, social and legal services to protect an abused child with autism.

Ina Albert

Ina Albert's newest book, *Granny Greeny Says Listen Louder* is an intergenerational picture book for children of all ages. She is co-author of [*Write Yourself Well: Journal Yourself to Health*](#) (Mountain Greenery Press, 2003) a journal/workbook written for people suffering from illness and stress based on research demonstrating the health benefits of expressive writing. As a healthcare public relations professional, trainer, workshop facilitator and consultant, Ina has written numerous articles for healthcare publications during her 40-year career. She has been interviewed by print and radio media, including NPR stations in Chicago and Missoula, MT. Her work is included in *The Art of Grief* (Routledge Press) and her short stories for children and adults have appeared in various print and Internet publications including *Chicago Parent Magazine*, *Beliefnet*, *Second Journey and Conscious Choice*. She also has a chapter in *Disquiet Time*, an anthology edited by Cathleen Falsani and Jennifer Grant. Ina also writes a monthly Age-ing to Sage-ing® column for *Montana Woman Magazine*.

Today, she lives and writes in Whitefish, Montana with her husband, Rabbi Allen Secher, where she is a Certified Age-ing to Sage-ing Seminar Leader for the Sageing International, a Life Transitions coach and an adjunct instructor at Flathead Valley Community College.

Her most recent presentation at the Sage-ing International Conference in October 2012 entitled Listen Louder: Communication As An Energetic Connection, traces the history of the theory of an energetic universe and the role energy plays in human communication and relationship.

Ina is a founder of the Flathead Valley Multi-Faith Coalition and a founder and co-chair of Love Lives Here, an affiliate of the Montana Human Rights Network, organizations that support open, caring and inclusive community action in the Flathead Valley of Montana. She also serves on the board of Share Your Voice Foundation, Org., an organization dedicated to helping at-risk teens find their voice through theatrical and life coaching experiences.

Ina can be contacted by email at Inaalbert@me.com, by phone at (406) 249-4642 or at <http://www.AgingGloriously.com>

Nan McKenzie

Nan McKenzie is spinning new romantic adventures, one of which is self-published on Amazon as *Twin Jeopardy* by Nancy McKenzie, an erotic romance. She is a real estate broker/teacher who also works on home renovations. She lives in Northwest Montana and has a few Bigfoot stories of her own to tell. She can be reached at ngarrett@digisys.net or [406-892-0055](tel:406-892-0055), 20 Darlene Road, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Maggie Plummer

Maggie Plummer is a writer who works from her home in Polson, Montana.

Along the lengthy, winding trail to becoming a novelist, she has worked as a journalist, book publicist, book editor, census enumerator, school bus driver, field interviewer, waitress, post office clerk, fish processor, library clerk, retail salesperson, Good Humor girl, fishing boat first mate, race horse hot walker, apple picker, and bus girl.

Maggie is the author of *Spirited Away: A Novel of the Stolen Irish* (2012, CreateSpace Independent Publishing) and its much-awaited sequel, *Daring Passage: Book 2 of the Spirited Away Saga* (2014, CreateSpace Independent Publishing). She is also the author of *Passing it on: Voices of the Flathead Indian Reservation* (2008, Salish Kootenai College Press, Pablo, Montana). She is currently tackling a new work of fiction.

Maggie can be found on [Amazon here](#), on [Weebly](#), and the [Facebook page of Spirited Away](#).
<https://montanawomenwriters.com/authors/>

B.M. Bower

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B. M. Bower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/B._M._Bower)

Dorothy Baker

<https://g.co/kgs/W9MyMS>

Black Women Entrepreneur/Sarah Bickford

Sarah Gammon Brown Bickford (c. 1852 – July 19, 1931) was born into slavery in either Tennessee or North Carolina. In the 1870s she made her way to the Montana goldfields, trading work as a nanny for transportation. She ultimately became sole owner of the Virginia City Water Company, becoming the first and only woman in Montana—and probably the nation's only female African American—to own a utility. In 2012, the State of Montana honored her by inducting her into the Gallery of Outstanding Montanans.

Other than being born into slavery, Sarah Bickford's origins are uncertain. Although some sources point to her birth in North Carolina, other historians have traced Bickford's birth to Jonesboro, Tennessee, to a mother owned by John Blair III. Blair made a fortune in the 1849 California Gold Rush and was active in politics, serving as both a state senator and a U.S. Congressman. In 1860, he owned a hotel in Knoxville, where Sarah (also known as Sallie) likely worked. Blair died in 1863; settling his estate is likely the reason that Sarah was separated from her family. Bickford told people that her parents were sold during the Civil War and that she never saw them again.

After the Civil War, Sarah went to live with her aunt, Nancy Gammon, in Knoxville, and Gammon's husband, Isaac, who became the first African American alderman in Knoxville. Sarah took their last name, becoming Sarah Gammon.

Life in Virginia City



Advertisement for Sarah Bickford's (then Sarah Brown's) restaurant/bakery/boarding house

In 1871, Sarah Gammon headed to Montana Territory, trading passage for work as a nanny. After arriving in the gold rush town of Virginia City (then the territorial capital), she worked briefly as a chambermaid at the Madison Hotel before marrying miner John Brown in 1872. The couple had three children (two boys and a girl), but the marriage was an unhappy one. Both boys died of diphtheria and in 1880, Sarah sued for divorce on the grounds of abuse and abandonment. She received full custody of her seven-year-old daughter Eva.

After working briefly for French-Canadian immigrant Adaline Laurin, Sarah Gammon Brown opened her own business, the New City Bakery and Restaurant, regularly advertising in the local newspaper, the *Madisonian*.^[1] According to the advertisement, "Mrs. Sallie Brown, proprietress," offered "board by the day or week," "lunch and dinner at all hours," "fresh bread, cake, pies and confectionery constantly on hand."

Eva Brown, Sarah's daughter, died at age 11 in 1882. A year later Sarah Brown married white miner and farmer Stephen Bickford. This marriage occurred before the state of Montana passed a law prohibiting interracial marriage in 1909. Other prominent interracial couples from the same era included the founders of the coal mining town of Belt, Montana, John and Mattie Castner.



The "Hangman" building, owned by Bickford in the 1900s. Image taken in 1939.

Stephen Bickford died in 1890, leaving Sarah with four children (three girls and a boy) and two-thirds ownership in the Virginia City Waterworks. Sarah took an active role in the business; she took a business class by correspondence and in 1890, she purchased the remaining third of the waterworks, becoming sole proprietor. She also purchased a building (known as the Hangman's Building because during its construction, Vigilantes hung five men they judged to be outlaws from the roof beam) for her office. Bickford was a hands-on manager. She visited every customer and was her own bill collector. She remained a well-respected member of the community until her death on July 19, 1931.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Bickford
http://www.waterworkshistory.us/MT/Virginia_City/

Famous/Infamous who have called Montana home

The first woman to be elected to Congress, Jeannette Rankin was born near Missoula.

Noted frontierswoman Calamity Jane at one time worked as a prostitute in Billings.

Actress Margot Kidder, best known for her movie role as Lois Lane opposite Christopher Reeve in the live-action "Superman" movies of the 1970s and 1980s, resided in Livingston for much of her late life. She died there in May 2018.

https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/notable-famous-and-infamous-people-who-have-called-montana-home/collection_bba8c888-fb23-5e2c-9f6c-900f3866071b.html

Famous Montanans

Dorothy Baker author, *Missoula*

Myrna Loy actress, *Helena*

Jeannette Rankin first woman elected to Congress, *Missoula*

Martha Raye actress, *Butte*

<https://www.50states.com/bio/mont.htm>

Remarkable Native American Women

Denise Juneau

A member of the Mandan and Hidatsa tribes and a Blackfeet tribe descendent, Denise Juneau is a tireless advocate for education in our state. She attended Browning High School, completed her undergraduate degree here at MSU, and attended graduate school at Harvard University. She received a law degree from University of Montana. Her education prepared her for a career in government and her love for education drove her to become the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Upon her election to her current position she made history; she is the first Native American woman to be elected to a statewide executive office. Considering the conflicts tribes and the state often face on legal and governmental levels, this is truly significant. In 2009 the National Indian Education Association named her educator of the year and since 2008 when she took office data shows test scores have been on the rise in the state. She also advocates for student health, both by promoting local, healthy foods and working to end tobacco use.

http://www.montana.edu/women/NATIVEWOMEN_bios.html

