



**Officers**

**President**

Janet Sticht  
Seeley Lake

**1st Vice President**

Duane Thexton  
Ennis MT 59729

**2nd Vice President**

Mike Collins  
Helena, MT

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Margaret (Peg) Kleven  
Kent, WA 98031

**Historian**

Charlotte Orr  
Missoula, MT 59802

**Registrar**

Keith Ball  
Lolo MT 59847

**Past President**

Tim Sowa  
E. Helena

**Directors Expiring 2020**

James Kovatch  
Bozeman, MT

Larry Rowland  
Billings, MT

**Directors Expiring 2021**

Jim Quigley  
Avon, MT

Larry Dobb  
Great Falls, MT

**Directors Expiring 2022**

Ted Richardson  
Somers, MT

Mary Don Glidewell  
Helmville, MT

**Editor**

Michael Russell  
Helena, MT  
cowboy@cowboysranch.com

# The Pick and Shovel

Official Newsletter of the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers

## Fall 2019 "Chartered by the State Their Parents Founded"

*A Story from one of our members.*

*Last July I received a letter from Nancy Martin a member of the SDMP  
To the Newsletter Editor:*

*Many thanks for the many interesting bits and pieces of history I have gathered from past issues of the Pick and Shovel.*

*Growing up in Boston and Michigan, I have known Montana only through my mothers stories of growing up in the mountains.*

*I think I have sent clippings about grandfather, William R Allen, in the past years. However; this is about my mothers uncle, who was a most colorful part of the history. You may indeed have this particular one, but just in case not, here is my treasured copy of John Berkin, and his many adventures.*

*One thing I can not detach from a family album is a small article about him, that finishes with the name of his wife...."Louise B. Berkin, his constant companion".*

*I am always surprised at how few wives are named. Most of John Berkin's clipping don't mention her, in fact the funeral book I have lists many people and "wife"! Even the entry about his arrival in this country at the age of six with his "sister" lists her that way and John by name. Oh well.*

*I guess I have the modern day irritation at male dominated history.*

*Thanks to all the volunteers who keep the Pick and Shovel going, a window on the history of the state on a personal level.*

*Sincerely, Nancy Martin*

*She also sent me a very large copy of a clipping from the Great Falls Tribune, dated Sunday, March 22, 1936. I am going to enter one of the paragraphs from that clippings, titled*

**JOHN BERKIN ONE OF MONTANA'S MOST COLORFUL**

*(Cont'd on page 2)*

*(JOHN BERKIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

*During his childhood days at Boulder he had many thrilling experiences, one of which was being captured and carried away by the Nez Perce Indians. He later became friendly with the many members of the tribe and during trips with them and visits to their villages learned their language, but at the time of his captivity he had not those advantages to reassure him.*

### **TAKE BOY TO GET SADDLE**

*The cause of his being carried away by the tribesmen was a small boy's saddle, which his father had purchased for him. It was the only one of its kind in the territory of Montana, and the first of its kind that the Indians had ever seen.*

*His father had bought young John a handsome pinto pony, and then sent to St. Louis for the saddle which caused all the trouble.*

*In those days the Nez Perce Indians made an annual hunting trip to eastern Montana. They came up out of Idaho to Missoula and then eastward by way of Bernice and Boulder—the old Nez Perce Trail ran through those towns.*

*He was rescued by his father, William Berkin, who pursued the Indians and overtook them in the vicinity of the three forks of the Missouri. (extracted last sentence from the article showing a picture of Chief Joseph).*

*Thank you Nancy for submitting this article and your nice letter... from the Editor Michael Russell*

### **HISTORTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDEE**

*Debra Crow, 4th—6th grade teacher at Garrison Elementary School in Garrison, MT., has been chosen winner of the 30th Montana Statehood Centennial Bell Award as the Montana History Teacher of the Year. She was picked by a panel of Montana history advocates.*

*Born and raised in Maryland, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986 at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, MD., in elementary education, graduating Magna Cum Lade and her Master's Degree in 1994 from Bowie State University in Bowie, MD. Her major was administration/supervision and she graduated Summa Cum Lade.*

*She was a science teacher at Stevensville Middle School in Stevensville, MD from 1986 to 2012 and a seasonal education technician at the Grant Kohrs Ranch from 2012 to 2014. While there she was a National Park Service Interpretive Guide, Summer Explorers Program Leader and mentor to new employees.*

*As a teacher at Garrison Elementary School since 2014, Crow says she enjoys teaching Montana History because she is a lifelong learner herself. She uses the Mapping Montana lesson from A-Z. Her students work in pairs to discover the state of Montana by traveling from a town that begins with A to a town that begins with Z. The students discover where they want to go in Montana, how far it is from town to town and fun facts about the places they already traveled with their families.*

*Crow teaches cultural diversity to her students to ensure sensitivity for others. She uses the Glider Lehrman American History, "A Nation of Immigrants" packet to reinforce that "we all come from somewhere." Using political cartoons, letters written in cursive, and photographs, her students discuss issues that immigrants had then and continue to face today when they move to a new country.*

*(History Teacher Awardee Cont'd)*

*Crow and her students will be guests of honor at the ceremony on Montana Statehood Day, at 10 a.m., Friday, November 8th, 2019 in the State Capitol in Helena. Crow will receive a plaque and \$4000.00 from sponsors, The Montana Television Network, The Montana Historical History Foundation and the Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers. They will ring the Centennial Bell at 10:40 a.m., the exact moment Montana became the 41st state on November 8, 1889. The Montana Historical Society is also a partner in this program.*

**2020 CONFERENCE—HAMILTON, MT**  
**August 7-8**

*About Hamilton:*

*Hamilton, Montana is located in south-western Montana in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley. This is a wide open valley traversed by US Highway 93 and the Bitterroot River. Hamilton is both a very popular traveler's destination and great place to live. This is a paradise for people who love the outdoors, nature, gardening and community. Hamilton has both the small-town feel of rural Montana, and quick access to city services in nearby Missoula.*

*This valley was once home to the Bitterroot Salish Indian Tribe. The tribe was noted for their friendly nature. In 1877, Chief Joseph and his tribe of Nez Perce passed through Ravalli county on their way to Canada in order to escape confinement to a reservation. The Salish were relocated to their current Flathead reservation under the Treaty of Hellgate.*

*Lewis and Clark came into the valley September 4th, 1805. The valley that we, today, find to be a mecca of gardens and recreation, was a cold inhospitable place to the Corp of Discovery as they made their way to the Pacific.*

*The city of Hamilton was founded in 1890 by an Irish immigrant and copper magnate, Marcus Daly. Daly came into the valley and founded a 22,000 acre stock farm. He decided it would be a good thing to have a town nearby, so he laid out his own city along the Northern Pacific Railway route, with plots for churches, schools, parks and businesses. The town was named after his employee, James Hamilton, who surveyed the first plats.*

*The last turn of the century was a wild and prosperous time in Hamilton. Calamity Jane lived here for awhile, running a cafe on Main Street, and the Ravalli County Fairgrounds once covered 40 acres!*

*Hamilton is the largest town in the Bitterroot Valley, which is the location of the classic book, "A River Runs Through It", by Norman Maclean. This book is a wonderful story of family and fly fishing, that encapsulates the vast beauty of the Bitterroot Valley. A must read for anyone interested in the area.*

**Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers**

**2998 Rocky Pine Drive  
Helena, MT 59601-9207**

**Return Service Requested**

*Sons and Daughters of Montana Pioneers*

*"Chartered by the state their parents founded"*

*<[sonsanddaughtersmontanapioneers.com](http://sonsanddaughtersmontanapioneers.com)>*

**By Mary Lou Garrett**

What a great time we had in Miles City for the 125th annual meeting of the Sons & Daughters of Montana Pioneers. While our attendance numbers were down from prior years, those that attended had a great time exploring the Miles City area, especially the Range Riders Museum. I suggest anyone heading to Miles City or beyond to stop and visit the museum. We even had our ice breaker in the memory hall at the museum. I was also impressed with the huge park and swimming area and the antique store downtown with the old Woolworths counter and fountain. Yes we had ice cream there.

I even took my 14 year old great granddaughter into the historic Montana Bar to view the original bar, booths and tin ceiling. There were three lovely young ladies in attendance who met for the first time and formed a bond. These girls (ages 10,13,14) have already made plans to attend the 2020 convention in Hamilton. One of (the) things that was brought up several times during the convention was to recognize the number of young people there and to encourage others to bring their grandchildren and get the(m) involved.

Board member, Mary Don Glidewell gave a presentation on preserving our pioneer heritage. The presentation included the need to contract with an archivist to assist in preserving and improving access to our historically significant and unique collection. The membership voted to hire an archivist to assist in surveying, evaluating and making an inventory of both at-risk items and other materials. It was noted that the Historian resigned because SDMP does not have insurance to protect our officers and directors. After discussion, the membership approved purchasing officers and directors insurance. In addition, the Secretary/Treasurer had also resigned. There were no nominations or volunteers to fill this position. That position is open to any member who is interested in being more involved with the organization. As a result, yours truly, at the request of President Sowa, took the minutes for the convention.

Jeanette Larson presented one of the best Veterans programs featuring letters that a Miles City lady (ladies) who wrote letters to servicemen during WWII and some letters servicemen wrote back home. Janet Sticht and Mike Collins in his Navy uniform assisted the program reading a number of the letters. The social get together every evening in the hotel lobby was a great way to share stories and get to know each other. Janet Sticht promised to do her best as our new president. She will be a great leader for the next two years along with two new board members, Ted Richardson and Steven Hardt. During business sessions, a number of changes were passed to the Policies and Procedures. Registrar Keith Ball read the names of the 27 applicants for new membership. Upon approval by the membership, President Tim Sowa presented the membership certificates and/or life member plaques. Little two year old Jack Hardt grabbed hold of his life plaque, when presented to him, like he knew it was something important. Keith Ball is working hard setting up the 2020 convention in Hamilton, so hope to see a lot of members and their younger family members attending.