



**Missoula City Cemetery**

**2023 Stories & Stones Guidebook**

**September 17, 2023**

Included in this guidebook are the historical figures whose stories will be recounted during this year's event as well as the name of the storyteller. Brief summaries of the person's life are provided for most but not all presentations.

The City of Missoula acknowledges that the Missoula Valley is the ancestral land of the Séliš (Salish or "Flathead") and Qlispé (Kalispe or "Pend d'Oreille") Nations and was and is a place also utilized by other Indigenous peoples, who settlers forced from the area under the direction of the U.S. government. The history provided in this guidebook by no means lessens the importance of these Indigenous peoples or the impact on them but tells the stories of those who created, are interred in, or are connected to the Missoula City Cemetery.

Missoula City Cemetery  
2000 Cemetery Road  
Missoula, Montana 59802

Phone: 406-552-6070

Email: [cemetery@ci.missoula.mt.us](mailto:cemetery@ci.missoula.mt.us)

Website: [www.ci.missoula.mt.us/91/Cemetery](http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/91/Cemetery)



## **Histories and Presenters**

### **Jean Clark and Helen Simonton**

(storyteller: Karen Devries)

"This is the story of two women who left their homes in New Jersey with nothing but faith and some suitcases, to move to Montana to see what God had in store for them."  
—Jeremy Brown

God would lead them to Missoula, and use them to teach the Bible to children up and down the western part of the state through Bible clubs and summer vacation Bible schools. Eventually they began a camp ministry in 1947 and in 1961 purchased land on a small lake in the Flathead valley, developing this property through the years. Big Sky Bible Camp is still thriving and growing today. They also began a Sunday school for adults and children in a small community near Missoula where today there is a church and building.

### **Emma Dickinson**

(storyteller: Dawn Dambach)

Emma Dickinson was the first teacher in Missoula who not only pioneered education in town but also was required to live under very strict rules!

### **Josephine Dukes**

(storyteller: Marcia Porter)

One of Montana's women pioneers who claims to have lived in four territories and states without moving from her home. She was a force to be reckoned with as an astute land and property owner in the Missoula valley.

### **Russell Earl**

(storyteller: Susan Hintz)

For a century and a quarter, Civil War veteran Russell Earl's grave was marked with someone else's headstone. Susan Hintz will discuss the early history of government-provided headstones for veterans, how the error was discovered and corrected, and how Pvt. Earl's family was reconnected with their ancestor who had been lost to them for a couple generations.

**A.J. Gibson**

(storyteller: Jim McDonald)

A.J. Gibson designed the Missoula County Courthouse, Main Hall at the University of Montana, Sacred Heart Academy, and many beautiful historic Missoula homes, leaving a lasting legacy of his work.

**Mary Gleim & Elizabeth Gibson**

(storytellers: Shonna Rhein-Gariepy &amp; Elen Rhein-Gariepy)

Mary Gleim was known as "The Madam of Missoula," who also served time in the Montana State Prison for nefarious crimes. Her niece, Elizabeth "Lizzie" Gibson, came to live with her aunt, inheriting her vast fortune.

**Graybeal Family**

(storyteller: Marcia Graybeal)

**Tennessee "Tennie" Epperson Greenough**

(storyteller: Jean Curtiss)

The story of Tennie Greenough, her husband Thomas L. Greenough and, most importantly, the story of their home the Greenough Mansion, and Missoula's treasured Greenough Park, bequeathed by Mrs. Greenough to the people of Missoula.

**Julia Grant Higgins & Kate Higgins McCormick**

(storyteller: Thula Weisel)

What do you know about the wives of two of Missoula's important citizens - Julia Higgins and Kate McCormick? How did they get to Missoula? Where did they meet their husbands? How are they related?

**William H. Houston**

(storyteller: Willis Hintz)

William Houston was a friend of Wild Bill Hickock, a guard on stagecoaches, a railroad conduction worker, hotel owner, and a Missoula County sheriff. A most colorful and controversial sheriff, he was kicked out of office for making moonshine in the jail.

**Joseph Kogan**

(storyteller: Richard Allegra)

Joseph Kogan was a Jewish survivor of the World War II Holocaust.

**John Lehsou**

(storyteller: Jim Sears)

John Lehsou was a German immigrant, teamster, stage-station owner, gold miner, farmer, and vice president of a Missoula bank. He and his family are buried on a corner of his farm, which he sold to the City for \$1. John left Germany to escape the draft and European wars. His legacy includes a surprise for his heirs that was not discovered until his old bank deposit box was opened in the 1970s.

**Reverend Thomas Lindsay Lewis**

(storyteller: Reverend Paul Armstrong)

The Reverend Thomas Lindsay Lewis was an American Baptist minister and Civil War veteran who served the First Baptist Church in Stevensville, Montana, as its second pastor.

**Callie Mack**

(storyteller: Torrie Cooney)

Callie Mack ran a "woman's boarding house" south of the river, apparently a stiff competitor to "Madam of Missoula" Mary Gleim, who died a suspicious death.

**Charles Herbert McLeod**

(storyteller: Mary Pitch)

Charles Herbert McLeod (1859 - 1946), aka C.H., was born in Lower Millstream, Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada, in 1859, arriving in Missoula by train and stagecoach in 1880 to clerk in the Eddy, Hammond and Co. store. Mary Pitch will tell of his rise in the store, which became the Missoula Mercantile, and his other endeavors in helping the growth of Missoula over his 6½ decades in Missoula. Mary Mulroney Pitch is the great granddaughter of C.H. McLeod.

**Cornelius "Baron" O'Keeffe**

(storyteller: Traolach O'Riordain)

The notorious and infamous Cornelius "Baron" O'Keeffe, who when meeting and wooing his wife Anna Lester O'Keeffe, purportedly of Scottish royalty, he promised her "a life of ease and plenty in a baronial palace." Well, such were the tales and the antics of Missoula's one and only "baron" of Irish royalty!

**Jeannette Rankin**

(storyteller: Suzette Dussault)

Jeannette Rankin, born and raised in Missoula valley, was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Suzette, also born and raised in Missoula, tells of the importance of Jeannette's childhood in this valley and how that shaped her lifetime commitment to peace and social justice. In addition, Jeannette ran a successful grassroots campaign for the 1914 Montana constitutional amendment for Woman Suffrage.

**Paul Albro Read**

(storyteller: Chad Keller)

Paul Read was a musician, family man, and church goer, serving western Montana as a Revenue Officer and was, sadly the 21<sup>st</sup> Federal Prohibition Officer to die in the service of his duties in 1933.

**Frederick Scheuch**

(storyteller: Mark Estep)

Frederick Scheuch, "The Prof," was one of the first University of Montana (MSU) professors teaching mechanical engineering, then French and German. In 1899, he built a regal Queen Anne home for his family on South 5<sup>th</sup> Street West in Missoula. This is the story of the Scheuch family home and that of the new owners, Susan and Mark Estep, and their meticulous restoration of this once-thought "haunted" house.

**Edna Wilma Sharp and the history of the Wilma**

(storyteller: Andy Smetanka)

Edna Wilma Sharp, the namesake of the historic Wilma Building in downtown Missoula, was a vaudeville star with her sister, Edith, and her second husband, Ed Sharp. Ed Sharp was a Missoula figure well known for creating the Wilma's Chapel of the Dove and for his beloved pigeon, Koro Hatto.

**Ralph Starr**

(storyteller: Ralph Starr, III)

This is the story of Missoula Mayor Ralph Starr, who served as Justice of the Peace and as mayor in the late 1940s and 1950s; as well as the story of the Starr family, serving in the public service of Missoulians as owner of the Conoco Station at the corner of Broadway and Van Buren for 38 years; and the service of Ralph Starr III as a rural fireman.

**Alex Stepanzoff**

(storyteller: David Barthelmess)

This is the story of Alex Stepanzoff, beloved Missoula City Band Conductor, and his wife, Josephine Graf Stepanzoff, whose family owned the Bon Ton Mills in Bozeman, Montana, and the Bon Ton Bakeries in Missoula and Bozeman. She met her husband as charter member of the UM (MSU) International Club.

**Ella Stucky**

(storyteller: Jennifer Ellison)

Ella Stucky (1887 - 1979) is remembered as the first public health nurse in Montana. Jen Elison, also a nurse, will share stories of Ella's commitment to treating and preventing the spread of tuberculosis. Ella will also be recognized for her role as the first female coroner in the state, appointed immediately following the death of her husband in 1939. This remarkable woman helped to shape the health and welfare of Montana with her dedication, knowledge, compassion, and engagement with her community.

**Sara Woody**

(storyteller: Jennie Pak)

Sarah Elizabeth Countryman Woody was married to Missoula's first mayor, Frank H. Woody. She was a force in her own right, traveling by wagon train as a child, teaching on the frontier, and serving, in numerous ways, the community of Missoula.

**Francis Lyman Worden**

(storyteller: George Hart)

Frank Worden and Christopher Higgins co-founded the city of Missoula in 1862. Our city was first called Wordensville.

**Missoula's Chinese Heritage**

(historian: Paul Kim)

**Missoula City Cemetery's Symbols in Stones**

(interpreter: Paulette Parpart)

Explore the history of engraved symbols on old memorial stones and the historical and cultural significance of these symbols.

# Presentations Map

## Clark & Simonton

Mausoleum  
Section

### Maple Avenue

Kogan

Graybeal

### North Avenue

Columbariums

### Blackthorn Street

Starr

Stepanzoff

### Mulberry Street



### Sycamore Street

Read      Sharp  
Earl

### Yew Street

Gibson  
Houston  
Elfers Donlon  
Lehsou Eppel

### Charity Street

O'Keefe Worden

McLeod

Scheuch Higgins Stuckey  
McCormick

Columbariums

Dukes

Central Street

Stone

Faith Avenue



Cemetery

Niche Walls

Evergreen

Public Parking



MISSOULA CITY CEMETERY  
Est. 1884

Gate Hours: Daily 8 am - sunset

Office Hours: M-F 8 am - 4:30 pm

Phone: (406) 552-6070

Fax: (406) 327-2173

Memorial Donations Accepted

Information and  
Guidebooks

Russel Street

THIS MAP SHOWS STORIES BEING TOLD TODAY.  
SEE MAP IN GUIDEBOOK FOR ALL OTHER HISTORY LOCATIONS

Chapel      Family  
Cremation

Arbor

Veteran  
Section &

Memory Lane

Green Shop

Mack

Lewis

Cemetery Road

Hope Street

Gibson  
Gleim

Walnut Street

Central Street

Rose Street



Charity Street

Central Street