

Stories and Stones

Guidebook 2025



Jennie Pak portraying Sarah
Elizabeth Woody
2024 "People's Choice" Winner

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 (Kalispel 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

Website: <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/91/Cemetery>

Welcome to the 2025 Stories and Stones Event!

There are a few new changes this year:

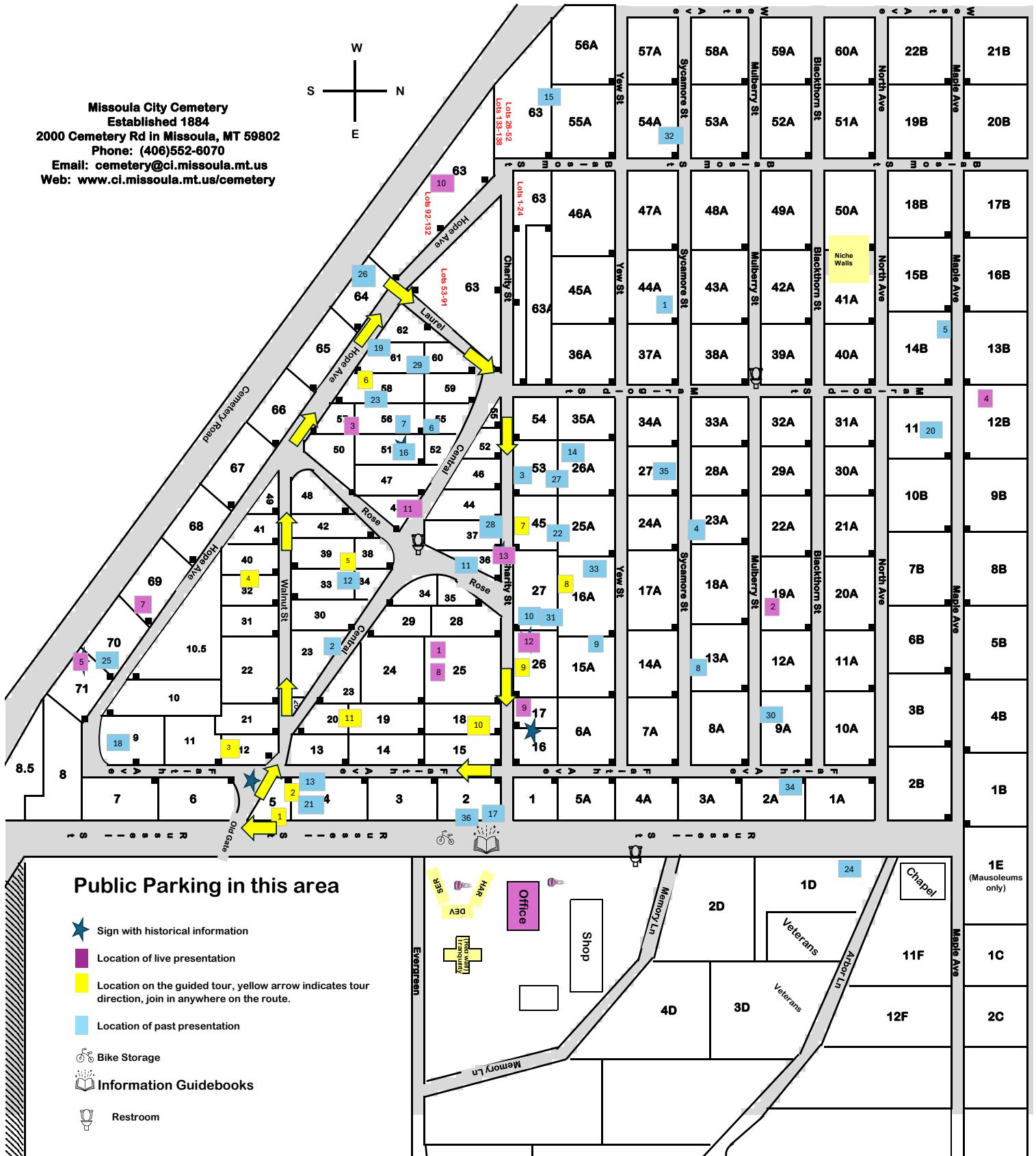
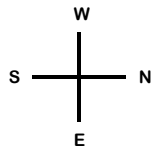
1. A new map with color coded stories
 - a. Red – Live presentations. At these locations, you can drop by and listen in on a volunteer who brings that person’s story to life. Most of these presentations are under 15 minutes, those stories over 15 minutes are worth the time, but are indicated in the book, so you can plan your time accordingly.
 - b. Yellow – A guided tour, which will cover the historical figures portrayed in Jennifer Toelle’s book *Reaching for Reveries*. This tour will stay mostly on the roads, so may be easier for people with mobility issues. This tour is estimated to be 45 minutes. For more information about Jennifer and her books, please visit www.janinechellington.com. *Reaching for Reveries* can be found at Barnes and Noble Bookstores and online.
 - c. Blue – Previously told stories. At these locations, you will find a sign that gives a brief summary of the person whose story has been previously told and recorded. If you would like to watch the previously recorded story, scan the QR Code to go to the recording on YouTube. All QR Codes are also in this booklet.
2. You can help to shape the future of Stories and Stones by completing a short survey. Scan the QR Code below to access the survey. Responses will be collected until 11:30 PM on September 30, 2025.



3. Bike Storage – this is a direct result of feedback from last year’s survey, thank you to those who brought this need to our attention.

We hope that you enjoy this year’s Stories and Stones Event!

Missoula City Cemetery
 Established 1884
 2000 Cemetery Rd in Missoula, MT 59802
 Phone: (406)552-6070
 Email: cemetery@ci.missoula.mt.us
 Web: www.ci.missoula.mt.us/cemetery



Public Parking in this area

- Sign with historical information
- Location of live presentation
- Location on the guided tour, yellow arrow indicates tour direction, join in anywhere on the route.
- Location of past presentation
- Bike Storage
- Information Guidebooks
- Restroom

Reaching for Reveries Guided Tour

The tour route is marked yellow on the map

	Name	Grave location	Birth date	Death date
1	John "Spider" Stett	6-2-005	9/14/1867	8/25/1903
A retired lightweight champion boxer, a member of the Order of Eagles, a bartender at the Gem Theater, and a good friend to many, which got him into trouble sometimes.				
2	William Davenport	8-6-004	1854	12/18/1904
A soldier who fought at Little Big Horn, a vaudeville actor and comedian, the manager at the Gem Theater, a member of the Order of Eagles, a kind and honest man.				
3	Charles H. Hall	5-6-012	8/22/1869	2/23/1923
Appointed to deputy clerk of the court at 17, entering the Montana bar in 1895, elected county attorney in 1900, and was involved in prosecuting several of the men on this list.				
4	Franklin J. Pierce Sr.	7-7-032	11/1/1866	12/13/1925
Known in both Butte and Missoula in the business and entertainment circles, became the proprietor of the Gem Theater, and was determined to make it a family friendly event space.				
5	Harry W. Thompson	3-1-039	1867	6/1/1924
Elected as the 22 nd Missoula County Sheriff, he worked hard to enforce moral and social reform, suppress gambling, alcohol consumption, and shutting down theaters.				
6	Henry C. Stiff	4-8-039	1859	10/16/1926
One of the attorneys who often sat at Franklin J. Pierce's table in court. Not only a prominent attorney but also served in the Montana House of Representatives.				
14	Albert J. Gibson	6-12-26A	4/1/1862	12/31/1927
A talented architect and gifted builder, who designed many buildings in Missoula and the surrounding areas, including projects for Franklin J. Pierce and William Yerrick.				
7	Dr. William P. Mills	7-9-045	1857	12/6/1920
Having completed his medical training in New York, Dr. Mills brought his skills and dedication to Missoula and practiced medicine since 1882. He was highly respected in his field.				
8	George Nink	4-28-16A	1861	4/1/1925
Proprietor of the Louvre Saloon, a member of the Order of Eagles, first president of the Missoula band, and known for his German delicatessens served in his lunch house.				
9	Thomas C. Marshall	7-9-026	12/14/1851	4/23/1911
Attorney, county judge, Missoula's 3 rd Mayor, chair of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature of Montana. Alongside Henry Stiff, Marshall defended Franklin J. Pierce and the Gem Theater.				
10	Percy P. Pierce	5-3-018	5/26/1867	10/11/1934
Owner of the Missoula Hotel, and while not related to Franklin J. Pierce, was often confused for him, as they both had the same last name, wives named Mary, and sons about the same age.				
11	William H. Yerrick	1-10-020	6/30/1850	7/15/1921
The Garden City Bottling Company owner, the victim of embezzlement, financial struggles, and suffered many personal loses.				

Live Presentations

You can listen to these stories at each of these graves

1

Boos, Edward

(Presenter: David Severson)



Edward H. Boos was a newspaper reporter for the *Daily Missoulian* and in 1897, he accompanied the 25th Infantry US Army “Buffalo Soldiers” as their official reporter. The men road bicycles from Missoula, Montana, to St. Louis, Missouri, to demonstrate the utility of the bicycle as a military tool. Eddie was a huge bicycle “enthusiast.” He will discuss bicycles of his day, his admiration for the Buffalo soldiers, and read from his dispatches about the trip. In later years, he took photographs of the original native peoples around Missoula and the Flathead, worked in journalism with his father, and was ad manager at the Missoula Mercantile Company, which was part of the “The Octopus,” the sprawling and ultra-powerful empire of Copper King William Clark.

Birth: April 1, 1877 – Kentucky

Death: September 26, 1937 (age 60) – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 6 - Lot 15 – Block 025

2

Borg, Frank

(Presenter: Kevin Borg)



During the nearly sixty years that Frank Borg lived in Missoula, he had an active part in helping the community grow. He owned and operated the Borg Jewelry & Optical Company for nearly 48 years, while also serving on many boards and civic committees and organizations. The day after his death, the *Missoulian* newspaper printed, “It is fitting that each time the clock in the tower of the County Courthouse strikes the hour, Missoula has reason to recall memories of Frank Borg. He installed the clock that has given faithful service for more than 45 years. In Mr. Borg’s death yesterday, Missoula suffered a real loss.”

Birth: December 22, 1875 – Carleton, MO

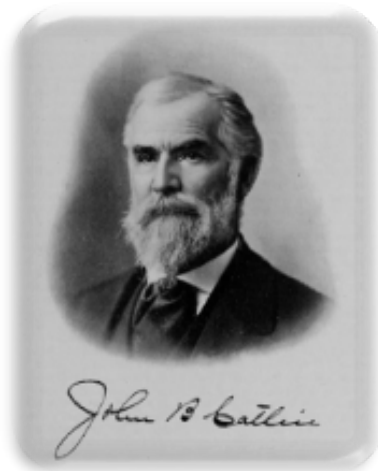
Death: November 22, 1955 (age 79) – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 5 – Lot 14 – Block 19A

3

Catlin, John

(Presenter: Austin O. Haney)



John B. Catlin was a Civil War captain, Montana pioneer, businessman, and respected lawmaker who played a key role in the state's early development. After arriving with the Nelson Story wagon train in 1866, he settled in the Bitterroot Valley, later serving as a land agent, political leader, and community builder. Known for his strong character, military discipline, and public service, he left a lasting legacy in Missoula.

Birth: June 21, 1837 – Cleveland, OH

Death: July 30, 1917 – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 1 – Lot 1 – Block 057

4

Clark, Jean and Simonton, Hazel

(Presenter: Mandy Russau)



“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.

Jean

Birth: September 29, 1910 – Arbroath, Scotland

Death: October 14, 1997 (age 87)

Grave location: Grave 2 – Lot 20 – 12B

Hazel

Birth: April 10, 1912 – Paterson, NJ

Death: January 3, 1997 (age 84)

Grave location: Grave 1 – Lot 20 – 12B

5

Gleim, Mary

(Presenter: Margaret Borg)



Mary Gleim was a highly educated and ambitious businesswoman, notoriously generous and fierce. Known as “The Madam of Missoula,” most of her business ventures were not of the legal or moral kind, which did land her in the Montana State Prison for a bit of time. Even though her businesses were in the red district, Mary shaped Missoula as much as Higgins, Hammond, Bonner, and Greenough.

Birth: February 9, 1845 – County Tipperary, Ireland

Death: February 22, 1914 (age 69) – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 2 – Lot 15 – Block 071

6

Graybeal Family

(Presenter: Jennipha-Lauren Nielsen)



Grave location: Graves 5&6 – Lot 2 – Block 10 ½

7

Lewis, Rev. Thomas Lindsay

(Rev. Paul Armstrong)



Rev. Thomas Lindsay Lewis lived a remarkable life that spanned the battlefields of the Civil War, the rugged trails of the frontier, and the pulpits of Montana and the Pacific Northwest. A former Confederate soldier, bullwhacker, and logger, he became a devoted Baptist minister known for his strength, resilience, and colorful preaching – even holding services in saloons when churches were scarce. Eventually settling in Missoula, he spent his later years as a rancher, scholar, and family man until his death in 1911, leaving behind a legacy of faith, adventure, and perseverance.

Birth: April 5, 1843 – Platte County, MO

Death: February 28, 1911 – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 5 – Lot 2 – Block 069



Charles Herbert McLeod, 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 Mulroney Pitch, great granddaughter of C.H. McLeod, 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.

Birth: February 14, 1859 – New Brunswick, Canada

Death: September 5, 1946 (age 87) – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 5 - Lot 16 – Block 025



Jeannette Rankin, born and raised in the Missoula valley, graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor's degree in science, then earned a degree in social work. In 1914, Jeannette ran a successful grassroots campaign for the Montana constitutional amendment for Woman Suffrage, and in 1916, was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, three years before women had the right to vote.

Birth: June 11, 1880 - Missoula, MT

Death: May 18, 1973 (age 92) – Carmen, CA

Memorial location: Grave 5 - Lot 4 - Block 017



Mary Louise Pelkey Stringham holds the distinction of being the first female child of white parents born in Montana. She grew up during the territory's earliest days, entering her handiwork in the Western Montana Fair as a young woman, and later built a life of family and service. Mary also served as both the first and last postmaster of Cyr, Montana. She was resilient and exhibited true pioneer spirit.

Birth: August 7, 1862 – Gold Creek, MT

Death: November 10, 1922 – Mineral County, MT

Grave location: Grave 8 – Lot 128 – Block 063



Ella Stucky is remembered as the first public health nurse in Montana. Ella's 50-plus-year commitment to treating and preventing the spread of tuberculosis, not only saved numerous lives but also helped establish a city-county health department in Missoula, which is still in operation today. 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 and serving until 1946. This remarkable woman helped to shape the health and welfare of Montana with her dedication, knowledge, compassion, and engagement with her community.

Birth: November 2, 1887 – Tell City, IN

Death: November 11, 1979 (age 92) – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 4 – Lot 4 – Block 043



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.

Birth: January 6, 1853 – Marysville, CA

Death: June 15, 1919 (age 66) – Missoula, MT

Grave location: Grave 5 – Lot 15 – Block 026



Francis "Frank" Worden was a businessman, politician, and co-founder of Missoula, first called Wordensville. After early ventures in California and Oregon, he partnered with C.P. Higgins to establish trading posts, mills, and mercantile stores in several parts of Montana, laying much of the foundation for Missoula's growth. Active in politics and community development, he served in the Territorial Legislature, helped provide Missoula's first water system, and became the first chairman of the cemetery board. His death left behind his wife, Lucretia and their seven children.









Birth: October 15, 1830 – Marlboro, VT

Death: February 5, 1887 (age 56) – Missoula, MT











Grave location: Grave 4 – Lot 4 – Block 036










Previously Told Stories

Recordings can be found on MCAT's YouTube channel by scanning the QR Codes next to the name. QR Codes are also at each of these graves.

Map location	Name & Grave location	QR Code	Description
1	Alles, Jacob 6-12-44A		A German Russian who escaped the persecutions of the Russian monarchy by immigrating to America. Jacob persevered to successfully own and operate one of Missoula's first garbage services.
2	Bandmann, Daniel 2-17-023		A renowned Shakespearean theater actor who lived his life on and off the stage to its fullest dramatic potential. As a local rancher he was credited with horticulture milestones. Daniel's fortune, ranch, and reputation came crashing down alongside the stock market crash of 1893.
3	Beaman, Henry 6-4-053		Sheriff of Deadwood, South Dakota, friends with Calamity Jane and was represented in the HBO miniseries "Deadwood". He was a landowner and fireman who invented the fire towers much like the one used by the Forest Service today.
4	Bell, Harry Oscar "H.O." 7-15-23A		Bought the first Ford car dealership in Missoula in 1915. In 1929 he opened the first modern sales and service building on South Higgins Avenue. He was an avid aviation enthusiast and played a principal role in the development of Missoula's airport.
5	Bex, Forrest 4-4-14B		A colorful and legendary Missoula icon. Red was a self-proclaimed preacher on the streets of downtown Missoula known for his fiery preaching of hell, damnation, and love.
6	Bonner, Edward 2-5-055		Pioneer merchant, railroad baron, and lumber magnate; namesake of Bonners Ferry and Bonner County, Idaho; Bonner, Montana; and Bonner Park in Missoula.
7	Clark Sr., Wallace 7-3-056		Missoula Municipal Court Judge was known for his unique form of justice and interpretation of the law.
8	Daniels, Jerry 3-18-13A		The youngest smokejumper in Missoula's history and a CIA operative. Jerry lived and worked directly with the Hmong General Vang Pao to rescue Hmong refugees, many of which were brought to the Missoula and Bitterroot area.

9	Deschamps Family 5,6-6-15A		The Deschamps family was a prominent pioneer family of ranchers and politicians. The French Canadians homesteaded the Frenchtown area. The Deschamps family has played a prominent role in the growing and changing economy of the Missoula area.
10	Dickinson, William & Emma 7,8-3-27		William was one of Missoula's early Post Masters, Missoula's first photographer, a teacher, and businessman. Emma was the first teacher in Missoula who not only pioneered education in town, but also was required to live under very strict rules while she was the teacher.
11	Dixon, Joseph 2-2-036		Senator, and Montana's seventh governor. Joseph was a man before his time due to his far-reaching proposals in tax reform. He openly battled the giant copper companies who eventually ruined his political career.
12	Dukes, Josephine 3-10-033		One of Montana's women pioneers. It is said that she had the unique record of having lived in four states without having moved out of her original house. The four states were Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.
13	Effinger, Louis 8-14-004		Missoula farmer accused and convicted of Montana's harsh sedition laws of 1918.
14	Gibson, A. J. 6-12-26A		The Missoula architect who designed the Missoula County Courthouse, The University of Montana's Main Hall and many beautiful Missoula homes. Mr. and Mrs. Gibson's lives are remembered with unusual grave markers.
15	Hauge, Hakkon 4-45-063		An American railroad engineer and Norwegian immigrant made famous 97 years after his death. An exercise in psycho-genealogy led to a letter written to a dead man, a cryptic message etched on a cardboard token, and clues to the past.
16	Higgins, C. P. 1-2-051		A captain in the army, he worked on Indian treaty negotiations. He co-founded Missoula in 1862 and erected one of the first lumber mills in the vicinity. He was a bank president and helped build the Higgins block in downtown Missoula.
17	Hoon, Kirby Grant 8-1-002		An actor and Hollywood star known as "Sky King." From 1951-1962 Skyler King was an Arizona rancher-pilot who fought bad guys and rescued people in trouble using his airplane, 'Songbird.' Hoon did little acting after the show but bought and traveled with the Carson and Barnes circus.

18	Japanese Railroad Workers Block 009		Between the years 1880-1920 about 2,000 Japanese men came to Missoula to work, sending their paychecks back home to support their families. The men buried here were all railroad workers who died on the job.
19	Jones, James 5-7-061		Sole survivor of the 1878 Rock Creek massacre, prospector, fighter, freighter, and pioneer.
20	Kogan, Joseph 1-8-11B		A Jewish immigrant who Survived Stalin's purges, two years hiding as an escaped prisoner, suspicion as a spy, three years as a refugee, and undergoing hardships of rebuilding his life and career in a new country. As an engineer he brought many new improvements that are utilized today.
21	LaShell, J. H. 6-7-004		A wealthy man and elected official in the small town of Lothrop, Montana. John, known for his love of liquor and malicious temper, was murdered by his wife who claimed self-defense and was exonerated from all charges.
22	Lehsou, John 2-5-045		A German immigrant who made his fortune in mining claims in the Garnet Mountain Range, a stage line operator, postmaster of Beartown, a Missoula ranch owner, and Vice-President of Western National Bank.
23	Maclean, Clara 4-4-058		Prominent minister's wife and mother of Norman MacLean, author of "A River Runs Through It." Clara was the rock that held the family together, an advocate for mission work, and the silent leader of the church.
24	Martin, John 4-20-01D		A member of the elite paratrooper group, Company E of the 101 st Airborne. His life story was re-told in the HBO mini-series "Band of Brothers." After the war, he formed his own construction company and became a prominent builder throughout Arizona and Missoula.
25	McCullough, George 7-5-070		A pioneer doctor credited with early research and cure of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.
26	Moon – Randolph Homestead 7,8-10-064		The Moon-Randolph Homestead consists of 470 acres in Missoula Montana's North Hills. The homestead was purchased by the City of Missoula in 1996 as part of Open Space. Caretakers are employed to maintain, protect, and educate the public while continuing to actively work the homestead. Public trail systems access the property.
27	Mott, Leah 5-6-053		The Mott's built a successful laundry business, unfortunately, Mr. Mott took to alcohol and developed a drug addiction. This ultimately led to Mr. Mott murdering his wife, Leah, and orphaning four children.

28	O'Keefe, Anna 2-10-037		A descendant of Scottish royalty, she married an infamous Missoula baron only to be shocked by her new "palace."
29	Paxson, Edgar 2-1-061		In his early years he was a scout, guide and telegraph line walker in the west. His many encounters with Native Americans gave him many of the images and themes for his later paintings, several of which hang in the Missoula County Courthouse.
30	Peterson, Nels 2-22-09A		Sheet metal worker by trade but musician at heart as a long-standing tuba player for Missoula City Band.
31	Polson, David 7-1-027		The city of Polson was named after this pioneer rancher.
32	Schnitzmeyer, Herman 4-1-54A		A photographer who captured the homesteading and development of the Flathead Valley and the railroad infrastructure. Herman was a recluse and eccentric. Although once renowned for his photography, he died penniless and was buried at county expense. Today, his work is resurfacing as pictorial history masterpieces.
33	Seadin, Nels 4-7-16A		A Swedish immigrant who was a pioneering family of Garnet, Montana. He worked hard as a miner and retired as postmaster. The Seadin family were prominent in the history of the people in Garnet.
34	Stepanzoff, Josephine 4-4-02A		The daughter of a German baker who brought his family to America in premonition of WWI, Josephine was a founding member of the International Students Club at the University of Montana.
35	The Wilma Theater 5-7-27A		The Wilma Theatre's ornate architecture and colorful past keep this historic landmark alive.
36	Trautwein, August 3-4-002		A murdered German Russian immigrant.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Missoula City Cemetery wishes to acknowledge all the volunteers who make this event possible. Storytellers truly make history come to life! Please take the time to thank each of those storytellers who believe in making history fun.

Presenters. This event is made possible because of the many individuals who volunteer to tell the histories of individuals, families, or local history. Each of the individuals named in this guidebook is essential for providing this service to the public. Our hats go off to each of you and a HUGE thank you!

Stories and Stones Workgroup – For not only their dedication to keeping Stories and Stones a relevant program year after year, but for assisting staff with direction, program format and new ideas.

Cemetery

Board of Directors – For the enthusiasm and commitment to this program.

Staff – For their hard work putting this event together and their commitment to showcasing this beautiful cemetery for the public. The cemetery staff is very dedicated to creating a beautiful, peaceful, and respectful park setting as a final resting place for families.

Film and Photography

Ron Scholl – MCAT – For filming the event. Watch the MCAT public television channel during November and December to view re-runs of the programs presented here today. Or, contact MCAT to request special free re-runs of shows.

YouTube – MCAT has posted all available video presentations on their YouTube channel. Videos include individual presentations and the one-time tours of Missoula County Sheriffs and Missoula Mayors. Search for: Stories and Stones.

Vicki Correia. Since 2003, she has donated photos of this event for cemetery advertising purposes. Her personal photos have been published in several magazines, including *Montana Magazine*, as note cards and postcards for Travelers' Rest State Park, and she has her own line of note cards for sale in a number of local businesses under the name of Montana Magic Photography.

Food Vendor

Y'All Scream Ice Cream Truck

Services

Sweet Pea Sewer and Septic - Providing portable toilet facilities.