

# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the Stevens Historical Research Associates Newsletter. We've had some exciting changes happen at SHRA over the last few months, and we've been looking for ways to share updates and news with our clients, colleagues and friends. In addition to this newsletter, we also launched our new website last year, [www.shraboise.com](http://www.shraboise.com), where we periodically blog, and you can also find us on Facebook by searching for the "Stevens Historical Research Associates" page.

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## SHRA BUSINESS NEWS

### OFFICE MOVE:

Business has been brisk, and we realized that our cozy office space was getting just plain cramped. Luckily, we found a lovely office suite in our building, and we moved in early March. You shouldn't see any disruption in our services to you, but we do ask you to update our address in your files:

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### NEW OFFICE MANAGER:

In October 2010, we added an office manager to our ranks. Jill Johnson has taken on some of the administrative tasks for our clients and business, allowing our historians to stay focused on their research and analysis. Jill previously worked for the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer, living and working in Washington, DC, Mexico, Canada, Ireland and Ecuador before settling down in Boise.

### 2010 WRAP-UP:

2010 was a year of growth for SHRA as well as the wrap-up of some exciting projects. Early in the year, we were hired to author the City of Boise's new Historic Preservation Plan, which had not been updated since the original was written in 1979. We focused the new plan on integrating Boise City Historic Preservation policies with the City's sustainability goals and policies in its new Comprehensive Plan. Both the Comprehensive Plan and the Historic Preservation plan are currently in the public review process. Aside from the planning work, it is probably not surprising that many of our research projects in 2010 focused on mining history in the West and the history of access to various mining claims. With the rise in gold prices in the recent past, many citizens and corporations are anxious to re-activate their claims. Such work constituted about 50% of our projects this past year, and we are actively working on such issues in the states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Additionally, Jennifer Stevens, principal of SHRA, taught an upper-division Environmental History class and an Urban History workshop at Boise State last spring, as well as co-teaching a Continuing Legal Education class on Roads and Access law with attorneys Chris Meyer from Givens Pursley (Boise) and Paul Turke from Moore, Smith, Buxton and Turke (Boise). The class will be offered again this summer. Associate Anna Bailey is currently on leave from SHRA as she teaches a class on Native American History at Boise State this spring. We are looking forward to her return.

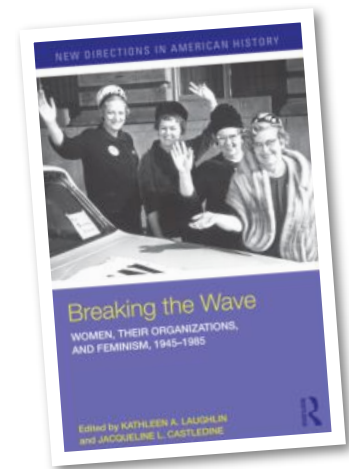
**Upcoming Event: National Business Institute Seminar "Road and Easement Law from A to Z,"**  
**Wednesday, July 27. Both Continuing Legal Education and AIA credit will be offered. More**  
**information is available at: [www.nbi-sems.com](http://www.nbi-sems.com).**



## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

SHRA is a full - service historical research firm with special expertise on land use and water history relating to environmental disputes. Our historians and researchers, led by Jennifer A. Stevens, Ph.D., conduct primary archival research to illuminate and analyze a wide range of historical and legal issues for corporate and government clients, as well as individuals. Our clients often request analysis and full reports, although we can also provide basic document collection. We begin with the archival material and provide critical interpretation of that material in our reports. We also provide expert witness services for our clients when needed. SHRA can meet all of your historical research needs.

Dr. Jennifer A. Stevens, Principal of SHRA, authored an essay in a book that was released last Fall by Routledge called ***Breaking the Wave: Women, Their Organizations, and Feminism, 1945-1985***. Dr. Stevens' essay details the role of Portland, Oregon's League of Women Voters in the debate over that State's famous land use laws in the early 1960s. She argues that women's role in these discussions over proper development and the conservation of open space has been overlooked by scholars' focus on big names like Governor Tom McCall. In fact, the League was critical to bringing the question of regional land use, compact cities, and urban growth boundaries to the public and advocating for a new way of looking at urban growth.



*Available from Amazon.com*

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### ARCHIVE ARCHAEOLOGY - "FROM THE FOREST TO THE OFFICE"

A great number of SHRA projects over the past few years have involved research about our country's National Forests, many of which are currently engaged in litigation over access or aging facilities. The overall history of our National Forests is the history of our land and also our American culture. The manner in which forest protection and management has evolved tells us an immense amount about our culture's changing values. Specifically, SHRA has researched the history of the Payette, Challis, Weiser, Idaho, and Nez Perce National Forests in Idaho, as well as the Wallowa-Whitman in Oregon and others in Washington in recent months. Each case has involved fairly narrow historical questions about natural resource use, such as whether certain ditches were present at a specific time, and if so, how large they were, or similar questions about roads and mines. While researching the narrowly constructed questions, SHRA has provided additional value because of our knowledge of the agency's history and how its mission fits into the larger story of America's natural resource history. In particular, we have found the agency's Land Classification Atlases to be a rich repository of maps and reports that the agency created each time a new forest was designated. The collection provides land records for many very remote areas of the western United States that in some cases remain unsurveyed by the U.S. Geological Survey even today. The creation of these Atlases, which classified lands within the reserves as to their potential agricultural value, underscored Americans' concerns over the government "tying up" agricultural lands in the reserves. The Forest Atlases fit into the larger story of American leaders' efforts to produce a nation of farmers. Congress's passage of the 1906 Forest Homestead law resulted from the Forest Service's discovery during land classification efforts that some land (albeit a small percentage) within the reserves possessed agricultural potential. The re-opening of these agricultural lands to privatization resulted in small plots being patented to individuals. These plots still exist today as small inholdings that are extremely valuable. Many are inaccessible except by small planes, while others are embroiled in litigation because the government wants to close the only roads that lead to these private properties. The use of the Forest Atlases has been instrumental in establishing the presence of historic landmarks in all of these disputes, where historical research continues to play a valuable role.

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### HISTORY IN THE NEWS

I was recently at a dinner party where the subject of the American Revolution came up. One adult mentioned sheepishly that she had no idea what year America gained independence from Britain. Unfortunately, she is not alone. Professional historians are very concerned with proposed funding cuts facing educators today. In particular, the entire U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History program is proposed for being de-funded at a time when our country needs to strengthen its cultural heritage through a shared understanding of our common past. If you are interested in helping historians save this important part of American education, please visit [www.historycoalition.org](http://www.historycoalition.org) to find out additional information. - *Jennifer Stevens*