

Beyond the Archives

How can historians present 100+ years of historical data and figures that both visually and cogently articulate an issue with only a few words? SHRA's historians have endeavored to perfect an answer to this question. To create the best deliverables for our broad clientele, we have attended workshops and conferences, some specifically in the "digital humanities," to ensure that our work products utilize cutting edge tools. SHRA isn't alone. Professional history organizations are attuned to the truly vast market for the historian's skills in the public arena.

In many ways, the practice of history has changed dramatically in the past 15 years. Most of us have bid farewell – thankfully! – to the index cards and photocopies of yore. Computers, database software, and digital source conversion have taken their place, and SHRA is a longstanding and grateful user of these tools. Nevertheless, some historical methods have remained unchanged. Despite some digitization efforts, the need to travel to archives to conduct research in original documents remains a necessity, a concept that still stumps those who want to believe you can find anything on the Internet.

The recent willingness of historians to stretch outside their comfort zone and explore new ways to present information through digital media has been significant. One of our staff historians, Stephanie Milne-Lane, recently attended a Technology and Humanities Camp (THATCamp), a one-day event featuring a room full of historians discussing the potential of new digital platforms. Stephanie came back with a long list of tools and examples that will serve our clients well, including Time Mapper, an online platform that allows users to create and publish engaging timelines. Stephanie is also enrolling this fall at the University of Washington's online Master in Library and Information Science. Our whole team is looking forward to learning about new tools and approaches from Stephanie's continuing education.

Some of you know that we *have* deployed digital tools in past reports. We have collaborated with GIS (Geographic Information System) professionals to produce outstanding maps. Now, however, we hope to offer some of that expertise ourselves. Staff historian HannaLore Hein is learning the details of Google Earth and getting conversant in GIS. SHRA is not planning to be its own GIS shop, but we are hoping to gain a technical and theoretical understanding of GIS that will help us collaborate with our clients on projects and deliverables.

I am heartened by our profession's recent embrace of the client-facing historical research in which SHRA is engaged. The National Endowment for the Humanities is now offering substantial grants to universities that are reforming their graduate-level history curriculums in order to better prepare students for work outside of a university. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in these efforts at the University of Washington, where we recently submitted a groundbreaking proposal that would grant one graduate student the funding to come to SHRA's offices to observe how a historical consulting business operates.

All in all, it's an exciting time to be a historian and to see the ways that our profession is embracing collaboration and new technologies. In the past four years, SHRA has grown into a dynamic and innovative team, and I invite you to learn more about Stephanie and HannaLore on the next page.



SHRA's research was the basis for the on-line multimedia celebration of Idaho Power's centenary. www.idahopower.com/100years

- Jennifer Stevens

Stephanie Milne-Lane graduated Summa Cum Laude from Eastern Washington University with a BA in History. She also holds an MA in Applied Historical Research from Boise State University. Stephanie has researched at multiple branches of the National Archives and The Huntington Library. She is an experienced researcher and document analyst in natural resources, land use, water rights, navigability, and mining history. While at SHRA, Stephanie has collaborated on several expert reports that have been used in litigation and in nominating potential responsible parties (PRPs) on CERCLA sites. Additionally, she was key to SHRA's work on Idaho Power's Centennial, where in addition to research, writing, and photograph selection, she managed the collection of oral history interviews. Stephanie is a devoted proponent of making history available to the general public, and has presented several public lectures on various history topics and is a member of the Boise City Arts & History Advisory Team (AHAT), which provides input for the Boise City Department of Arts & History's projects through review panels and special project teams.



Stephanie Milne-Lane
Project Manager and
Researcher



HannaLore Hein
Research Historian

HannaLore Hein graduated Magna Cum Laude in History from the University of Colorado-Boulder with a Certificate in Western American Studies. She earned an MA in Applied Historical Research from Boise State University. At BSU, HannaLore was an inaugural member of Venture College, an independent program aimed at teaching students entrepreneurial skills in a real world environment. HannaLore has researched in numerous federal record groups: Federal Trade Commission; Bureau of Reclamation; Alien Property Custodian; and, the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition to federal collections, she has researched in various manuscript collections at the Idaho State Archives and Special Collections and Archives at UN-Reno and Boise State. HannaLore became a reader at the Huntington Library and researched in their rare books and manuscript collections, as well as the collections at the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. Her research has thoroughly prepared her to analyze and dissect documents and to craft abstracts, summaries, and draft reports. She is also adept at writing for a public audience and collaborates on SHRA's public history projects.



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Map courtesy of ppt-toolkit.com

SHRA is currently working in:

California, New Mexico,
Nevada, Washington,
Texas, Oklahoma, North
Dakota and Idaho

History in the Making

- Check out www.idahopower.com/100years to view SHRA's research to commemorate Idaho Power's centenary. The traveling museum exhibit will be displayed at the Discovery Center in Boise this summer.
- Over the winter, our team traveled to California to conduct research at the famous Huntington and Bancroft Libraries.
- This spring, Dr. Stevens presented work on the Boise River Basin as part of a panel of historians at the American Society for Environmental History conference; spoke to graduate students about careers outside of the academy at UC Davis; and was re-appointed to Boise's Planning and Zoning Commission by the mayor.
- Stephanie Milne-Lane now serves on the Boise City Arts and History Advisory Team, which is dedicated to civic events that celebrate this capital city's traditions.
- HannaLore Hein is a new member of the Boise State Alumni Association Board of Directors.

SHRA is currently combing the records of:

The Theodore Roosevelt Center in North Dakota, banking records in California, and Nevada mining records.