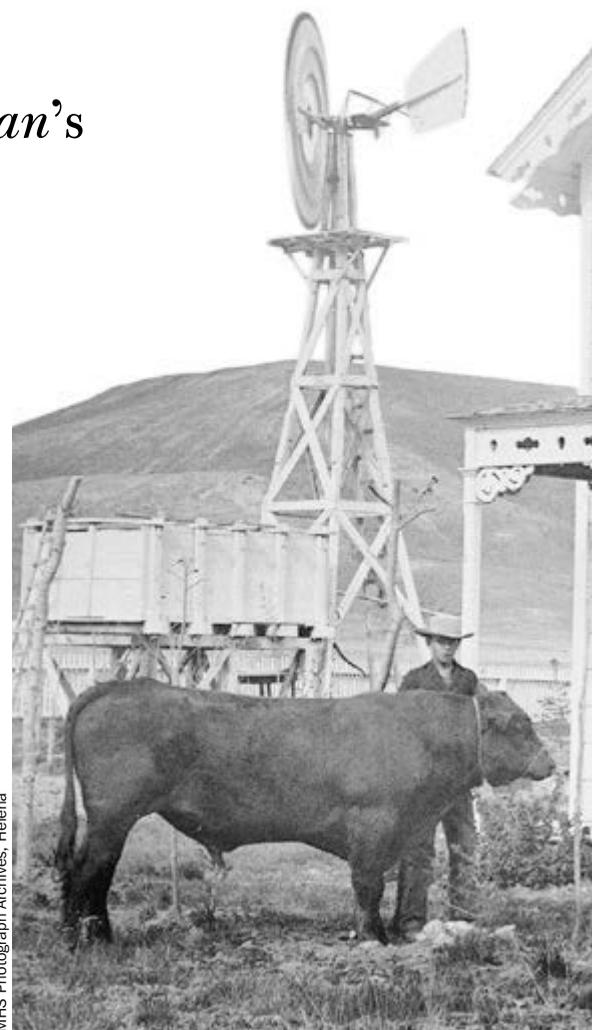


‘With no companion but her horse’

The *Rocky Mountain Husbandman’s*
Traveling Correspondents
Anna Kline and
Carolyn A. Murphy,
1889–1904

by **FRANK R. GRANT**

As a correspondent for the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, Anna Kline and her successor Carolyn A. Murphy traveled the state to report on the experiments and experiences of Montana’s rural families and to promote the progressive agricultural practices they believed would secure a bright future for the state’s rural population. Each woman routinely described the pride Montana farmers and ranchers took in their operations. This view, simply stamped “Canyon Ferry No. 1,” reveals little about the ranch or the individuals’ identities but much about the value ascribed to the house and livestock on display.



MHS Photograph Archives, Helena

“We have employed Miss J. A. Kline to travel for this paper and she leaves to-day on a tour of the territory and will endeavor to visit every farmer, stockgrower and fine stock breeder in Montana. . . . Miss Kline is a lady of fine ability, a good writer, an excellent judge of fine stock; is always jolly and lighthearted; and her ‘Notes by the Way’ will provide an interesting feature of our paper;” wrote Robert Sutherlin, editor of the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, on April 11, 1889.¹





Anna Kline (above, circa 1887)

Since the *Husbandman's* beginnings in 1875, Sutherlin had sent representatives, usually his brother, William H. Sutherlin, across Montana Territory to sell subscriptions and to report on farming, ranching, mining, and commercial ventures for the pioneering agricultural journal. This strategy had been successful. Although located in White Sulphur Springs in sparsely settled Meagher County, the *Husbandman* was one of the most highly circulated weeklies in Montana Territory. Julia Anna Kline, who went by “Anna,” would be Montana’s first traveling female newspaper representative, covering the territory as far as Fort Benton to the north, Flathead Lake to the west, Dillon to the south, and Lewistown in 1889, 1890, and 1892. A decade later, Sutherlin employed Carolyn A. Murphy, Kline’s close friend, to represent the newspaper. Each summer between 1899 and 1904, Murphy extended the *Husbandman's* contacts, visiting farms and ranches from the Tongue River to Flathead Lake and from the Bitterroot Valley to the Milk River.² Enthusiastic advocates of rural life, Kline and Murphy chronicled the experiments and experiences of Montana’s rural families and promoted agricultural practices they believed would secure a bright future for the state’s rural population.³ Kline

and Murphy also showed rural women as active participants in developing Montana’s agricultural resources—the women they described enthusiastically managed livestock, owned their own brands and businesses, marketed produce, organized community institutions, nurtured families, and promoted cultural interests.⁴

Anna Kline’s and Carolyn Murphy’s columns paint a portrait of rural Montana quite different from that in traditional histories, which identify nineteenth-century Montana agriculture with the range-cattle industry and its tragic climax in the hard winter of 1886–87. These works associate the farming frontier with the ill-fated dryland homesteading experiment lasting from 1906 to the mid-1920s. As a result, they provide only a superficial understanding of the farmers and ranchers who experimented with irrigation, varied crops, new cultivation methods, and diverse breeds of cattle, horses, and sheep prior to 1900. In contrast, the writings of Anna Kline and Carolyn Murphy show the gradual, adaptive, and experimental efforts of the state’s agriculturalists, revealing the origins of progressive agriculture at the end of the nineteenth century.⁵

Born in 1859, Anna Kline left her home in Ohio and settled in the Townsend-Radersburg area in the early 1880s, staying for some time in Bedford with a Mrs. Birch, “a mother to several of us girls who have come to the country and stopped at this point and have been very hospitably received by her.”⁶ Unconventional, small in stature, and quick witted, Kline lived with a sense of adventure and curiosity. We do not know what inspired her to move to Montana, but her enthusiasm for the state indicates she thought it to be a land of opportunity.

Exploring the possibilities in her new home, Kline tried several jobs. She lived on a ranch near Radersburg, where she learned to work with livestock, especially horses. By the fall of 1885, she had moved to White Sulphur Springs, where she taught school at a salary of seventy-five dollars a month. She later taught at Fort Logan and other country schools in Meagher County. In addition to teaching, Kline operated a fruit and confectionary business with H. H. Barnes in White Sulphur Springs. As “a popular business woman in our town,” Kline was, in Robert Sutherlin’s



Robert Sutherlin and his brother William started the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman* in Diamond City in 1875 and moved offices to White Sulphur Springs four years later. The newspaper became one of the most highly circulated weeklies in Montana Territory. Its staff, posed here in 1886, included (from left to right) compositor “Tar Heel” Jim Stephens, printer’s devil Albert Hunt, associate editor William H. Sutherlin, compositors Ben D. Gardner and Alex Wright, and editor Robert N. Sutherlin.



Kline came to Montana in the 1880s and by fall 1885 had moved to White Sulphur Springs to teach school for a salary of seventy-five dollars per month. White Sulphur Springs teachers and their pupils posed in 1886 for this photograph with their newly built schoolhouse. Kline is the teacher standing third from the right.



Kline's job with the *Husbandman* took her to the agricultural communities throughout the valleys of western Montana. One visit was with the Barrows family at the Ubet stage stop in June 1890, where Mrs. Barrows had "fitted up splendid hen houses with modern conveniences for running the business properly." Ubet is pictured above on July 4, 1886.

estimation, an ideal candidate for the position of newspaper representative. He hired her in 1889.⁷

As Anna Kline visited farms, ranches, and towns beginning that spring, she recorded her observations and sent them to the *Husbandman* office. The "Notes by the Way," which Sutherlin published with minimal editing, constitute a farm-by-farm account of Montana agriculture, as illustrated by Kline's first visit to the Missouri Valley in 1889. There she noted Thomas Neld planting oats and wheat, Joseph Patterson setting out trees, and that James Jobb had built a mill at Bedford to grind local wheat. Farther south, the Sherlock brothers were cutting a ditch to take water from Crow Creek, and Huntley and Clark raised fine horses at their ranch near Toston. Kline continued the detailed descriptions as she traveled through the Boulder, Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin valleys. Her witty personality showed from the first. In her June 6 column, Kline wrote she had seen plowing, harrowing, rolling, and irrigating in "monstrous fields where the men are at work, but I managed first rate to get over, through and under the barb wire fences to [reach] where they are and in many places leave samples of my dress and coat."⁸

Kline was not an impartial observer, and in keeping with Sutherlin's editorial policies she held out

hope that "farming is going to be the leading industry of Montana by and by." In particular, she sought evidence that ranchers were taking measures to prevent stock losses like those incurred during the hard winter of 1886–87. When Kline noted small creeks of central Montana had run dry due to a "raging drouth" in 1889, she cautioned livestock owners: "Better sell and take half of what [the cattle] are worth than have them starve to death in winter, as they did three years ago." Hayfields of timothy and alfalfa, irrigation works, fenced range, up-to-date farm homes, winter feeding, and purebred cattle, horses, and sheep were signs of improved farming methods and indicated people were "fixin to stay in the country." Kline seconded editor Sutherlin's position that it was a mistake to encourage the settlement of homesteads without irrigation. When J. A. MacKnight, editor of the *Great Falls Leader*, asked her if the *Husbandman* was converted to the nonirrigating system, Kline responded: "No. Non-irrigation has proved a detriment to the country this year and if those who raised twenty bushels of wheat to the acre could have irrigated, they would have reaped a harvest of two-thirds more."⁹

Kline included many descriptions of women who worked alongside men in building farms and ranches, and she made a point of identifying women who were

successful doing what was considered a man's job. Mrs. S. D. Molton, "a lady of excellent ability and judgment," and O. M. Sweet managed their own ranches near Sheridan. Mrs. Rentchlers, who operated a farm near Springhill with her three children, was as successful in growing crops and maintaining fences as her male neighbors. Nearby, Lizzie Bennett managed her own farm and then helped her friends. Kline sympathized with woman suffragists. After a pleasant visit in the South Boulder River area with Lavina Cooley, "a lady of the most excellent ability and especially enthusiastic on the subject of woman's rights," Kline wrote: "I need not tell you I wanted to stay longer." She also sold Cooley a subscription.¹⁰

Kline thought of herself as an capable and self-reliant woman, and she appreciated other such women, in particular those who were competent with livestock, especially horses. As a high compliment, she wrote: "Miss Mitchell, at G. W. Parker's Sheep Ranch between Belt and Benton, knows all about taking care of a horse as well as myself." After spending the night at the home of Mrs. T. B. Elliot and her daughter in the Deer Lodge Valley, Kline noted, "Miss Elliot is a young lady 'after my own heart,' independent and

a rustler. When she wants her team for a day's outing she goes and gets it. [Miss Elliott] says: 'if I had to depend on the men I never would have any fun.'"¹¹

Others agreed with Kline's self-assessment. Sutherlin reprinted comments by editors from the towns Anna visited. "[Kline] is a bright, active, winning young lady" who "drives a fine roadster of her own, and skips along our valley boulevards like a prize yacht in a spanking breeze," wrote Van Fisk, editor of the *Townsend Tranchant*. For his part, the editor of the *Fergus County Argus* added: "[Kline] drives a splendid bay horse . . . and is as much at home with the reins as the most pretentious jehu. . . . She carries a couple of 'shooting irons' . . . which on occasion she used to shoot a grouse or prairie chicken." When asked if she was afraid she might be arrested for shooting birds out of season, she had replied: "No, Judge Blake has decided that a woman is not a 'person' in the meaning of the law, so she doesn't see how she could be prosecuted." According to one editor, Kline was as comfortable with miners as she was with shepherders and cowboys. Legend also had it that as a schoolteacher Anna carried a quirt in the classroom to maintain discipline.¹²

F. Jay Haynes, photographer, Haynes Fnd. Coll., MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, H-3121



The *Husbandman* strongly encouraged Montanans to develop irrigation projects and supported the efforts of the National Irrigation Congress to gain federal aid for irrigation. This 1894 view of an irrigated Tongue River farm shows the agricultural possibilities of eastern Montana's dry lands when additional water became available.

Kline described life on the road as a series of adventures. She stayed and ate at stage stops, road ranches, and hotels when available, but she often took advantage of Montana hospitality and spent the night at the closest farm or ranch. Caught in a rainstorm in the Ruby Valley, Kline drove into a corral “where the gate had been left open for my convenience, I thought.” She unhitched the buggy, pulled it under a shed, put her horse, Barr, in the stable, and went to the house to inquire where she was. The young lady who answered the door informed Kline she was at John Donegan’s place and invited her to stay for the night. The Donegan girls prepared a “sumptuous repast,” and Kline stayed to see Donegan’s fine horses the next morning.¹³ In another instance, while she was considering where she would eat lunch in the “barren and pretty well sun-dried country” near Melville, two men came by with a load of wool. They invited her to

eat lunch with them, and they had a good meal under her big umbrella. “For further particulars about our good time,” she informed her readers, “inquire of Mr. Gildart and Mr. McConnell.” On another day, arriving at Point of Rocks in the Beaverhead Valley near dusk, she noted the swallows and their thousands of mud nests on the cliffs: “The picturesque scenery and the quiet surroundings were appreciated and I shall not soon forget the place.” She camped there overnight. In a letter to his editor published a few weeks later, the traveling agent for the Virginia City *Madisonian* reported, “At Point of Rocks I met Miss J. A. Kline, the enterprising agent of the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*—and we went fishing. At least Miss Kline did—she caught the fish and I caught the grasshoppers.”¹⁴

Kline was salesperson as well as reporter. She noted in her column the readers who paid their

John Berkin, photographer, MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, 940-856



On her travels, Kline enjoyed the hospitality of farm families. In April 1889, she camped on Benjamin Bembrick’s ranch on Spring Creek, near Townsend. Various family members and friends are pictured in this view of the Bembrick home, including Mrs. Bembrick (second seated woman from left); Dock Bembrick (standing, in white shirt and suspenders); and Lizzie Wilson (standing, to right of column), who would host Kline on Warm Springs Creek.

bills, new subscribers to the paper, and patrons who helped her by identifying new farmers in the area. In Townsend, Mr. Leonhardie and Lee Sterling, “both prompt with their cash, . . . paid up the old subscriptions and commenced anew.” Near Radersburg, Kline called upon an old friend, A. Macomber, “who has been very kind to let other neighbors take his paper to read.” Kline thought she had “put a stop to that” by selling subscriptions to five of them. “Under her careful supervision our subscription list is increasing steadily,” wrote Sutherlin, “and we feel confident that the day is not distant when the subscription list . . . will double that of any weekly in Montana.”¹⁵

Other editors observed Kline’s salesmanship with envy. “She has the reputation of being the best [newspaper] rustler in the territory,” commented the *Helena Independent*. The *Northwest Tribune* in the Bitterroot Valley complimented the *Husbandman*: “The Sutherlin Bros. have an eye to business in sending such an ardent true worker to the fireside of their patrons. Her horse never stops at a saloon for a driver to get a drink, boys, and probably waste the best part of the day at a game of chance or pool. . . . [Miss Kline] has probably seen more of [the Bitterroot Valley] than a majority of its inhabitants, who have been here for years, during the short time she has been in it.”¹⁶

By the mid-1890s, however, Anna Kline had grown tired of life as a traveling correspondent—or maybe she simply saw greater opportunity elsewhere. In February 1893, she became the White Sulphur Springs assistant postmistress and ran for the position of county superintendent of schools in 1894 but lost 736 to 721. She returned to teaching and then was appointed postmistress at White Sulphur Springs, a position she held from 1898 to 1907. Kline later moved to Laurel and entered the mercantile business. In 1932, she returned to Ohio, where she died in 1942 at age eighty-three.¹⁷

During her time as a correspondent, Anna Kline had generated good will and revenue for the *Husbandman*. Both would be sorely needed during the following decade as the newspaper and its owners weathered the vicissitudes of Montana’s economy and politics. Robert Sutherlin had invested heavily in White Sulphur Springs, building a brick office for the paper in 1886 and pouring money into the construction and operation of a theater known as the Auditorium starting in 1892. With the collapse

of silver mining and the Panic of 1893, all sectors of the state’s economy, including agriculture, suffered losses. In addition, Meagher County was reduced in size by the creation of Cascade, Broadwater, and Sweet Grass counties. Sutherlin’s dreams of economic development around White Sulphur Springs failed to materialize.

The Sutherlin brothers, who had always envisioned the *Husbandman* as a statewide rather than local paper, responded to their White Sulphur problems with renewed commitment to promoting agriculture across Montana. Between 1892 and 1899, they sent out representatives George Scott, Ed Clark, and J. H. Bridges to report on agricultural conditions. They vigorously advocated for the agricultural experiment station and Montana Agricultural College at Bozeman, and they promoted Farmers’ Institutes throughout the state. Robert used the paper’s editorial page to urge Montanans to develop irrigation projects, and he supported the efforts of the National Irrigation Congress to gain federal aid for irrigation. A skilled marketer, Will Sutherlin assisted in preparing Montana’s agricultural exhibit for the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. In 1897, Governor Robert Smith appointed Sutherlin vice president in charge of the Montana exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to be held in Omaha in 1898.

To help organize the Omaha educational exhibit, Will Sutherlin selected Carolyn A. Murphy, a Livingston teacher. A native of Muscoda, Wisconsin, Murphy had moved to Montana in the 1880s, and her friend Anna Kline had introduced her to the Sutherlin brothers; in 1896, the *Husbandman* published some of Murphy’s poetry. Impressed with her preparations for Omaha and her knowledge of farming, love for Montana, and literary ability, Robert Sutherlin asked Murphy to travel on behalf of the struggling paper. In introducing Murphy to the readers, he commended her as “a lady of fine literary ability [who could] write intelligently of the farms, livestock, and crops throughout the state.” He also reminded his readers that since the *Husbandman* had been “scathed by the fires of time,” she would be “gathering a few shekels to keep the ponderous machine moving.”¹⁸

Murphy relished the opportunity to promote farming in Montana. “Probably no one more interested in the development of our land than myself has ever traveled its mountains and valleys,” she wrote. “I

When Carolyn Murphy took over as the *Husbandman's* correspondent, she continued to promote farming in Montana. She especially advocated diversifying by adding poultry and fruit orchards to the more common livestock operations. In this 1909 photograph of the McMillan's "dry" farm east of Great Falls, young apple and plum trees grow alongside vegetables in the garden.



MHS Photograph Archives, Helena

am thoroughly and entirely in sympathy with the tiller of the soil." Then, in Jeffersonian terms, she added: "There is no life so free and independent, no other occupation where man gets so near to nature's heart, nowhere else can one see so much of God's handiwork as when tilling the soil or caring for the flocks and herds which abound in our own mountain land." And Murphy used her column not only to promote improved farming but to encourage the educational, aesthetic, and cultural interests of Montana's rural population. She also had a sense of history, pleading with the pioneers to write their reminiscences and to deposit them with the Historical Society of Montana.¹⁹

Murphy advocated diversified farming, urging the *Husbandman's* patrons to plant orchards and noting successful fruit growers such as the Dallman Nursery in Missoula and the Chilcote Nursery on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone. But whether one raised cattle, sheep, grain, hay, poultry, or fruit, Murphy insisted a secure water supply was essential to successful farming. She praised such farmers' cooperative irrigation efforts as the Tongue River Project and enthusiastically projected a vision of what the Milk River Valley would be like when the federal irrigation project there was completed. "Irrigation is Montana's great safe-guard," she concluded.²⁰

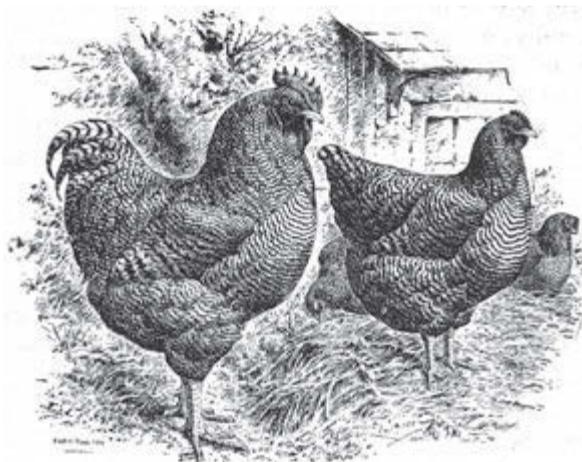
Although most of Murphy's descriptions of farm activities were organized around conventional gender roles, she also portrayed rural women as pragmatic

in assuming traditional "outside" responsibilities. Near Laurel, she reported that Mrs. Hill and her children had mowed and raked the hay (but hired the stacking done). "That is a pretty good account of a woman's energy and perseverance," Murphy thought, and she enjoyed meeting "so progressive a woman." Mrs. Lyon, a widow with small children, was "an example of what a woman can do in Montana." Lyon had recently built a new home near Drummond and owned a fine herd of Durham cattle and a large band of good horses. Mrs. W. L. Fuller, in the Madison Valley, was "one of the progressive women of this state who can manage the farm and home both." She marketed dairy products and raised hay, grain, Poland China hogs, and "Waukesha" horses. After her husband died, Mrs. C. V. Jackson, one of the progressive, "wide awake" women near Pony, assumed management of the ranch, where she raised grain, cattle, horses, hay, and a flock of fine chickens.²¹

Murphy complimented women who initiated businesses, no matter how small, and encouraged women to enter the marketplace. Poultry created the most promising commercial opportunity (eggs and butter could be sold at the local store or shipped to the larger markets in Butte and Great Falls). After being told by Mrs. Bowman in the Madison Valley that her Brown Leghorns paid the debts and mortgage, Murphy concluded that "nothing else on the farm pays as well as the humble hen." Mrs. William Luce, at Conrad, had a fine flock of poultry that proved

For the October 4, 1900, *Hubandman*, Murphy lauded Mrs. Hood, who, like many farm women, had a fine flock of Plymouth Rocks on the Hood ranch near Lavina. In Murphy's July 16, 1903, column, she observed that Mrs. R. L. Peters on Big Timber Creek specialized in Plymouth Rocks for eggs. When Mr. Peters saw that there was profit in eggs and fryers, the couple determined to enlarge their flock. The chickens at right are Plymouth Rocks.

F. S. Cooley, ed., "Poultry Keeping on the Farm," *Seventh Annual Report of the Montana Farmers' Institute*, no. 3, 1909, p. 61



"the hen does her share of the work as well as the cow." Mrs. E. S. Banty, at her "poultry paradise" near Carbonado, kept Brown Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, and Brown Leghorns that "supplied the family with groceries, eggs and meat all summer." Near Ferguson, Mrs. William N. Bowman's Brown Leghorns earned about twelve dollars a week. "Her house is beautifully furnished and it has all been done with eggs." Where the market warranted, women like Mrs. Huntley of Riverside Ranch near Toston went into the poultry business on a large scale. Carolyn described in detail the poultry houses at Riverside Ranch where 2,400 eggs were incubated at a time.²²

But Montana's enterprising rural women need not confine themselves to the poultry yard. Mrs. McElwain on the Blackfoot River not only owned a splendid flock of poultry but a fine herd of cattle bore her brand. Near Stevensville, Mrs. McGee, on a 120-acre farm, had an orchard that was just beginning to bear and would soon be a source of good income to add to her honey and beef money. On Grayson Creek near Townsend, Mrs. Katie Ramspeck, "one of the most enterprising women in the state," raised splendid vegetables, marketed butter, made sauerkraut, and had a fine young orchard of 150 trees, strawberries, and small fruits. In addition, her "thoroughbred poultry proved a delight," and the hens were a source of profit. Mrs. Cameron, on the Shields River, marketed about fifty pounds of butter and sold five or six dollars' worth of eggs every week. And Mrs. W. S. Griffith, on Brazil Creek in the Milk River Valley, contemplated establishing a unique Montana industry, an Angora cat farm. She planned to raise "these dainty feline beauties" to supply cat lovers with pure-blooded specimens of the famous breed.²³

Murphy not only recognized the management skills of the women she met but also praised parents who encouraged their daughters to be independent

and self-reliant. The little girls at the Berg residence near Harlowton, she noted with pleasure, "can hitch up and take care of their own horse in a way that would astonish an eastern girl." She added that "Our Montana girls excel in independence and progressive ideas and are equally quick and bright in their studies." She proudly complimented Mrs. Joyce, who was "proving that a woman can successfully manage a large farm with girls as well as with boys" at her beautiful Belt Park home. Murphy urged farm parents to teach their daughters how to handle livestock, to give them young animals to raise, and to share the farm's profits with them. That was how many boys got a start in farming.²⁴



F. S. Cooley, "Dry Land Farming and Kindred Topics," *Montana Farmers' Bulletin*, no. 1119081, 136

Enterprising Montana women did not confine themselves to poultry raising. Murphy characterized Mrs. W. L. Fuller, in the Madison Valley, as "one of the progressive women of this state who can manage the farm and home both." Poland China hogs, like the one above, joined dairy products, hay, grain, and horses in generating income for the Fuller farm.

Both Kline and Murphy focused especially on the Montana women who were partly or solely responsible for farms and ranches, encouraging and praising those who ran the whole operation as well as those whose poultry (such as this unidentified woman's flock) and other endeavors were essential income-producing parts of farms and ranches. Perhaps one of the most unusual ideas was that of Mrs. W. S. Griffith, on Brazil Creek in the Milk River Valley, who contemplated establishing an Angora cat farm. She planned to raise "these dainty feline beauties" to supply cat lovers with pure-blooded specimens of the famous breed.

Like Anna Kline, Murphy had fun while traveling. She reported to Sutherlin that her "peregrinations through the Bitter Root have been a continuous season of feasting on fruit and fried chicken." Sutherlin romanticized her travels for readers, writing that "Traveling alone she made many long drives, frequently missed her way and camped upon the prairie with no companion but her horse, no bed but the earth and no covering save the blue starry expanse above." But the traveling must have been difficult for her too. By 1902, Murphy was spending winters in California seeking treatment for cancer.²⁵

Sutherlin confronted mounting difficulties of his own. He had not been able to retire debt incurred in building the Auditorium and faced serious financial problems.²⁶ His plight had become more intense in 1900 with the death of his brother Will, who had served as business manager and promoter for the paper. That same year, a rival newspaper, the *Meagher Republican*, was established, and the county commissioners awarded the *Republican* the county printing contract. Four years later, in the midst of the War of the Copper Kings, the *Husbandman* openly joined the anti-Amalgamated Company papers. The "copper press" viciously attacked Sutherlin, and he decided he could not remain in White Sulphur Springs. By the time Murphy returned from California in the spring of 1904, Sutherlin had moved the *Husbandman* office to Great Falls. He had also hired a new representative, J. H. Bridges, to cover the northern part of the state. Murphy would continue to travel southern Montana valleys.²⁷ In November 1904, however, the *Columbus TriCounty News* reported that Murphy had come to town in ill health, and in December she completed



MHS Photograph Archives, Helena, PAc 23-1 A1, 48a

her tour in southeast Montana. She remained in Montana for a few weeks and then went to California for a winter's rest. She planned to return to Montana in the spring of 1905, but during the winter she reported to Sutherlin that she had returned to her family home in Wisconsin. In August, Sutherlin received word that she had died of cancer.²⁸

Four years later, in 1909, as he traveled along Trail Creek near the Big Hole Battlefield, J. M. Burlingame, the *Husbandman*'s representative, wrote: "Up this Trail Creek, Miss C. A. Murphy, the former famous correspondent for the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, started one afternoon—not knowing how far it was to the next house, and after traveling over 10 miles was overtaken by night and camped there alone all night—building a fire to keep off the wild beasts. . . . I doubt if there is a person more famous among the farmers—men and women of Montana—than Miss C. A. Murphy. . . . And now after three and one-half years in the field, I have not found a place in the mountains so inaccessible or hard to reach that Miss Murphy had not been there, nor a woman who knew her who did not love her."²⁹

Frank R. Grant is a retired historian living in East Helena, Montana. His interest in Anna Kline and Carolyn Murphy grew from research for his doctoral dissertation, a study of Robert Sutherlin and the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, completed at the University of Montana.

Notes

1. *Rocky Mountain Husbandman* (hereafter *Husbandman*), Apr. 11, 1889.

2. *Ibid.*, Sept. 17, 1885. Sutherland published the newspaper in Diamond City, 1875–1879, White Sulphur Springs, 1879–1904, and Great Falls, 1904–1926. See Frank R. Grant, “*Rocky Mountain Husbandman*: Embattled Voice of the Montana Farmer,” *Montana The Magazine of History* (hereafter *Montana*), 24 (April 1974), 34–43.

3. Kline titled her reports “Notes by the Way” in 1889. In 1890, she changed the title to “Montana Homes,” and in 1892 she at times used the title “Among the Farmers.” Murphy returned to the title “Notes by the Way.”

4. There is an expanding list of books and articles interpreting women’s roles in Montana history. See, for example, Laurie K. Mercier, “Women’s Role in Montana Agriculture,” *Montana*, 38 (Autumn 1988); Paula Petrik, *No Step Backward: Women and Family on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier*, Helena, Montana 1865–1900 (Helena, Mont., 1987); Mary Murphy, *Mining Cultures: Men, Women, and Leisure in Butte, 1914–41* (Chicago, 1997); Ellen Baumler, ed., *Girl from the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan* (Helena, Mont., 2003); Annie Hanshew, *Border to Border: Historic Quilts and Quiltmakers of Montana* (Helena, Mont., 2009); and Sarah Carter, ed., *Montana Women Homesteaders: A Field of One’s Own* (Helena, Mont., 2009). Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith’s *Pioneer Women: The Lives of Women on the Frontier* (Norman, Okla., 1998) examines women’s experiences on frontiers throughout the nation, but much of the interpretation is based on the authors’ extensive research on Montana women. There are also a number of biographies of “remarkable Montana women,” including Caroline Lockhart, Jeannette Rankin, Fanny Sperry Steele, Grace Stone Coates, and Evelyn Cameron. The relative dearth of women in accounts of Montana history is typical of traditional western histories. See Susan Armitage, “Through Women’s Eyes: A New View of the West,” in *The Women’s West*, ed. Susan Armitage and Elizabeth Jameson (Norman, Okla., 1987), 9–18.

5. Among works that look at Montana agriculture are Joseph Kinsey Howard, *Montana: High Wide, and Handsome* (New Haven, Conn., 1959); K. Ross Toole, *Montana: An Uncommon Land* (Norman, Okla., 1958); Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle, Wash., 1976); Clark Spence, *Montana: A Bicentennial History* (Nashville, Tenn., 1978); Ernest Staples Osgood, *Day of the Cattleman* (1929; repr., Chicago, 1957); Robert

G. Dunbar, “Agriculture,” in *A History of Montana*, ed. Merrill G. Burlingame and K. Ross Toole, vol. 1 (New York, 1957), 281–310; and T. J. Gillis, *When Tillage Begins: A History of Agriculture in Montana* (Laurel, Mont., 1977).

6. *Husbandman*, May 2, 1889.
7. Anna Kline obituary in *White Sulphur Springs (Mont.) Meagher County News*, Mar. 4, 1942 (hereafter “Kline obituary”); *Husbandman*, Nov. 5, 1885; Sept. 2, 1886; Oct. 21, 1886; “Teacher’s Report of the Public Schools in District No. 8 in the County of Meagher, from the 24th day of November, 1885 to the 30th day of June, 1886,” Teacher’s Reports, A6, 2-2, folder 28, 1886, Meagher County Superintendent of Schools Records, 1871–1888, Montana Historical Society Research Center, Helena.
8. *Husbandman*, May 2, 1889; June 6, 1889.
9. *Ibid.*, June 20, 1889; Sept. 5, 1889; May 2, 1889; Sept. 26, 1889; Oct. 24, 1889. For more on Sutherland’s views on irrigation, see Frank Grant, “To Husband the Land,” in *Montana and the West: Essays in Honor of K. Ross Toole*, ed. Rex C. Myers and Harry W. Fritz (Boulder, Colo., 1984), 87–104.
10. *Husbandman*, May 30, 1889; June 30, 1892; June 20, 1889.
11. *Ibid.*, Oct. 3, 1889; Aug. 21, 1890.
12. *Husbandman*, Aug. 29, 1889; Meagher County Historical Society, *Meagher County: An Early-Day Pictorial History, 1867–1967* (White Sulphur Springs, Mont., 1968), 99; *Husbandman*, Sept. 26, 1889; June 19, 1890.
13. *Husbandman*, June 6, 1889.
14. *Ibid.*, Sept. 1, 1889; May 23, 1889; June 6, 1889.
15. *Ibid.*, May 2, 1889; Aug. 1, 1889.
16. *Ibid.*, Oct. 3, 1889; June 26, 1890.
17. *Husbandman*, Aug. 16, 1894; Sept. 13, 1894; Nov. 15, 1894; “Kline obituary.” Anna was politically active. The County Superintendent of Schools was an elected position that women could hold even though they were not able to vote in general elections until 1914. The postmistress position was a political appointment. *Husbandman*, Oct. 20, 1898; Jan. 17, 1901; Oct. 23, 1902; Nov. 20, 1902; Jan. 15, 1903; “Montana: Lewis and Clark–Yellowstone Counties,” Record of appointment of Postmasters, 1832–Sept. 30, 1971, roll 76, M841, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group 28, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
18. *Ibid.*, *Husbandman*, June 4, 1903; Jan. 20, 1898; July 27, 1899.
19. *Ibid.*, Sept. 18, 1902; June 4, 1903; Sept. 15, 1904; Nov. 29, 1900; May 22, 1905; Sept. 8, 1904; Oct. 6, 1904; Oct. 11, 1900; Nov. 8, 1900; May 16, 1901; July 5, 1900.

20. *Ibid.*, Sept. 18, 1902; Aug. 8, 1901; Sept. 4, 1902; Sept. 28, 1899; Oct. 19, 1899; Aug. 14, 1902; Sept. 26, 1901; Dec. 22, 1904; Oct. 17, 1901; Oct. 30, 1902; Sept. 21, 1899; June 13, 1901; Aug. 2, 1900; Dec. 17, 1903. The Milk River Project was one of the first irrigation systems built under the Federal Reclamation Act of 1902.

21. *Ibid.*, Oct. 16, 1902; Nov. 7, 1901; Oct. 20, 1904; Aug. 14, 1902; May 15, 1902; May 22, 1902.

22. *Ibid.*, July 23, 1903; Nov. 5, 1903; Aug. 22, 1901; Dec. 8, 1904; May 22, 1902; June 29, 1899; Aug. 28, 1902; July 23, 1903; Nov. 5, 1903; Aug. 22, 1901; Dec. 8, 1904; May 22, 1902; June 29, 1899.

23. *Ibid.*, Oct. 2, 1902; Aug. 21, 1902; Nov. 27, 1902; June 11, 1902; Sept. 24, 1903.

24. *Ibid.*, July 9, 1903; Aug. 6, 1903; Nov. 26, 1903; May 29, 1902; June 12, 1902.

25. *Ibid.*, Aug. 7, 1902; Aug. 21, 1902; Aug. 31, 1905 (Carolyn Murphy’s obituary).

26. Sutherland published his own book, *Legends-Historic; or, Smith River in Verse* (White Sulphur Springs, Mont., 1900), to raise funds to pay off the Auditorium debt. He was unsuccessful.

27. *Husbandman*, Jan. 28, 1904; *Meagher Republican*, Aug. 15, 1900; *Butte (Mont.) Inter-Mountain*, Mar. 26, 1904.

28. *Husbandman*, Dec. 1, 1904; Dec. 8, 1904; Aug. 31, 1905.

29. *Husbandman*, July 29, 1909.