

Thursday, July 18  
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## **Saving Yellowstone**

By Megan Kate Nelson

Historian Megan Kate Nelson tells the story of the creation of the world's first national park through its important players--explorers, scientists, artists, politicians, financiers and the Lakota who were displaced. It's all set against the background of post-Civil War Reconstruction and a still-divided nation. **Nelson will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**

## Meet Megan Kate Nelson

Here's how she describes herself:

I am the author of [\*The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West\*](#) (Scribner, 2020), which was a Finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in History.

My new book, [\*Saving Yellowstone: Exploration and Preservation in Reconstruction America\*](#) was published by Scribner on March 1, 2022, the 150th anniversary of the Yellowstone Act, which created the first national park in the world. *Saving Yellowstone* has won the 2023 [Spur Award](#) for Historical Nonfiction, and is one of *Smithsonian Magazine's* [Top Ten Books in History](#) for 2022.

I am an expert in the history of the American Civil War, the U.S. West, and popular culture, and have written articles about these topics for *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, TIME, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*. I am a fellow of the [Society of American Historians](#), I am also a regular guest on radio shows and TV documentaries about western history and popular culture.

Before leaving academia to write full-time in 2014, I taught U.S. history and American Studies at Texas Tech University, Cal State Fullerton, Harvard, and Brown. I earned my BA in History and Literature from Harvard University and my PhD in American Studies from the University of Iowa.

Interview with Harvard Book Store

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrPKG8Hn3m4&ab\\_channel=HarvardBookStore](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrPKG8Hn3m4&ab_channel=HarvardBookStore)  
(53:16)

A presentation about the book through Smithsonian Associates, archived on C-Span.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?519336-1/saving-yellowstone>

(1:31:44)

## More about Yellowstone National Park

The Complete Guide to the World's First National Park

This is a good video of the tourist experience—what you might see if you went to Yellowstone on vacation.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRGpFMdpTno&ab\\_channel=We%27reintheRockies](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRGpFMdpTno&ab_channel=We%27reintheRockies)

(56:38)

National Geographic Video of Yellowstone

This is a more dramatic video including wildlife encounters few people would ever see.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OMxBIK46wY&ab\\_channel=NationalGeographic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OMxBIK46wY&ab_channel=NationalGeographic)

(44:24)

## Thomas Moran's Art

The artist played an important role in creating public support for Yellowstone and the other natural wonders of the west. Here are three of Moran's paintings:

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Grand\\_Canyon\\_of\\_the\\_Yellowstone\\_\(1872\)#/media/File:Thomas\\_Moran\\_-\\_Grand\\_Canyon\\_of\\_the\\_Yellowstone.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Grand_Canyon_of_the_Yellowstone_(1872)#/media/File:Thomas_Moran_-_Grand_Canyon_of_the_Yellowstone.jpg)

Grand Canyon of the Colorado River

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Canyon\\_of\\_the\\_Colorado\\_River\\_%28Moran%29#/media/File:Thomas\\_Moran,\\_American\\_\(born\\_England\)\\_-\\_Grand\\_Canyon\\_of\\_the\\_Colorado\\_River\\_-\\_Google\\_Art\\_Project.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Canyon_of_the_Colorado_River_%28Moran%29#/media/File:Thomas_Moran,_American_(born_England)_-_Grand_Canyon_of_the_Colorado_River_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)

Moran also painted scenes on Florida's east coast. The Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg owns his Florida landscape depicting the St. John's River

<https://mfastpete.org/obj/florida-landscape-saint-johns-river/>

How Art Led to the Creation of Yellowstone National Park

<https://www.yellowstonenationalparklodges.com/connect/yellowstone-hot-spot/how-art-led-to-the-creation-of-yellowstone-national-park/>

## Sitting Bull in Art

Many artists have depicted Sitting Bull. Here are two of those pieces in the James Museum collection:

Z.S. Liang depicted Sitting Bull's visit to Philadelphia in 1885, when he gave money to poor children begging in the streets.

<https://greenwichworkshop.com/li00074.html>

John Coleman depicted Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Gall together in this sculpture:

[https://www.historynet.com/john-coleman-art-of-the-west/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR01QaSw1CYUIhZcsIfvjec3HyB1V6vVtiqPu5RymMc8d\\_ZK6u63d3Om4zk\\_aem\\_AUQk8oF67kWj4NAtpck8AFRGHyTZloWqAek\\_kzSAvlzQH1O92qnl16lwDUVRdqVdEIUT6j\\_hoLtQck4wwcqWZJru](https://www.historynet.com/john-coleman-art-of-the-west/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR01QaSw1CYUIhZcsIfvjec3HyB1V6vVtiqPu5RymMc8d_ZK6u63d3Om4zk_aem_AUQk8oF67kWj4NAtpck8AFRGHyTZloWqAek_kzSAvlzQH1O92qnl16lwDUVRdqVdEIUT6j_hoLtQck4wwcqWZJru)

Our special exhibition of Andy Warhol's work also included Sitting Bull

<https://www.masterworksfineart.com/artists/andy-warhol/screen-print/sitting-bull-from-the-cowboys-and-indians-series-1986/id/w-6779>

## Coming Up Next

Thursday, August 15  
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### **Murder on the Red River**

By Marcie R. Rendon

Cash Blackbear, a young Ojibwe woman traumatized by a childhood spent in foster homes, earns a living driving grain trucks and playing pool in seedy bars. She teams up with the sheriff, her only friend, to solve the murders of two farm workers killed for their paychecks. Author

**Marcie Rendon will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**

Thursday, September 19  
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### **A Ballad of Love and Glory**

By Reyna Grande

The Mexican-American War is the war that America can't remember and Mexico can't forget. Reyna Grande's novel is rooted in history that's been re-imagined as an epic romantic tale told from a Mexican perspective. The real-life hero, John Riley, leads troops fighting for Mexico under an Irish banner. He is paired with a fictional faith healer, Ximena, based on women who supported the troops during the war. **Author Grande will appear via Zoom to answer our questions.**