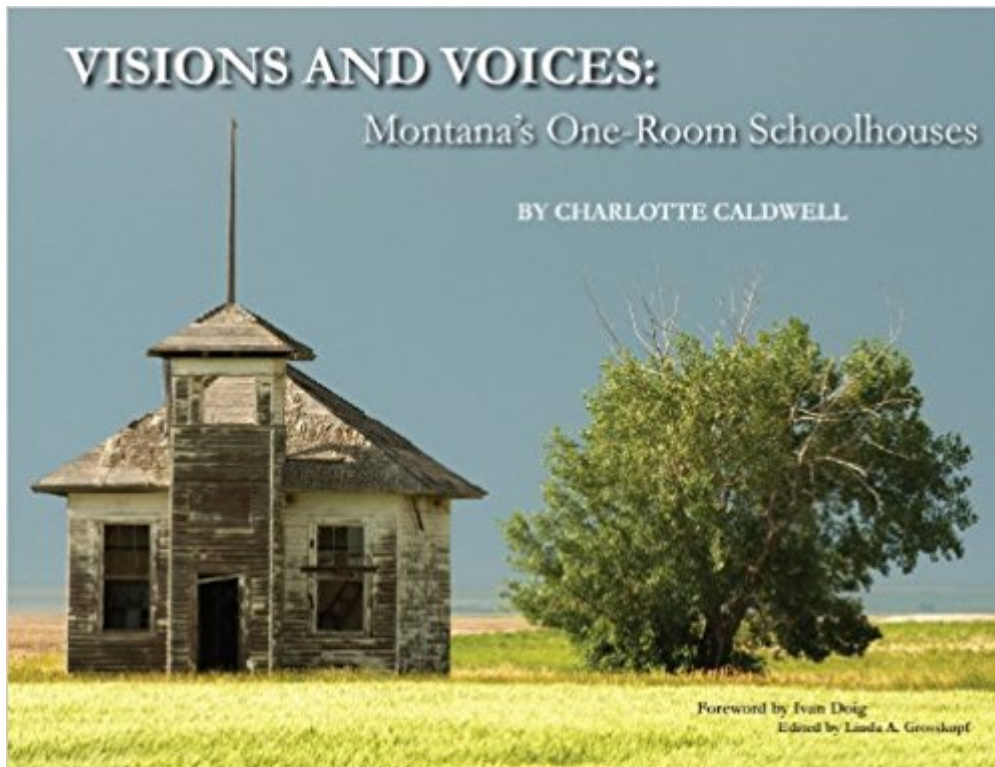




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# **Visions And Voices: Montana's One-Room Schoolhouses**



## Synopsis

The story of Montana's one-room schoolhouses, as recollected and recounted by those most intimately connected to those places, is the story of the American frontier and the high value placed on education by those who came to homestead, mine, or work the railroads. It is a story of the Western spirit and of a culture marked by tenacity and endurance. These stories - told by students and teachers, many of whom are now in their eighties or nineties - tell of adventures traveling to and from school, the school day, recess games, family life, daily chores, and above all, the sense of community, as defined by these iconic humble schoolhouses. Their voices share memories and perspectives about a way of life, gone for the most part, and breathe life into these visions of rural heritage. The preservation of one-room schoolhouses is important, as they are among Montana's first frontier structures. These treasures inform us about ourselves our history and our culture through the people who learned and taught in them. One hundred percent of the net proceeds of this book will be donated to the Preserve Montana Fund, a campaign of collaboration between the Montana Preservation Alliance, the Montana History Foundation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This donation will serve to create a challenge grant, earmarked for Montana's endangered one-room schoolhouses.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Barn Board Press; First edition (July 31, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0985497106

ISBN-13: 978-0985497101

Product Dimensions: 12.8 x 1.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #567,558 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Travel > United States > Montana](#) #752 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > History](#) #10399 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local](#)

## Customer Reviews

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Western spirit and of a culture marked by tenacity and endurance. These stories told by students and teachers, many of whom are now in their eighties or nineties tell of adventures traveling to and from school, the school day, recess games, family life, daily chores, and above all, the sense of community, as defined by these iconic humble schoolhouses. Their voices share memories and perspectives about a way of life, gone for the most part, and breathe life into these visions of rural heritage. The preservation of one-room schoolhouses is important, as they are among Montana's first frontier structures. These treasures inform us about ourselves our history and our culture through the people who learned and taught in them. One hundred percent of the net proceeds of this book will be donated to the Preserve Montana Fund, a campaign of collaboration between the Montana Preservation Alliance, the Montana History Foundation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This donation will serve to create a challenge grant, earmarked for Montana's endangered one-room schoolhouses.

Raised on Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, Charlotte Caldwell graduated with a BA from Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1974. She went on to receive Master's Degrees in Environmental Studies and Special Education from other New England universities. As a photographer, naturalist, and preservationist, Charlotte captures the beauty of light as it touches landscapes, wildlife, buildings, and people. The first book of her photographs, *The Cottages and Architects of Yeamans Hall*, by Charlton deSaussure with Photographs by Charlotte Caldwell, was published in 2010. Her photographs have also been published in *The Magazine Antiques*, the *Antiques and Fine Art Magazine*, and *The Livingston Enterprise*. In 2010, Charlotte was a winner of a juried photography show, which led her to present her insect photography to the North American Nature Photographers Association's Annual Conference. Charlotte serves on the non-profit boards of the Montana Preservation Alliance and The Nature Conservancy of Montana. Charlotte's greatest joy is hanging out with her husband, Jeffrey Schutz, and their four sons, two daughters-in-law, and four granddaughters. Charlotte, Jeffrey and their dog, Phoebe, divide their time between their ranch outside Clyde Park, Montana, and their home in historic downtown Charleston, South Carolina.

As a native Montanan my curiosity was piqued when I first read about this book in our local newspaper. My parents both attended school in a small town in eastern Montana and while it may not have been a one room school house it certainly was not a huge school - graduating class was about 25 in the early 1930s. They frequently talked about going to dances in other smaller, neighboring communities. Those dances were often held in a one room school. If you liked Ivan

Doig's book "The Whistling Season" I think you will enjoy this book. I am fortunate to know two women who taught in one room schools, one in North Dakota and one in Montana. This is a beautifully done book with lovely photos of the remaining school buildings, letters from some of the teachers and/or students from the photographed schools and it is printed in Montana, not China. If you are at all interested in Montana history this would be a nice addition to your library. If someone you know talks fondly of their experience in a one room school I am sure they would enjoy this book. Montana has been described as a small town with a very long Main Street. If you are a Montanan there is a good chance you will find someone you know in the book.

The sad part was the decay of so many 1 room school houses in Montana. The good part was that some are being preserved. Mine in Iowa was torn down in 1968. Lots of good memories there and so many of the people in Montana had good memories also. Strange how we managed to excel in our complex world based on the learning in what is now considered such primitive circumstances. Perhaps "Small is superior" instead of "Big is better".

This book provides a beautiful portrait of an amazing era in the growth of America--the time of homesteading the great frontier. Within that vast and harsh land, the little one-room schoolhouses promoted an intense patriotic spirit among a diverse group of immigrants, and provided an unique educational setting that developed individual self-reliance along with the ability to work within a group. The photographs of the land, people, and schools are breath-taking.

Montana still operates several one-room school houses which educate children K-8. One-room school houses are an American heritage and should be preserved.

Gift for my sister who was thrilled with the book. She attended a one room school & has fond memories.

was a gift

Invaluable for today's urban student success -- if only we will read and learn and teach! Please use these examples.

We really like to look through the schools histories we know and those we don't. We received it as a

gift.

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