



# Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming Historical Society

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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Changes to the Society's Bylaws will be voted on by the general membership at the Annual Meeting. The majority of changes are simply housekeeping — taking the word 'state' out of our title; changing the word 'secretary' to director; removing the word "Constitution," etc. To request a full copy of the draft Bylaws please email headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) as soon as possible.

The **South Lincoln County Historical Society** has been hosting several great programs. Recently member **Alan Harwood** gave a talk about the Fossil shortline railroad depot near Kemmerer, which is currently being renovated. **Carol Harwood** gave an update on the 100th anniversary of the Frontier #1 mine explosion that occurred on August 14, 1923, killing 99 miners. The chapter is working to install a sign near Kemmerer commemorating this disaster. On a sad note the chapter reported the loss of **Donna Oden** and said, "She and **Dennis** were the foundation of our chapter. Their enthusiasm and efforts have resulted in a participation, enjoyment and love of our local history by the community."

*(Continued page 3)*

## An Anniversary Worth Celebrating—70 years of sharing Wyoming's History: 1953—2023

Please consider joining us in Cody, Wyoming for the 70th annual meeting of the Wyoming Historical Society. The organizational meeting of the Society was held in Casper during the fall of 1953 and that's what we consider the official birth of the Society. The first president was **Mr. Frank Bowron** of Casper; **Mr. F. H. Sinclair**, 1st Vice-President; **Mr. W. L. Marion**, 2nd Vice-President; **Miss Maurine Carley**, Secretary-Treasurer, and **Miss Lola Homsher** as Executive Secretary (i.e. Director). These wonderful people are no longer with us but their legacy lives on. Lola left us a wonderful financial gift that allows us to sponsor a research grant program in her name, and support the Society. Throughout the years more people have stepped in to fill their shoes and work hard to make sure that the Society's vision continues. The Wyoming Historical Foundation was formed in 1963 as the fundraising arm of the Society and through a variety of special projects over the years has been very successful in establishing a long-term endowment administered by the Wyoming Community Foundation. Join us for the celebration in Cody the weekend of September 8th, hosted by the **Park County Historical Society**. The Executive Committee will meet Friday, September 8th with the general membership meeting on Saturday, September 9th. There will be food, fun, and wonderful places to visit.



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Preferably via email to  
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**From the  
 President. . .**

Hello All,

As you will see on page six of this issue, the Society has successfully hired a new Executive Director, **Aley Philp**, to take over when **Linda Fabian** retires on September 29th. Aley, I'm looking forward to working with you and am excited about some of your ideas. Thank you to the Hiring Task Force, **Ann Noble, Cheryl O'Brien, Jeremy Johnston, Mike Jording, Rick Ewig, and Tom Rea**, for all their help with the process. We were able to meet our self-imposed goal of hiring a new Executive Director available for training in August and September. It is natural that while we look forward to the future with Aley, we also look back to the past and give gratitude to Linda for all her amazing work and support she has provided to us. The Society will be hosting a retirement celebration for Linda in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Cody. If you are interested in attending, please register for the meeting. The registration form was distributed with the last newsletter and is available

online through a link on the Society's web page <https://wyshs.org/>

I've been approached by Linda's friends and colleagues who wish to make a monetary donation toward a gift. If you are interested in contributing, please send donations to Charlene Busk, Wyoming Historical Foundation, 1505 Estes Lane, Gillette, WY 82716. If you have any questions or are willing to help celebrate Linda's tenure, please feel free to send an email to me at clwlbrown@gmail.com.

We will be developing a photo "slide show," for use during the event. If you have any photos of Linda throughout the years, please send them to me at the email address provided above.

Through this process **Mike Jording** has repeatedly commented that this is an exciting opportunity for the Wyoming Historical Society. We are looking back with great appreciation and love and looking forward to a bright future.

In case we don't see you at the Annual Meeting, we will provide details in the October newsletter.

*Thank you for  
 supporting the Society,*

**Cindy**

*(Heard on the Historical Trail continued from page 1)*

The three museums in Fremont County (Dubois, Riverton and Lander) have a slue of talks, exhibits and programs for all ages throughout the fall. Email [Scott.goetz@fremontcountywy.org](mailto:Scott.goetz@fremontcountywy.org) to rediscover the museums and learn about the area's cultural heritage.

Elections are in the air! The **Platte County Historical Society** held its in May. New officers will take over when programming begins in September. The **Natrona County Historical Society** would like a couple people to take a seat on its board, so if you're interested contact **Cindy Bower** at [cindy@cindybower.com](mailto:cindy@cindybower.com). Also, if you have elected new officers please let Society headquarters know as soon as possible. **Chapter activity reports for last season are due August 28th. Watch your email for details.**

Committee restructuring will take place after the Annual Meeting. WHS president, **Cindy Brown**, said that during the recent Strategic Planning session it was decided to take a look at each of the Society's committees to see if they were still viable or just needed a bit of a refresh! If you are interested in serving on a committee let us know as soon as you can.

The Society's speakers list continues to grow. Search it online at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org), or contact Society headquarters for a hard copy. There are many wonderful presentations available for your chapter meetings, either in person or via Zoom.

Two special exhibits are now on display in the Capitol Building Extension Hall in Cheyenne. The **Wyoming State Museum** recently installed "Sioux Ledger Drawings & Artifacts: A Cultural Heritage," comprised of thirty-six color drawings reproduced from a ledger book dated 1891. "Artifact: A Cultural Heritage," features images by photographer Mike McClure highlighting three regions of Wyoming. His work celebrates the diversity of Wyoming's prehistoric and historic landscapes. For more details call the WSM at 307-777-7022.

WHS author and historian **David Marcum** will present "Amelia Earhart in Wyoming" at the Wyoming State Archives, 2301 Central Avenue in Cheyenne, on Tuesday, August 10th, beginning at 7 p.m.

David's program is part of the Archives' speakers series and will be held both in person and online. For details call 307-777-7036.

The Society recently received a grant from the **Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund** in the amount of \$3,000 for its "Women of Wyoming" social history project. Chaired by WHS member **Janelle Molony**, the grant will be used to enhance current and future interviews with and about Wyoming women, both living and historical. The content will be available on the Society's website and YouTube account. A final collection of twenty interviews is anticipated.

The **Wyoming Humanities Council** has awarded a \$10,000 Crossroads Grant to the Society to launch a video series to accompany articles featured on [WyoHistory.org](http://WyoHistory.org). **Kylie McCormick**, WHS member said videos will start coming out this fall on the Society's official YouTube page.

**Steve Cotherman**, WHS member, artist and museum, recently exhibited his work at the Washburn (Wisconsin) Cultural Center, where he is the director. Formerly Steve worked as the Curator of Art for the Wyoming State Museum, and later as its director.

Staff of the **Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum** were recent guests of the White House where they received official recognition of the museum's prestigious award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Museum director, **Sylvia Bruner (pictured)** was joined by staff members Jennifer Romanoski, Kelsey McDonnell, and community member Keelyn Byram (also pictured). The award was presented to them by First Lady Jill Biden, and IMLS Director, Crosby Kemper. *(Photo credit IMLS/ Shannon Finney)*



## Wyoming History Calendar

**August 10-Cheyenne.** “Amelia Earhart in Wyoming” by Dave Marcum. Wyoming State Archives, 7 p.m. Call 307-777-7036 for details.

**August 19-Casper.** President and Mrs. Lincoln visit the Historic Bishop Home. Email slbjcs1993@comcast.net.

**August 19-Cheyenne.** Lakeview Cemetery Walk featuring interesting people who had unusual jobs in Cheyenne’s history. Call 307-630-0924 or Email wendywy04@aol.com for details. There is a fee.

**September 8-10-Cody.** 70th Annual meeting of the WHS. Form is online at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org), or email [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org). Deadline August 28th.

**September-Statewide.** Watch for details about Heart Mountain Internee Sam Mihara’s lecture

schedule, or email Sam at [smihara12345@gmail.com](mailto:smihara12345@gmail.com).

**September-Statewide.** Annual Archaeology Awareness Month. Visit [www.wyoshpo.wyo.gov](http://www.wyoshpo.wyo.gov) for details.

This calendar is not inclusive of all that is happening around the state. The Society’s new website includes a calendar featuring a wide range of activities hosted by chapters and our partners. Take a look at [www.wyshs.org/events](http://www.wyshs.org/events). If you have something you would like listed please email [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) or [rhein@vcn.com](mailto:rhein@vcn.com).

Wyoming History News welcomes information about events of interest to the general membership and others. Information should be sent at least a month in advance and should reach the WHN editor by the 15<sup>th</sup>. Send items to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org)

### *Bylaw Changes to be Voted on at the Annual Meeting*

The Bylaw Committee, consisting of **Sandy Holyoak, Richard Knight, and Rick Robbins** will recommend several minor changes to the current Bylaws for consideration by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in Cody the weekend of September 8th.

Sandy said that the changes are primarily housekeeping, i.e. changing references to Executive Secretary to Executive Director; removing the word “Constitution” throughout; and punctuation, all of which will improve readability.

The Bylaws are important to the Society and Chapters, and provide guidance as to how all entities should perform. Updates are generally made on an annual basis, and always require a majority vote to amend.

Draft changes have been made and, should you wish to see them in full, send your request to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) as soon as possible.

Also, you’ll note this issue includes a ballot for new members to the Executive Committee. There are two At-Large seats open with four people running, and one Out of State seat open with one person running. Thank you to all for tossing your hat in the ring.

The ballot is due no later than August 27th. Please return to:

Wyoming Historical Society  
PO Box 247  
Wheatland WY 82201

## SAY GOODBYE TO LINDA FABIAN... ...AND WELCOME TO ALEY PHILP



Linda first became acquainted with the Society in 1980 when she started working for what was then the Archives, Museums & Historical Department in Cheyenne. During her almost 20 years with that state agency she served as Chief Public Information Officer and Co-State History Day Coordinator.

She often said that's where her higher education for all things Wyoming began. From 1997 to 2004 she served on the Society's Executive Committee as secretary and later president.

After leaving state government in 2000, she began a job as director of Wheatland Economic Development, a position she held until 2007 when the Society hired her as Executive Director. As the Society's first and only full-time employee she saw a lot of growth in the accomplishments of the Society's mission. "It has been my privilege to work with members from across Wyoming and the United States, chapter leadership, and so many of our partners," she said. "I have been truly blessed by your support and friendship all these years." She added, "I have been honored by people from all walks of life, and can't begin to thank each and every one of you. Your personal notes, pictures of your families and pets, cards, candy, and so much more have enhanced my life over the years.

Working for the Society gave me many opportunities including co-authoring three books, developing policies and programs, and so much more." She added that the Society supported her personal growth, and saw her through the deaths of her sister, mom and husband. "I am not disappearing and look forward to continuing my service to the Society by volunteering to be on a couple of committees, and maybe even an appointment to the Foundation board of directors." "Thank you is not enough," she said.

The Society is proud to announce the hiring of **Aley Philp** who will begin working with Linda early in August, and officially take over as Executive Director on October 1st.

Aley was among thirteen applicants who applied for the position of Executive Director, and is looking forward to meeting many of you at the Annual Meeting in Cody the weekend of September 8th.

A native of Thermopolis, Aley went on to attend the University of Wyoming graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with minors in Graphic Design, Economics, and International Business. She currently owns and operates her own business, PH Consulting, LLC in Wheatland. Aley has a strong career working with nonprofits, program and campaign development, fundraising, and community and state advocacy. She has been instrumental in coordinating well-done fundraising efforts, including "An Evening in Italy," an event for St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the annual Blue Mountain Car Show with the Wheatland Kiwanis Club. Aley has the qualifications, skills, and passion to help the Society meet its goals for many years to come. She said, "I look forward to meeting with chapters, and members, and welcome any invitation to attend meetings to discover ways to help. I want to make the Society's voice unique and enticing to revitalize and grow our chapters — both a fantastic challenge and a goal."



Aley and her 9-year old son, Johnny, live in Wheatland where he attends fourth grade at Libby Elementary. Her late father, Frank Philp, was a State Legislator from 1993 to 2010; Aley's mom, Janet, lives in Thermopolis and is a retired educator.

## 2024 Calendar of Wyoming History Available *NOW!*

The list of vendors continue to grow. Pick up your calendar at the following bookstores and/or museums, or email Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) to have one sent. Vendors and individuals welcome!

<b>Big Piney</b>	Green River Valley Museum
<b>Casper</b>	Wind City Books and Natrona County Historical Society
<b>Cheyenne</b>	Wyoming State Museum
<b>Cody</b>	The Thistle, Legends and Park County Historical Society
<b>Cowley</b>	Cowley Heritage Center
<b>Douglas</b>	Converse County Historical Society
<b>Encampment</b>	Grand Encampment Museum
<b>Fort Bridger</b>	Fort Bridger Historical Association
<b>Gillette</b>	The Rockpile Museum and Campbell County Historical Society
<b>Guernsey</b>	Guernsey Super Foods
<b>Hanna</b>	Hanna Basin Historical Society
<b>Jackson</b>	Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum
<b>Lander</b>	Pioneer Museum and Fremont County Historical Society
<b>Laramie</b>	Second Story Books, Laramie Plains Museum, UW Bookstore, and The Curiosity Shoppe
<b>Lusk</b>	Stagecoach Museum
<b>Newcastle</b>	Weston County Historical Society
<b>Point of Rocks</b>	Conoco, Mile Post 130 on I-80
<b>Rawlins</b>	Carbon County Museum
<b>Rock Springs</b>	Rock Springs Historical Museum
<b>Sheridan</b>	Sheridan Stationary
<b>Sundance</b>	Crook County Museum
<b>Sunrise</b>	Sunrise Trade Co.
<b>Thermopolis</b>	Hot Springs County Museum
<b>Torrington</b>	Goshen County Historical Society, Main Street Market, Vandals Drug
<b>Wheatland</b>	The Wanderer on Gilchrist, Platte County Library, and The Wandering Hermit Used Bookstore



This image featured in the 2024 calendar was contributed by the *McCracken Research Library/ Buffalo Bill Center of the West*. It shows George Beck and William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody at a hunting camp in 1902. George Beck was an entrepreneur, politician, and founded The Cody Club (later to become the Cody Chamber of Commerce).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

### At Large

Michael and Gail Shurgot, Seattle WA  
Steve Bangert, Buford WY  
Mike Brokaw, Blue Mound IL  
Robyn Jones, Jackson WY  
Ricky Durrant, St. George UT  
Debra Stewart, Encinitas, CA

### Campbell County Historical Society

Kaitlin Adams, Victor NY

### Natrona County Historical Society

Roger Terpening, Evansville  
Debbie Ridgley, Casper  
Robert Montgomery and Barbara Bentzin,  
Casper

### Platte County Historical Society

Tom and Katie Solberg, Wheatland  
Denise Gilmour, Lakewood

### Weston County Historical Society

Gene Baldwin, Newcastle  
Matthew and Louise Parsons, Newcastle

### Wyoming Historical Foundation

Barbara Townsend, Atlantic City  
Robert Montgomery and Barbara Bentzin,  
Casper  
Dave Ebertz, Gillette  
David Tate, Rock Springs  
Maggie McCreery McCoy, Gillette

### WyoHistory.org

Thomas Giovale, Cheyenne  
Maggie McCreery McCoy, Gillette

### Wyoming History Day

Maggie McCreery McCoy, Gillette

### Homsher Research Grants

Maggie McCreery McCoy, Gillette

### Above and Beyond Dues\*

Steve Bangert, Buford WY

*\*Above and Beyond Dues contributions go directly to the Society's operating fund unless specified for the Foundation.*

### *Thank you for inviting us...*

The Hot Springs County Chapter in Thermopolis will host the 2024 Trek (June).

### *Please invite us...*

We are seeking an invite to next year's Annual Meeting, September 2024. For details please email Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).

If you would like to participate in Linda's retirement celebration it will be held in Cody on September 9th during the Annual Meeting.

If you can't be there in person cards or contributions toward a gift can be sent in care of :

Charlene Busk  
1505 Estes Lane  
Gillette, Wyoming 82716



Wyoming Historical Society  
P.O. Box 247  
Wheatland, WY 82201

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***Vote Now! Ballot Enclosed.  
Please return no later than August 27th.***

Address Service Requested

### ***In Memory...***

**Donna Oden** of Kemmerer died on July 1, 2023. Donna, along with her husband, Dennis were instrumental in keeping the South Lincoln County Historical Society active. Her contributions will long be remembered. We extend our sympathies to Dennis, their children and grandchildren, and to members of the chapter.

Long time member **Jacqueline Dagenais** of Sarasota, Florida died in February, 2023. Her husband said that she valued her membership in the Society, and over the past decades had become increasingly interested in learning more about the rich history her family in Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

