



# Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

April 2018

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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Members of the **Natrona county Historical Society** recently enjoyed a program by their chapter president, **Kem Nicolaysen**, about the history of livestock brands in Wyoming to the present day.

On July 14th the **Campbell County Historical Society** will travel to Douglas to enjoy a tour of the Wyoming Pioneer Museum, historic Fort Fetterman, the POW camp and more. If you're interested in participating contact **Charlene Busk** at 685-6997.

Author, Vietnam veteran, and war historian, **Bud Alley**, of Signal Mt., TN has been making the Wyoming rounds again. He recently spoke to ROTC cadets at the University of Wyoming. If you are interested in having Bud visit your chapter contact him at [alleybud@gmail.com](mailto:alleybud@gmail.com).

Author and historian **Kathy Ogle** shared her research about Rudy Mudra, master saddlemaker, to the Platte County Historical Society. Her research was funded (in part) by a Homsher grant.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Fort Bridger Trek 2018

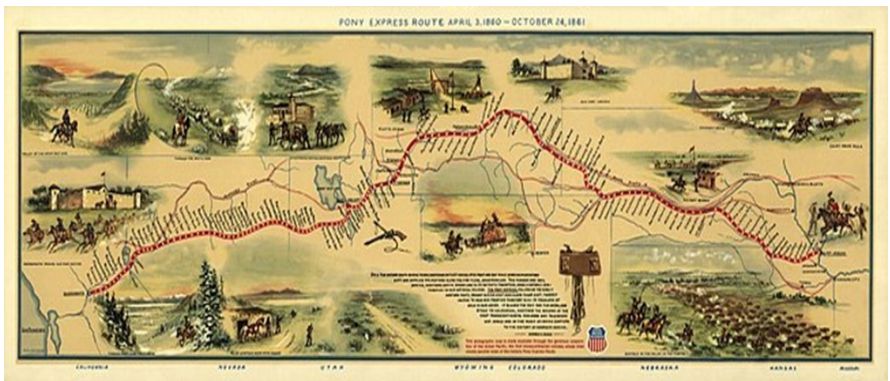
Martin Lammers, President of the Fort Bridger Historical Association writes, "We are excited to host the Society's annual Trek the weekend of June 29-July 1. We encourage you to consider extending your stay so you can enjoy the reenactment of the 1868 Treating signing at Fort Bridger. This is going to be a very large event so be sure to make your motel reservations early for the Trek and extend them if you're going to stay for the reenactment.

We have many historical places for you to enjoy and we know you'll enjoy them and our beautiful Bridger Valley. You will see, and learn, about everything from an original Fort Bridger Military Reserve marker in its original location to the 110th meridian. From the kilns at Piedmont to the Muddy Crossing on the Mormon Trail. From the Army's Camp

Scott to... well, you get the picture! We will divide and head out two different directions on buses that will be furnished by the FBHA.

There's going to be food, food and more food. Two nights of banquets with speakers, two breakfasts and a sack lunch. Most of this nourishment will take place on the Fort grounds. There will also be tours available for you to explore the beautiful Fort Bridger State Historic Site. It's going to be a busy and fun weekend. We hope to see all of you there."

The registration form is included in this newsletter and requires an early bird registration of May 21, or a final deadline of June 16th. There is a discount for Society members! The tentative agenda is on page 4, and accommodations can be found on page 5. Reserve early.



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Preferably via email to  
[linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org)

The Wyoming State Historical Society, a non-profit, membership driven organization, encourages the study of Wyoming history. We believe to study the past is to understand the present and prepare for the future. Our vision is to insure that Wyoming's past remains accessible to present and future generations.

Visit [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org) and "like"  
us on Facebook

## From the President. . .



Dear friends,

One of the most important ways that potential visitors from throughout the nation and world learn about the history and heritage of the Cowboy state is through cinema- movies and television series. As early as 1926 the movie "War Paint" was produced at various locations near Fort Washakie, starring Wyoming's own Tim McCoy. The film poured money into the local economy and the Lander newspaper gushed that "Lander will become the second or third Hollywood." Members of the Natrona County Historical Society remember the 1968 filming of John Wayne's "Hellfighters" as we discussed at last June's Trek. Most recently, the 1997 blockbuster movie "Starship Troopers" was filmed at Hell's Half Acre.

Within the past five years, Wyoming has been featured in four silver screen efforts. The long-running "Longmire" TV series occurs in the fictional "Absaroka County" in Wyoming –Buffalo and Johnson County. The recently released "Wind River" is an acclaimed murder mystery film based in the Wind River Reservation in Fremont County. Already recognized as the best Western since Clint Eastwood's "Unforgiven" – the movie "Hostiles" recounts the saga of a U.S. Army party transiting Wyoming on their way to Montana. Just this month, Paramount Network announced a new TV series "Yellowstone" starring Kevin Costner, centered around Yellowstone National Park during the early years of its establishment. Unfortunately, Wyoming will derive no benefit from any of these entertainment efforts. "Longmire" was filmed in New Mexico. The \$11 million-dollar budget for the film

"Wind River" was entirely filmed in Park City, Utah. "Hostiles" was produced principally in New Mexico, with some scenes being shot in Colorado and Arizona. Currently, "Yellowstone" is being filmed in Montana.

Wyoming's brand, stories, history, heritage and culture are being exploited by our neighboring states and are fostering economic development elsewhere. In large measure, this is because the State of Wyoming lacks a Film and Movie office and infrastructure to attract producers and film companies here. We are losing millions of dollars in direct revenues every year. Even worse, those film and movie tourists are going elsewhere to visit the movie sets, rather than where the historic and fictional events transpired throughout the Cowboy state. Had these TV series and movies been filmed in Wyoming, when the millions of viewers are exposed to the spectacular Northern Plains landscapes and vistas that we enjoy every day, their interest would have been peaked, and enthusiasm for a personal visit to Wyoming born. And when these guests arrived, they would have brought their tourism dollars into our communities. Unfortunately, this potentially significant source of heritage tourism is lost, further harming our tattered economy.

The 1926 film "War Paint" – a movie filmed in Wyoming, where it is historically located, starring a distinguished soldier and Hollywood star from the Cowboy state – is considered to be lost today...only the trailer survives at the Library of Congress. Let us hope that in the future, the next "War Paint" will be filmed in one of our hometowns!

Until Next Time,  
**Doug**

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

If you have recently elected new officers please don't forget to let Society headquarters know by emailing [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).

On April 17th WSHS member and author, **Kim Viner**, will share information about the extraordinary life and legacy of Stephen Wheeler Downey to members of the **Albany County Historical Society**. For details visit their website at [wyoachs.com](http://wyoachs.com).

WSHS member **Sharon Lass Field** was a guest of the **Laramie County Historical Society** and shared her cemetery research materials that took her throughout the state during the late 1980s.

Cattle Kate and Six-Shooter Sal will be the topic of conversation on May 17th at the **Star Valley Historical Society** in Afton. For details call 885-9259.

WSHS president, **Doug Cubbison**, has been visiting numerous chapters across Wyoming and presenting a variety of programs. If you would like Doug to visit your chapter please contact him at [whitestar1864@hotmail.com](mailto:whitestar1864@hotmail.com).

The **Historic Bishop Home** in Casper is working on restoration projects at the historic site. If you have never visited this lovely home now would be the time to do so. They host tours, teas, parties and many other activities. You can find out more by calling 237-2443.

Buck Damone will present a program about the Crazy Woman Battle Site to members of the **Johnson County Historical Society** on April 17th. For details e-mail **Sylvia Bruner** at [director@jimgatchell.com](mailto:director@jimgatchell.com).

If you are interested in the Trails to Rails train ride (in Colorado) which operates Memorial Day through labor Day please contact WSHS member **Vincent Szafranko** via e-mail to

[vincent123@comcast.net](mailto:vincent123@comcast.net). The Trails to Rails program is a program of the National Park Service. More information can also be found at [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com).

Don't forget to register for the 2018 Trek, hosted by the **Fort Bridger Historical Association**. Registration form is inside this issue, or can be downloaded at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org), or by calling 782-3842. Participation in the Trek is open to everyone, members and non-members alike. Make your reservations now. See page 5 for a list of accommodations.



## The Exchange

**LARAMIE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY:** Celebrations for this big event will take place the first week in May. All of the Laramie museums and a variety of organizations are working to create and coordinate activities to mark the occasion. For details contact [kdviner@msn.com](mailto:kdviner@msn.com).

**AWARD NOMINATIONS:** The new Awards Manual is available by emailing Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) or going to the Society's website. Deadline to submit nominations is April 30.

**MONUMENTS AND MARKERS:** Dan Bach from Wyoming State Parks, shares that numerous old state historic markers have been taken out of service for one reason or another. If communities or museums are interested in some of the old signs, or want to know what is available, please contact him directly via e-mail at [dan.bach@wyo.gov](mailto:dan.bach@wyo.gov). He can also be reached at 777-6314.



## Wyoming History Calendar

**April 9—Laramie.** Wyoming History Day competition. Judges needed. Contact Jessica Flock at [jflock@uwyo.edu](mailto:jflock@uwyo.edu).

**April 14-Big Horn.** Treaty of Fort Laramie Symposium sponsored by The Brinton Museum. To register call 672-3172.

**April 19-Afton.** A program about Bedford & Turnerville history. Call 885-9259 for details.

**April 21-Cheyenne.** Laramie County Historical Society will host a program about Wyoming's POWs. For details email [mehartman@bresnan.net](mailto:mehartman@bresnan.net).

**April 24-Torrington.** WSHS president Doug Cubison will speak at a meeting of the Goshen County Historical Society.

**April 26—Casper.** Natrona County Historical Society's spring banquet. For details email [alena.wagner@yahoo.com](mailto:alena.wagner@yahoo.com).

**April 30**—Deadline to submit nominations for Society's Awards program. Nominate someone now. Contact [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) for manual, or view categories online at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org).

**June 29-July 1-Fort Bridger.** The Society's annual Trek will be hosted by the Fort Bridger Historical Association. Watch for details.

**July 26-Heart Mountain.** Annual Pilgrimage. Early registration begins February 1. Visit [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org) for details.

*Laramie turns 150 years old in May, 2018.  
Watch for details!*

**Note: All phone numbers are Area Code 307**

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)

### *Tentative Trek Agenda—Fort Bridger, Wyoming—June 29th to July 1st*

Friday, June 29

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours and demonstrations
- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Executive Committee Board Meeting, all are welcome.
- 6 p.m. No host bar, dinner and guest speaker.

Saturday, June 30

- 8 a.m. Flag Raising Ceremony and Continental Breakfast
- 8:45 a.m. Load buses and leave for two different tours. Tours will feature "the tree," Fort marker, 110th Meridian and the Rendezvous Marker of 1825. A second tour will go to Piedmont, Camp Scott, Fort Supply and Muddy Crossing.
- 12:30 p.m. Back to the Fort for a picnic lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Groups switch and resume bus tours.
- 6 p.m. No host bar, dinner and guest speaker.

Sunday, July 1

- 8 a.m. Flag Raising Ceremony
- 9 a.m. Dutch Oven Breakfast and guest speaker who will talk more about the Treaty.
- 10 a.m. Tours of the Fort

Specific details will be provided upon your arrival.

*.....and so much more!*



**Wagon Wheel Motel;** 270 North Main, Fort Bridger, WY 82933. Phone 307.782.6361 or 1.888.228.5475.

**Valley West Motel;** Business Loop I-80, Lyman WY 82937. Phone 307.787.3700 or 1.800.884-3700

**Country Cabins Inn;** 21 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Mountain View, WY 82939.  
Phone +1 307.782.7888 or website at [countrycabinsinn.com](http://countrycabinsinn.com). information also available at TripAdvisor.

**KOA Campground,** Lyman; 1545 State Highway 413, info 307.786.2188, reservations 800.562.2762. RV and tent spots, with onsite cabins.

**Fort Bridger R. V. Park;** P. O. Box 164, Fort Bridger, WY, 82933. Phone 307.782.3150 or E-mail [fbrv@bvea.net](mailto:fbrv@bvea.net). R. V. parking and tent camping. \$36.00/night for cash and \$37.44/night for credit cards.

If you plan to stay for the **Fort Bridger 1868 Treaty Signing Re-enactment** on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, please be sure to extend your reservations to include the nights of July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please make your reservations as soon as possible as many people are expected to arrive for the Treaty Signing Re-enactment. The Treaty Signing Re-enactment will last until last afternoon on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## ***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS***

### **At Large**

Gail Mehle, Rock Springs  
John Monnett, Lafayette, CO  
Lisa and David Marquiss, Gillette

### **Albany County Historical Society**

Mel Anderson, Cheyenne  
Tammie Sims, McFadden

### **Converse County Historical Society**

Bob and Vickie Winney, Douglas  
Richelle Balcazar, Douglas

### **Goshen County Historical Society**

Andrew Wayland, Torrington

### **Park County Historical Society**

Carlene Lebus and Harris Haston, Cody  
William Emmons, Powell

### **Sheridan County Historical Society**

Jack Lamberton, Sheridan

### ***Wyoming Historical Foundation***

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John and Diana Waggener, Laramie  
David Foreman, Cheyenne  
Jeff and Charlene Busk, Gillette  
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Bertha Ward, Laramie  
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Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Durfey, lander  
John Shields, Boulder City, NV  
Alma O'Hare, Reliance  
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Carolyn Carollo, Green River

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Bradley, Spokane, WA  
Gene Cooley, Casper  
John Corkery, Gillette  
Art Kidwell, Clark  
Kathleen Ahrens, Sheridan  
Max Willard, Casper  
Wayne and Sandra Holyoak, Gillette  
Virginia Green, Torrington  
Dorothy Kerwin, lander  
Bob Harrower, Pinedale  
Robert Holmes, Cheyenne

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Dorothy Feldman, Cheyenne  
John Shields, Boulder City, NV  
Kathy Brown, Gillette  
Bill and Mary England, Casper  
Wayne and Sandra Holyoak, Gillette

### ***WyoHistory.Org***

Del and Sandy Tinsley, Wheatland  
George and Sharon martin, Cheyenne  
Jim and Sheri Geringer, Cheyenne  
Chuck and Katie Brown, Wheatland  
David Foreman, Cheyenne  
Cheryl O'Brien, Dubois  
Duane and Pam Kerr, Green River  
Bill and Marina Britz, Wheatland  
Lyle and Joe Cox, Casper  
Wayne and Sandra Holyoak, Gillette

## ***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS***

### ***Wyoming History Day***

Lucille Dumbrill, Newcastle  
George and Sharon Martin, Cheyenne  
Dona Bachman, Carbondale, IL  
Jim and Sheri Geringer, Cheyenne,  
Alma O'Hare, Reliance  
Karen Chitwood , Rock Springs *in memory  
of Mary Larson*  
Doug Severson, Hotchkiss, CO *in memory  
of Mary Larson*  
Carolyn Carollo, Green River  
Steve Roberts, Cheyenne  
Bill and Marina Britz, Wheatland  
Jeff Wilhelm, Wheatland  
Wayne and Sandra Holyoak, Gillette  
Bud Alley, Signal Mt., TN  
Dorothy Kerwin, Lander  
Gerald Hansen, Laramie

*“Giving is not just about  
making a donation, it’s  
about making a  
difference.”*

*Kathy Calvin*

Thank you to all our donors. We feel the “non-event fundraising idea,” the brain-child of Foundation board member **Charlene Busk** of Gillette, has been very successful. As you can see it gives members an opportunity to donate to the long-term endowment, or to a pet project, or to all. Some of you split your donation among all of the options and it is so appreciated. Additionally, we appreciate the board members (Executive Committee and Foundation) who consistently continue to make a donation, and for the many hours they volunteer to make sure the Society remains a viable opportunity to share Wyoming’s legacy.



Wyoming State Historical Society  
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- *Inside this edition: TREK 2018 Registration and Hotels*

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## *Wyoming Oral History Online Database*

This program has been at least three years in the making, and is now available as a downloadable Access database or Excel file through the Society's website at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org). The database lists the details of more than 3,000 oral histories held in two dozen museums and libraries around the state.

From the beginning the goal behind the project has been to make information about the state's extensive oral history collections available to researchers. Entries are searchable by topic, narrator, name, place and time period. Contact information about the holding institutions is also included.

"We now have a better idea of the wealth of oral history in the state of Wyoming—and it's amazing" This is an excellent additional resource for researchers of Wyoming history," said Leslie Waggner, archivist at the American Heritage Center at UW, and current chair of the Society's Oral History Committee. Leslie added that much of the thanks for this project goes to WSHS member Barbara Bogart. Also made possible by grants from the Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund.

The database is maintained by the Society. For more information and/or to submit database entries please contact the Society's Executive Secretary Linda Fabian at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).

