



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

August 2016

Volume 63, Number 7

Heard on the Historical Trail



Special thanks to all the WSHS/Laramie County Historical Society members who helped with the Society's booth at the recent Western Writers' Conference in Cheyenne: **Jack Mueller, Mary Jane and Gene Palen, Mary Nystrom, George and Sharon Martin, Wendy Owen and Mary Hartman** (who organized the schedule!). Also to WSHS member **Betsy Watry** from Pinedale.

Members and guests of the **Natrona County Historical Society** enjoyed a visit to the Bates Hole area. They learned the history of the Two-Bar Ranch, Bates Hole, and enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Red Creek Schoolhouse. In the afternoon they continued their trek to other areas of interest.

WSHS members **George Zeimens and Jon Voight** have put together another tour of the Paleoindian Red Ochre Mine and Historic Town of Sunrise tours on August 27. To find out more call George at 575-2010.

(continued on page 3)

63rd Annual Meeting in Buffalo

Members of the Johnson County Historical Society have been busy putting together an outstanding itinerary for the Society's 63rd annual meeting.

Chapters are encouraged to send representatives to vote on suggested Bylaw changes and other issues facing the Society. This is your chance to help move the Society forward and to share your ideas about how to make it better.

The weekend will kick off with registration on Friday, September 9th at the Johnson County Library, 171 N. Adams Avenue. The quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee (you're all invited) will begin at 9:00 a.m. that day and continue to noon. Throughout the afternoon you can enjoy self-guided walking tours of Buffalo, or take a tour of historic Fort McKinney, the present day site of the Veterans' Home of Wyoming.

At 3:00 it is hoped that everyone will attend a presentation by board member Doug Cubbison about how to get young people involved in your chapter activities. Please plan to attend this important discussion.

An evening reception at the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum will begin at 6 p.m. where you can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and refresh-

ments, and enjoy the exhibits.

Saturday, September 10th will begin with registration at the Johnson County Library through noon. Followed by the Annual Membership Meeting which will begin at 8:00 a.m. Let's have a good representation from all the chapters so the roll call will be hardy!

At 12:30 the annual awards luncheon will be held. Certificates and monetary gifts will be awarded to those individuals and organizations who will be honored for the contributions to Wyoming's historical legacy. Afterwards you can enjoy a presentation titled "Untrammled," or continue your self-guided walking tours of Buffalo. The weekend will wrap up with a social hour and dinner at the Bomber Mountain Civic Center.

You are invited to hang around Sunday and enjoy everything the area has to offer.

The registration form can be found on page six, and must be returned no later than September 1. The registration fee is \$75 per person and includes the reception, the awards luncheon and dinner.

See you in Buffalo....

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**All correspondence, membership
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Linda Fabian, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

Preferably via e-mail to
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 and "like"
us on Facebook

From the President...



Greetings
members and
friends!

How the summer
flies by....can it
really be August
already?

Well, with late

summer also comes elections. We have been hearing about them everywhere and the Wyoming State Historical Society is no different. I am sad to report that three of our board members are moving off the board and I especially will miss their contributions. Join me in thanking **Joe Fabian, Trey Sherwood, and Steve Roberts** for all they have done for the Society. In this issue of the newsletter you will find election information and a ballot. Four Society members have graciously stepped forward to offer their services. You will also find bylaw changes listed. These will be voted on at the general meeting in Buffalo.

Changes at the University of Wyoming impact some of our business as well. Last month we congratulated **Rick Ewig** on his retirement from the AHC, but he does continue to work on Society business including serving as editor of *Annals of Wyoming* along with our calendar and also serves on a number of Society committees. With sadness I must report on another retirement. WSHS member **Dick Kean** will be retiring as Wyoming History Day Coordinator in early August. I visited with AHC Director/WSHS member **Bridget Burke** regarding

his position and she is planning to advertise the position and get it filled as quickly as possible. Please join me again in thanking Dick for his many years of leadership and work with our youth in this significant role.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that the WSHS has indeed received the official IRS letter granting our 501C(3) status! Certainly reason to celebrate. Chapter officers, please be sure to review the material sent earlier regarding responsibilities which need to be followed to insure this does not occur again. Thanks again to our Executive Secretary **Linda Fabian** and our accountants for the months spent in pursuit of this.

September brings our annual meeting which will be held in Buffalo. In addition to the annual awards, we will also be presenting certificates to the top ten artifacts as decided by votes. Voting closed on July 15 and the tallies are in. The winners will be notified soon. I want to thank all those who nominated an item for this program. I would really like to see additional institutions participate in this next year.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer and get ready for the gathering in Buffalo!

Tamsen

[Editor's Note: Vendors and members—don't forget to order your 2017 Calendar of Wyoming History. Contact Society headquarters for details].

**RECOMMENDED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED
ON AT 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

Please note the current language contains strikethrough. The proposed new language is in *italics*.

ARTICLE III: Officers and Governance

Section 1: ~~The governing body of the Society is the Executive Committee. It shall be composed of nine (9) elected trustees. Trustees must be members of the Wyoming State Historical Society and are elected by the members of the Society. The Executive Committee is empowered to act in all matters pertaining to the Society except as specifically restricted in this constitution and bylaws.~~
The Executive Committee is the Society's governing body. The Executive Committee shall be composed of ten (10) trustees elected by the membership, nine of whom must maintain a primary residence in Wyoming. One (1) trustee must maintain a primary residence outside of Wyoming. Trustees must be members of the Wyoming State Historical Society. The Executive Committee is empowered to act in all matters pertaining to the Society except as specifically restricted in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3: ~~Five trustees shall serve as at large members. At least one trustee shall be elected from each of the four geographic regions of the state of Wyoming.~~

~~NE Region = Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, Weston
SE Region = Converse, Niobrara, Platte, Goshen, Laramie, Albany,
Carbon
NW Region = Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Washakie, Fremont,
Natrona
SW Region = Teton, Lincoln, Sublette, Uinta, Sweetwater~~

~~At large trustees may reside in any part of the state. To qualify for nomination as a regional trustee, a member's principal place of residence must be located within that region.~~

Of the ten (10) trustees, at least one shall reside in each of Wyoming's four regions (regional trustees).

NE Region = Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, Weston
SE Region = Converse, Niobrara, Platte, Goshen, Laramie, Albany,
Carbon
NW Region = Park, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Washakie, Fremont,
Natrona
SW Region = Teton, Lincoln, Sublette, Uinta, Sweetwater

Wyoming History Calendar

To Do...

August 15-Society Headquarters. Deadline to receive Annual Chapter Activity Reports as described in recent correspondence to all chapters.

August 27. Gillette. Celebrate 125 years of history through a variety of events and activities. For details contact Charlene Busk (charbusk@usa.com) or Mary Kelley (marykelley@vcn.com) [Note the event is 8.27.16, same as their zip code!]

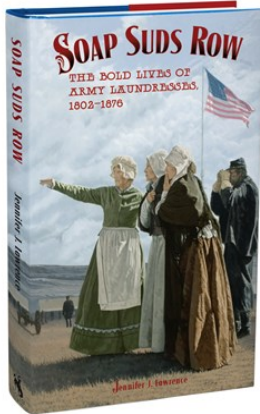
August 27. Sunrise. Enjoy a tour of the historic Sunrise Mine. Call George Zeimans at ggzzk@embarqmail.com for details.

September 9-10. Buffalo. WSHS Annual Meeting. Registration on page 6 of this issue. Deadline to register September 1. Motel/Hotel information on page 8 of this issue.

Note: Area Code for all Wyoming phone numbers is 307

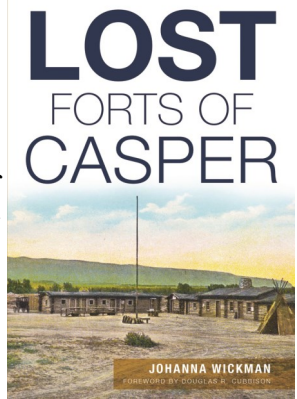
Wyoming History News welcomes information about events of interest to the general membership and others. Information should be sent at least a month in advance and should reach the WHN editor by the 15th. Send items to Editor, Wyoming History News, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

On the bookshelf...

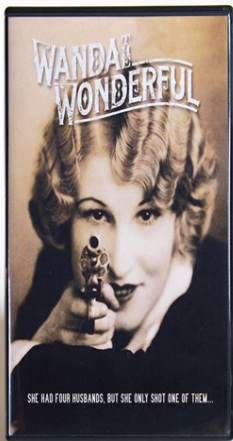


WSHS member and publisher of High Plains Press, **Nancy Curtis**, announces the recent release of “*Soap Suds*,” by Jennifer Lawrence. Women have always followed the troops, but military laundresses were the first to be carried on the rolls of the U.S. Army. They traveled and lived alongside the soldiers during two of the most important conflicts in United States history: the Civil War and the war on the western frontier. To order visit www.highplainspress.com, or contact your local bookstore.

WSHS member **Johanna Wickman**, shares her book “*Lost Forts of Casper*,” published by The History Press (Arcadia). Three army outposts built before and during the Civil War protected critical routes along the western trails at the North Platte River near what later became Casper. Read about the violent winds, horrendous blizzards and scorching summers that soldiers endured. Learn about the Battle of Platte Bridge and much more. Order this book from your local bookstore or through Arcadia Publishing.



WSHS member **Carolyn Macartney** announces the release of “*Wanda the Wonderful*,” a documentary that shares the true tale of a 1920s era wild west sharpshooter, Wanda, and her journey from Indian territory to sheep country, via the circus, Vaudeville, Hollywood and a brothel. It is a story about family, sacrifice, and love in the American West, what it means to forge your own way, and the realities behind a glamorous and exhibit lifestyle. Carolyn is a filmmaker who never met her grandmother Wanda, but was intrigued to want to know more. You can purchase the DVD directly from the film’s website at www.wandathewonderful.com.



[Editor’s note: For those of you who attended the annual meeting in Worland several years ago, you’ll remember this is where we learned about Wanda Hampton. She was described as “the lady who had four husbands, but she only shot one!”]

***Welcome New Members and
Thank You Donors***

At Large

Kathryn Thomas, Fargo, ND
Michael Powell, Alexandria, VA
Mattie Katz, Georgetown, KY
Irene Brown, Jefferson, OR
Ron Douglass, Clinton, UT
Carolyn Macartney, Alpine, TX
Karen and Ron Dickenson, Los Altos, CA
Martelle Weber, Cheyenne

Wyoming Historical Foundation
(The long-term endowment)
Turner Rivenbark, Wallace, NC

WyoHistory.Org
Milton Lowrey, Los Angeles, CA

Converse County Historical Society

George Yourbaugh, Douglas

Lincoln County Historical Society

Lynn Harrell and Scotty McKern, Kemmerer
Linda Goetz and Doug Tingwall, Kemmerer

Sheridan County Historical Society

Sonny Reisch, Sheridan
Sandra Ziler, Sheridan
Jack Pelissier, Big Horn
Bill Rawlins, Sheridan
John Sampson, Story
Ronald Stahley, Evanston

Have you moved recently? Please let the Society know your new address. E-mail headquarters at linda@wyshs.org.

In Memory....

Our condolences to the family of **Ralph Frederick Stahley**, a long-time member from Evanston, and a proud Wyoming veteran, who died on May 7th. Also to the family of **Nanette Ourada**, who died in Cheyenne last December. She and her husband, Thomas, were married for seventy years.

We are also sad to announce the death of WSHS *charter member* **Ester Johansson Murray** who died in Cody on July 1st. In 2010 she was honored by the Society with the Mabel Brown Cumulative Contribution Award, given in special recognition “to a living Wyoming resident who, over a long period of time, has made valuable contributions to the understanding and awareness of Wyoming and its history.” Ester was named a “Living Legend” by Westerners International in 2014, and I know we all agree with that. A beautifully gentle woman, Ester was born in 1919 in Cody. After high school she studied history at the University of Wyoming, receiving her degree in 1941. She taught school for a few years, married and enjoyed traveling, but especially loved returning to her hometown of Cody. She will be remembered for her many books and articles that shared her love of Wyoming. Her works have been widely published in *Wyoming Wildlife* and *Annals of Wyoming*. Ester was an active member of the Park County Historical Society chapter, and served as president and several terms as secretary. In an article from the *Buckskin Bulletin* she was aptly described as one who “lives life authentically and with honesty, to treat others with kindness and compassion, to write and research with perseverance and passion, to greet each day with spunk and enthusiasm, to approach one’s work with dedication, determination and zeal, and to embrace life with spirit and Western gusto....that’s true Western grit....that’s Ester Johansson Murray.”

**63rd Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Historical Society
Hosted by the Johnson County Historical Society**

Registration \$75.00 per person. Registration must be received no later than September 1, 2016.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Registration costs include all events (plus a reception, luncheon and dinner) listed on the schedule, not including the optional “other things to do in the area” items. If you have any dietary restrictions please note them here:

Please send payment and registration form *no later than September 1, 2016*:

**The Johnson County Historical Society
c/o Sylvia Bruner
P.O. Box 596
Buffalo, WY 82834**

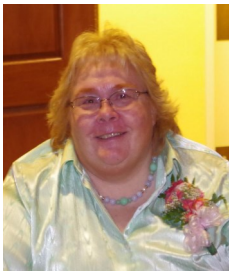
For questions contact Sylvia Bruner at registrar@jimgatchell.com, 307-684-9331 or Patty Myers at pattyshistory@gmail.com, 307-684-9381

Discover Historic Buffalo, Wyoming

Please review the following information about the candidates running for a position on the Executive Committee. The ballot is inserted and should be returned to Society headquarters no later than September 1st. Thank you for voting.



SW Representative—Alice M. Cornell of Jackson is the retired Head of the University of Cincinnati Libraries Archives & Rare Books Department. She was also editor of the University of Cincinnati Digital Press which produced research publications highlighting Native American and Western materials from multiple institutions. A family vacation brought her to Wyoming in 1957. She wanted to stay, but it was 50 years before she was able to make the move. In the meantime she spent vacations in Wyoming and focused her professional career on the History of the American West. A sabbatical was spent gathering bibliographic resources on the history of Jackson Hole. Work on publications of the University of Cincinnati Digital Press provided opportunities to undertake research and explore, particularly in the Upper Missouri. She is often found behind a camera. From her perspective, “It would be an honor to be able to use my time, experience and expertise in support of the Wyoming State Historical Society and its projects to develop and enhance access to historical resources in this great state.”



SW Representative – Jonita Sommers was raised on a ranch her grandparents, Albert and May McAlister summers homestead in the Big Piney area. She received her BA degree in education from the University of Wyoming, and a Masters Degree in Behavioral Disabilities at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. A retired educator, Jonita taught in Rock Springs and Superior before transferring to Big Piney. For more than twenty-five years she served as a coach for History Day and as district coordinator. In 1994, Jonita published a book on the Green River Drift for which she received an award from the Society. Additionally she has edited several books for Sublette County authors, and written extensive histories for exhibits at the Green River Valley Museum. Her work has also been published in several magazines. Jonita was instrumental in getting the Sommers Ranch and Green River Drift Trail on the National Register. She and her brother donated the Sommers Ranch to the Sublette County Historical Society so it could become a living history museum.



At Large-Lisa Thalken is a Wyoming Native and a member of the Converse County Historical Society. She is a resident of Douglas and has in the past called both Casper and Wheatland home. She has been involved in many different aspects of history throughout the state for some time and has volunteered as a living historian at multiple sites throughout the state such as Fort Caspar Museum, The National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, The Wyoming Veteran's Memorial Museum, The Historic Bishop Home, Fort Laramie National Historic Site and Fort Fetterman State Historic Site. Aside from her involvement in the historical society, Lisa was recently named chairman of the Friends of Fort Fetterman and also serves on the Douglas Historic Preservation Commission and is actively involved with the ongoing restoration project at Camp Douglas Officers Club. Lisa's passion is to promote history and the historical society itself to young adults and families and has a goal to see more members her age get involved soon. Rarely does she do any volunteering without being accompanied by her 5 year old daughter Liberty.



At Large—Leslie Waggner is a faculty archivist at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center, where she has been employed since 2000. She has held three positions at the AHC: photo archivist, curator of the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership, and, most recently, collections processor and rare books cataloguer. She has taught workshops on photographic materials and on intellectual rights for the Society of American Archivists, and has also conducted workshops in Wyoming and beyond on preservation of photographs and other historical materials. From 2010 through 2012, she led two major oral history projects involving more than 100 interviews relating to Wyoming's recent oil and gas booms and busts. Leslie is co-author of the book *Local History Reference Collections for Public Libraries*, published in 2015 by the American Library Association. She is a member of the WSHS Oral History Committee. She and her husband, Robert, a Wyoming native, have loved learning about Wyoming's history since her first WSHS trek in 2002. They have attended 14 annual treks together, including this year's venture to the historic Sunrise mine and nearby sites. The couple live in Laramie.



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

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82201
Permit No. 71

BALLOTS, BYLAWS AND BUFFALO!!
Vote and register now. Deadline September 1, 2016

Address Service Requested

Make your reservations now....

The 63rd annual meeting of the Wyoming State Historical Society will be held the weekend of September 9th in Buffalo, Wyoming. Hosted by the **Johnson County Historical Society**, the event is sure to be one that you don't want to miss. There will be an educational workshop specifically designed for chapters, in addition to the general membership meeting, awards luncheon, and tours. More information about that and registration details will be forthcoming. For now, make your reservations. There are 17 motel/hotels in Buffalo, in addition to RV Parks.

- **Hampton Inn** has a block of rooms available September 8-10 for \$99.00 a night. Please make your reservations before August 25th by calling 684-8899 and requesting WSHS rates.
- **Buffalo Inn** has a block of rooms available from as early as September 6th to September 12th (should you want to come early and/or stay late to explore the area). The rate is \$80.00 and only available by calling 684-7000 or 684-5416.
- **Buffalo Chamber of Commerce** can provide more lodging opportunities. Call them at 684-5544, or visit their website at www.buffalowyo.com, and click on the link at the top that says "stay."



*The historic Occidental Hotel, from the J.E. Stimson Collection/
Wyoming State Archives*