



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

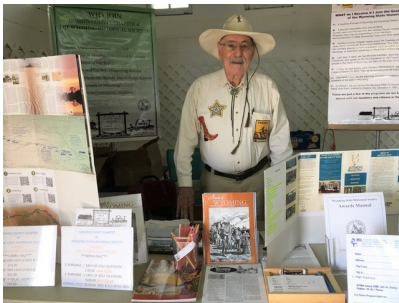
January-February 2022

Volume 69, Number 1

Heard on the Historical Trail



Many chapters report their participation in county fairs and holiday bazaars. It is a chance to sell calendars and gain new members! Thanks to all who volunteer their time. (Goshen CHS member **Ross Burmaster** selling goods! Thanks to **Mary Houser** for the picture.)



Congratulations to WSHS members and authors, **Ann Noble** and **Jonita Sommers**, on winning a silver medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards for their book titled *Homesteading and Ranching in the Upper Green River Valley*.

The **Weston County Historical Society** invites you to participate

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KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE 2025

The Wyoming Historical Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Society, was established in 1966 to foster and encourage the study of Wyoming's historical legacy. In 2015 the Foundation set a goal for the permanent long-term endowment fund to reach \$500,000 by 2020. The five-year goal was successfully met and stands at almost \$550,000.

The Foundation's board of directors is now advancing that goal to a total of \$750,000 by end of 2025. In preceding years the interest from this fund has been split with 60% of the interest going directly to the Society for day-to-day operations, and 40% of the interest reinvested into the long-term endowment held by the Wyoming Community Foundation.

In years past former WSHS president **Dr. David Kathka**, talked about the rocks upon which our foundation is built. He said that first and foremost we are built on Wyoming as a state that understands and appreciates its past. This understanding is supported by our partnership with the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, and the American Heritage Center. One of the most im-

portant rocks is our network of chapters. We all agree that without this organizational model envisioned by our founders it is doubtful we could have survived the last sixty-eight years! Our underpinnings are solid with chapter members and others from across the United States, and in three foreign countries. We couldn't do it without you. Members are vital to our success and play an important role in not only our history, but our future.

Our scholarly journal, along with this newsletter, are also our rocks. *Annals of Wyoming* continues to be an outstanding publication featuring Wyoming History—one that researchers look to as a primary source. Additionally the Society has created its online encyclopedia, WyoHistory.org. Our rocks include a prestigious awards program, a research grant program, an opportunity for students through Wyoming History Day, and so much more.

By now you have received an invitation to give to the Foundation and some of these special programs. Thank you for your constant support — our firm foundation would fail without you. Happy New Year!

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**From the
President. . .**

Dear friends,
It's a new year and, if you're like me, you're wondering what happened to 2021! But I have to say that I'm so excited about what's happening with our Society this year. The 2022 trek from June 10 to 12 will be hosted by the Fremont County Historical Society. So much to see there. In my 21 years in Wyoming, I still haven't visited South Pass, so I'm really looking forward to that. The annual meeting is September 9 to 11 in Kemmerer hosted by the Lincoln County Historical Society. My previous career was in archaeology, so I'm excited to not only find out more about the area's history, but also its prehistory.

WSHS continues to build up our selection of online programming for launch on the Society's website by this summer. You'll find everything from women's history to high-way history and more. This content can find many uses. Chapters can enjoy it for a meeting, especially during our cold winter months when a virtual meeting can be a good alternative. Educators may find it works well for their curriculum. And those who, like me, are fanatical about Wyoming history can view it to learn more about the state's past. We'll keep you apprised of de-

velopments.

We're also beginning work on an online resources tab for the website. During a discussion at the last virtual get-together in November, participants suggested that the Society include a list of presenters for chapter meetings, various educational resources, and a list of dedicated history rooms in county libraries or those affiliated with libraries. Those are certainly doable. Do you have ideas you'd like to share? If so, please don't hesitate to contact me via email (lwaggen2@uwyo.edu) or Linda (linda@wyshs.org).

Two important dates to remember: The Society's Executive Committee will hold its quarterly meeting for chapter representatives on Saturday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m., and the Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, March 26th at 10:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars!

I look forward to seeing all of you during our meetings and get-togethers and to enjoying with you all the great WSHS events coming up. Keep those membership forms handy and encourage your friends to join us. All my best to you in 2022, dear friends. Happy New Year!

Leslie

(Continued from page 1)

in a zoom (and or in person) meeting about the history of the WPA and the CCC on January 15 at 2:00 p.m. The program will be presented by former WSHS president, **Mike Cassity**. For the link call **Mike Jording** at 746-8407.

Members of the **Natrona County Historical Society** enjoyed a program presented by Allison Maluchnik of Service Wyoming about the historical role of the African American churches, businesses, and people in Casper. The program can be viewed on YouTube: *MLK/Wyoming Equality Day 2021: Casper Freedom Trail*. In December they enjoyed a talk by Dale Bohren, retired publisher of the Casper Star Tribune, who shared a retrospective of Casper's history. On Thursday, January 27th the group will enjoy a program by WSHS member **Cindy Bower** about "Leaving a Legacy of Stories." For details call 307-259-3350.

Congratulations to WSHS member **Brigida Blasi** who won the Fireman Award from the *Western Historical Quarterly* for

her article titled "Rediscovering Dana: The Forgotten Black Coal Miners of Southern Wyoming." Brie is the Public History Educator at the American Heritage Center in Laramie.

Congratulations to our friends at the **Wyoming State Library** in Cheyenne for recently being named Outstanding Library for 2021 by the Wyoming Library Association. In her nomination letter, **Natrona County Library** Executive Director Lisa Scroggins wrote, "While the WSL staff is always committed to providing resources and assistance to Wyoming libraries, never have they shined as brightly with their responsiveness as they did during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Many of our chapters have active Facebook pages. Search for your favorite and "like" it.

WSHS member **Tempe Javitz** of Menlo Park, California recently received a Wrangler Award for her article "Transitions in the Changing West: The Photographic Legacy of Jessamine Spear Johnson," published in *Montana: The*

Magazine of Western History, Winter 2019 issue.

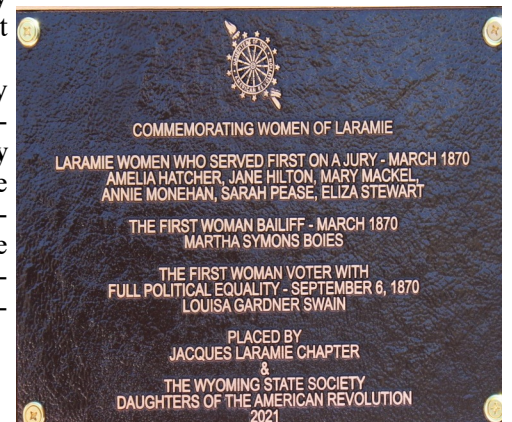
The "**Wyoming History in Art**" exhibit will be on view at the American Heritage Center through March. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the original paintings of historical events in Wyoming's history by the late Dave Paulley. The paintings are featured in the book of the same name recently published by the Society.

The Society is co-hosting the second "Conversations on Collecting Yellowstone" from June 5-8, 2022 at SU in Bozeman, Montana. The conference coincides with the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park. This year's keynote speaker is Dayton Duncan, author, producer, and collaborator with Ken Burns on PBS documentaries featuring our national parks. WSHS member, past president, and founder of the conference, **Tamsen Hert**, will serve as co-chair the event. Tamsen is the head of the Emmett D. Chisum Collections, University of Wyoming Libraries. For details visit the official website at www.collectingyellowstone.com.

Laramie Women Firsts

Wyoming Daughters from across the state joined the Jacques Laramie Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in late September to dedicate a new "Laramie Women Firsts" plaque installed at the Wyoming Women's History House in Laramie. The plaque recognizes Laramie as the site of a number of Women Firsts that took place in 1870. The first woman voter, Louisa Gardner Swain, cast a ballot after Wyoming Territory enacted universal Women's Suffrage in 1869 giving full political equality to women. The plaque also recognizes the first all-woman jury, Amelia Hatcher, Jane Hilton, Mary Mackel, Annie Monehan, Sarah Pease and Eliza Stewart, and the first woman bailiff selected for that jury, Martha Simon Bois.

Senator and Mrs. John Barrasso were special guests at the ceremony that featured remarks by Wyoming State NSDAR Regent Jeanette Hurman and Laramie Plains Museum Director and WSHS member **Mary Mountain**, both of whom were critical in supporting and/or funding the marker. The Jacques Laramie Chapter has previously installed five historic markers or plaques in the county, the most recent in 1930. These mark the location of the Old Overland Trail, Overland Stage Line, historic Fort Sanders, the site where the first woman jury met and Telephone Canyon between Laramie and Cheyenne.



Wyoming History Calendar

January-March—Laramie. The Wyoming History in Art Exhibit will be on display at the American Heritage Center.

January 15-Newcastle. Weston County Historical Society will host a program via Zoom, 2 p.m. “History of the WPA and the CCC.” Call 307-746-8407 for the link.

January 27-Casper. Natrona County Historical Society meeting, “Leaving a Legacy of Stories.” For details call 307-259-3350.

January 27-Sunrise. “The Workers at Sunrise,” 6:00 p.m. Contact for details ggzzk@embarqmail.com.

February 24-Sunrise. “Sweethearts of Sunrise/Hartville,” 6:00 p.m. For details

ggzzk@embarqmail.com.

February 28, 2022—Not too early to think about your grant applications for the Homsher Research Grant. Visit www.wyshs.org and click on Programs. Online applications only.

Future Trek Dates:

- 2022 Fremont County Historical Society and Natl. Museum of Military Vehicles, June 10-12, 2022.
- 2023 Star Valley Historical Society, June.

Future Annual Meeting Dates:

- 2022 South Lincoln County Historical Society (Kemmerer), September 9-11.
- 2023—Park County Historical Society, Cody.

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 linda@wyshs.org

December Calendar Photo Identified

We love hearing stories about the historical photographs that are featured in the calendar. WSHS member **Scott Alston**, from Tulare, California, was excited to see his father and aunts highlighted in the December 2022 photograph.

Felix Vern Alston (also called Junior or Bud) is shown on the left at about 2 1/2 years old. He is with his sisters, Eunice (sometimes spelled Unis) on the left about age six. On the right is Felix’s sister Mayme Virginia (Peggie) at about age 5.

Another sister, Helen Viola, was not pictured but was about 9 months old at the time (1907). Scott says that all of the kids were born in Basin Wyoming. His dad, Felix was the sheriff, and his mom was Mayme Payne Alston. They were married in 1900 at the home of Oliver and Margaret Hardee on Horse Creek, not too far from Shell.

Do you recognize images in other photographs in the calendar? Let us know if you do. And, if you don’t have a calendar please see the vendor list on page 6, or email headquarters at linda@wyshs.org.



(Photo courtesy of the Wyoming State Archives)

ATLANTIC CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DEDICATES 146-YEAR OLD GRAVE MARKER

In the summer of 2021, Barbara Townsend was enjoying a walk in the old cemetery east of Atlantic City and came upon a collapsed 146-year old wood grave marker camouflaged by a pile of fallen fence boards. Turns out it was the grave of a respected member of Atlantic City, Casimer Melin, who died in 1875. Barbara and a group of others, including WSHS member **Pam Spencer-Hockett**, spent months researching how best to preserve, protect, and re-set the marker, and last October they were successful in rededicating the marker. Barbara writes that Casimer Melin was a mercantile clerk and Fremont County Commissioner. At the ceremony Barbara spoke about Casimer Melin’s history and information about the Unknowns in the cemetery. “It was quite moving and profound,” she said, “and many people told me that the ceremony and talking about all the people under their Unknown stakes made them comprehend the significance of finding this marker.” The grave now has two stainless steel plaques, the front reflecting the shape of the original marker and the text, and the back a representation of how the gravesite looked back in the day.



Top photo (pictured l-r): Reverend Bonnie Deyo, Reverend Charles Clark from St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church which has ties to the cemetery dating back to 1911, and Barbara Townsend who found the original stake.



The photo above reflects the original Unknown M42 stake with a plaque that reads Casimer Melin, died July 7, 1875, Aged 34. The photo on the left is a representation of how the gravesite looked back in the day.

Society Publications Available Across the State



Pick up your 2022 calendar and other Society publications at one of the following locations. Not all vendors have each of the publications. You can ask them to order for you by contacting the Society by calling 307-322-3014 or email linda@wyshs.org, or one can be sent to you.

- ◆ **Buffalo**-Jim Gatchell Museum
- ◆ **Casper**—Wind City Books and Natrona CHS
- ◆ **Cheyenne**-Wyoming State Museum
- ◆ **Cody**-Legends Bookstore, The Thistle, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, and PCHS
- ◆ **Douglas**-Whistle Stop or Converse CHS
- ◆ **Evanston**-Unita County Museum
- ◆ **Fort Bridger**—Fort Bridger Historical Association
- ◆ **Gillette**-Rockpile Museum or Campbell CHS
- ◆ **Green River**-Sweetwater Co. Museum
- ◆ **Hanna**-Hanna Basin Historical Society
- ◆ **Jackson**-Jackson Hole Museum
- ◆ **Lander**—Pioneer Museum
- ◆ **Laramie** – University Book Store and American Heritage Center
- ◆ **Lusk**—Stagecoach Museum
- ◆ **Medicine Bow**-Medicine Bow Museum
- ◆ **Newcastle**—Anna Miller Museum and the Weston County Gazette
- ◆ **Rawlins**-Territorial Prison and Carbon County Museum
- ◆ **Sheridan**-Best Out West and Sheridan Stationary
- ◆ **Sundance**-Crook County Museum
- ◆ **Thermopolis**– Hot Springs County Museum
- ◆ **Torrington**—Goshen County CHS and Prairie Creek Books
- ◆ **Wheatland**-Wandering Hermit Bookstore and Platte County Library
- ◆ Call WSHS 307-322-3014 or send an email to linda@wyshs.org

Don't forget a gift membership for that person who has everything!

The Society's holiday gift list is not affected by the pandemic or supply-chain issues so you will not be disappointed!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

At Large

Don West, Cherry Log, GA
Rob Ravndal, Lincoln, NE
Andrea Kartchner, West Richland, WA
Constance Barrett, Melrose, NY
Sublette County Library, Pinedale

Albany County Historical Society

Donald Fritzen, Laramie
Janice Pelton, Laramie

Fort Bridger Historical Association

Terri E. Holts, Rapid City, SD

Goshen County Historical Society

Gary Robinett, Torrington

Natrona County Historical Society

Tom and Katey Covert, Casper
Neva Bodin, Bar Nunn

Park County Historical Society

Catherine and Frank Middleton, Cody
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Shaw, Cody
Mary and Chris Waian, Cody

Lincoln County Historical Society

June Morris, Kemmerer

Wyoming Historical Foundation

Governor and Mrs. Mike Sullivan,
in memory of Liz Rea
Richard and Linda Knight, Nashville, TN
In memory of Joe Fabian
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Simpson, Powell
Barbara Abrahamer, Albany, NY
Eric Petersen, Salinas, CA
Karen Dickenson, Los Altos, CA
Elnora Frye, Laramie
Bettie Marie Daniels, Cody
John and Sherrill Lyle, Prescott, AZ
Jonita Sommers, Pinedale
Clint Gilchrist, Pinedale
Anne Whitehead, Manville
Fred and Joann Reckling, Fort Collins, CO
Mary and Chris Waian, Cody
Scott Alston, Tulare, CA

Doug Dobbs, Murdock, NE
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Schroeder, Carrollton, IL

Wyoming History Day

Housel Law, Cody
Constance Norton, Buffalo
Goshen Co. Historical Society, Torrington
Alena Wagner, Casper
Rick and Arlene Robbins, Wheatland
Carolyn Carollo, Green River

WyoHistory.Org

Dennis and Donna Oden, Kemmerer
Bayard Rea, Casper
Betty Hayden, Titusville, FL
Paul Hannan, Plainfield, VT

Thanks to all who continue to give so generously throughout the year. On behalf of the Society's Executive Committee and Foundation Board of Directors we wish you a very happy and healthy New Year.

Stay Tuned...

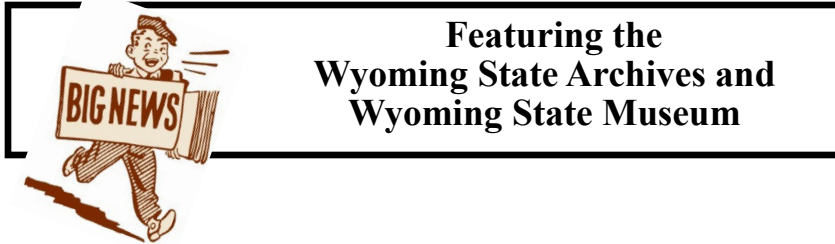
At our last chapter Zoom meeting, there was lengthy discussion about Zoom tutorials. For those of you interested just Google "ZOOM" and go to the Resource tab at the top of the page for a listing of tutorials. We are moving toward developing a Chapter Resource page on our website, to include a suggested speaker's list, and also some wonderful online programs chapters will be able to use. Additionally, there will be fairly major upgrades to both the Society's website and WyoHistory.org in the very near future.

Thank you to ALL who participated in these lively discussions. The next chapter zoom meeting will be Saturday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m. The Society's Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, March 26th at 10:00 a.m.



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HOMSHER RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Need financial aid to help complete your history project? The Wyoming State Historical Society, a non-profit membership driven educational organization, offers cash grants to people involved in research activities based on various aspects of the state's history. The grants, ranging from \$100.00 up to \$1500.00 are awarded based on applications submitted to the Society's Lola Homsher Endowment Fund Committee. The deadline is February 28, 2022, with applicants notified of the results in the spring. All applications must be submitted electronically via the Society's website at www.wyshs.org.

Committee chair Vickie Zimmer says that work done by amateur and professional historians through these grants supports the Society's mission to make Wyoming's past accessible to present and future generations. Zimmer said, "Providing funds for travel and for research-related costs such as scanning can make all the difference in completing a project. Creating opportunities for original research is a mainstay of the Homsher Grant program."

Grant monies are drawn from a fund established by the late Lola Homsher, a noted historian and state archivist. One of Homsher's most significant contributions to preserve Wyoming history came when she spearheaded establishing the Wyoming State Historical Society in 1953. After her retirement Miss Homsher made a major donation to the Society that has been used as an endowment to help fund Society programs.

The committee reviews all proposals and makes awards after the selection process has been completed, usually in spring. Preference is given to proposals that promise original research on topics related to Wyoming history. Wyoming residents are also given preference, but all applications are welcome. Proposals must include a statement of purpose, an explanation of the project, the value to Wyoming history and a description of how the public will benefit from the research.

Zimmer says it is always exciting to see the creative avenues being explored in Wyoming history. Last year's recipients used funds to enhance their research on topics that included oral history research about United Flight 409, that crashed in the Medicine Bow Mountains in 1955, to a project that provided a fresh take on Wyoming's suffrage story, just to give an example. "Applications that touch upon all aspects of Wyoming history are welcome," Zimmer says.

Applications and rules can be obtained by visiting the Society's website at www.wyshs.org and selecting "Programs" and then "Lola Homsher Research Grant Program." If you do not have access to the web, please contact the Wyoming State Historical Society at 307-322-3014 or linda@wyshs.org to receive a copy of the application. Electronic proposals are due February 28, 2022. All recipients must provide the Society with an interim report and a final report about their projects.