



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming Historical Society

September 2023

Volume 70, Number 8

Heard on the Historical Trail

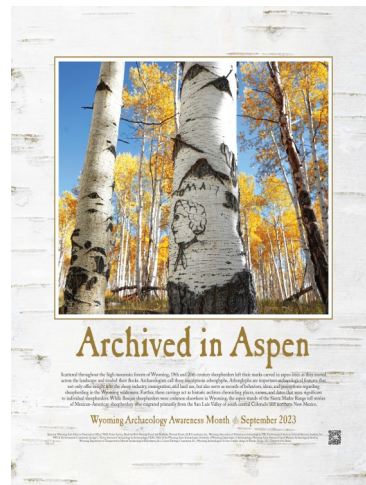


WSHS member, author and historian **Johanna Wickman** of Casper will be the guest speaker at the Natrona County Chapter's meeting on September 22nd. She will talk about Preston B. Plumb, who was often referred to as the "Senator of the West." The talk begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Crawford Room at the Natrona County Library. For details email bsteen@bresnan.net. In addition, see page 4 for details about the Broadway play that premiered in 1890 about Senator Plumb. Get your tickets for that now!

Silent Heroes, an exhibit made to honor the firefighters who served on 9/11 and those who serve today, will be featured at the **Wyoming State Library** through September 11th. The exhibit features 14 flags and 9 pictures spanning from before 9/11 to the aftermath. For details send an email to savannah.erickson@wyo.gov, or call 307-777-6337.

(Continued page 3)

ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH



The Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site in Laramie will once again be the site for the annual Archaeology Fair on September 9th. This free event features hands-on activities for all ages and begins at 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be food vendors, Wind River Dancers, and more. If you have a collection that you would like to know more about Dr. Spencer Pelton, Wyoming State Archaeologist will be on hand to teach you how to examine and identify your artifacts.

For many years the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office has created award winning posters and the 2023

poster, designed by Amanda Castaneda, will likely follow suit. The description reads:

Scattered throughout the high mountain forests of Wyoming, 19th and 20th century sheepherders left their marks carved in aspen trees as they moved across the landscape and tended their flocks. Archaeologists call these inscriptions arborglyphs. Arborglyphs are important archaeological features that not only offer insight into the sheep industry, immigration, and land use, but also serve as records of behaviors, ideas, and perceptions regarding sheepherding in the Wyoming wilderness. Further, these carvings act as historic archives chronicling places, names, and dates that were significant to individual sheepherders. While Basque sheepherders were common elsewhere in Wyoming, the aspen stands of the Sierra Madre Range tell stories of Mexican-American sheepherders who migrated primarily from the San Luis Valley of south central Colorado and northern New Mexico.

To receive a poster, or for a detailed list of events and activities surrounding Archaeology Awareness Month please call Amanda at 307-766-5335, or visit the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office website at <https://wyoshpo@wyo.gov>.

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**From the
 President. . .**

Hello All,

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Cody later this month for the Wyoming Historical Society's 70th Annual Meeting. In addition to being held in a great location with a lot of amazing things to do and see, important Society business will be conducted. This includes, my favorite, reports from the Chapters on their activities, events and plans; introduction of **Aley Philp**, the Society's new Executive Director; examples of Society merchandising now available (teespring.com/70th-anniversary); upcoming focus on the Society's committee reorganization (we currently have 13 committees plus 3 additional ad hoc committees); and most importantly - a chance to honor **Linda Fabian** for all her support and hard work. We will also be welcoming newly elected Executive Committee and Foundation board members. Thanks in advance for your willingness to serve in these roles.

September is also Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month. Following is a link to their website regarding the activities:

<https://wyoshpo.wyo.gov/index.php/events-training/archaeology-awareness-month>

Copies of their new poster will be available to anyone attending the Annual Meeting in person. Otherwise, the link above provides details on how to acquire a copy of the poster.

Labor Day will be celebrated this year on Monday, September

4th. According to the US Department of Labor (<https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history>), the holiday celebrates

the social and economic achievements of American workers.

Some quick, fun online facts include the following: the State of Oregon was the first to declare Labor Day an official holiday in 1887. The first Waffle House restaurant opened on Labor Day, September 5, 1955, in Georgia.

According to this year's Wyoming Historical Society's calendar entry for Labor Day, Wyoming received \$6,829 from the Justice Department for programs to prevent riots and other disorders in 1968. Next year's calendar mentions a 70-year-old man wrestling with a mad bull in Diamondville in 1915.

Speaking of the calendars, the Society's calendars are a great gift option (<https://wyshs.org/publications/wyoming-historical-calendars>). They include historic photos and daily entries signifying historic events. Next year's calendars are now available. The theme is small town museums in Wyoming. The photographs were submitted by local museums across the state to provide a glimpse of their communities in the past. The calendars may be purchased from Wyoming Historical Society Chapters, some County Museums and Wyoming bookstores, or Society headquarters.

After the Annual Meeting, we will also begin recruiting volunteers to serve on the thirteen committees. Please let us know if you are willing to help us out with this important work.

Cindy

(Heard on the Historical Trail continued from page 1)

The **Hulett Museum and Art Gallery**, located at 115 WY-24, is hosting a quilt show from September 22-24. The exhibit is a sprinkling of both historic and modern quilts made by local quilters. Tiny Bush made this quilt for her grandson which is featured in the show. Admission is free. For details call 307-467-5292.



On September 15th you don't want to miss a program at the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne, by WHS member and Heart Mountain intern **Sam Mihara**. Sam talks about his family's experiences during WWII when they were among thousands of Japanese-Americans who were forced to leave their homes. The program begins at 7:00 p.m. sharp and is sponsored by the Wyoming State Archives Speakers Series. For details call 307-777-7826.

The **Johnson County Historical Society** will host a program by WHS member, author and historian **Nancy Trabing Mickelson**, a fourth generation Wyoming native, who will share her family history and tell stories about the Trabing brothers, August and Charles. The brothers were experienced freighters and had many enterprises in Wyoming and Johnson County. The free program will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, September 25th at the Johnson County Library. Call 307-684-5546 for details.

The **Dubois Museum**, the **Pioneer Museum**, and the **Riverton Museum** are each seeking a full-time benefited "Program/Event/Volunteer/Education Coordinator" position. To learn more about the position and how to apply visit <https://fremontcountymuseums.com/news/>.

Bud Alley, a member of the Society Executive Committee, and an Ambassador of The Greatest Generations Foundation an organization for veterans, is assisting another Ambassador of the organization, Doctor Elaine Niggemann, (former Vietnam Army nurse), who is attempting to locate

female veterans who served in all wars. The organization takes veterans back to their duty stations, all expense paid, should they be interested. In addition, Doctor Niggemann, is also a representative of the Women's Vietnam Veterans Foundation that is seeking to increase its veterans awareness. If you know of any female veterans please contact Dr Niggemann at ehn123@gmail.com, or, if you need to confirm this request, contact Bud at either: 615-587-2073 or alleybud@gmail.com. Visit the website www.thegreatestgenerationsfoundation.org if you wish more verifiable details.

Congratulations to WHS Foundation board member, **Kristi Wallin** who has taken a position as assistant to the Rt. Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, the Bishop of the Episcopal Dioceses in Wyoming.

Congratulations also to **Johnson County Historical Society** member, author and historian, **Jefferson Glass**, upon signing a five-book contract with Dusty Saddle Publishing (London & King of Prussia, PA) for his Conor Armenta Mystery Series. The first in the series *The First Light of Dawn*, should be released by the end of this year. Several of Jefferson's books have received awards from the Society. To contact Jefferson about speaking to your group email him at jglass@reshaw.net.

The **Historic Bishop Home** in Casper recently held their annual fundraiser which included an appearance by President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary (portrayed by John and Pamela Voehl). The audience was enthralled by the Lincolns' presentation. The Voehls created a customized talk on the events during Lincoln's political career that paved the way for development of the west particularly Wyoming. The event sold out. The Cadoma Foundation appreciates the support of all who attended. Attesting to the fun is **Gail Thompson**, a member of the **Platte County Historical Society**.



Wyoming History Calendar

September 8-10-Cody. 70th Annual meeting of the WHS. Form is online at www.wyshs.org, or email linda@wyshs.org.

September 9-Laramie. Archaeology Fair, Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, 10a.m. - 3 p.m.

September 14-Cheyenne. "South Pass City State Historic Site," learn more by attending the program at 7 p.m., Wyoming State Museum. Call 307-777-8691 for details.

September 15-17, Casper. "The Senator" see details below.

September 15-Cheyenne. 7 p.m., Wyoming State Museum. Program by Heart Mountain Internee Sam Mihara.

September-Statewide. Annual Archaeology Awareness Month. Visit www.wyoshpo.wyo.gov for details.

September 22-24-Hulett. Annual quilt show. Email hulettmuseum@rtconnect.net for details.

September 25-Buffero. Johnson County Chapter program featuring a talk by Nancy Trabing Mickelson. 6:30 p.m., Johnson County Library. Email nabb@johnsoncountylibraries.org 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.

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

The Natrona County Joint Powers Recreation Board just granted Fort Caspar Museum Association funding to stage a full scale production of "The Senator" (based on Preston B. Plumb).

"The Senator" was a popular play that premiered in 1890 and ran for 119 performances on Broadway before touring the country. Written by David D. Lloyd and Sydney Rosenfeld, the plot centers on charismatic Senator Hannibal Rivers as he tries to push a bill through the Senate for War of 1812 reparations for a destitute family. Filled with political suspense, humor, and romance, the play was a runaway hit. The character of Senator Hannibal Rivers was originally played by renowned actor William H. Crane who based his performance on Kansas Senator Preston B. Plumb who served as Lt. Colonel of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry stationed at Fort Caspar in 1865. Crane copied Plumb's appearance and mannerisms, and the writers modeled the personality of Senator Rivers on Plumb.

This event is FREE but online reservations are required as we expect it to fill up! Reserve your tickets here: <https://www.simplertix.com/e/the-senator-tickets-141577>

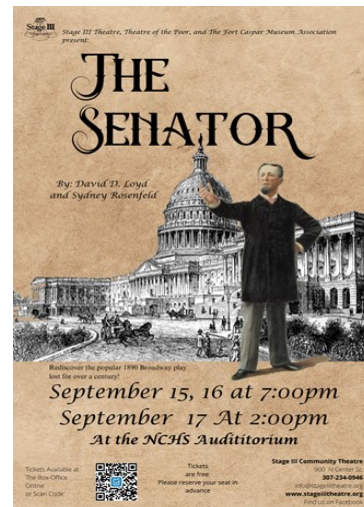
This production is brought to you through a partnership between the Fort Caspar Museum Association, the Theatre of the Poor, and Stage III. Immerse yourself in a 19th century theatre experience

and see what was popular entertainment in 1890!

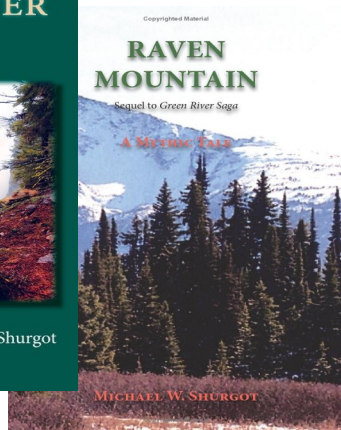
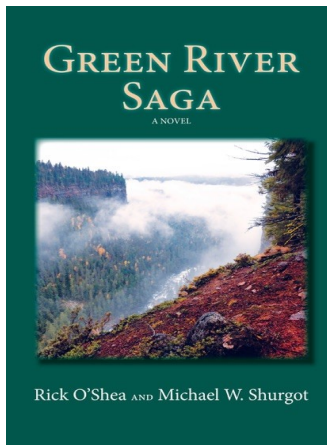
According to author and historian Johanna Wickman, this is very exciting as the last known production of this play was in 1915 and the script is not available from publishing houses or the Library of Congress. She said, "I found it while performing research on my biography of Plumb."

The play will run on September 15 and 16 at 7:00 pm and September 17 at 2:00 pm at the NCHS auditorium in Casper.

For details email Johanna Wickman at wickmanjd@gmail.com.

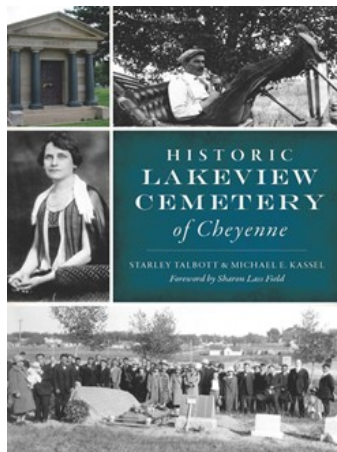


On the bookshelf...



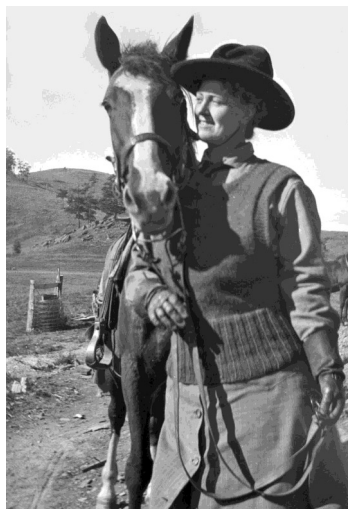
With his second novel, *Raven Mountain: A Mythic Tale*, WHS member **Michael W. Shurgot** of Seattle, WA has now published two closely related novels based in Green River, Wyoming. The first, *Green River Saga*, which he co-wrote with a former student, combines two stories: a battle for land and water rights between a band of Cheyenne Indians and a vicious cattle baron in 1866; and the tormented struggles of Jeremiah Staggart to understand how his god could permit the destruction of his family during the Civil War. Both stories converge during a final battle in Reiser Canyon.

Raven Mountain, the sequel to *Green River Saga*, focuses on Johnny Redfeather, a Civil War veteran of mixed Cheyenne and Irish heritage, who struggles to preserve his Cheyenne heritage while trying desperately to protect himself, his pregnant lover, and his adopted daughter from a former Confederate soldier's mad revenge. Like Jeremiah in *Green River Saga*, Johnny Redfeather prays that the Cheyenne god in whom he believes and the mountain he loves will protect all that he cherishes. Email the author at mwshurgot@earthlink.net. His novels are available at bookstores and at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



WHS member **Starley Talbott** and her co-author Michael Kassel announce their newest publication *Historic Lakeview Cemetery of Cheyenne*. Created in 1871, Lakeview Cemetery serves as a repository of local and state history. Resting in the historic grounds are eleven of Wyoming's governors, including the first woman governor in the nation. Other hallowed, eternal residents include a wild west showman, the namesake of a military base, and a famed photographer of the west. Suffragists, Japanese railroad workers, and a young range war victim are buried here too. See your local bookseller for a copy of this book.

WHS member **Tempe Javitz** of Menlo Park, California announces the recent publication of *Bighorn Visions: The photography of Jessamine Spear Johnson* and published by South Dakota Historical Society Press. Tempe's grandmother grew up in Johnson County and first picked up a camera at the age of eleven. She turned into a gifted artist whose camera not only captured ranch life, but also changing gender norms, transformations on the reservation, and the abundant natural wonders of northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana. Check with your local bookseller about this wonderful pictorial history featuring hundreds of historic photos and narrative.



Jessamine Spear Johnson, poses alongside a sorrel horse in this 1920 photograph.

*Her photographs are featured in a recent book by her granddaughter, **Tempe Javitz**.*

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 to have one sent. Vendors and individuals welcome!

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



This circa 1921 image of the football champs from the Big Horn Academy, was contributed by the Cowley Heritage Center, and is the September photo in the 2024 Calendar of Wyoming History. Get yours at any of the participating vendors or email Society headquarters.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

At Large

Shannon Gibson, Knoxville, TN
Brigid and Bob Flanigan, Portland, OR

Converse County Historical Society
Peggy Middleton, Douglas

Goshen County Historical Society
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Janet Philp, Thermopolis
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Patti Thayer, Ramah, CO
Randy Hein, Casper

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

Qualified Charitable Distribution:

Generally speaking, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is:

- A nontaxable distribution from an IRA (other than an *ongoing* SEP or SIMPLE IRA) that is owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over.
 - The QCD is paid directly by the trustee of the IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions
 - The QCD will count towards the individual's required minimum distribution.
 - The maximum annual exclusion for QCDs is \$100,000. Any QCD in excess of the \$100,000 exclusion limit is included in income as any other distribution.
 - If you file a joint return, your spouse also can have a QCD and exclude up to \$100,000.
- See IRS [Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements \(IRAs\)](#) for additional information.

People over 70 1/2 that have to take Required Minimum Distributions can elect to have part or all of their RMD paid directly to a charity and then they do not have to include that part of their RMD in their income on their tax return.

Please work directly with your financial advisor when considering a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

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.



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In Memory ...



Our condolences to the family of **Doug Dobbs**, a long-time member from Murdock, Nebraska, who died on August 6th. In my career at the Wyoming Historical Society, I've met people who I have never actually met or talked with in person --- each one with an interesting story and a history of their own. They're a special group of people and Doug was one of them. Whenever he renewed his membership it no doubt came with a long letter about happenings around Nebraska, and a bag (or box) of candy made in Murdock. There might have even been a fruitcake or two every now and then. His handwriting was very distinct leaving no mystery as to who it was from. Doug is survived by his wife, Gayle, their children and grandchildren.

-Linda