



# Wyoming History News



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## Heard on the Historical Trail



The recently rejuvenated **Goshen County Historical Society** recently changed the time and day of their monthly programs/meetings from a Sunday to a Tuesday. They're happy to report that there were forty-three people in attendance at their first Tuesday meeting in October. Their guests were WSHS members **Starley Thompson and Michael Kassel** who spoke on the history of Wyoming's airmail pioneers! Their next meeting will be November 28th. Email **Mary Houser** at [bondhouser@gmail.com](mailto:bondhouser@gmail.com).

October is always the month for scary cemetery tours, and other stories about Wyoming's ghosts and ghouls. The **Albany County Historical Society** enjoyed a talk by Lori Howe, author of "Voices of Twilight: A Poet's Guide to Wyoming Ghost Towns." Lori's work was recently awarded first place in the Publications category by the Society. Their next meeting, November 21st, will be to recognize their 2017 award winners.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Buffalo Bill Cody in Iowa, by Julianne Couch**

Most history lovers around Wyoming have visited the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody or have plans to do so. Maybe they've also visited Buffalo Bill's Scout's Rest Ranch near North Platte, Nebraska or his gravesite in Golden, Colorado.

This year marks the centennial of both the Buffalo Bill Museum and the death of Buffalo Bill himself. Now might be a good time to think about the early years of the man who shaped so much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American West, and even how we think about the culture of the West today.

William Cody was born in 1846 on a farm near LeClaire, Iowa. LeClaire has become known as the home of Antique Archaeology, featured in the History Channel's program "American Pickers." LeClaire is also the site of another Buffalo Bill Museum, this one on the banks of the Mississippi River. Its collection includes objects from Cody's Wild West Show, local historical artifacts, and items related to life on the Mississippi.

Five miles north of LeClaire is another river town, Princeton, Iowa. From there, signs indicate the turn onto the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway. Nine miles of travel on a paved two-lane road brings visitors to the Buffalo Bill Cody Homestead, operated by the Scott County Conservation department. The property is now surrounded by farmland and is still quite rural. Visitors can tour the limestone

house built by Isaac Cody in 1847, complete with walnut floors and trim. They may also tour outbuildings and the grounds. The view from the front porch is similar to what Young Bill might have seen as a child: rolling river bluff country with prairie and oak savannah landscape.

The Cody family sold the property in 1853 to the McCausland family. They constructed a frame addition to expand the original Cody house. While there are only a few original items from the Cody or McCausland era, viewers can see what would have been typical possessions for Iowa homesteaders at the time.

Just outside the town of McCausland, on the northern border of the Homestead property, is the Dan Nagle Walnut Grove Pioneer Village. In 1853, Isaac Cody was hired to open the Walnut Grove farm. He moved his family from the Homestead to just north of the village. According to a Pioneer Village brochure, the oldest Cody boy, Samuel, was killed when thrown from a horse, near this site.

The following websites provide more details about these museums, hours of operation, and directions.

<http://buffalobillmuseumleclaire.com/>  
<https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/conservation/buffalo-bill-cody-homestead>

*(Continued on page 5)*

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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. . .



The WSHS is administered by thirteen committees whose efforts (largely unheralded) enable the Society to effectively function throughout the year. As these various committees reorganize, three Society members will complete their terms in 2017 - **Jeremy Johnston** on the Publications Committee, WSHS past president **Dave Taylor** on the Constitution, By-Laws and Resolutions Committee, and **George Damon** on the Projects Committee. I wish to thank these men for their hard work and contributions. Additionally, **Jessica Clark** from Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs has completed her term as chair of the Awards Committee. This is our most active committee, as it is responsible for reviewing scores of nominations, selecting winners, and organizing the awards ceremony at the Annual Meeting. Jessica has been one of the most dedicated workers in the Society, and her efforts and accomplishments will be sorely missed. If anyone is interested in serving on a committee please contact Society headquarters.

Tourism is the second largest industry in the Cowboy State, behind Energy. Unfortunately, energy is a commodity, and is driven by international market factors largely outside of our state's control. Historian Phil Roberts of the University of Wyoming estimates that there have been thirteen energy "busts" and thirteen energy "booms" since Wyoming became a state in 1890 - a boom and a bust for every decade! Nobody should be surprised by this...George Washington diversified his Mount Vernon farming activities from tobacco to a broader range of agricultural products

(including distilling liquor) because he tired of the unsteady tobacco commodity markets of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century!

Wyoming is blessed with spectacular heritage tourism sites, ranging from the streams and rivers visited by mountain men, to frontier forts, gold mines, cowboys and ranches to the second largest Indian Wars engagement fought outside of Fort Phil Kearney on December 21, 1866. The history and heritage of the Shoshone and Arapaho nations at Wind River Reservation is fascinating, rich and compelling. Modern sites include our nation's best preserved World War II Air Field, today's Casper Natrona County International Airport which actively protects, researches and interprets the 1942-1945 Casper Army Air Base. Small towns and communities throughout the Cowboy State possess absolute treasures of historic businesses. These myriad businesses, historic sites and museums collectively maintain and present our nation's Western legacy as no other state in the union can.

Unfortunately, many of our smaller museums and historic sites are not adequately supported, particularly during the "bust" in which we are mired. Additionally, the mechanisms of how heritage tourism succeeds, how much a museum or historic site contributes to the local economy, the intrinsic services that a historic site and museum provide to the community, and precisely what must transpire for tourism to generate substantive revenue into a community's coffers, are not particularly well comprehended. The Society, over the next months and years, will begin initiatives to foster the historic sites, organizations and museums throughout the Cowboy State, and to more adequately nourish the knowledge base of our elected representatives regarding the substantial benefits that heritage tourism affords to our citizens, families, and communities.

Until next time,  
Doug

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

The Society's **Executive Committee** will hold its quarterly meeting in Douglas on Saturday, November 18th. As an open organization we welcome all our members to attend. We welcome your ideas and questions. It will begin at 10 a.m. at the Converse County Library. To receive an agenda email [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).

WSHS member and author, **Ann Noble**, was the recent guest of the **Western Wyoming Community College Historical Society**. Her talk, "Letters from Paris," was based on letters her grandfather wrote during WWI. He was a medical doctor and left Rock Springs to serve in the war. The chapter also recently co-sponsored an event with the Sweetwater County History Museum and others about preserving historic transportation corridors.

WSHS member, author and historian, **John Waggener**, was the recent guest of the **Platte County Historical Society**. John spoke about his research that led to his first book *Snow Chi Minh Trail: The History of Interstate 80 between Laramie and Walcott Junction*. John's program as fascinating and his delivery was very appealing. A side note—the Society published John's book and has already sold out of the first printing. We are in the process of re-ordering, but bookstores across the state have it so don't hesitate to contact [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) to find out where you can get yours.

The **Natrona County Chapter** recently hosted a program about the history of Wyoming license plates by Russell Dickerson. On Saturday, November 11th, they will partner with the Wyoming Veterans Museum to present a program about Anna Coleman Ladd who crafted masks to help soldiers wounded in WWI dis-

guise their wounds. This free program is open to young people in grades 7-10. For details call 472-1857.

Members of the **Laramie County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a program by Kerry Skidmore about how the UP determined the best route for the Transcontinental Railroad.

Kristin Ryan, a teacher at the Thermopolis Middle School did a program for the **Hot Springs County Historical Society** about "History Through the Eyes of Middle School Students." Karen recently received a grant for her innovative teaching methods and the class project she did with her students.

WSHS Past President **Rick Ewig** recently gave a talk about his book, *Cheyenne: A Sesquicentennial History*, to the Cheyenne Westerners. If you would like Rick to speak at your event email [rewig@uwyo.edu](mailto:rewig@uwyo.edu).

The **Campbell County Historical Society** recently hosted a book signing for Lorna Whisler, author of the *Pleasant Valley Cemetery* book, completed just in time for the 100th anniversary of the cemetery. The book features the history of the cemetery, family photographs, short histories and genealogies of the people buried there, and an index of burials from 1917 to 2017.

Congratulations to long-time WSHS members, **Lois Herbst** of Shoshoni, and **Maurice Brown** of Cheyenne, for being inducted into the Wyoming Business Hall of Fame. The honor is due to their lifelong achievements in business, and are notable contributors to both their industry and their communities.



## The Exchange

**JOB HUNTERS:** The Colorado–Wyoming Association of Museums has job openings. For details visit the website at [cwam-us.org](http://cwam-us.org).

**WINTER HOURS:** The Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum will begin their winter hours on November 1. The museum will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday.. Also, there will be a slight increase in admissions beginning November 1.

**STATE HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATORS:** The 2017 Annual Meeting is December 15-17 in Indianapolis. For information visit [www.aaslh.org](http://www.aaslh.org).

**PRESERVING YOUR BOOKS:** Sign up now for the Campbell County Rockpile Museum's preservation workshop on Wednesday, November 8th, at 1 p.m. The workshop will cover the care and storage of books including hardcover and softcover editions, scrapbooks, manuscripts and more. To register call the museum at 682-5723 or e-mail [rockpile@vcn.com](mailto:rockpile@vcn.com).

**GIFTS:** Get your holiday gifts from the Wyoming State Historical Society. Calendars, books, and more! Call 322-3014 or e-mail [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).



## Wyoming History Calendar

- November 8—Buffalo.** “The Vietnam War,” 6:30 p.m., e-mail [director@jimgatchell](mailto:director@jimgatchell) for details.
- November 8-Gillette.** Preservation Workshop. Call 682-5723 for details about saving your books.
- November 11-Casper.** Opening reception for George Ostrom’s Artwork, Nicolaysen Museum, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Call 235-5247 for details.
- November 11-Casper.** Wyoming Veterans Museum will host a workshop for students beginning at noon. . Call 472-1857 for details.
- November 18—Douglas.** WSHS Executive Committee quarterly meeting. Converse County Library, 10 a.m. Join us!
- December 1—Rock Springs.** WWCC Historical Society will host John Waggener. Email [wegner13@msn.com](mailto:wegner13@msn.com) for details.
- December 2—Buffalo.** Jim Gatchell Museum Open House from 10-3:00 p.m. For details e-mail [director@jimgatchell](mailto:director@jimgatchell).
- December 2—Casper.** Candlelight Christmas at Fort Caspar Museum, 6-9 p.m. Call 472-1857 for details.
- December 9-Casper.** Opening reception and Living History presentations, at the Wyoming Veterans Museum. “A Real Close Shave!” The program begins at Noon. Call 472-1857 for details.
- January 25—Sheridan.** Sheridan County Historical Society & Museum Gala featuring Michael Martin Murphey. For details about the event please email [john.woodward@sheridanmuseum.org](mailto:john.woodward@sheridanmuseum.org)

**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 Editor, Wyoming History News, P. O. Box 247, Wheatland, WY 82201.

### *Get your 2018 Calendar of Wyoming History here....*

- Buffalo** – Jim Gatchell Museum  
**Casper** – Natrona County Historical Society and Wind City Books  
**Cheyenne** – City News and Wyoming State Museum  
**Cody** – Legends Bookstore and Park County Historical Society  
**Douglas** – Converse County Historical Society  
**Encampment** – Grand Encampment Museum  
**Evanston** – Uinta County Museum  
**Fort Bridger** – Fort Bridger Historical Association  
**Gillette** – Campbell County Historical Society and Rockpile Museum  
**Glendo** – Glendo Historical Museum  
**Hannah** – Hannah Basin Historical Society  
**Jackson** – Jackson Hole Museum  
**Lander** – Lander Pioneer Museum  
**Lusk** – Stagecoach Museum  
**Rawlins** – Carbon County Museum and Frontier Prison  
**Riverton** – Meadowlark Books  
**Rock Springs** – Rock Springs Historical Museum  
**Sheridan** – Best Out West and Sheridan Stationary and Sheridan Museum  
**Thermopolis** – Hot Springs County Museum  
**Torrington** – Goshen County Historical Society and Prairie Creek Books  
**Wheatland** – Platte County Library and Wandering Hermit Bookstore  
**Wright** – Wright Centennial Museum



January image: Natrona CHS Pep Orchestra in 1931. Photo courtesy Wyoming State Archives.

Or, Society Headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org)

WSHS member **Dr. Phil Roberts** we hear that congratulations are in order. Phil has had a long and distinguished career. He said the past twenty-seven years have passed quickly. “I’ve enjoyed teaching and serving at the University of Wyoming, but now it’s time to pack it in and turn in the keys!” Phil’s retirement will be effective January 8th. “All I can say is that it has been fulfilling to work with lots of great people — students, faculty and staff. It’s been fun.”

We know that Phil is one of those professors who brings innovative methods of teachers to the classroom. His special touch has been felt by many.

Phil is a fantastic speaker on many Wyoming topics, and the author of numerous publications, including co-authoring (with his two brothers) several editions of the *Wyoming Almanac*. Additionally he has written many articles that have been published in *Annals of Wyoming* throughout the years.

Phil has been a dedicated member of the Society for more years than we can remember. He has served as an advisor, and has been there whenever we have needed him. We join his friends and colleagues in wishing him well in the future. Congratulations, Phil.

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Welcome and congratulations to the **Rock Springs Historical Museum’s** new director, Jennifer Messer. Jennifer is a native of Rock Springs and received her Bachelor’s degree from MSU in history and Art History, and her Master’s in Adult Education from UW. For the past seventeen years she was the Assistant to the Director at the Community Fine Arts center. Jennifer believes the museum is a cornerstone to the downtown and its revitalization efforts. She is excited to further the mission of the museum—to protect, preserve and promote the area’s history. She is especially looking forward to working with school children to spark a sense of interest in local history, and to continue collaborations with local and downtown entities. Jennifer takes the place of Bob Nelson who recently retired.

(Julianne Couch, continued from page 1)

When Julianne moved from Wyoming to Iowa in 2011, she was intrigued by the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum in LeClaire, near where Cody was born on a homestead. She thought you might enjoy reading about the museum, and their tribute to Buffalo Bill Cody.

Julianne is an author and longtime member of the Society. In 2011 she moved from Laramie to Bellevue, Iowa, just about an hour north of the Cody Homestead. Her most recent book, *The Small Town Midwest: Resilience and Hope in the Twenty-First Century* (University of Iowa Press, 2017), was named a Kansas Notable Book.. To visit with Julianne please e-mail her at [jcouch@uwyo.edu](mailto:jcouch@uwyo.edu).

All members are invited to submit articles to Wyoming History News as space allows. To do so contact Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) for specific details.



*Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors*

**At Large**

Alysha Wells, Cheyenne  
David Long, Buena Vista, CO  
Darin Westby, Cheyenne  
Kathleen Coe, Casper  
Gail Graham, Manville  
Lynette Edner, Cheyenne  
Joanne Puckett, Buffalo  
Marian Betancourt, Brooklyn, NY

**Albany County Historical Society**

Konnie Cronk, Laramie  
Robert Kelly, Laramie

**Fremont County Historical Society**

Ivan Laird, Lander

**Sheridan County Historical Society**

Mr. and Mrs. W. Cato, Sheridan  
Ron Gorzalka, Sheridan

**Wyoming Historical Foundation**

Kim Viner, Laramie  
Barbara Abrahamer, Albany, NY

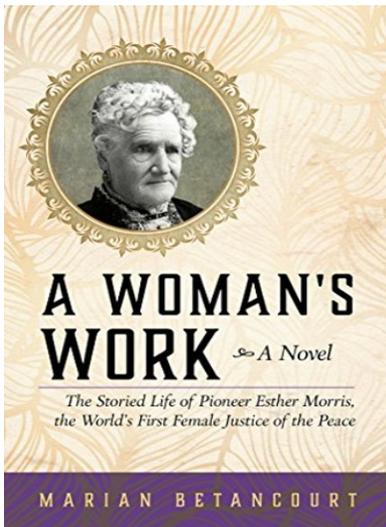
(In Memory of Gene Palen)  
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne

(In Memory of Anne McCoy)  
Dr. Ted McCoy, Cheyenne

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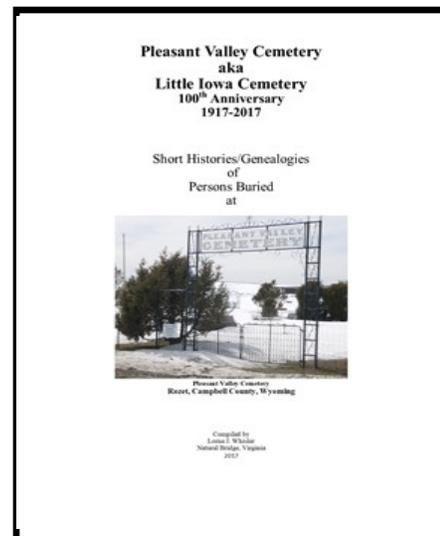
Kim Viner, Laramie  
Kathleen Coe, Casper

*On the bookshelf....*

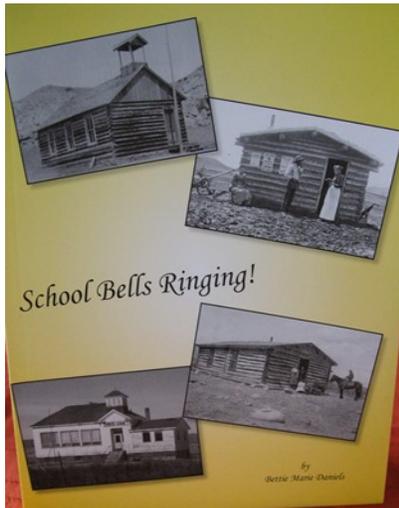


WSHS member **Marian Betancourt, of New York**, has published numerous books on women's issues and health. This work featuring Esther Hobart Morris appealed to her because Esther was a unique American woman whose life paralleled the dramatic events of the 19th Century. Past President **Bill Dubois** highly recommends this book which is available from your local bookseller, or on Amazon. Published by TwoDot.

The **Campbell County Historical Society** recently published a comprehensive history of people buried at the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Rozet, Wyoming. Data for the book was compiled by Lorna Whisler (a former Campbell County resident) from various local histories, newspapers, obituaries and from records found online. The book is available at the Rockpile Museum in Gillette



(On the bookshelf....continued)



WSHS member, **Bettie Marie Daniels** of Cody, is excited to announce the publication of her book *School Bells Ringing*. The book features the history of small rural schools in Park County, Wyoming. Bettie Marie interviewed people and did research for more than six years to develop the stories in this book. To purchase a book contact Bettie Marie at 578-8197 or check local stores in Cody. Bettie Marie can also be reached via e-mail to [mountainbreeze33@gmail.com](mailto:mountainbreeze33@gmail.com).

*West to Wyoming: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Stephen Wheeler Downey* by WSHS member, **Kim Viner**, of Laramie, is a story about the man who is known as the “Father of the University of Wyoming.” Always civic minded, Mr. Downey had a distinguished career in public service and, as a legislator, sponsored the bill that established the University of Wyoming in 1886. Kim is donating proceeds from sales directly to the Laramie Plains Museum. The book will be available at the Laramie Plains Museum or your local booksellers by mid-November. (Courtesy Photo)



WSHS member, **Phyllis Hahn**, of Lusk has written this history of the Niobrara County, Wyoming flood of June 2015. This event had a devastating effect on the town of Lusk and the surrounding area. For many weeks they were literally isolated from the rest of the state. Phyllis, a self-proclaimed news hound” felt compelled to search out the flood stories to help people share their experiences, challenges and concerns. The result is a first-person accounting of how individuals and businesses were impacted by the devastation, and how a community and state came through to help. The book is available in Lusk at Lickety Stitch Quilts (334-9963) or other local booksellers.





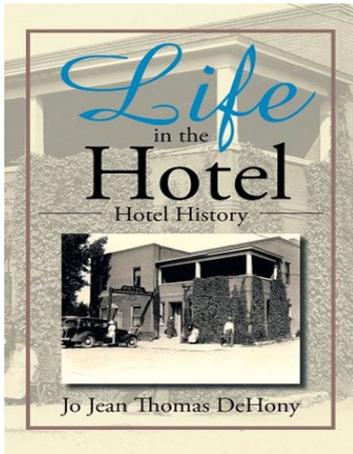
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**Executive Committee meets in Douglas, November 18th,  
10:00 a.m. at the Converse County Library — Join us!**

Address Service Requested

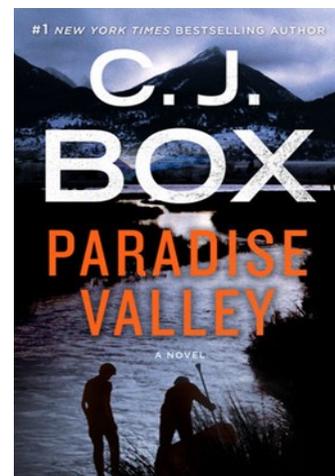
## *On the bookshelf...*



WSHS MEMBER **Jo Jean DeHony**, from Cody, announces the release of *Life in the Hotel: Hotel History* that describes over 100 years of life in a hotel. The story is about Agnes Chamberlin who started a boarding house in 1904 which later expanded into the Hotel Chamberlin. The book is available at your local bookseller or on Amazon.

**Please support your  
local booksellers!**

WSHS member, **C.J. Box**, from Cheyenne, announces the recent release of *Paradise Valley*, a novel about Investigator Cassie Dewell's hunt for a serial killer known as the Liard King. The book recently debuted at #4 on the NYT Bestseller List! C.J. donates all his notes and research materials about his books to the American Heritage Center. Get this from your local bookseller or on Amazon.



*[Editor's note: See more of our members' books featured on pages six and seven]*