



Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming Historical Society

March 2023

Volume 70, Number 2

Heard on the Historical Trail



There are a few *2023 Calendars of Wyoming History* remaining. If you missed out on getting one email linda@wyshs.org. See Page 4 for special information about the *2024 Calendar of Wyoming History*.

WHS members **Bev Holmes** and **Larry Barttelbort** tell us that when the Wyoming National Guard Historical Society was founded they had two major goals. One was to establish a museum, which opened in 2006, and the other was to publish a comprehensive history of the Wyoming National Guard. Due to a number of generous donations they are moving ever closer to fulfilling the long-awaited goal of *Telling Our Story*. To learn how you can participate visit wynghistory.org.

Our colleagues at the Alliance for Historic Wyoming are available to answer any of your preservation questions. Did you know that in Wyoming there are 589 listings from landmarks such

Women's History Month: Women of Wyoming

Women of Wyoming: Then and Now is an oral history project developed for the Society by WHS member and chair of the Oral History Committee, **Janelle Maloney**. “We currently have nine completed interviews with outstanding Wyoming women,” said Janelle. “Our goal is to seek grant funds that will allow the Society to hire a video editor and digital designer to assist with creating an impressive branded visual and auditory experience for viewers of the show.”

Leslie Waggener, Simpson Archivist at the UW/American Heritage Center, and WHS Executive Director **Linda Fabian** are assisting with the interviews. To date the team has an ever growing list of women including former Secretary of State Kathy Karpan, and **Rebecca Keays**, granddaughter of Verna Keays, designer of the Wyoming State Flag, and **Jane Nelson**, president of the Albany County Historical Society who shared insights of her personal family history, among others.

Author and historian, **Brigida Blasi**, provided an interview on black coal miners in Dana, Wyoming. Brie is a public historian who has spent her career working with museums, historic sites, archives, and supporting preservation projects. Aileen Gronewold provided an interview about mental health “histories and mysteries” in Wyoming. Each interviewee has details about Wyoming history that will impact future perspectives, especially for woman. “Our goal is to help Wyoming women preserve, correct, or explore their personal, local and ancestral history,” said Janelle.

This is a screen shot of the virtual interview with Brie Blasi. Interviewers were Janelle Maloney and Leslie Waggener. All interviews are done via Zoom and create an opportunity to pass stories down to others. For questions about the project email janelle.molony@yahoo.com.



(Continued on page 3)

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**From the
 President. . .**

Dear Friends,
 I hope this Wyoming Winter has not treated you too harshly. I know that many towns across Wyoming have been hit by some pretty good storms. I guess it is something most of us in Wyoming have in common. For those members outside of the state, you are missing out on the fun.

I really appreciated **Leslie Waggener's** efforts last year to increase communication with the Chapters. This has been really fruitful to understanding what is going on around the state and building stronger connections. Chapter leadership and members are invited to participate in our next virtual meeting on Saturday, March 4th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We will send a Zoom invite out soon. This meeting will be a time for the Chapters to share their thoughts about how things are going, and help prepare for the upcoming strategic planning meeting scheduled in Casper on March 25th weather permitting. This is an important time for the Society as we look forward and contemplate what we have accomplished in the past and plan for future endeavors. At the time I am drafting this column, we have not finalized the details yet, but we will be sending the Chapter representatives an Achievements Assessment with a Membership Survey. This survey and assessment provide insight as to changes to consider, ways the Society can better support Chapters, and new programs or events you would like to see the Society in-

clude - while also looking for input on how we might streamline the Society's dues structure.

Some of the Society's benefits are pretty apparent, such as publishing and distributing the historical journal, *Annals of Wyoming*; the membership newsletter *Wyoming History News*; and support of our online encyclopedia *WyoHistory.org*. But some of the administrative activities are not so obvious, including helping the Chapters with their membership lists, tax filings, and much more. The Society also provides support and publicity for historical and legislative activities in the State.

Speaking of historical activities, I am really looking forward to attending the Society's Trek this June to be held in Star Valley. I would like to thank the Chapter for its their hard work and efforts in organizing this event. The Treks are especially enjoyable for me because I get to catch up with friends from across the state for the weekend while exploring many places I have never visited and learned firsthand about the history of the area. It is great to hear people who are experts in their community explain what makes it special. I admit it, in addition to the local food, and checking out any ice cream place I can find, I also really enjoy riding around in the bus seeing the sites and getting to know people. Make your hotel reservations now (see page six). Registration details will follow in and upcoming issues.

I know I am “preaching to the choir,” but hopefully you will consider carving time out of your busy schedules to attend the Trek and enjoy the hospitality of the Star Valley Chapter.

Cindy

(Heard on the Historical Trail continued from page 1)

as the 1886 State Capitol building, to downtown historic districts, ranches, roadside attractions such as the Fossil Cabin, and private homes. If you're interested in listing a property on the National Register the best place to start is the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office. Recent additions to the National Register include the First Congregational Church in Sheridan, the Gillette Downtown Historic District, the Henry and Estella Weston House in Jackson, and the Wheatland Downtown Historic District. To find out more email execdirector@historicwyoming.org.

The Riverton Museum has just completed the construction of a new west wall allowing it to install its Native American moccasin exhibit once more. The **Fremont County Museums** system includes Riverton, Dubois and Lander. There are many wonderful things happening there. Go visit!

The **Sheridan County Land Trust** has an Explore History Program coming up, one in Sheridan on March 14th, and one in Dayton on March 21st. "The Wyoming State Flag and The Women Who Made it Fly," by WHS member **Kylie McCormick** will talk about a contest with a \$20 prize that began the humble origins of the Wyoming State Flag. For a list of SCLT events visit its website at <https://sheridanclt.org/events/>.

WHS Foundation president, historian and author, **John Waggener**, gave his program about the history of Interstate 80 to members of the Laramie County Historical Society recently. The Society still has a few copies of John's *Snow Chi Minh Trail: The History of Interstate 80* available if you're interested. Email linda@wyshs.org for details. Its next program will be on March 19th. Marilyn Lanham will discuss the Quilts of Valor program. For details call 3907-632-9717.

The **Natrona County Historical Society** will host a program on Thursday, March 23rd with special guest Karl Pingel who will share his collection of American Indian artifacts.

The **2023 Awards Manual** has been updated and is available by emailing linda@wyshs.org. It is also posted on the Society's website at www.wyshs.org. The deadline to submit nominations is April 30th. This year is the Society's 70th anniversary—let's make the awards program bigger than ever to celebrate all that is happening in Wyoming.

Mark your calendar for April 1st to attend the

Converse County Historical Society's annual Prohibition Party. For more details about this popular event email heidiho2202@yahoo.com.

The **Albany County Historical Society** will host a program on March 21st featuring Wyoming State Archaeologist Spencer Pelton. Spencer will present a program about the Willow Springs campsite near Tie Siding. The area is a major Native American encampment and late 19th century stage station situated around a perennial spring in the southern Laramie Valley. UW's William Mulloy began work at the site in the 1960s and the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist resumed work in 2021. Although Willow Springs is one of the largest archaeological sites ever discovered in Albany County, work at the site has never been reported. For details email kdviner@msn.com.

On Sunday, March 26 at 1 p.m. the **Weston County Historical Society** will present "Ghosts of Newcastle" by **Betty Petranek**. For details call 307-746-2113. The program will also be available via Zoom.

The Society is growing and change is in the air. Please set aside some time on Saturday, March 25th to help us plan for the future. We'll hold a **Strategic Planning Session** in Casper, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the campus of Casper College. We need your input as members and chapters. For more details email linda@wyshs.org. Prior to that WHS President Cindy Brown will host a Virtual Meeting for chapters and members on March 4th at 10 a.m. If you would like to participate please let Linda know and you will receive a link. The agenda will include discussions about how to attract new members, how to keep current members, standardized dues, and other ideas that were brought up at the Annual Meeting last fall.

If you're struggling with program ideas contact Society headquarters for a list of speakers that can present in person or via Zoom.

The State History Day competition will be held in Laramie on May 1st. If you are interested in judging please contact state coordinator and WHS member **Bryce Mittelstadt** at bmittels@uwyo.edu.

WHS member, author and historian **C.J. Box** will host a book signing on March 9th at the Carbon County Museum beginning at 5 p.m. Call the museum for details, 307-328-2740.

Zoom presentations are a great way to enlarge your audience. This has been very successful for several chapters and is something to think about!

Wyoming History Calendar

March 9-Cheyenne. Quebec 01: Life in the Field. Email sara.davis@wyo.gov for details.

March 9-Fort Bridger. Annual birthday party for Jim Bridger. Email FBHA president Martin Lammers at el_carta@outlook.com for details.

March 9-Rawlins. WHS member, author and historian C.J. Box will sign books at the Carbon County Museum, 5 p.m.

March 19-Cheyenne. The Quilts of Valor program hosted by the Laramie County Historical Society. Call 307-632-9717 for details.

March 14-Sheridan. The SCLT will present a program about the origins of the Wyoming State Flag. Email history@sheridandclt.org for details.

March 21-Dayton. The SCLT will present a program about the origins of the Wyoming State Flag. Email history@sheridandclt.org for details.

March 21-Laramie. The Willow Springs Campsite, hosted by the Albany County Historical Society. For details email kdviner@msn.com.

March 23-Casper. Natrona County Historical Society hosts a talk about the Pingel Family Collections. Email robinlbroumley@gmail.com for details.

March 25-Casper. Strategic Planning Session for the Society. Everyone is invited. For details email linda@wyshs.org.

March 26-Newcastle. "The Ghosts of Newcastle." C all 307-747-2113 for details.

April 1-Douglas. Annual Prohibition Party. For details email heidiho2202@yahoo.com.

May 1—Laramie. State History Day competition.

June 15-17— Star Valley. 2023 Trek sponsored by Star Valley Historical Society. Watch for details. See list of accommodations on page six of this issue.

(This is not an all-inclusive listing of all activities)

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

2024 Calendar of Wyoming History—We Need YOU!

Charlene Busk and Mike Jording are putting the 2024 Calendar of Wyoming History together as we speak! We invite you (museums, archives, libraries, chapters, and individuals) to participate by sending us TWO or THREE of your favorite historical photographs. Our goal is to focus on the entire state so we hope you'll participate. We have published these calendars since the 1980s and they are very popular. Vendors all over the state sell them, chapters sell them, many of you sell them, and hundreds are mailed to folks outside of Wyoming.

The photographs must be scanned at 300 dpi at 14 inches wide by 9 inches high. It can be higher than that, i.e. 600+dpi, but the key is that it has to be sized to 9x14 and be at least 300 dpi.

It would be GRAND if the photo could be identified of course, but many times the calendar features photos from an area of the state and not all of the details are known.

We really hope you will participate. We need to receive the photographs **NO LATER THAN MARCH 20TH**, but the sooner the better. *If your photograph is used you will receive ten (10) free calendars to sell in your institution/chapter.*

Please send your photographs to Society headquarters via email to linda@wyshs.org.



This photo of the Cambria Concert Band is a perfect example of an image suitable for the 2024 Calendar of Wyoming History. Send us yours now. *(Courtesy American Heritage Center/Cambria Photo File).*

“According to the Wyoming Historical Society...” Fourth Grade Teachers Receive 2023 Calendar of Wyoming History

Producer, reporter, and on-air host Ivy Engel presents a segment called "Around Wyoming" on Wyoming Public Media's WPR 91.9 FM radio station where each Monday she reports historical news using the WHS website as a resource.

Ivy opens with "According to the Wyoming Historical Society..." We decided to get the behind-the-scene story of the segments as a way to share this fun program with our members and to thank her for promoting awareness of the Society statewide and beyond. If you haven't heard Ivy's segments, we hope you get a chance to do so soon. Here is what she wrote us:

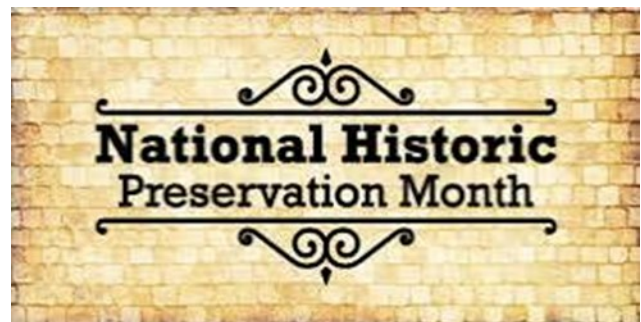
"Around Wyoming" launched in February 2022 is a short piece that airs every weekday morning at 6:06 and is repeated at 8:06, and weekday afternoons at 1:30 and 4:48. Every Monday is a special historic version, covering historical happenings across the state. Most of that information is found on the Wyoming Historical Society website, but I've also been known to use the *Wyoming Almanac* [by author and historian **Phil Roberts**], the Wyoming Digital Newspaper Archives, and a few other sources. Occasionally, we will have a historical fact in a regular "Around Wyoming" as space, time and need allow. The rest of the week, "Around Wyoming" is a collection of uplifting and interesting news that's happening, well, around Wyoming! These are gathered from newspapers, press releases, and several other sources, including from members of our Wyoming community. These stories are often of heroic actions, acts of kindness, national or international awards and achievements, or unusual events, but it's not limited to those categories. It's meant to break the regular news cycle with routine good news and keep people apprised of what's happening around this small community with long streets. If you have a story you would like to be considered for "Around Wyoming," you can send it in an email to iengel@uwyo.edu. You can also find "Around Wyoming" online at www.wyomingpublicmedia.org; click on the news tab and there's a section for "Around Wyoming." There you will find the transcripts of that day's stories and the audio that airs on the radio.

The **Albany County Historical Society** recently gifted the Society's Calendar of Wyoming History to every 4th grade teacher in Albany County who teaches Wyoming history, plus to one high school teacher and one for the school district office. **Jane Nelson**, chapter president, said that amounted to 22 calendars. "We accompanied the calendars with a letter that Executive Committee member **Jessica Flock** wrote that introduced the teachers to our website, and also to the resources of the Society. This was a fun project, well worth the expense of the calendars."

Celebrate National Historic Preservation Month in May

The Alliance for Historic Wyoming is planning now to celebrate Historic Preservation Month. For the past several years it has developed new partnerships, increased volunteer opportunities, and most of all highlighted preservation efforts across the state. The celebration promotes heritage tourism, historic places, and other events that support the economic and social benefits of preservation.

Last year the Sheridan Community Land Trust cleaned and documented the Monarch Lutheran Cemetery north of Sheridan, and the Albany County Historic Preservation Board celebrated the 100th birthday of the Cooper House Mansion at the University of Wyoming. To find out how your community can celebrate contact Megan Stanfill, Executive Director, Alliance for Historic Wyoming at execdirector@historicwyoming.org.



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR THE 2023 TREK HOSTED BY STAR VALLEY

The Star Valley Historical Society is hosting the 2023 Trek the weekend of June 15th. The organizers have a lot of things planned and encourage you to make reservations **NOW!**

Marriott/Fairfield Inn, Afton. \$169.00 per night. Call 307-885-4040 and mention the Star Valley Historical Society.

Kodiak Mountain Resort, Afton. \$184.00 per night if made a month ahead of the trek (no later than May 14th). Call 307-885-8800 and mention the Star Valley Historical Society.

Cabin Creek Inn, Thayne. \$155 per night. Call 307-883-3262 and mention the Star Valley Historical Society.

For more options contact the Star Valley Chamber of Commerce. 307-885-2759.

The Trek Registration form will appear in an upcoming issue of *Wyoming History News*. In the meantime the tentative schedule of events is registration on June 15th in the afternoon, along with some fun activities. Friday and Saturday will see us on the move to enjoy many historical features of the Valley and the area. The Trek will take us from Afton to Montpelier, Idaho and back visiting the Oregon Trail Center and the Butch Cassidy Museum. Trekkers will learn about the Montpelier Bank Robbery on August 13, 1896, and the rich history of the Crow Creek Freight Road between the two sites. Saturday will feature Star Valley History and the history of the sheep movement from across the state from the desert to the mountains, among other great sites.

Make your reservations now, and watch the newsletter for details about how to register, etc.



Star Valley Historical Society

The **Fort Bridger Historical Association** will hold its annual “Jim Bridger Birthday Celebration” on Sunday, March 19th at 6 p.m. in the Lyman Branch Library. WHS member **Dr. Dudley Gardner** will speak on the Latter Day Saints (LDS) settlement patterns in Western Wyoming along with the economic impacts to the region. Dudley will



also speak about his most recent archaeology work in Mongolia and how settlement patterns there are similar to ours, or different. The presentation is open to the public at no charge. For details email FBHA president **Martin Lammers** at el_carta@outlook.com.

Jim Bridger was an American mountain man, a trapper and an Army Scout. He was born on March 17, 1804 in Richmond, Virginia and died at the age of 78 on July 17, 1881 in Kansas City, Missouri.

(Photo courtesy Wyoming State Archives)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

At Large

Sheridan County Land Trust, Sheridan
D. L. Benham, Hammondspport, NY

Fremont County Historical Society

Mary Zuber, Riverton
Gail Sorenson, Lander
Margaret Lawrence, Lander

Fort Bridger Historical Society

Matt Slagowski, Mt. View

Hot Springs County Historical Society

Jim and Dolly Daniels, Thermopolis
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Weston County Historical Society

Joyce Jones, Newcastle

WyoHistory.org

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Hal Corbett and Katie Curtiss, Sheridan
Bayard Rea, Casper
Suzanne and Peter Boutin, Hillsborough, CA
Maggie McCreery and Elmer McCoy, Gillette
Lynn Houze, Cody
Patty and Frank Kessler, Laramie
Alena Wagner, Casper
Duane and Pam Kerr, Green River
C. Howard Christman, Sheridan

History Day

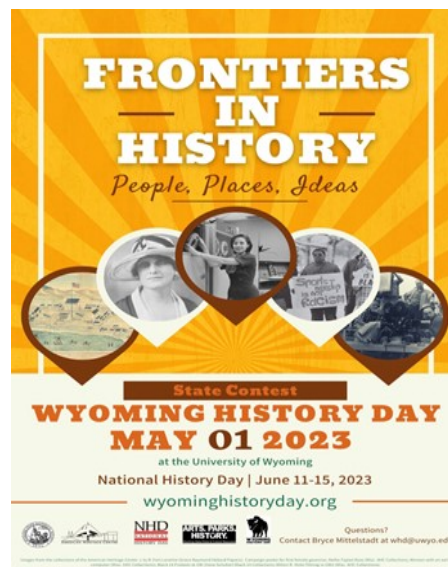
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In Memory...

WHS member **Francine Kean** died in Cheyenne on November 3, 2022. Fran was an educator and in 1988 became an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. She supported hundreds of mothers with breastfeeding and took special joy in mentoring her daughters-in-law when her grandchildren were born. Fran loved to create and ignite creative passion in her children and grandchildren. She was involved in her community and supported and enjoyed the Cheyenne Little Theatre and Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra. Fran is survived by her loving husband, Dick, their children and grandchildren.

Our condolences to the family of **Sherry Lowell**, a member of the Campbell County chapter, who died in Gillette on January 12, 2023. Sherry was a dynamic, intelligent and sincere woman. She was the current treasurer on the board at the Rockpile Museum Association in Gillette, and a champion of women's rights, among many other things.

Dr. William Dean Flock, the father of WHS board member, Jessica Flock, died in Laramie on January 24th. Dr. Flock served two years in the US Army ROTC in Fort Ord, CA and returned to the University of Nebraska to earn a degree in Secondary Education. In 1970 he earned his Doctorate of Medicine and, in 1975, moved his family to Laramie where he spent 46 years in private practice. He dedicated his life to providing high quality urological care to the people of southeast Wyoming. His greatest joy was being able to help patients heal and feel better.