

WSHS – 2014 Award Winners

Publications Awards

Books—Fiction

Max Atwell for Ambush on Elk Mountain

Nominated by Sharon Atwell, the author's wife

This book is a true account of the killing of two law enforcement officers on Elk Mountain in 1878. While all the events in the book actually happened, the conversations between the various participants were made up by the author and, therefore, the book was nominated in the Fiction category. They do, however, convey the terror, hostility, anger, and other feelings of the townspeople towards the gang of murderers. It is an accurate rendition of the event.

Honorable Mention

Linda Jacobs for Jackson Hole Journey

Nominated by Tamsen Hert/Laramie

Set against the backdrop of the events and aftermath of the Gros Ventre slide and Kelly flood in the 1920s, this novel describes the period of growing interest in preservation of and formation of Grand Teton National Park. Ms. Jacobs is a trained geologist who fell in love with Wyoming while attending a geology field camp. This is her 4th novel set in Wyoming.

Books—Non-Fiction

John J. Fry for Almost Pioneers: One Couple's Homesteading Adventures in the West

Nominated by the author

In the fall of 1913, Laura and Earle Smith, a young Iowa couple, made the gutsy if not foolhardy decision to homestead in Wyoming. There they built their first house, a claim shanty half dug out of the ground, hauled every drop of their water from a spring over a half-mile away, and fought off rattlesnakes and boredom on a daily basis. This book tells of their 3-year struggle to prove-up on their land.

AND

Jefferson Glass for Reshaw, the Life and Times of John Baptiste Richard; Extraordinary Entrepreneur and Scoundrel of the Western Frontier

Nominated by Platte County Historical Society – Patsy Parkin, Awards Chair

John Richard was a frontiersman, freighter, Indian trader, whiskey smuggler, toll bridge builder and operator, rancher, military interpreter, and merchant during the earliest settlement of Wyoming who reinvented himself in order to keep up with the changing frontier. He frequented Fort Laramie, Casper, and ranched on a creek named for him near Chugwater.

Honorable Mention

Stephen Jimenez for The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths About the Murder of Matthew Shepard

Nominated by Devin Wilkie, Steerforth Press, Hanover, NH devin@steerforthpress.com
This book is the result of 13 years of research by the author which included numerous trips to Laramie, Wyoming, and to 19 other states to track down more information about the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard.

AND

Jim Hardee for *Obstinate Hope: The Western Expedition of Nathaniel J. Wyeth; Volume One, 1832-33*

Nominated by Sublette County Historical Soc/Museum of the Mountain Man: Angie Thomas
Beginning with Wyeth's life in the East, this volume details his experiences on his first expedition to west. Using his letters home and his diaries, this account traces Wyeth's experience west to the Pacific Ocean and then back to the East coast, augmenting his story with letters and journals of his other fellow travelers.

Books - Arcadia

Honorable Mention

Kem Nicolaysen and Colin Trumbull for *Images of America: Casper*

Nominated by Natrona County Historical Society – Jackie and Pinky Ellis

The history of Casper is told through historic photos of the area dating from the pioneer days of the late 1880s to just after WW II. The book traces the growth of the town/city through these wonderful images.

AND

Linda Graves Fabian and Starley Talbott Thompson for *Images of America: Cheyenne Frontier Days*

Nominated by Gene Bryan/Vail, Arizona

This Arcadia book tells the 118-year history of Cheyenne Frontier Days, “The Daddy of ‘Em All” through photographs from the Old West Museum, the official museum of this rodeo spectacular. The reader will not only learn the history of the rodeo but also about the people who were behind its beginnings, the cowgirls and cowboys, and the volunteers who have contributed so much to its success.

Books—Autobiography or Biography

Rodger McDaniel for *Dying for Joe McCarthy's Sins: The Suicide of Wyoming Senator Lester Hunt*

Nominated by Mark Junge/Cheyenne

“One of the “hush-hush” topics in Wyoming history is the suicide of Senator Lester C. Hunt that took place in Washington, D.C. on June 19 1954. For many Wyomingites, Lester Hunt's death was a mystery until the publication of Rick Ewig's article, “McCarthy Era Politics – The Ordeal of Senator Lester Hunt” (*Annals of Wyoming*, Spring 1983).” In this book, the author writes an excellent and complete account behind Hunt's suicide.

Honorable Mention

Cathy Healy for An Improbable Pioneer: The Letters of Edith S. Holden Healy 1911-1950

Nominated by Cheryl Reichelt/Washakie Museum and Cultural Center; Karling Abernathy/ Cody. Edith Holden Healy was a Boston socialite who came west with her new husband whose family owned a sheep ranch near Buffalo, Wyoming. These delightful letters, written mostly to her mother in Boston, describe the rigors, difficulties, and hardships Edith faced in the towns of Buffalo and Worland. And, yet, Edith thoroughly enjoyed this life, readily accepted it, and even thrived here.

Books—Self-Published

Judy Slack for George N. Ostrom, Pioneer-Preservationist-Painter 1888-1982

Nominated by Sheridan County Historical Society – Judy Musgrave, Chair

George Ostrom was an early settler in Sheridan who contributed a great deal to the community. Much of his rich and rewarding life he recorded in paintings, photos, writings, and drawings which are shared with us in this book.

Single chapter in a non-fiction, biographical or autobiographical book

No entries received

Books—Reference

Dr. Michael Cassity for Building Up Wyoming: Depression-Era Federal Projects in Wyoming 1939-1943

Nominated by Judy K. Wolf/Mary M. Hopkins/Laramie

This book "... provides an in-depth exploration of the decade leading up to the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the onset of the Great Depression, and the responses to that economic collapse by the administrations of Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt." The author offers his own interpretation of how these projects changed America and particularly Wyoming.

Honorable Mention

Daniel K. Kinnaman for Rawlins, Wyoming: The Territorial Years 1868-1890

Nominated by Carbon County Historical Society – Linda Fleming, Chair

150 short biographies of Rawlins pioneers are in this volume and include many who were prominent during its early years. Many of these citizens had streets named after them and/or were mayors, judges, and county officials.

AND

Connie Brown for Down Memory Lane Auburn, Wyoming Vol. 1 and 2

Nominated by Star Valley Historical Society – Gae Perkes, Chair

A very thorough community history as told through the lives of the families of Auburn. It took the author many years to compile this along with a great deal of persistence in order to get the information from the residents of the area.

Books - Poetry

Jeanne Rogers for *Wyoming Grit*

Nominated by Mary Garman/Sundance

A nice poem about a pioneer woman who homesteaded with her husband in the Sundance area.

Pamphlets

Hunter Patrick for **Better Known as Boxcar Murphy**

Nominated by Park County Historical Society – Fran Baker, Chair

Boxcar Murphy is a legend around the Big Horn Basin still today although he passed away in 1990. He was known for hitchhiking all around the area and could be seen twirling his cane, chewing tobacco, and selling raffle tickets to the same rifle over and over again, or so it seemed.

Brochures

No entries received

Newsletters

Sheridan County Historical Society and Museum for *The Log*

Nominated by Sheridan County Historical Society – Judy Musgrave, Chair

This is an outstanding newsletter that is produced three times per year. In 2013, 29 different authors contributed articles to the newsletter and it was mailed to over 450 people

Calendars

Judy Julian for *Fossil Country Frontier Museum Saloons 2014*

Nominated by Lincoln County Historical Society- Sharon Luthy, Chair

Saloons photos and their advertisements from Kemmerer, Diamondville, Frontier, and Glenco are used in this calendar. The saloons date from 1905 – 1972 and historical facts are included throughout.

Magazines and Newspapers

Jean Mathesen Haugen for the **Lander Journal History Series**

Nominated by Fremont County Historical Society – Mary Ann Jones

This is a series of seven history articles published during 2013 which tell about the early settlers in the Lander area. They are very entertaining and full of information.

Buzzy Hassrick for *The Launchburys*

Nominated by Park County Historical Society – Fran Baker, Chair

This article appears in the *Cody Country Legends* which is published each summer at the beginning of tourist season. The Launchburys built Eagle’s Nest, a stage stop, in 1893 and still own it today.

Internet Website

No entries received

Audio-Video Documentary Awards

Professional

Wyoming PBS/Tom Manning, Producer for *End of the Track*

Nominated by Uinta County Historical Society – Ruth Ann Robbins

This documentary is the story of the building of the Union Pacific Railroad across southern Wyoming from Cheyenne to Evanston in 1868 and the engineers, surveyors, graders, tracklayers, and the people of the communities that grew up around the railroad.

Honorable Mention

Wyoming PBS/Steven Knight, Producer for **Cowboys in the Sky**

Nominated by Laramie County Historical Society – Mary Nystrom

The development of the U.S. Airmail system led to the phenomenal advances in aviation technology, techniques, and equipment. Cheyenne, Wyoming, became an aviation center for the airline industry up through World War II and developed the reputation for having some of the best mechanics in the industry.

Non-Professional

No entries received

Fine Arts Award

Herb Mignery for **On Common Ground**

Nominated by Park County Historical Society – Fran Baker, Chair

This sculpture commemorates the meeting in Cody of Prince Albert I of Monaco and William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody in 1913 when the two men hunted together in the Shoshone National Forest at “Camp Monaco” northeast of Pahaska Tepee.

AND

Newcastle Mural Committee for **Newcastle Mural**

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society – Mike Jording, Chair

The mural depicts two different historical scenes of early-day Newcastle. One is of downtown Newcastle and the other is set just outside of town on the range. The artist of these murals is Del Iron Cloud.

Young Historian Awards - Grades 3-5

1st Place – Matthew McMillan for *Dempsey Ridge: The End for Some*

Nominated by Lincoln County Historical Society – Sharon Lathy, Chair

Matthew researched several of the people buried on Dempsey Ridge who died on their way to California and Oregon.

2nd Place – Eryn Ourada for *The Town of Elkol, Wyoming*

Nominated by Lincoln County Historical Society – Sharon Lathy, Chair

Eryn researched the company mining town of Elkol, located six miles southwest of Kemmerer, which no longer exists. She interviewed her grandparents among others to find out what life was like living there from its beginnings in the early 1900s on. The last family left in the 1960s.

3rd Place – Quentin Rosas for *The Duthie Ranch*

Nominated by Lincoln County Historical Society – Sharon Lathy, Chair

Quentin writes about his family's ranch which has been in his family for 114 years, and what it was like to live on the frontier.

Honorable Mention – Maylee Potas for *My Great Great Grandpa Howard F. Bell*

Nominated by Park County Historical Society – Fran Baker, Chair

Howard Bell was an engineer who worked on the Shoshone Dam – now the Buffalo Bill Dam – and also the earthen dam in Meeteetse and was, therefore, very important to the Big Horn Basin.

Young Historian Awards - Grades 9-12

No entries received

Young Historian Awards - Grades 9-12

1st Place – Nick Bock for *Oil Boom!*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society – Mike Jording

Nick researched the Osage Oil Field and the role his family played in developing the oil business in that area.

2nd Place

Kolton Epperson for *Beheaded!*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society – Mike Jording

This is the gruesome tale of William Clifton, aka Diamond I. Slim, who was accused of murdering John and Louella Church, and in retaliation for killing the couple was himself murdered by a Newcastle vigilante group

3rd Place – Tracey Whetsell for *The Heart of Newcastle*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society Chapter – Mike Jording, Chair

This paper tells the history of the four Newcastle High Schools beginning with the first school in 1890.

Junior Activities Awards - Grades 3-5

1st Place – Derrick Rasmussen for *The American Soldier: The Indian Wars*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society Chapter – Mike Jording, Chair

Derrick researched the history of the Indian Wars including the life of the American soldier and created a journal written in the format that would have been typical of the day.

2nd Place – Ezra Anderson for *Early Wyoming Homesteads*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society Chapter – Mike Jording, Chair

This is a well-researched history about early homesteading and includes a diorama of the buildings that were usually found there: house, barn, corral, and water well. (Photos of the diorama are included.)

Junior Educational Activities Awards - Grades 6-8

1st Place-Tymmrie Rainbolt for *Petroleum, Politics, and We the People*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society Chapter – Mike Jording, Chair

The history of the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s is presented in this story board – photos attached.

2nd Place – Hannah Olson for *Estelle Ishigo: A Voice That Must be Heard*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society Chapter – Mike Jording, Chair

Estelle Ishigo was an American woman married to a Japanese-American who voluntarily went to the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp with her husband when he was ordered to go by the US Government in 1942. She documented life in the camp in drawings which were later published.

3rd Place – Kade McMillan for *The Black 14: The Right to Play*

Nominated by Weston County Historical Society Chapter – Mike Jording, Chair

The story of the “Black 14” will remain a major part of not only Wyoming’s sports history but also in our nation’s history. Kade created a website to present his research.

Junior Activities Awards - Grades 9-12

1st Place – Maddie Welch and Gabbi Barrus for *Heart Mountain Relocation Camp*

Nominated by Stephany Anderson, Cody High School, Cody

The storyboard describes the history of the Japanese-Americans coming to the camp located between Cody and Powell, their daily lives both before and in the camp, the reasons for internment, and the resistance movement.

Activities Awards - Well-Planned, Well-Conducted Tour or Tours to an Historic Site (Trek)

Little Snake River Museum/LSRValley Community Ed. Center for Little Snake River Fall Trek

Nominated by Carbon County Historical Society – Linda Fleming, Chair

This trek traveled to the coal mining towns of Superior, Rock Springs, and Reliance. Guest speakers were brought in talk about the mining days including the riots at Rock Springs known as the “Chinese Massacre, the Point of Rocks Stage Stop, and the buildings south of the tracks in Rock Springs. In all, eight stops were made and 40 people attended.

Activities Awards - Outstanding Educational Project

Helen Laumann for *Conversations in History with Helen Laumann*

Nominated Sheridan County Historical Society – Judy Musgrave, Chair

Helen is the driving force behind the program *Conversations in History*, doing the research, obtaining the images, and presenting the program throughout the Sheridan area to service clubs, etc. Many times she is asked to repeat the program due to its popularity.

Honorable Mention:

Jeff Wilhelm for *Organizer of Chaos – Jeff Wilhelm*

Nominated by Platte County Historical Society – Patsy Parkin, Chair

Jeff is responsible for organizing, cataloging, and filing the vertical files of the Platte County Library so that they are now usable as research files.

Activities Awards – Museum Activity

Meeteetse Museums/David Cunningham and Rachel DeShong for *Molesworth and Belden: Collaboration in Design*

The Meeteetse Museums produced an exhibit showcasing the furniture of Thomas Molesworth made for Pitchfork Ranch owner, photographer Charles Belden.

Activities Awards – Historic Restoration or Interpretation of Local Historic Sites

No nominations received

Activities Awards – Family History Project

No nominations received

Annual Services Award

Given to a WSHS member to recognize outstanding services to the Society, either state or local during the award year.

No nominations received

Chapter Award

Presented to chapters affiliated with the WSHS to provide financial assistance with their historic projects.

1st Place – Sheridan County Museum for *Electrical Repairs to the Tongue River Tie Flume Diorama*

Nominated by Sheridan County Historical Society – Judy Musgrave, Chair

The Tongue River Tie Flume was completed in 2005 but now is in need of electrical repairs in order to keep it on display. It is extremely popular with the museum's visitors and an integral part of the history of the Sheridan area.

The Clara M. and Henry E. Jensen Outstanding Wyoming Teacher Award

Presented by the WSHS to the teacher who has done an outstanding job in teaching Wyoming history.

Joanie James

Nominated by Albany County Historical Society – Carly Ann Anderson, Chair

Ms. James currently teaches history to fourth and fifth students at the University Lab School and has been teaching for 35 years. Perhaps her major contribution to her students is her teaching style: simulations, hands-on activities, and the encouragement of critical thinking.

James also takes her students on a three-day tour of Wyoming to visit historic sites and to learn first-hand from these places.

Mabel Brown Cumulative Contribution Award

Presented by the WSHS to a living Wyoming resident who, over a long period of time, has made valuable contributions to the understanding and awareness of Wyoming history.

A. Dudley Gardner, Ph.D.

Nominated by Ft. Bridger Historical Association – Martin Lammers

Dr. Gardner has been working in the field of archeology since 1977 and has done work all over the world. Additionally, he has authored numerous books, papers, and articles, written successful grants, and is currently a professor at Western Wyoming College. Here in Wyoming his work includes research and field work on Native Americans, trappers, mountain men, early settlers, etc.

L.C. Bishop Award

The L.C. Bishop Award is given to an organization or individual who has voluntarily contributed in a significant manner to preserving or recording the history of any part of a historic trail in Wyoming through preservation of a site, completed written research, cartography, or other means which may span many years.

No nominations received

Henryetta Berry Memorial Award

The Henryetta Berry Memorial Award is given to an organization or individual in recognition of their years of promoting Wyoming history among young people.
No nominations received

Judge and Mrs. Percy W. Metz Memorial Award

The Judge and Mrs. Percy W. Metz Memorial Award is given to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding contribution to the history of Wyoming in the field of photography or oral history, which may span many years.

Dana Vanburgh

Nominated by Natrona County Historical Society - Jackie and Pinky Ellis

Dana has conducted nearly 100 oral history interviews for the Western History Center at Casper College, photographed 100s of Casper streets – and put them in albums, initiated and edited a series of historical sketches of Casper’s architecture to name just a few of her accomplishments.

Maurine Carley Memorial Award

The Maurine Carley Award is awarded to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding historic preservation projects related to building properties and sites. Maurine Carley was a long-time member of the WSHS, acted as treasurer for twenty years, wrote the guide, and led many of the society's summer treks. She was dedicated to the preservation of Wyoming history. The recipient is:

Sheridan County, Wyoming for *Sheridan County: Black Diamond Trail*

Nominated by Sheridan County Historical Society – Judy Musgrave, Chair

This is an outstanding project in the field of historic preservation that represents Wyoming’s diverse cultural heritage. Additionally, a brochure has been developed by the State Historic Preservation Office that gives an excellent overview of the various sites along the trail along with their historical significance.

Outstanding Preservation Project Award - No nominations received.