



# Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Orders can be placed now for the 2023 Calendar of Wyoming History. The popular calendar has been published by the Society since the early 1980s, in cooperation with the American Heritage Center. WSHS member **John Waggener**, editor, said the images and tidbits in the calendar represent a broad look at Wyoming's past. To order contact Society headquarters via email to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org), or 307-322-3014. Calendars are available to individuals and vendors alike.

Caspar Collins Day will be held in Casper at Fort Caspar on July 23rd. Admission is free. Walk among Cavalry and Infantry soldiers, talk to pioneers traveling the trail, pull a Mormon Handcart, play pioneer games and enjoy the craft show! Call 307-235-8462 for more details.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## *68th Annual Trek is History*

The 2022 Trek, hosted by the **Fremont County Historical Society**, is behind us but the memories will remain for a long time. What a grand event with more than one hundred members, families and friends participating, not including all the coordinators! It is such a blessing to be able to get to know our members in person. Registrants came from Utah, Colorado, California and Nebraska. Participants from 18 of Wyoming's twenty-three counties were represented!

From beginning to end the event was top-notch, and even the weather cooperated. The busses made traveling very comfortable, and the hospitality at the hotels, restaurants, museums and historic sites was impeccable.

The 68th annual Trek began Friday, June 10th with registration at the Pioneer Museum in Lander. Folks were able to enjoy the museum and also the neighboring Museum of the American West. Randy Wise, director of the Pioneer Museum, hosted a walking tour of Lander later in the afternoon, followed by a chuckwagon dinner at the Museum of the American West with music provided by Erica Murphy and Billy Browning.

Saturday found us loading three luxury buses which took us along the Historic Rocky Mountain Highway where we enjoyed the lovely landscape along the way. Our first stop was at the all new National Museum of Military Vehicles (NMMV) near Dubois, founded by Dan and Cynthia Starks. The state of the art 140,000 square foot facility interprets military history and honors the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families. WSHS member and past president, **Doug Cubbison**, is the curator at the NMMV, and the host of our tours, along with other members of the staff. The return trip found us enjoying a stop at Sacagawea's grave at the Chief Washakie Cemetery, and the Diversion Dam.

Sunday took us to the South Pass City State Historic Site with tours of the townsite, Carissa Gold Mine and the English Tunnel. As **Donna Kenney** said, "Walking, panning, eating and talking. I tried to do it all. The buses were nice and cool, along with spirited conversation and informative guides! The museums all along the way were amazing."

*(Pictures on page six)*

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**From the  
President. . .**

I'm still saying “Wow!” to myself after the historical Trek hosted the weekend of June 10th by the **Fremont County Historical Society**. There was truly something for everyone, youngsters and oldsters alike. And we did have some young folks on the Trek this year, which is always fun to see. National Museum of Military Vehicles curator and WSHS member Doug Cubbison provided our small hamlet of more than 100 Trekkers a personalized tour of the newly opened museum near Dubois. The museum is truly impressive, and it offers so much in the way of education that I encourage others to plan a visit. Not only are there rare and significant war-time vehicles, but there are also personal stories of veterans who served in American wars from the 19<sup>th</sup> century through Vietnam. I took notes of their excellent exhibit techniques to share with colleagues at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center. The next day was spent in the South Pass City State Historic Site and at the newly renovated Carissa Mine & English Tunnel which were equally fascinating.

The mine tour conducted by the historic site's curator of public programs, Jon Lane, was a standout of the day. Jon, a 20+ year employee at South Pass, has studied the mine's history extensively. He described the methodology of gold mining in a way that anyone could understand.

A sincere thank you to **Scott Harnsberger, Tom Jones, Kae Concannon, Helen Cowdin, Glenda Hlavnicka, Ivan Laird,** and other Trek organizers for showing us such gracious hospitality.

Speaking of graciousness, the Platte County Historical Society has stepped up to the plate to host the Annual Meeting the weekend of September 9th in Wheatland. The South Lincoln County Historical Society is unable to host the Trek in the Kemmerer-Diamondville area as originally planned. We thank them for their efforts and do hope to visit their community at a future date. The annual meeting site will be in Wheatland the weekend of September 9–11.

While we're on the topic, the 2023 Trek will be hosted by the Star Valley Historical Society June 16-18, while the Park County Historical Society will host the 2023 annual meeting September 8–10. The Treks and annual meetings are among the many great perks of being a member of the Society. Let your colleagues, friends, and family know of the benefits of Society membership.

I had planned to discuss the state of the Wyoming State Historical Society in this column but will wait to do so next month as we wanted to offer kudos to those who were involved with the most successful annual Trek in Fremont County, and to those who will be hosting this year's annual meeting in Platte County. Until then, be well and enjoy summer.

**Leslie**

[*Editor's Note:* Anyone interested in sharing their ideas about the state of the Society can do so by emailing Leslie no later than August 10th to lwaggen2@uwyo.edu]

(Continued from page 1)

Each of the **Fremont County Museums** are active members of the Society. Throughout the summer you can find events at the Dubois Museum (307-455-2284); the Pioneer Museum in Lander, (307-331-3339); and the Riverton Museum (307-856-2665). Their extensive activities include the Adventure Trek Series, speakers, historic home tours and much more. There is literally something for all ages.

WSHS/Natrona County Historical Society member, **Dana Van Burgh**, was celebrated recently on his 90th birthday when chapter members joined him at a local ice cream shop. Dana has been a member of the Society for more than two decades. Happy Birthday, Dana.

Members of the **Albany County Historical Society** recently enjoyed a visit to the Willows Springs Campsite, an active archaeological dig site, south of Laramie. The dig site volunteers, under the direction of the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Dr. Spencer Pelton, are searching for both prehistoric and historic artifacts such as projectile points and flakes, tools, bone fragments, and pioneer household goods on a private ranch.

The National Historic Trails Center in Casper has created a new documentary on the Battle of Red Buttes that opens August 9th. The 20-minute film features interviews with WSHS members **Johanna Wickman** and **Tom Rea**. The article is available at: [https://trib.com/news/local/casper/trails-center-to-show-new-documentary-on-battle-of-red-buttles/article\\_238317a8-e840-11ec-8d88-c33d82fb9f95.html](https://trib.com/news/local/casper/trails-center-to-show-new-documentary-on-battle-of-red-buttles/article_238317a8-e840-11ec-8d88-c33d82fb9f95.html).

As a result of the COVID pandemic, the Society is strengthening its online offerings. If your chapter is looking for a program that you would like to share via Zoom and/or in person, please let Society headquarters know via email to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org). Doing so is a wonderful way to help chapters present popular programs. Our goal is to get upgrades to the website done by the end of the year. Included will be an all new "Chapter Resources" page. Any and all ideas about what this might include are welcome.

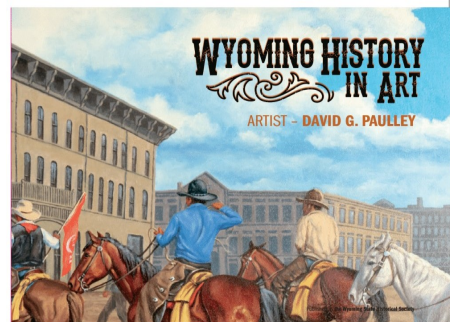
Ballots are enclosed so you can cast your vote for individuals running for a seat on the Executive Committee. Their bios were published in the June issue of *Wyoming History News*, and are repeated on the back of the enclosed ballot. The Society extends a special thank you to those running for a seat, and also to those of you who cast your ballot. Ballots are due August 27th.

The National Oregon California Trails Association will hold its 40th anniversary convention in Casper August 28th to September 1st. For details visit <https://octa-trails.org/>.

Last fall the Society published *Wyoming History in Art*, featuring the artwork of the late **David Paulley**, with historical narratives by **Jeremy Johnston**. The Society is excited to announce that prints of the paintings are now available for purchase. There are more than 30 paintings in all, each one featuring an event in Wyoming's history. If you are interested in purchasing the book and/or a print, email Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) or 307-322-3014.

We are striving to get images of each of the thirty prints on the website soon. In the mean-

time, a sampling of the artwork you can purchase is below and continued on page 7.



*Images with descriptions continued on page 7*

At the Annual Meeting in September, the Bylaws Committee will recommend termination of the Collections Committee because it no longer serves any useful purpose. This advance notice is in fulfillment of the Society's Bylaws, available upon request.

## Wyoming History Calendar

**July 6-Dubois.** Sublette Pass History Trek. Call 307-455-2284 to learn how to participate.

**July 13-statewide.** WyoGivesDay, a 24-hour marathon of fundraising and gift-giving, sponsored by the Wyoming Nonprofit Network.

**July 23-Casper.** Caspar Collins Day at Fort Caspar. Call 307-235-6482.

**July 29-30-Heart Mountain.** Pilgrimage will feature groundbreaking for the new Mineta-Simpson Institute. For registration see [www.heartmountain.org](http://www.heartmountain.org).

**August 13-Casper.** Teddy Bear Tea at the Historic Bishop Home. Call 307-235-5277 for details.

**August 26-28-Glenrock.** Annual Sheepherder's Rendezvous. Call 307-436-5652 for details.

**August 28-Sept. 3—Casper.** 40th Annual Convention of the Oregon-California Trails Association. Register at <https://octa-trails.org/>.

**September 9-11-Wheatland.** 69th Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Historical Society. Watch for details.

### Future Treks and Annual Meetings

2022—Platte County Historical Society (Annual Meeting)

2023—Star Valley Historical Society (Trek)

2023—Park County Historical Society (Annual Meeting)

We are looking for invites in 2024, will it be you?

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 [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org)

## WYOMING DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS EASIER THAN EVER TO SEARCH

The Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection is now easier to navigate for users looking for freely available historic newspapers.

A new search feature allows users to limit search results to unrestricted content. The entire collection contains more than three million newspaper pages, dating back to 1849, but many are only available through request from the University of Wyoming Libraries. Now, users can confine their searches to newspapers with unrestricted access from anywhere at any time. “The Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection is a robust, online collection, perfect for exploring the state’s history,” said Travis Pollok, Wyoming State Library Legislative Librarian. “This new search feature will make it much more friendly with customizable searching and browsing.”

Historians, genealogists, students, and scholars can find a wealth of reliable information in the collection, all first-hand accounts of local news from days gone by. The earliest newspapers date back to the mid-1800s, but many survived for only a brief time and disappeared like the boom-and-bust ghost towns of Wyoming and the West.

The Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection is a partnership between the Wyoming State Library and the University of Wyoming Libraries. The database includes 400 historic newspaper titles, 223,439 issues and 3,178,268 pages – and it’s still growing! The digital collection can be found online for free at [www.wyomingnewspapers.org](http://www.wyomingnewspapers.org). Questions about the digital newspaper project may be directed to Bryan Ricupero, Metadata Librarian at the University of Wyoming Libraries at [bricuper@uwyo.edu](mailto:bricuper@uwyo.edu) or (307) 766-5615.



### Job Opening

The Board of Directors of the beautiful Laramie Plains Museum is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. Interested persons should submit a letter of application and interest, along with their resume, to Deborah Ockers, 2724 Leslie Court, Laramie, WY 82072 or electronically to [debilockers@gmail.com](mailto:debilockers@gmail.com). All applications will remain confidential throughout the process. You can learn more about the museum's mission by visiting <https://www.laramiemuseum.org>.



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

### Sara Davis Receives Mark A. Greene Emerging Leader Award from Society of American Archivists

The Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources recently announced that WSHS member **Sara Davis**, state archivist at Wyoming State Archives in Cheyenne, is the 2022 recipient of the Mark A. Greene Emerging Leader Award from the Society of American Archivists (SAA).

The award celebrates and encourages early career archivists who have completed archival work of broad merit, demonstrated significant promise of leadership, and performed commendable service to the archives profession.

Sara has been a strong advocate for archival collections, users, and colleagues. At the State Archives, she successfully applied for a National Historic Public Records Commission grant to support a traveling archivist program to build a network connecting the state's numerous cultural institutions.

She effectively uses her role as a spokesperson for "people's history" for the state to preserve the voices of those not traditionally repre-

sented by the archives. For example, she established a community speakers' bureau to communicate with members from underrepresented communities about the crucial role their records play in documenting Wyoming state history. With the institution's recent acquisition of the Latin American Federation's papers, these efforts are already bringing positive results.

Sara's leadership is also evident in her previous work as a university archivist for the University of Wyoming at the American Heritage Center where she played an essential role in founding the institution's Diversity Committee, as well as curating a digital and physical exhibit to commemorate Matthew Shepard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming who was murdered in 1998. Within SAA, she has led continuing archival education efforts as an active member, vice chair, and then chair of the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Education Subcommittee, where she reviews curriculum to ensure courses meet the needs of a growing number of archivists seeking to learn more about digital archives.

Established in 2011 and renamed in 2017, the award honors SAA Fellow and Past President Mark A. Greene. Mark was the director of the American Heritage Center, and died in 2017.

*The people and places of the 2022 Trek, hosted by Fremont County Historical Society*



Pictures Left-Right  
Welcome to Lander  
Walking tour of downtown  
Erica Murphy and Billy Browning  
Esteemed hosts Kae Concannon, Tom Jones, Steve Harnsberger, Ivan Laird, Glenda Hlavnicka, Helen Cowdin  
Kristi Wallin and Rick Ewig  
Charlene Busk, Jeff Busk, Lynn Houze  
Welcome to South Pass City, Joe Ellis, Superintendent  
Linda and Stanton Able  
Dorothy and Linda Taylor  
Mike and Don Jording  
A man traveling with his cat  
Carissa Mine inside and out  
Leslie welcomes past presidents Linda Fabian, Doug Cubbison, Rick Ewig and Mike Jording



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

**Campbell County Historical Society**  
Robert St. Clair, Gillette

**Natrona County Historical Society**  
Marcus Holsher, Casper

**South Lincoln County Historical Society**  
Keeley and Ty Sweeney, Lyman

**Wyoming Historical Foundation**  
Harold & Leslie Noyes, Golden, CO  
Linda Fabian, Wheatland  
Karen Dickenson, Los Altos, CA

**Wyoming History Day**  
Lorna Whisler, Natural Bridge, VA

Our sincere appreciation for all who renew their memberships, and make above and beyond donations.

*(Continued from page 3) Wyoming History in Art prints available. There are 30 original paintings represented in the book, each one available as a print. Each painting represents an actual event in Wyoming's history. Contact Society headquarters for prices at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).*



From page 3—Statehood Celebration (and cover of the book); Whoop Up Canyon.  
From page 7— John Colter at Hudson Bay; Father DeSmet at Lake Desmet; Bridger's Ferry on the North Platte; Pony Express. These are just a sampling of what is available.



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## *IN MEMORY...*

Long-time member, **Steve Roberts** of Cheyenne, died May 5 at the age of 75. Steve was born in Lusk and graduated from Cody High School in 1965. He attended Northwest College in Powell, and the University of Wyoming, then served two years in the Army. He was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant in 1971. Later he returned to UW to receive a teaching degree and taught school at Goshen Hole High School and at Moorcroft High School. Later he earned a Master's degree in education from the University of Arizona in Tucson. Steve worked for the US Postal Service and, after a long career, retired and lived his remaining years in Cheyenne.

Along with his two brothers, Phil and Dave, he co-authored the popular *Wyoming Almanac*, now in its 7th edition. Steve enjoyed serving his community and was a member of the Cowboy Joe Club, the Wyoming Mayflower Society and others. Our sincere condolences go out to his family.