



Wyoming State Historical Society  
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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Interested in running for a position of the Society's Executive Committee? Call headquarters at 322-3014 to find out more.

The **Campbell County Historical Society** and the **Rockpile Museum** in Gillette jointly hosted an exhibit titled "The Way We Worked," created by the National Archives, and a part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Wyoming Humanities. The exhibit will be on display through July 15th.

The **Weston County Historical Society** will host a field trip down the Dewey, South Dakota Road. Tentatively scheduled for June 30th. To reserve a space contact **Maxine Kaul** via e-mail at [mystic@rtconnect.net](mailto:mystic@rtconnect.net).

Congratulations to **WSHS/Laramie County Historical Society** member, **Jack Mueller**, upon being inducted into the Cheyenne Frontier Days Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be September 7th in Cheyenne.

(Continued on page 3)

## Estelle Reel Day

Thanks to the efforts of WSHS/ Laramie County Historical Society member **Jack Mueller**, and to Representative Jared Olsen (R-Laramie County), the 64th Legislature of the state of Wyoming passed HB0108 recognizing Estelle Reel as the first woman elected and to hold the office of state superintendent of public instruction, and the second woman elected to hold a statewide office anywhere in the United States. As a result, January 7th of each year is now designated as "Estelle Reel Day." The bill states that the day shall be observed by state and local governments, and may be observed in public schools and by organizations within the state.

The governor shall, in advance of January 7th of each year, issue a proclamation requesting proper observance of "Estelle Reel Day."

Her story is one of firsts. She had been elected county superintendent of schools in Laramie County in 1890 by campaigning alone throughout the county, which at that time included the land now in Platte and Goshen Counties. She then ran for the nomination for State Superintendent at the 1894 Republican state convention. At that time candidates for statewide office were selected through the convention

process. In the campaign she actively traveled the state by horseback, carriage, stagecoach, and railroad. At times she traveled by herself, causing Democrats to condemn her because a single woman always needed a chaperon! She must have been one of the first to use "dirty tricks," as the Democrats also slammed her for unfairly sending postcards with her picture, dabbed with perfume to the lonely cowboys. They were then willing to ride long distances to the polls. She carried all 12 counties in the state. She received many more votes than the winners of the other statewide candidates that year.

During the 1896 election she supported William McKinley for President, even though he did not carry Wyoming. She achieved another first when he appointed her to head the Indian schools run by the US Government. As such, she was the FIRST woman to be confirmed by the US Senate. She held the post for many years, traveling extensively and working to improve the education of Indian students.

Later she married a Washington State rancher, Cord Meyer, and moved to Toppensish where she died in 1959. (Thanks to Jack for information in this article)

## In Memory....



It is with a great deal of sadness we announce the passing of WSHS member **Mr. H. G. "Gene" Cooley** of Casper. Mr. Cooley died on March 19th. A veteran who served in the US Army during WWII, Mr. Cooley served with an intelligence unit of the Army Security Agency, and later with the Nebraska National Guard. He worked in various mining operations in Wyoming, Texas, Colorado and California, retiring in 1986 as a Mill Supt. From the Mining division of Getty Oil at Shirley Basin. Mr. Cooley loved Wyoming history, and (as an individual) purchased more of the Society's calendars than any other person. You could

always count on a very nice note from him about how much he enjoyed the calendars, but especially how he enjoyed distributing them. There are no immediate family members and interment as been in the Cooley plot in the Greenwood Cemetery at Chadron, Nebraska.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**Executive Secretary and Editor**  
Linda Fabian, 322-3014

**All correspondence, membership issues and questions should be addressed to:**

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Preferably via email to  
linda@wyshs.org

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...



Dear friends,  
As you know, the Fort Bridger Historical Association is hosting

the 2018 Trek, based at historic Fort Bridger. In 1843, two Mountain Men who were experiencing the demise of the Fur Trade, Jim Bridger and Louis Vasquez, opened a Trading Post on the Green River to provide supplies to travelers on the Overland Trail (also known as the Oregon or California Trails). In 1855, the fort was sold to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. However, when hostilities broke out between the Mormons and the United States in 1857, they burned the fort to prevent the Army from utilizing it. The U.S. Army occupied the site and constructed a new fort in 1858, to safeguard the Overland Trails and the route to Utah. Fort Bridger would be occupied by the Frontier Army throughout the Indian Wars period, until its closure in 1890.

Wyoming is blessed with numerous Frontier Army and Indian Wars sites – Fort Bridger among them. The U.S. Air Force maintains the historic Fort D.A. Russell as the modern missile Fort F.E. Warren in Cheyenne. The National Park Service operates Fort Laramie National Historical Site. Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails manage many of the Cowboy State's treasures- including Fort Phil Kearny in Banner; Fort Fetterman in Douglas, Fort Fred Steele near Sinclair, and the Connor Battlefield Site in Ranchester. The Fort Caspar Museum, identified as one of the Top Ten Old West Museums in the nation, is run by the City of Casper. Other historic venues are not established parks but are still commemorated with historic markers – including Fort Reno near Kaycee, the Crazy Woman

Creek Crossing Site between Buffalo and Kaycee, and the Grattan Massacre Site at Lingle.

The story of the Frontier Army and the Indian Wars is one of the most popular historic themes. Annually, the National Park Service estimates that 300,000 tourists visit the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument- and nearly all of them travel through Wyoming along their way. However, these visitors, already fully committed history buffs, all too often simply pass through Wyoming. Other states, including Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas and Virginia, have well-developed Military Campaign brochures that provide both historic and interpretive background, and exhaustive historic site and tourism information. These combined campaign and heritage tourism brochures are distributed at Welcome Centers and other tourist sites throughout their states; and have proven extremely effective at attracting historically minded visitors...and their tourism dollars. Wyoming lacks a military history, Indian War and Frontier Army focused marketing effort to solicit visits to our communities from these 300,000 tourists passing through our states. Soon, the Society, in conjunction with other local, regional and state tourist offices, will be examining the possibility of creating just such a brochure!

This year's Trek promises to be a fascinating and educational historic experience, and my wife and I look forward to joining everybody at the end of June! Registration forms and lodging information was in past issues of the newsletter. If you have misplaced yours contact [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) for a replacement. The deadline to register is June 16th.

Until Next Time,  
**Doug**

## Wyoming's Boom and Bust Cycles: Oral History Opportunities

Booms and busts are characterized by rapid economic expansion (the boom) and contraction (the bust). They have occurred in a variety of industries and have happened ever since Euro-Americans began to visit and settle in what would become Wyoming. They usually involve the production and marketing of a single commodity. See, for example, the fur trade boom in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming caused by increased demand for beaver felt to use in hats, the gold mining boom around South Pass, the coal industry associated with the railroad and its coal powered steam locomotives, the open range cattle industry of the northern plains and the uranium industry. All of these economic booms were followed by busts caused by changes in fashion, playing out of the easily obtained gold, the replacement of coal-fired with diesel powered locomotives, overgrazing and severe winter weather, and fears of nuclear plant accidents. Most recently, Wyoming has experienced booms and busts in the mineral industries, including uranium, oil and gas, and coal. Maybe wind power is next?

The WSHS Oral History Committee is interested in recording your experiences with Wyoming's boom and bust economy. It is this year's theme for oral histories. We call on institutions and WSHS chapters to capture the experiences of people in their communities. Please contact WSHS Oral History Chair Leslie Waggener at [lwaggen2@uwyo.edu](mailto:lwaggen2@uwyo.edu) to talk about best recording methods.

Here are some tips for creating interviews:

- Compile a list of questions.
- Ask one question at a time so as not to confuse interviewee. Follow-up as needed before moving on to next question. If a topic comes up and you think it's important, let your list of questions go for a bit to explore it.
- Test your equipment before doing an interview.
- Pick a quiet place for the interview in which you won't be interrupted.
- At the beginning of each interview, recite into the microphone:

Your name  
Name of interviewee  
Location  
Date  
The topic of the interview

- Start with less probing questions. More probing questions can come later.
- Do more listening than talking. And allow silence for interviewee to think.
- Limit interview to about an hour, depending on fatigue levels.
- If possible, take photograph of interviewee.
- Have the interviewee sign a release form before you leave. Contact Leslie Waggener about release forms at [lwaggen2@uwyo.edu](mailto:lwaggen2@uwyo.edu).
- Label and number all recordings immediately. Photographs too. Make an extra copy of each in case of loss.
- Consider long-term storage at an archival institution such as the Wyoming State Archives or the American Heritage Center.

Wyoming's previous booms and busts are worthy of recording. They have lessons for all of us. We should pay close attention. Contact **Leslie Waggener** at [lwaggen2@uwyo.edu](mailto:lwaggen2@uwyo.edu) for more information. Besides Leslie the Society's Oral History Committee includes **Andrea Graham, Laramie; Barbara Bogart, Laramie; and Sandy Holyoak, Rozet.**

- Submitted by Leslie Waggener (with thanks to Dave Kathka for text inspiration).



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

### At Large

Jerry Carbone, Brattleboro, VT  
 Jared Woodard, Sandy, UT  
 Kevin Melson, Denver, CO  
 Dan Dandridge, Broken Arrow, OK  
 Randy Rowland, Banner

### Carbon County Historical Society

Keith Miles, Rawlins  
 Cal Rerucha, Laramie

### Sheridan County Historical Society

Linda Brownell, Wyamo  
 Isabel Wallop, Big Horn  
 Stephanie Bablonie, Sheridan  
 John Lamberton, Sheridan

### Star Valley Historical Society

Shannon and Laurie Laren, Bedford

### Weston County Historical Society

Judith Lorenz, Newcastle  
 Kay Thomas, Newcastle  
 Lynn and Peggy Moller, Newcastle

### Wyoming Historical Foundation

Karline Stetler, Shoshoni  
 Richard and Linda Jacobs, Dayton, VA  
 Judy Hurdle, Bath, IL *in appreciation of Mary Harman, Carl Hallberg and Harry Osborn for assistance in researching her ancestors.*  
 Clay and Gayla Rowley, Sheridan

### In Memory of Georgia Graves

Darlys Pexa and Tom Hill, Laramie  
 Governor and Jane Sullivan, Casper  
 Nancy Weidel, Laramie  
 Cecily Goldie, Centennial  
 David and Linda Kathka, Loveland, CO  
 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hageman, Douglas  
 Joan and Larry McKee, Wheatland  
 Mary Nystrom, Cheyenne  
 Steve and Mary Cotherman, Washburn, WI  
 Mel and Eileen Nelson, Douglas  
 John and Diana Waggener, Laramie  
 Duane and LeeAnn Siebken, Douglas  
 Rick Ewig, Cheyenne

### WyoHistory.Org

Thomas Schmitt, Westport, MA

*(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)*

Congratulations to the Society's youngest member, **Ocean Clark**, upon her recent graduation from Kindergarten! Many of you will remember Ocean as an assistant during the annual Awards ceremonies. She is the daughter of Jess and Will Clark of Rock Springs.

The **Natrona County Historical Society** recently held their annual membership meeting in partnership with OCTA. Longtime OCTA member and trails scholar Randy Brown of Douglas led the field trip to important trails sites between Douglas and Casper. The chapter is also hosting a Tour of the Oregon Trail Through Casper on July 21st. For details contact [alena.wagner@yahoo.com](mailto:alena.wagner@yahoo.com).



WSHS member **Richard Knight** of Nashville recently stopped at Society headquarters in Wheatland to visit **Linda Fabian**. Dick, a retired attorney, is a member of the Society's Constitution and By-law's Committee.

The **West Texas Trail Museum** in Moorcroft is hosting "Rural Landscapes and Wyoming Fences" through July. The exhibit is courtesy of the Wyoming State Museum. For details call 756-9300.



Congratulations to **WSHS/Converse County Historical Society** members **Scott and Jacey Bauman**, owners of the historic College Inn bar, received an award from the Douglas Historic Preservation Commission for their restoration efforts.

*Correction:* Last issue it was mistakenly reported that the **Hot Springs County Museum** was closed indefinitely due to a fire. We're happy to report that is NOT the case. Everything is back to normal, and all the downstairs galleries and the annex are fully open and ready for visitors. Pete Coggi, director, reports that they had several hundred students tour the end of May, and they are "indeed thankful that the disruption has been minimized."

Congratulations to WSHS member **Judge Margaret McKeown** of San Diego, CA on being named the Rentschler Distinguished Lecturer by the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. She recently presented her lecture titled "Do Trees Still Have Standing? The Environmental Legacy of Justice William O. Douglas and the Wyoming Muries."



## The Exchange

**2018 TREK:** Don't forget to register for the 2018 Trek, hosted by the **Fort Bridger Historical Association**, the weekend of June 29th. Registration form can be downloaded at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org), or by calling 782-3842. Participation in the Trek is open to everyone, members and non-members alike.

**HISTORIC SUNRISE ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR:** To sign up for the Archaeology Tour at Sunrise Mine on June 23rd, contact WSHS member **George Zeimens** at 575-2020.

**CHAPTERS:** Please remember that officers *MUST BE* members of the Society in order to hold office. Questions? Contact Linda at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).

**MANAGER SOUGHT FOR HISTORIC BISHOP HOME:** To apply contact the Cadoma Foundation via 307-3235-5277 or e-mail [info@cadomafoundation.org](mailto:info@cadomafoundation.org).

**INFORMATION SOUGHT RE WINNING HORSE:** Loren Schumacher from Cincinnati is looking for any information and/or photos about the winning horse and jockey from the September 6, 1887 Cheyenne and Laramie Club Cup Race at the Wyoming Territorial Fair. The horse's name was Climax, and his jockey was F. M. Ware. You can contact Loren at [clang@fuse.net](mailto:clang@fuse.net) or by calling 513-604-7014.

## Wyoming History Calendar

**June 7-Fort Bridger.** Wyoming Humanities speaker series in celebration of the 1868 Sesquicentennial of the Fort Bridger Treaty. Also on June 14, 21 and 28. Contact fbha1843@gmail.com for details.

**June 23-Sunrise.** Annual Archaeological/Historical Tour. Contact John Voight at johnjavaman@gmail.com for details or call George Zeimens at 575-2010.

**June 29-July 1-Fort Bridger.** The Society's annual Trek will be hosted by the Fort Bridger Historical Association. Watch for details.

**June 30 - Newcastle.** Sign up now for the Weston County Chapter's field trip down the Dewey, SD Road. For details email mystic@rtconnect.net.

**July 3—Fort Bridger—Fort Bridger 1868 Treaty Signing Re-enactment.**

**July 13-Moorcroft.** Houdini, a one-man act, at the West Texas Trail Museum. Contact wttmdirector@rtconnect.net for details.

**July 14-Moorcroft—Settlers Breakfast at the West Texas Trail Museum.** Contact wttmdirector@rtconnect.net for details.

**July 14-Douglas.** Sign up now for the Campbell County Chapter's field trip to Douglas. Call 685-6997 or 685-1231 to register.

**July 11-15 Lingle.** Celebrate Lingle's historical Centennial Anniversary. Call Lingle town Hall for details at 837-2422.

**July 21-Casper.** Natrona County Historical Society Tour of the Oregon Trail. Contact alea.wagner@yahoo.com for details.

**July 26-Heart Mountain.** Annual Pilgrimage. Early registration begins February 1. Visit www.heartmountain.org for details.

**July 28-Star Valley.** Trek to Piedmont and surrounding areas, hosted by the Star Valley Historical Society. For details call 885-9259.

**August 25-Pinedale.** 17th Annual Roundup Fundraiser and BBQ sponsored by the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust. For details contact Kaylee@wsgalt.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 linda@wyshs.org

### JACKSON HOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Morgan Albertson Jaouen grew up in a small colonial New England village where she participated in regular historical reenactments and visited many house museums as a kid. Her "backyard" experiences inspired her to pursue a career in the field of history, with a specific interest in historic preservation, archaeology, and experiential learning. Morgan first visited Wyoming and the Tetons, when she was six years old on a family cross-country road trip. While she may not have realized it, this place really stuck with her. After earning her bachelor's degree in archaeology, she Morgan moved out West for both work and play. It was both the rugged landscape and enduring pioneer spirit of Jackson Hole that Morgan immediately felt reconnected to; a place she now considers home. Morgan has worked for Grand Teton National Park, the Teton County Historic Preservation Board, and the Alliance for Historic Wyoming. She most recently completed her Master of Science in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon and started as the Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum in July 2017. Morgan oversees the organization's programming, strategic planning, financial management, special events, and fundraising. She is looking forward to connecting with other Wyoming history organizations. When not at the Museum, Morgan can be found out on the ski slopes, mountain bike trails, or investigating historic cabins.

**For those of you attending the 2018 Trek the weekend of June 29th in Fort Bridger, you might consider staying over for this big event. For details about the re-enactment contact [chris.floyd@wyo.gov](mailto:chris.floyd@wyo.gov), or [fbha1843@gmail.com](mailto:fbha1843@gmail.com).**

**Fort Bridger Treaty**  
**150 Years**

*Still following our ancestors path*  
*Toishu fi mamoa teppe po duk mia'a (Bannock), Bewa'ishe damme nanatsusug'ancee boi'i bakimade (Shoshone)*

**Sesquicentennial Treaty Reenactment - July 3, 1868**

*Eastern Shoshone Tribe*      *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*

**JULY 3, 2018**  
**FORT BRIDGER, WYOMING**

**TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018**  
**SUNRISE CEREMONY & FLAG RAISING**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**9 A.M. PRAYER · INTRODUCTIONS · REENACTORS, OFFICIALS**  
**10 A.M. TREATY REENACTMENT · PIPE CEREMONY**  
**BIG HORSE DANCE · SHAKE, BUFFALO & FEAST DANCE**  
**FEAST**  
**MILITARY EXERCISES FOLLOWED BY**  
**GIVEAWAY DANCE & INDIAN GAMES**

For more information contact:  
Eastern Shoshone: Caroline Mills 307-335-7639 or 307-330-5004, email [cmills@easternshoshone.org](mailto:cmills@easternshoshone.org)  
or Jodie McAdams 307-332-3532 or 307-438-6871,  
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