



# Wyoming History News



Published for members of the Wyoming State Historical Society

September 2017

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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Chapters are gearing up for their Fall season. If you are interested programs please contact your local chapter, or Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).

WSHS members/authors **Starley Talbot and Michael Kassel** will be guests of the Platte County Historical Society on September 26th. They'll be sharing stories about *Wyoming Airmail Pioneers*, the title of their new book.

**Natrona County Historical Society** members will kick their season off on September 28th with an update about the Trek they hosted in June.

Cities around Wyoming are still celebrating the Total Solar Eclipse that happened on August 21st. What a spectacular event to be a part of.

Congratulations to Morgan Albertson, the new Executive Director of the **Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum**.

Governor Matt Mead recently proclaimed September as Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Top Ten Artifacts for 2017

The Society is proud to announce the winners of the state's Top Ten Artifacts, chosen from more than 20 submissions, and voted on by more than 1700 individuals.

This is the Society's third year hosting this project in partnership with the University of Wyoming Libraries. Society president, **Tamsen Hert**, said the project draws awareness to historic collections at museums and libraries across Wyoming.

Submissions included documents, books, fossils, clothing, artwork and much more, each one showcasing a unique corner of Wyoming history. A panel of judges narrowed the selection to fifteen and the public voted to narrow the nominees down to the Top Ten. Additional assistance came from **Steve Boss and Mark Roller** from the UW Libraries IT Department who handled the technology aspect and support in getting the material on the Internet. The winning artifacts for 2017 are:

\* **FIRST PLACE**— Case Farm Truck submitted by the Brinton Museum, Big Horn.

\***2nd Place**— Jim Bridger Rifle, submitted by the Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale.

\***3rd Place**— Tyrannosaurus Rex Skeleton, submitted by the Tate Geological Museum, Casper.

\* **4th Place**—Yellowstone Observation Wagon submitted by the Wyoming State Museum, Cheyenne.

\***5th Place**— Bighorn Sheep's Skull submitted by the Dubois Museum, Dubois.

\***6th Place**—smith-Sherlock Cash Register submitted by South Pass city State Historic Site, South Pass.

\***7th Place**—Heart Mountain School Bell submitted by the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Powell.

\***8th Place**—Jesse Cole Headstone, submitted by the Laramie Peak Museum, Wheatland.

\* **9th Place**— George Dunning Confession submitted by the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, Buffalo.

\***10th Place**—Weed's Automatic Nightherder Gun submitted by the Carbon County Museum, Rawlins.

Certificates to each of the winning institutions will be presented at the Society's 64th annual meeting in Cody the weekend of September 8th.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****Tamsen Hert, President, SE Rep.**

wyshspresident@gmail.com

**Doug Cubbison, 1st VP, NW Rep.**

douglas.cubbison@wyo.gov

**Jessica Clark, 2nd VP, At Large**

jclark@westernwyoming.edu

**Carl Hallberg, Secretary, At Large**

Carl.hallberg@wyo.gov

**Lisa Thalken, Treasurer, At Large**

lthalken@yahoo.com

**Leslie Waggener, At Large**

lwaggen2@uwyo.edu

**Jonita Sommers, SW Rep**

jonitasommers@gmail.com

**Sylvia Bruner, NE Rep.**

director@jimgatchell.com

**Rick Robbins, At Large**

rarob@wyomingwisp.com

**Executive Secretary and Editor**

Linda Fabian, 322-3014

**All correspondence, membership issues and questions should be addressed to:**Wyoming State Historical Society  
Linda Fabian, Executive Secretary

P. O. Box 247

Wheatland, WY 82201

Preferably via e-mail 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 Members and Friends,

My how time flies. Seems like we were just planning the Quasquicentennial celebration of Wyoming state-

hood as I entered my term as President and now, I am stepping down. I can say that it has been pure pleasure serving as the president of the WSHS and a highlight of my career as a historian. Of course, a lot of that is due to working with such a wonderful group of members. A true team effort,

I could not have been successful without the skills and knowledge provided by **Linda Fabian**, and the board members who bring their unique talents to the table and all together we have had an incredible three years. Thank you to all of those I have worked with, I could not have done it without you. Additionally, there are the various committees that serve the Society. Individuals who serve at this level are really the ones who do the work of the WSHS. Thank you to all who have assisted me in this capacity. Your work is deeply appreciated.

It is a bittersweet time for me. I loved being President and have appreciated the kind words of support and the generous words telling me what a fine job I have done as president. Those remarks mean more to me than you can know. On the other hand, I am ready to step away and focus on my own projects.

At the annual meeting we will learn who will step in as President. Please give that individual the same support I have received. We have a great Society with many challenges as we move forward. It would be wonderful to see the value of our cultural heritage recognized as a major contributor to Wyoming's economic development.

I look forward to seeing you in Cody. To those of you who cannot join us, I am sorry I will not have a chance to visit with you in person. It will be wonderful to visit with those of you who will be there. We will have a grand time in Cody as we celebrate so many landmarks in Wyoming history.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity!

### *Tamsen*

*[Editor's Note: Tamsen has served on the board for the past six years; the last three as President. For her first three years she served as 1st Vice President which included chairing the Society's Homsher Grant program. One of her goals as President was to establish a system for the long-term sustainability of that program. During the last three years of her term, as President, she got us through the State's Quasquicentennial, developed stronger partnerships with many different agencies, developed the Top Ten Artifacts program, and worked diligently toward the success of the Society's entire existence. Thank you, Tamsen. It's been a pleasure serving with you.]*

(Heard on the Trail continued from page 1)

There are programs going on across the state in celebration of Archaeology Awareness Month. To find out what's happening in your neck of the woods visit [www.wyoshpo.state.wy.us](http://www.wyoshpo.state.wy.us).

Members of the **Western Wyoming Community College Historical Society** will meet on October 4th at the Freight Depot in the Rock Springs Main Street/URA Building to hear a presentation on historic transportation corridors. For details contact **Kathy Wegner** at [wegner13@msn.com](mailto:wegner13@msn.com).

The 2018 Calendar of Wyoming History is flying off the shelves. Get yours now by contact Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org). Chapters and vendors are invited to sell the calendars.

WSHS member **Susan Bishop** reported that the Bishop Home celebrated its 110th anniversary in August. The home, located in Casper, has a fascinating history and is open for all kinds of events and tours. To find out more email [susanbishop2012@hotmail.com](mailto:susanbishop2012@hotmail.com).

**Sheridan County Historical Society & Museum** recently opened an exhibit titled "Snapshots of Sheridan County." The permanent exhibit features a well-round view of local history. The exhibit titled "The Great War," also on view at the museum, will be open throughout 2017.

The Wyoming Veterans Museum in Casper is showing a major exhibit on Wyoming in the Great Way through November 2018.

Three lectures about Wyoming's involvement in WWI is being planned by the University of Wyoming's libraries. "Nurses in World War I" will take place at 2 p.m. at the Coe Library on September 11th. Dr. Mary Burman will use diaries, letters and other primary resources to illustrate the

experience of nurses during the Great War. On September 18th at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m., WSHS members **Doug Cubbison** and **Johanna Wickman** will talk about "Indian Doughboys in the Great War." And, on Monday October 2, 7 p.m. at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, WSHS member **Tom Rea** will talk about the "Home Front." For more details call 766-3190.

The current issue of *Annals of Wyoming* (soon to be delivered) presents an introduction to "Critical Perspectives and Experiences of Latina/os in Wyoming" by Dr. Cecilia J. Aragon, a professor at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Aragon began work at the University thirteen years ago and was immediately drawn to a previous issue of *Annals* that had an article focusing on "Mexicans, Hispanics in Wyoming." She said, "This current issue is not to replicate what has already been recorded, but rather to continue to add to the narrative of the long standing history of Hispanics-Latina/os, Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and New Mexicans in Wyoming." The authors of four articles in this special edition will serve on a panel on September 22nd at the University which also coincides with the opening of an exhibition relating to the topic of this special issue. Panelists include authors Vanessa Fonseca, Trisha Venisa-Alicia Martinez, Troy Lovata and Adam Herrera. For more details contact the Department of Latina/o Studies at 766-4227.



## The Exchange

**American Tank Car Company:** WSHS/Natrona County Historical Society member **Sean Cohee** is looking for information on the American Tank Car Company, once located at 215 N. Grant in Casper. If you have information please contact him.

**Warren G. Harding:** **Gary Kraidman**, WSHS member, author and historian, is available to give talks about President Warren G. Harding, especially as it relates to the Teapot Dome Scandal. Gary became interested in Harding many years ago and maintains a large collection of Harding memorabilia. For specifics please contact Gary at [gsfainc@aol.com](mailto:gsfainc@aol.com) or call 732-302-0057. His lectures are suitable for all ages.

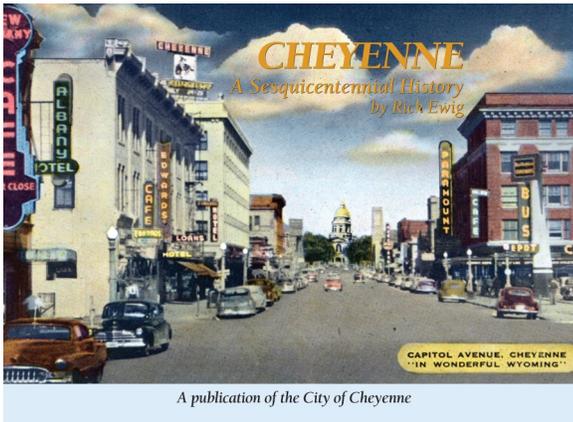
**Illustrator Needed:** WSHS member and author, **Bess Arnold**, is looking for someone interested in illustrating a children's book about the "slanguage" railroaders used for different jobs. For instance, an engineer was a "hoghead," a fireman was a "bakehead, diamond cracker or tal-lowpot." If you are interested please contact her at [bess.arnold@yahoo.com](mailto:bess.arnold@yahoo.com).

**Chapter Treasurers:** Year-End Financial Reports due November 15th. Forms will be provided in October.

**Book Tour:** WSHS member Bud Alley, and author of *The Ghosts of the Green Grass*, will be in Wyoming during September. If you are interested in asking him to speak to your group, free of charge, please him at [alleybud@gmail.com](mailto:alleybud@gmail.com). His cell phone number is 615-587-2073. You can learn more about Bud at [www.theghostsofthegreengrass.com](http://www.theghostsofthegreengrass.com). What a great opportunity!

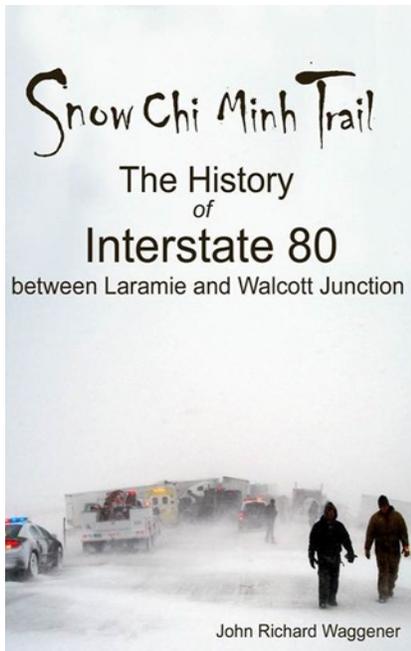
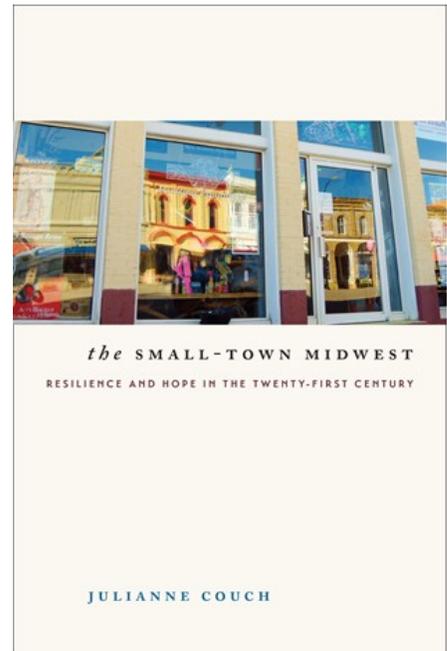


## On the book shelf...



*Annals of Wyoming* editor and long-time member of the WSHS, **Rick Ewig**, authored a pictorial history of Cheyenne in celebration of its 150th anniversary. The book features stories and photographs depicting the beauty and appeal of the “Magic City of the Plains.”

WSHS member **Julianne Couch** is the author of *The Small Town Midwest: Resilience and Hope in the Twenty-First Century* (2016, University of Iowa Press). It was through her travels through the small towns of middle America that Julianne learned about Buffalo Bill’s origins. Turns out Julianne’s home in Iowa is only an hour away from where Buffalo Bill grew up. As a former Wyomingite she couldn’t resist including a chapter about Centennial!



The Society is pleased to announce the publication of *Snow Chi Minh Trail: The History of Interstate 80* by WSHS member **John R. Waggener**. This book is a must for anyone who has ever driven Interstate 80 in the winter! It features first-person resources, rarely seen photographs and much more. The book is currently at the printers and expected to arrive any day. To order contact Society headquarters via e-mail to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).



Get your 2018 calendars now — the images represent all aspects of Wyoming’s history. Vendors and individuals can contact Society headquarters for ordering.

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

The Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, in cooperation with the Johnson County Historical Society, the Wyoming State Historical Society and others, is pleased to announce an event about the Johnson County Cattle War, with specific focus on the events that occurred at the historic TA Ranch.

The Johnson County Cattle War was a war between “Cattle Barons” and individual ranchers and homesteaders. It was a struggle for power and survival of the cattle industry in Wyoming, aggravated by complex issues such as the economics of a boom-to-bust cycle, an evolving social order, and devastating weather conditions.

Although there was not a definitive beginning or ending date for the war, the Invasion of Johnson County in April 1892 was the watershed event. The TA Ranch saw a three-day siege where bullets flew and tempers flared before one group was rescued by arrest. In the years following the Invasion, the cattle industry never fully returned to the economic stature achieved during the boom years. In the end, some ranchers diversified by incorporating sheep into their livestock operations. The events of the war have, and continue to impact Wyoming agriculture, economy, and history.

Tickets for this unique event are available from the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum, the Historic TA Ranch, and the Buffalo Chamber of commerce. Call 684-9331 for more details.

**Johnson County Cattle War  
Symposium & Reenactment Vignette**

**SEPTEMBER 15 and  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**

**SYMPOSIUM**  
Friday, September 15  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
panel discussion by authors  
*John W. Davis, Tim Slessor,  
Peter & Alan Simpson, Bill O'Neal,  
Bill Markley, and Phil Roberts.*  
At the Bomber Mountain Civic Center.  
Lunch included. \$25 per person

5:30 to 8:30 p.m. dinner and  
discussion of descendants sharing  
"Grandpa's Stories" at the  
Bomber Mountain Civic Center.  
\$35 per person

**REENACTMENT VIGNETTE**  
highlighting the April 1892 siege  
and surrender at the TA Ranch.  
Saturday, September 16, 5:00  
p.m. \$15 per person.  
Food available for purchase  
on-site. At the Historic TA  
Ranch: 28623 Old Highway 87,  
Buffalo, WY

Tickets available from the  
Johnson County Jim Gatchell  
Memorial Museum, the Historic  
TA Ranch, and the Buffalo  
Chamber of Commerce.  
Call the museum for more  
information: 307-684-9331

Sponsored by:  
Wyoming State Historical Society, BANKS, First National Bank, ANB Bank, First Interstate Bank

### This and that...

\* We were sorry to learn of recent vandalism to the Historic Round House in Evanston. We hope the culprits will be brought to justice.

\* If your chapter is interested in hosting the 2018 Trek, or the 2018 Annual Meeting please contact Society headquarters for details.

\* The Wyoming Historical Foundation, the fundraising arm of the Society, is making plans for a “non-event” tailgate party. Watch the mail for further details.

## ***Welcome New Members and Thank You Donors***

### **At Large**

Pamela Bowen, Huntington, WV  
Don DeJarnett, Billings, MT  
Alan Terrell, Junction, TX  
Francis Foster, Laramie  
Steve Wolff, Laramie  
Paul Dickinson, Sheridan  
David Howe, Montclair, VA  
Nancy Elkins, Box E31der, SD  
Al Herman, Bay City, MI  
Candy France, Encampment  
Ross Waggoner, Sour Lake, TX  
David Groesbeck, West Monroe, NY  
Cynthia Vannoy, Clearmont  
Bizzell Memorial Libraries, Norman, OK

**Albany County Historical Society**  
Marieka Arksey, Laramie

**Campbell County Historical Society**  
Christian Eby, Gillette

**Fort Bridger Historical Association**  
Rick and Beth Watson, Fort Bridger

**Hot Springs County Historical Society**  
Mrs. And Mrs. James Lash, Thermopolis

**Natrona County Historical Society**  
Bruce Walgren, Casper

**Park County Historical Society**  
Mary and Russell Bingley, Cody

**Platte County Historical Society**  
Linda Shelton, Wheatland

**Sheridan County Historical Society**  
Frank and Kathy Eaton, Wolf  
Christy Wright, Sheridan  
Sandy and Kermit Ziler, Sheridan

### **Wyoming Historical Foundation (The Long-Term Endowment)**

Alan Johnson, Cheyenne  
Jeanne Moore, Douglas  
Esther Esterchild, Dallas, TX  
Illa Collin, Sacramento, CA  
Dave Foreman, Cheyenne  
Dorothy Butler, Georgetown, KY (In Honor of  
Georgia Graves)  
Jennifer Tennican, Jackson  
Chuck and Mary Engebretsen, Lost Springs  
Tony Adams, Cheyenne (In Memory of Mark  
Greene)  
Vincent Szafranko, Denver

### **WyoHistory.Org**

Christy Watenpaugh, Grapevine, TX  
Riverton Ranger, Riverton  
Art Kidwell, Clark

*holiday*  
GIFT IDEAS



*The Holidays are upon us. No clue what to get that special person or business acquaintance? How about a membership in the Society? You could also include a Calendar of Wyoming History, or one of the Society's newest publications? For more information contact Society headquarters at [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org), or call 322-3014.*



Wyoming State Historical Society  
P.O. Box 247  
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### *In Memory....*

We are deeply saddened by the loss of several long-time members over the past few weeks. Our condolences go out to the families of each of these members.

**JoDale Russell** of Wheatland died on August 23rd. She is survived by her husband, Bill. Private services were held in Cheyenne.

**Michael Dowling** of Cheyenne died August 19th, a short 20 months after being diagnosed with brain cancer. Mike was passionate about his civic duties and was a long-time volunteer of Cheyenne Frontier Days, the UW Alumni Association, the Cowboy Joe Club, and more. Mike is survived by his wife, Beverly and four children.

**David Wulfing**, died July 3, in Cody. David was a member of the Park County chapter, and served as treasurer for a very long-time. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Library Foundation and Cody

Heritage Museum. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, a son, and several grandchildren.

**John Shoffstall**, of Beulah, died on August 8th. John served as president of the Crook County Historical Society for many years, and was very instrumental in the Ranch A Restoration project. John was a high school teacher for over 30 years. He is survived by his wife, Ginger, and their children and grandchildren.

