



Published for members of the Wyoming Historical Society

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## Heard on the Historical Trail



Registration forms are due on May 15th for the Society's 69th annual Trek, hosted by the **Star Valley Historical Society**. The registration form is online at [www.wyshs.org#whats-new](http://www.wyshs.org#whats-new). Accommodations are listed in this issue on page 6.

In celebration of Historic Preservation Month the **Weston County Historic Preservation Board** will present a program about the history of the Wyoming Army National Guard, and the Cavalry Barn in Newcastle. The program is at 12 Noon on Wednesday, May 17th, at the Weston County Sr. Citizens Center.

WHS Board Member **Cheryl O'Brien** recently gave a presentation about WWII POW Camps in Wyoming to members of the Crook County Historical Society. If you would like to host Cheryl's program email her directly at [cherobrien@dteworld.com](mailto:cherobrien@dteworld.com).

WSH/Weston County Historical Society member **Lucas Keeler** recently shared his program about

## 2023 Research Grant Recipients Announced

Cheryl O'Brien, chair of the Wyoming Historical Society's Homsher Committee, announces the six recipients of research grants for 2023. They are:

**Matteo Pretelli** of Florence, Italy received \$1500 for his project titled "Rock Springs, Wyoming: A Multi-Ethnic Community in a Small American State in WWII." His research will focus on the mining town of Rock Springs, a multi-ethnic community made up of people of European and Asian backgrounds that had been affected by wartime's mobilities.

**Nancy Small** of Laramie, Wyoming received \$1250 for her project titled "Estelle Reel and The First Woman Trope."

**Eliana Chavkin** of Evanston, Illinois received \$1500 for project titled "In Gratitude to the Women: Commemoration of Women's WWI Service in the Equality State."

**Rebecca Keays** of Urbana, Illinois received \$1150 for her project titled "Verna Keays and Wyoming's State Flag: 1916-1982."

**Kay Kuhlmann** of Winona, MN received \$960 for her project titled "Carrie and Bill: How an Artist Captured a Native son's Love for a Mining Community."

**Lea Schoenewald** of Thermopolis, Wyoming received \$640 for her projected titled "The Story of Coal in Gebo, Crosby and Kirby, Wyoming."

The committee recognizes amateur and professional historians through these grants that support the Society's mission to make Wyoming's past accessible. O'Brien said, "The Homsher Grant program provides great opportunities for original research about Wyoming's fascinating history." Grant monies are drawn from a fund established by the late Lola Homsher, a noted historian and state archivist. One of Homsher's most significant contributions to preserve Wyoming history came when she spearheaded establishing the Wyoming State Historical Society in 1953. After her retirement Miss Homsher made a major donation to the Society that has been used as an endowment to help fund Society programs. Members of the Homsher Committee are **Cheryl O'Brien**, Dubois, **Patty Kessler**, Laramie; **Sara Davis**, Cheyenne, and **Brigida Blasi**, Laramie. Applications and rules for Homsher Research Grants can be obtained by visiting the Society's website at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org), and then by selecting "Homsher Endowment." Please contact the Wyoming Historical Society at 307-322-3014 or [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org) for more information. Electronic proposals are due February 28, 2024.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Cindy Brown, President, AL**  
clwlbrown@gmail.com  
**Cheryl O'Brien, 1st VP, NW Rep**  
cherobrien@dteworld.com  
**Jane Gebhart, 2nd VP, At Large**  
janegebhart@hotmail.com  
**Heidi McCullough, Sect., SE Rep**  
heidihho2202@yahoo.com  
**Alena Wagner, Treasurer, AL**  
alena.wagner@yahoo.com  
**Sandra Holyoak, NE Rep**  
Holyoak.sw@earthlink.net  
**Andrea Lewis, SW Rep**  
flute42@yahoo.com  
**Jessica Flock, AL**  
thepaddlehouse@gmail.com  
**Bud Alley, AL**  
alleybud@gmail.com

**Executive Director and WHN Editor**  
Linda Fabian

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

Wyoming Historical Society  
Linda Fabian, Executive Director  
P. O. Box 247  
Wheatland, WY 82201

Preferably via email to  
linda@wyshs.org

**HISTORICAL FOUNDATION**

**John Waggener, President**  
waggener@uwyo.edu

**Jeremy Johnston, Vice President**  
JeremyJ@centerofthewest.org

**Charlene Busk, Treasurer**  
charbusk@gmail.com

**Linda Fabian, Secretary**  
linda@wyshs.org

**Judy Musgrave**  
judy@musgravemt.com

**Kristi Wallin**  
KWallin@lclsonline.org

**Ann Chambers Noble**  
annnoble1227@aol.com

**Rick Robbins**  
rarob@wyomingwisp.com

**Annals of Wyoming**  
Carl Hallberg, Editor  
carl.hallberg@wyo.gov

**WyoHistory.org**  
Tom Rea, Project Director  
tomrea72@gmail.com

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**From the  
President. . .**

Dear friends,

May is designated as National Military Appreciation Month, a way to celebrate our service men and women. It includes Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day. The first national observances of Decoration Day date back to around 1866, the end of the Civil War. From what I've read, the use of the name Memorial Day became common after World War II. If you are interested, the History Channel's website, <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>, has some great information. Not only is Memorial Day the unofficial start of summer and a day off for most of us, it is a day to honor and remember the United States military personnel who have died while serving their country.

Moving on to recent activities, I met with **Mike Jording** and the Management and Oversight Committee to draft a position description for the Executive Director. With the committee's recommendation and in consultation with the Executive Committee, I created a Hiring Task Force to help work on the hiring process, timeline, and recommendations for the upcoming position opening. It includes the members of the Management and Oversight Committee, two representatives from the Executive Committee, and two representatives from the Foundation Board. We met and drafted a broad timeline for the advertising and interview process. It is pretty ambitious, but the Task Force hopes to complete the interview

process and submit a recommended candidate to the Executive Committee by the beginning of July. The July deadline will allow **Linda Fabian** time to train the new Executive Director. I want to thank Linda, the Executive Committee, and the Hiring Task Force for their help with this important work; it is daunting to say the least.

The Society is a major supporter of Wyoming History Day, helping at both the local and state competitions. The State contest was held in person in Laramie this year. It is so exciting to see 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders researching and learning history. The top two winners in each category represent Wyoming at the National History Day Contest. They join almost 3,000 other students for the week-long event.

May is also National Historic Preservation Month. To learn more about events, webinars and projects that will highlight work being done to save our historic places, visit the Alliance for Historic Wyoming's website at [www.historicwyoming.org](http://www.historicwyoming.org).

I'm looking forward to seeing those of you who can attend this year's Trek hosted by the **Star Valley Historical Society**. I know I'm repeating myself a little from my last column, but it's a great way to see and learn about history from a different part of the State. See you in Star Valley!

*Cindy*

*[Editor's Note: See page 6 for a list of accommodations for the Trek. Reserve now]*

(Heard on the Historical Trail continued from page 1)

The Petroglyphs of Whoop Up Canyon to a group at the Weston County Sr. Citizens Center. Lucas can be reached at [lkeeler@blm.gov](mailto:lkeeler@blm.gov).

WHS/Laramie County Historical Society member **Dean Petersen's** fascination with history and stories started at an early age with his love of documentaries and making horror movies in his backyard. After completing a BA in film studies in 2004, he took his passion for storytelling back to Wyoming, where he makes documentaries and promotional videos. Some of his podcasts relating to Wyoming history are listed below, and will also be added to our online speakers list:

Big Nose George: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/12580275>  
 Carter, WY: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/12232249>  
 Crash of Flight 409 near Laramie, WY <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/12037228>  
 One Room School House in Buffalo, WY <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/10480136>  
 Murder in The Deselms Art Gallery Building in Cheyenne <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/10667522>  
 Earl Durand: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/11232102>  
 The B-17 crash on Bomber Mountain: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/10830203>  
 When your pilot has a stroke and you have to land the plane yourself <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1972170/12119961>

Dean can be reached via email to [deanarthurpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:deanarthurpetersen@gmail.com).

In the April issue of *Wyoming History News* we featured a book by WHS member **Mike Amundson** titled *The Art and Life of Merritt Dana Houghton*. Houghton (1846-1918) was a well known illustrator and photographer of western scenes. Mike reports that newly discovered Houghton drawings have only come to light since the book was published. If you have an image or drawing please let Mike know by emailing him. Newly found images will be posted on the book's website with descriptions that will be added. The official link is <https://upcolorado.com/university-of-wyoming-press/item/6383-newly-found-merritt-dana-houghton-images> Contact Mike via email to [michael.amundson@nau.edu](mailto:michael.amundson@nau.edu) to find out more.

The **Albany County Historical Society** will host a program at the Albany County Public Library featuring a tour of the newly refurbished Wyoming

Room on May 16 at 7 pm. Albany County Historical Society member **Kim Viner** worked directly with Cassandra Hunter who was the Albany County Public Library lead on this project.

The **South Lincoln Historical Society** in Kemmerer and Diamondville recently hosted several programs featuring a talk by local historian and WHS member **Norris Tratnik**. Norris talked about the history of the oil and gas industry and the Fossil Oil Field, and showed items recovered from the White Hill wagon train massacre in 1848. Norris will continue to host programs for the chapter during the summer and fall. For details contact **Donna Oden** at [oden@wyoming.com](mailto:oden@wyoming.com).

The 2nd Annual Powder River Basin Basque Shepherder's Festival is coming up May 5th and 6th in Gillette, hosted by the **Campbell County Rockpile Museum**. There will be two days of demonstrations, Basque storytelling, talks about the Quechuan shepherders of Wyoming, traditional dancers performed by the Basque Club, and (of course) great food! For details visit the museum's website at [rockpilemuseum.com](http://rockpilemuseum.com) or call Brittney Elsasser at 307-682-5723.

The **Laramie County Historical Society** held its last program of the season in April with a presentation by historian Mike Kassel who talked about how the people of Cheyenne responded to the war effort after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Of the many contributions made, he said one of the most remarkable was the effort put forth by United Airlines at Modification Center 10. This immense facility was the largest of its kind in the Rocky Mountain Region and was charged with modifying the formidable B-17 Flying Fortress. The staff of the Modification Center were responsible for placing the most sophisticated technology on the aircraft. These innovations allowed the famous warplane to carry its crews on missions to every corner of the globe. He said, "Cheyenne's effort made Modification Center 10 one of the greatest wartime efforts in Wyoming history."

The **Park County Historical Society** will meet on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Ivy Hotel at 11:30 a.m. Amy Phillips who works at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West will discuss the "Big Horn Basin Bison project."

Chapters of the Wyoming Historical Society take a break during the summer months, and resume in the fall. If your chapter is hosting a summer event such as a Trek, please let Society headquarters know by emailing [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org).



## Wyoming History Calendar

**May 1—Laramie.** State History Day competition.

**May 5-6-Gillette.** Basque Shepherd's Festival. Call 307-638-5723 for details.

**May 15—**Deadline to register for the 2023 Trek.

**May 16-Laramie.** Program and tour of the newly refurbished Wyoming Room, Public Library, 7 p.m. Call 307-721-2580 for details.

**May 16-Cody.** Program at the Ivy Hotel at 11:30 a.m. about Big Horn Basin Bison Project. For details email [ljhcody@tctwest.com](mailto:ljhcody@tctwest.com).

**May 17-Newcastle.** Program about the WANG and the Cavalry Barn. Call 307-746-8407 for details.

**May 23-25-Cheyenne.** Virtual workshop "A Tale of Two Archives...". For details call Sara Davis, 307-777-7826. See page 5.

**June 7-8-Cheyenne.** Virtual meeting about the Roving Archivist Program. For details call 307-777-7826 or go to [rovingarchivist.wyo.gov/](http://rovingarchivist.wyo.gov/). See page 6.

**June 15-17— Star Valley.** 2023 Trek sponsored by Star Valley Historical Society. Registration due by May 15th. Get the form online at [www.wyshs.org](http://www.wyshs.org). See list of accommodations on page six of this issue.

**June 22-Laramie.** In person workshop "Photographic and Audiovisual Materials and Identification. Call Sara Davis, 307-777-7826 for details. See page 5.

**July 19-Douglas.** The Converse County Historical Society will host the annual Fort Fetterman Day from 8-5 p.m. For details email [heidiho2202@yahoo.com](mailto:heidiho2202@yahoo.com).

### *May is National Historic Preservation Month*

*(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 15<sup>th</sup>. Send items to [linda@wyshs.org](mailto:linda@wyshs.org)

### JIM GATCHELL MEMORIAL MUSEUM FINALIST FOR NATIONAL MEDAL

The **Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum** in Buffalo has been selected as a finalist for the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Science. The museum is one of thirty finalists and the only one selected from Wyoming. According to a release from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities.

Museum Executive Director **Sylvia Bruner** said, "It is an incredible honor for the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum to be nominated, and to have made it into the top thirty finalists is overwhelming. Although the JGMM is a small institution, we have big dreams and even bigger plans. This nomination verifies that those aspirations which we hold so dear are valued by the greater museum community and reassures us that we are on the right track."

National Medal winners will be announced in late May. Representatives from winning institutions will be honored for their extraordinary contributions during an in-person National Medals Ceremony this summer. To see the full list of finalists

and learn more about the National Medal visit the IMLS website or go to <https://www.imls.gov/our-work/national-medal-museum-and-library>

Visit <https://www.jimgatchell.com> to learn more about the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum located at 100 Fort Street in Buffalo, Wyoming. It is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



*[Editor's Note: Special thanks to Aaron Palmer of Sheridan Media for this article and photograph]*

## SHRAB OFFERS FREE WORKSHOPS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

The Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Board (WY SHRAB) announces three upcoming workshops focused on the management and preservation of electronic and physical records to be held in May and June of 2023. The workshops are sponsored by the WY SHRAB with funds received from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission (NHPRC). Visit the WY SHRAB news and events web page, <http://bit.ly/3zScCkd>, to register for the workshops and for more details.

The Wyoming Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) spring seminar is the first of the three workshops to be held. This day-long workshop held on May 2nd is a hybrid event where participants can elect to attend virtually or in-person at LCCC in Cheyenne. This year's topic is "Each Information Management Professional Will Lead In The Future." Join in exploring the future of records management while also expanding your network of professionals in the field. Contact WY ARMA secretary, Carmen Clayton at 307-777-5586, or treasurer, Barbara Thomasee at 307-777-4944, for additional information and registration.

On May 23rd and 25th, join us for the free virtual workshop, "A Tale of Two Archives: Digital Records Management in Oregon and Wyoming." In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Wyoming State Archives digital archives program, Wyoming is collaborating with the Oregon State Archives to bring you a digital records management workshop for all skill levels. Presentations will be facilitated by staff from each archive with years of experience working for state governments with specialized knowledge in records management, digital preservation and access, and managing programs. Alejandra Robinson, WY SHRAB member and Public Relations Director and Archives Manager for the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, will be a special guest speaker on May 23rd to discuss considerations for working with tribal nations' records.

Lastly, the "Photographic and Audiovisual Materials Identification and Care" workshop led by John Waggener, university archivist and historian, will be held in-person at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center in Laramie on Thursday, June 22nd. This workshop will familiarize attendees with the many types of photographic

and audiovisual formats there are – from daguerreotypes and tintypes, and from glass plate negatives to 20th century prints and negatives, from VHS to cassette tapes and much more. The workshop includes a hands-on demonstration of how to identify photographs, negatives, and audiovisual materials, and how to properly preserve and handle them. This workshop is free, but limited to 30 participants.

For more information about the board and events, please contact Sara Davis, WY SHRAB coordinator and State Archivist, at (307) 777-7826, or visit the SHRAB web site at <http://bit.ly/3KkRnfy>.

The Wyoming SHRAB promotes the identification, preservation and dissemination of the state's historical records, by encouraging and supporting ongoing training programs for state, tribal and local governments, local repositories, organizations, and others involved in records care in Wyoming. Grants are made available through the Wyoming SHRAB by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The program is administered by the Wyoming State Archives, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.



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ARCHIVES**

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& RECORDS COMMISSION

## 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 is enclosed in this 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.

***Registrations are due no later than May 15th.***



# Star Valley Historical Society

## Museums, Libraries, Cultural Heritage Institutions... You're Invited to Participate

Want to learn more about the Roving Archivist Program (RAP) that's currently being developed in Wyoming? Two online informational meetings have been scheduled to provide program updates and progress and to demonstrate an online directory and map indicating Wyoming institutions that house archival materials. Meeting participants will be invited to share information about their institutions for the directory, and feedback on where the program is now and where it can go from here. **The two meetings are June 7 at 6:00pm MST and June 8 at noon MST. For more information and to find the meeting link, please go to the RAP website at [rovingarchivist.wyo.gov/](http://rovingarchivist.wyo.gov/).** The RAP sponsors are the Wyoming State Historic Records Advisory Board, the Wyoming State Archives, and the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU DONORS

### At Large

Tom and Marilyn Filkins, Bondurant  
Randy Pexton, Douglas  
Val Pexton, Laramie  
Kim Pexton, Douglas  
Abbie Cornett, Douglas  
Tracy Mahnke, Lusk  
Matteo Pretelli, Florence Italy  
Eliana Chavkin, Evanston IL

### Carbon County Historical Society

Amy Bach, Rawlins  
Catherine MacPherson, Rawlins

### Converse County Historical Society

Melissa Lill, Douglas  
Tammy Delya, Douglas

### Goshen County Historical Society

Wayne Tatman, Lingle  
Art and Loretta Davis, Torrington  
Jancy Walter, Lingle  
Phyllis Bickel, Torrington  
Armond Acre, Veteran  
Jason Lamb, Torrington

### Hot Springs County Historical Society

Sharon Lea, Thermopolis  
Danny Anderson, Thermopolis

### Laramie County Historical Society

Dean Petersen, Cheyenne

### Natrona County Historical Society

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Philip Ellis, Chugwater  
Phil Roberts, Laramie *in memory of*  
*his brother, Steve*  
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### Homsher Grant Project

Tom and Barbara Rea, Casper

### WyoHistory.org

Phil Roberts, Laramie *in memory of*  
*his brother, Steve*  
Ann Chambers Noble, Cora  
Judy Musgrave, Sheridan

### History Day

Phil Roberts, Laramie *in memory of*  
*his brother, Steve*  
Ann Chambers Noble, Cora

*1953-2023*

*70 years of sharing Wyoming's history*

*Register by May 15th to attend the*  
*Annual Trek hosted by the*  
*Star Valley Historical Society*



Wyoming Historical Society  
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**REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2023 TREK HOSTED BY  
STAR VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Download Registration Form at [www.wyshs.org/What's New](http://www.wyshs.org/What's New)**  
**May 15th deadline. Accommodations on Page 6.**

Address Service Requested

### ***In Memory...***

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the death of **Martin Lammers** of Fort Bridger. Martin died after a short, valiant battle with an aggressive cancer on April 4th. Martin lived most of his life in Bridger Valley, having graduated from Mountain View High School in 1972, attended Western Wyoming Community College and the Univ. of Utah. He planned on getting a degree in Astro Physics, but in 1990 he fell in love with archaeology, and in doing so found a lifelong friend and mentor in Dr. Dudley Gardner. For the next 32 years he and Dudley worked on over 300 archaeological sites throughout the United States, but primarily in Wyoming. Martin worked tirelessly for the **Fort Bridger Historical Association** and served as the chapter president until his death, almost 20 years. Martin was a friend to all and a huge supporter of the Society. Graveside services are scheduled for Martin in Fort Bridger at 11:00 a.m. on June 10th. A memorial statue is being planned in honor of all his years of volunteer service to Fort Bridger.

Our condolences to the friends and family of **Nancy Wulfing**, a member of the **Park County Historical Society** who died on March 15th. Nancy and her husband, David, met on a blind date in 1958, and were married in December of the same year in Cody. Nancy was exceptionally active in her church and various aspects of the community. She had an adventurous spirit and enjoyed traveling with her husband throughout the United States, Scotland and England. Her connection to her friends and loved ones was a driving force in her happiness and desire to make others happy.

We also just learned of **Albert "Jack" Wolff's** death in Cheyenne on August 3rd, 2022. Albert was an avid photographer and especially liked taking pictures of railroads and trains. In 2016 the Society awarded Albert and his co-author, Jim Ehernberger, an award for their book *Union Pacific's Cheyenne Facilities*. A celebration of Albert's life is scheduled for June 23, 2023.