

# Wyoming History News

*Published for the Members of the Wyoming Historical Society*

January 2025

www.wyshs.org

Volume 72, Number 1

## PUBLIC HISTORY & CIVICS EDUCATION



Wyoming State Capitol Building, exterior from northwest corner to southeastern corner with sprinklers watering the lawn, 1900s. PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, LANTERN SLIDES (H55-53/177).

by K. Allison Wickens for AASLH

The defining events of 2020 wove history into both neighborhood conversations and national discussions of pandemics, elections, and racial justice, illustrating how pivotal the work of historians is to informed civic dialogue. Our work is also critical to an inclusive civics education classroom centered on

debate, perspective-taking, civil discourse, and knowledge of the rule of law. Sharing how evidence is gathered and analyzed to make arguments about the past prepares students for civic work in which they are asked why they think the way they do, instead of being told what to think. These skills are not merely important in a classroom setting, but are lifelong skills students take into the real world when determining bias in media, understanding viewpoints different from their own, and contributing to civil discourse and compromise.

Current trends in civics instruction, policy, and curriculum frameworks go beyond teaching students about the structure of participatory government. While understanding the mechanics of governing at the national, state, and local levels is critical for young people to contribute to democracy, it is also essential for educational institutions to teach civic dispositions, such as an appreciation and understanding of free speech and willingness to engage

with those whose perspectives are different from their own. Classrooms, museums, historic sites, and other educational spaces provide opportunities to practice and develop these skills and build confidence in civic behaviors, such as voting, volunteering, and voicing informed opinions at public meetings. Elevating the public history work that we do, that connects the past with the present and links it to issues students encounter in their daily lives, can have profound resonance and empower meaningful engagement with civic life.

*continued on page 2*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Education . . . . .	1-3
Officer Contact Info . . . . .	2
WHF Donation Drive . . . . .	4-5
President's Column . . . . .	5
Many Voices . . . . .	6
Along the Trail . . . . .	7
Upcoming Events . . . . .	8

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Jessica Flock, PRESIDENT**  
jessicaflock.wyo@gmail.com

**Lucas Keeler, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
HankMasonAndTheBear@outlook.com

**Beki Speas, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT / NE REP**  
beki232@gmail.com

**Heidi McCullough, TREASURER**  
heidih2202@yahoo.com

**Nancy Tabb, SECRETARY**  
nancytabb@gmail.com

**Dean King, NW REP**  
goldcreekcanyon@gmail.com

**Deb Davidson, SE REP**  
tree1953@yahoo.com

SW REP - UNFILLED

**Bud Alley, OUT OF STATE REP**  
alleybud@gmail.com

**Executive Director & Editor**  
Aley Philp, 307.322.3014

All correspondence, membership issues,  
and questions should be sent,  
preferably via email to:

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

or addressed to:

Wyoming Historical Society  
Aley Philp, Executive Director  
PO Box 247  
Wheatland, WY 82201

## HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

**Ann Chambers Noble, PRESIDENT**  
anoble1227@aol.com

**Rick Robbins, VICE PRESIDENT**  
rarob@wyomingwisp.com

**Alena Wagner, TREASURER**  
alena.wagner@yahoo.com

**Linda Fabian, SECRETARY**  
lindafabianwy@gmail.com

**Kristi Wallin**  
kristi.wallin@gmail.com

**Brian Beauvais**  
bbeauvais@parkcounty.us

**Lucas Fralick**  
lcfraclick42@gmail.com

**NOTE:** WHS Members names  
appear in **bold** in the newsletter.

*continued from page 1*

Instructing Americans on the “principles of virtue and of liberty; and inspiring them with just and liberal ideas of government” was a key issue in the public discourse of the eighteenth century around the creation of a new national identity distinct from the rest of the world. Ensuring the nation’s civic life beyond the generation that formed the new government hinged on informed civic participation for those deemed eligible to participate in the process. The work continues to this day through Civics Education.

The vitality of an approach that resonates with a younger generation whose learning landscape has been defined by heightened participatory experiences throughout their lives is necessary. The alternative approach, which prioritizes only civic knowledge without civic dispositions, limits students’ voices and hinders preparedness for civic life. The development of the skills needed to engage in political discourse and contribute to society in meaningful and productive ways are more critical than ever before within a “universe of unregulated information at our fingertips.”

Historians provide the rich historical narrative upon which civic instruction is

built. Inclusive civics educators value contributions from historians and historical institutions that provide vetted sources, historical context, and voices on multiple sides of the debates or issues illustrated. Ideal primary source sets suited for civics classroom adoption should illustrate the successes of constructive government as well as visible failures to achieve compromise or enact positive legislation.

Dedicated civics instructors sometimes find themselves (late at night) scouring the internet and doing the vetting to create a document set that shows more than one perspective for their students. Being able to work from research that historians have already done—and that is positioned to support civics lessons in dialogue with current events—creates a richer and more scholarly-sound learning environment.

For students, discussions about government policies and structures at the national level may sometimes seem most pressing, but in reality, most state civics standards focus as much, if not more, on the unique features of state and local governments. Student engagement with state and local policies creates a more immediate impact on, and connection to, their communities. Historical research and public history

institutions often provide a detailed look at a specific time and place. The work historians do to illustrate the voices engaged in local governance and debate can translate powerfully to a classroom in the same community or state. Seeing the workings of government in which the local community has a more direct impact can inspire student participation in the civics process.

For some students, a lack of interest in history and historical actors can be attributed to the passive nature in which those people who lived in the past are often portrayed. Historical contributions to civics education can be as simple as providing narratives and sources that demonstrate people in the past had an impact on the world in which they lived.

The past is filled with people who are not given the agency in traditional textbooks that they possessed in life. A powerful way to shift this is through interactive games.

The game site iCivics is known for its immersive and addictive games that teach government and the rule of law. In 2019, they launched their first historical game, designed to illustrate the origins of our governing documents.

Civics is sometimes the

**Having students study the past through historical sources and events also provides valuable tools to see the continuity and changes between then and now.**



High school girls on the steps of the Wyoming Capitol Building, Cheyenne, 1920. Photograph by Joseph Elam Stimson.

PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, STIMSON NEG 4325A

first class students take in school where they learn that their opinions matter and they have a voice that will contribute to the world we all live in. The unique skills and talents that historical thinking develops play a critical role in sharpening students' respect for others' perspectives and the ability to articulate their own. By providing sources, contextualization, and viewpoints from a wide array of actors in history, historians can contribute to a more inclusive civics classroom education. If your public

history contributions aren't yet supporting civic education in your community, this article can guide your next steps. When history and civics are intertwined, students are better prepared for informed participation in government and have the skills to contribute to and shape the institutions in our lives.

K. Allison Wickens is the Vice President for Education at George Washington's Mount Vernon. She can be reached at [allison.wickens@mountvernon.org](mailto:allison.wickens@mountvernon.org).

This article has been reprinted in an edited format with permission from the American Association of State and Local History as part of WHS's membership in the AASLH organization.

# WHF FALL DONATION DRIVE A SUCCESS

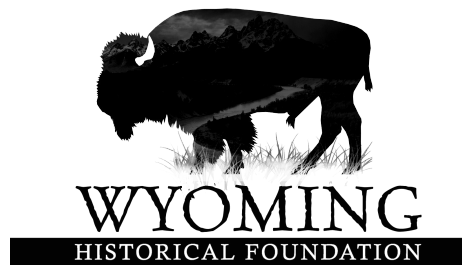
The ongoing fall fundraising campaign, entitled "Help History Thrive through 2025," initiated by the Wyoming Historical Foundation, has so far been a success. Donations were earmarked from donors for their chosen project: Foundation, Society, Homsher Grant, History Day, and WyoHistory.org.

Following is a list of our donors, without whom our Society could not continue to operate and continue our vision ensuring that Wyoming's past remains accessible to present and future generations.

Thank you to all who have donated.



Tony Adams  
Dona R. Bachman  
Priscilla Baker  
Susan Bishop  
Brian DePaulitte  
Lucille Dumbrill  
Mary Hartman  
Duane & Pam Kerr  
George & Sharon Martin  
David Miller  
Ann Chambers Noble  
Sally O'Brien  
Patsy Parkin  
Tom & Barb Rea  
Debra Sewell  
J. Lee Varvaro  
Jeffrey Wilhelm



Tony Adams  
Dona R. Bachman  
Susan Bishop  
Peter Boutin  
Brian DePaulitte  
Kathleen Dolan  
Lucille Dumbrill  
James Ehernberger  
John & Joyce Gammon  
Thomas Giovale  
Wayne & Sandra Holyoak  
John House Living Trust  
Don Jording  
Duane & Pam Kerr  
Art Kidwell  
Ralph & Jean Kingan  
Don Lebar  
Wendy Lowe  
Heidi McCullough  
David Miller  
Judy Musgrave  
Ann Chambers Noble  
Sally O'Brien  
George & Dorothy Oliveria  
Darwin Pace  
John Paglione  
Tom & Barb Rea  
Debra Sewell  
John Voight  
John & Diana Marie Waggener  
Alena Wagner  
Jancey Walter  
Vickie Zimmer

## HOMSHER GRANT

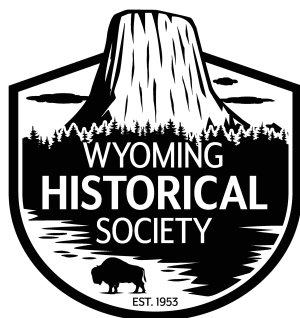
Susan Bishop  
Sally O'Brien  
Tammy Delyea  
Brian DePaulitte  
Lucille Dumbrill  
Lynn Houze  
Don Jording  
Duane & Pam Kerr  
Jocelyn Moore  
Ann Chambers Noble  
Tom & Barb Rea  
Debra Sewell  
Deborah Simon  
Pattie Thayer

## WYOHISTORY.ORG

A Project of the Wyoming Historical Society

Tony Adams  
Susan Bishop  
Rita Corsi  
Brian DePaulitte  
Lucille Dumbrill  
Evan Green  
Duane & Pam Kerr  
Art Kidwell  
Don LeBar  
Jocelyn Moore  
Judy Musgrave  
Ann Chambers Noble  
Sally O'Brien  
George & Dorothy Oliveria  
Cecil Sanderson  
Debra Sewell  
Vincent Szafranko





Tony Adams  
Pricilla Baker  
Susan Bishop  
Tom & Karleen Brock  
Larry & Kathleen Call  
Carolyn Carollo  
Arnold Cunningham  
Lynn Daly  
Lucille Dumbrill  
David Ebertz  
SuzAnn D. Georgis  
Otis Halverson  
Duane & Pam Kerr  
Don LeBar  
Wendy Lowe  
Michael Madden  
Morgan Mader  
Mary Lou Marcum  
Dolores McMahan  
Jocelyn Moore  
Ann Chambers Noble  
Cheryl O'Brien  
Sally O'Brien  
Ruth Ohm  
George & Dorothy Oliveria  
Betty Payne  
Tom & Barb Rea  
Robert Riggle  
Rick & Arlene Robbins  
Debra Sewell  
Deborah Simon  
Karen Skinner  
Cal Vanholland  
Michael Vaughn  
Don West

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

As 2024 came to an end, two bits of good news came across the wire. In November 2024, the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund awarded 19 non-profit organizations a total of \$337,684 for projects in the arts and humanities. The Fort Bridger Historical Association, was awarded \$22,870.48 for the "Fort Bridger Artifact Cataloging and Preservation of Archaeological Record" project. Our online encyclopedia of Wyoming History, WyoHistory.org, was awarded \$24,500 for the project, "Contexts of Wyoming History". We are grateful for the ongoing support from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund.

In December, the University of Wyoming History Department announced the establishment of the Phil Roberts Faculty Fellowship in Wyoming History and the West. It honors the life and legacy of long-time Wyoming history professor, Dr. Phil Roberts. On the Tuesday prior to Thanksgiving break, Dr. Roberts would hold a raffle for the students who showed up to class. I remember winning a copy of the Wyoming Almanac. 15 years later, I would use the same tactic to entice UW Social Studies pre-service teachers to show up that day. It worked. Congratulations, Dr. Roberts! The honor is well-deserved.

Both good news stories remind me of all the time and effort devoted to the Wyoming Historical Society over the past 71 years. We are a success story because of the cumulative contributions of many individuals including the original architect of the Society, Lola Homsher. In more recent times and during my participation with the Society, our successes have been built upon by the leadership efforts of many stalwart members including Lucille Dumbrill, Phil Roberts, Leslie Waggener, Robert Waggener,

Rick Ewig,  
Jeremy Johnston,  
Charlene Busk,  
Jonita Sommers,  
Jane Gebhardt,



Cheryl O'Brien, Lynn Houze, Ann Noble, Rick Robbins, Tom Rea, Linda Fabian, and many others. Our county chapters deserve many accolades as they help recruit members and have planned hundreds of presentations about Wyoming History. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

As we begin a new year, I'm excited about the events the Society has in the queue for 2025. Our annual trek is being planned by the Converse County Historical Society for June 19-22. Our annual meeting in September is being hosted by the Fort Bridger Historical Association. Originally established as a fur trading outpost, Fort Bridger and the surrounding region have a fascinating history connected to the fur trade and the emigrant trail crossings.

Further into the future, on July 4, 2026, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our Independence. Plans from Wyoming's Semi-quincentennial Task Force are well underway and we are honored to be part of those efforts. Currently, the WHS publications committee is designing our 2026 calendar around the theme "Declaration of Imagination: Inspire, Encourage, Celebrate". We invite you to submit photographs for consideration from the years 1876, 1926 or 1976. To represent the years 1776 and 1826, we hope to receive submissions of original works of art that capture the spirit of those years. I am excited about the possibilities. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

*Jessica Flock*

# Many Voices, ★ ★ ★ ONE NATION

submitted by Lucas Fralick

Wyoming Humanities in partnership with the Smithsonian Institute, is bringing a new exhibit to Wyoming! **Many Voices, One Nation** is a Starter Kit that places community stories first, asking questions like:

- How did we become who we are?
- Why did these changes take place?
- Where does our community meet, and why is that significant?

**Many Voices, One Nation** is an exhibition focused on your local community. The Starter Kit is designed for smaller spaces and gives host organizations and their partners flexibility to shape the content and appearance of the exhibit. The Smithsonian will provide the national scope for the exhibition and digital materials and templates for the local venue to customize and focus on the local community.

**Many Voices, One Nation** takes visitors on a chronological and thematic journey that maps the cultural geography of the unique and complex stories that animate the Latin emblem on the country's Great Seal and the national ideal: *E pluribus unum*, Out of many, one.

Wyoming Humanities is looking for partners to host this exhibition, either a library, museum, nonprofit or community center. The host will have the opportunity to work with Smithsonian experts and consultants on crafting their exhibit and planning programming with Wyoming Humanities. This is an excellent opportunity to talk about the history of your hometown and county, within the context of Wyoming's rich past.

The work for the exhibition starts in March 2025, with an exhibit launch date of June 2026, just in time to

celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> of the Declaration of Independence in your community! The application to host is out now on [www.thinkwy.org](http://www.thinkwy.org).

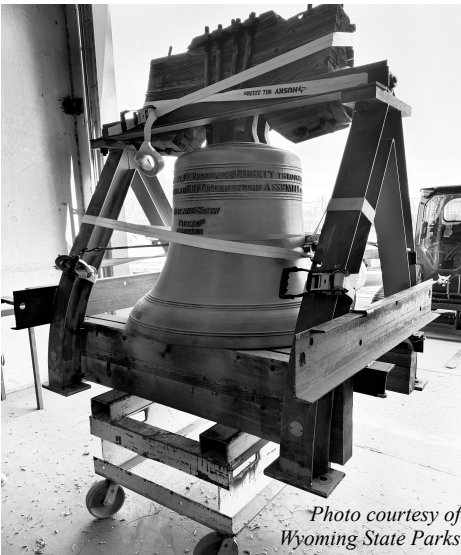
Wyoming Humanities realizes the inherent power and equality of Wyoming citizens. We do this by empowering communities and individuals to cultivate and share diverse narratives to honor differences and explore common ground. A five-decade affiliation with the National Endowment for the Humanities enables us to improve the quality of life in Wyoming through public programs in the humanities.

For more information and questions please reach out to Wyoming Humanities Program Coordinator **Lucas Fralick** at [lucas@thinkwy.org](mailto:lucas@thinkwy.org). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

**WYOMING  
HUMANITIES**  
[thinkwy.org](http://thinkwy.org)

# Heard Along the Historic Trail:

## *Your Place for Chapter and Member News*



*Photo courtesy of Wyoming State Parks*

As part of the preparations for the Semi-quincentennial, Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources sent Wyoming's replica of the Liberty Bell to their restoration shop in Shoshoni for new housing pictured above.

The Liberty Bell replica in Wyoming was given to the state in 1950 by the US Treasury. At a modest ceremony in Cheyenne on July 5, state Senator George Burke, acting as Governor in A. G. Crane's absence, accepted the Wyoming Liberty Bell on behalf of its citizens. It remained on Capitol grounds for most of the next 70 years, mounted atop a 5-foot concrete pedestal at the southwest corner of the complex. The Wyoming State Museum has been the caretaker of the bell for decades. Plans for a rededication are in the works for 2025.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, both Fort Laramie and Fort Caspar held "Christmas on the Frontier" and "Candlelight Christmas," respectively.

...

Hot Springs County Historical Society hosted their joint Annual Christmas Dinner with the Hot Springs County Pioneer Association and the Hot Springs County Museum on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Weston County Historical Society celebrated the Women Authors of Weston County.

...

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Fort Bridger State Historic Site hosted their Victorian Christmas Dance.

...

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, the Riverton Museum held the December session of their Children's Explorations Series on "Alma Law: Ghosts of Christmas Past."



Dedication of the Liberty Bell in front of the Wyoming State Capitol Building. People unidentified. PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES, BRAMMER COLLECTION P85-32/4097



Wyoming Historical Society  
PO Box 247  
Wheatland, WY 82201

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wheatland, Wyoming  
82201  
Permit No. 71

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY

**1:** First Day Hikes in Sheridan  
10:00 am Trail End Historic Site  
1:00 pm Kendrick Mansion & Kendrick Park

**10:** Local History Talks with Nancy - Early Kaycee  
3:00 pm in the Johnson County Library Twing Room, Buffalo, WY

**13:** Evening of Precious Memories of Johnson County  
6:30 pm in the Johnson County Library Twing Room, Buffalo, WY

**18:** WHS Quarterly Executive Committee Meeting  
9:00 am via Zoom  
Contact [executivedirector@wyshs.org](mailto:executivedirector@wyshs.org) to have a link sent to you.

**21:** Oral Histories with Barbara Bogart  
7:00 pm at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, Laramie, WY  
Hosted by Albany County Historical Society

**24:** Local History Talks with Nancy - Early Buffalo  
3:00 pm in the Johnson County Library Twing Room, Buffalo, WY