

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE!

Wyoming History News

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Anne, a direct-descendant of Chief Washakie, dances the hard-to-master Hoop Dance, while Alan, a member of the Arapahoe Tribe, drums and sings sharing the blessings of the healing waters with the attendees at the final dinner of the 70th Annual WHS Trek in Hot Springs State Park. They also shared a mourning and farewell song on behalf of recently departed WHS member Jeremy Johnston.

THERMOPOLIS, WY – The 70th Annual Trek of the Wyoming Historical Society took place June 20-23 in and around Hot Springs County, Wyoming. Over 150 people from around the state and the United States participated in the event. The three-day event visited historic locations in Thermopolis, at area ranches traveling along the Old Yellowstone Highway, and made the trip out to Anchor Dam, Arapahoe Ranch, Legend Rock Petroglyphs, the ghost-mining towns of Gebo and Crosby, and the historic Kirby Jail.

Presentations over the week-

end were a downtown walking tour of Historic Thermopolis by Hot Springs County Pioneer Association President Ray Shaffer; “Owen Wister and his ties to Hot Springs County” by Jackie Dorothy; “The Life Lessons of Lester Hunt” by Senator Cale Case; and a special blessing and presentation by members of the Shoshone and Arapahoe Tribes including singing, drumming, and the prestigious “Hoop Dance.”

The event kicked off summer with a reception and live entertainment Thursday night at the infamous Hole in the Wall

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

21 - Pioneer Music & Storytelling

The legacy of Wyoming featuring the renowned Buffalo Bill Boycott and Dr. Jo.

Two performances.

11 AM & 2 PM

***National Historic Trails Interpretive Center,
Casper, WY***

11 - Surviving the Raids

Author **Janelle Molony** speaks on the thrilling emigrant experiences during the 1864 Platte River Raids in Eastern Wyoming. Presented by the

Johnson County Historical Society

3 PM

Johnson County Library - Buffalo, WY

SEPTEMBER

27 - Caspar Collins Day

Presented by the Fort Caspar Museum and the Fort Caspar Museum Association. This year we will have soldiers, pioneers, hand carts and a tin-type photographer with crafts and food.

9 AM - 4 PM

Fort Caspar, 4001 Fort Caspar Rd, Casper, WY

14 - Living History: Mountain Men

On the second Saturday of the month from May to September, we will have a mountain man set up at the Fort from 10am to 1pm. This drop-in program is free with paid Museum admission.

10 AM - 1 PM

Fort Caspar Museum - Casper, WY

28 - Medicine on the Pioneer Trails

Featuring local historic re-enactor Nic Skalicky.

1 PM

***National Historic Trails Interpretive Center,
Casper, WY***

20 - Nate Champion and the Johnson County War, 1892

Author Mark Warren speaks about one of America's most egregious acts of insurrection and how one man prevented the crime of the century and became a martyr to the common laborer.

Presented by the **Johnson County Historical Society**

6:30 PM

Johnson County Library - Buffalo, WY

AUGUST

10 - Living History: Mountain Men

On the second Saturday of the month from May to September, we will have a mountain man set up at the Fort from 10am to 1pm. This drop-in program is free with paid Museum admission.

10 AM - 1 PM

Fort Caspar Museum - Casper, WY

ONGOING

West Across the Skies:

Wyoming's Aviation History

Visitors are invited to Step Back in History at the Historic Bishop Home to view our most recent exhibit on the community's aviation history. The exhibit contains forty photographs representing the state's aviation history, from the biplane to jet aviation. Part of the Wyoming State Museum's traveling exhibit program, West Across the Skies will be on view through August 31, 2024.

***Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.***

***The Historic Bishop Home 818 E 2nd St, Casper, WY
Parking behind the home off Lincoln Street.***

10 - Bishop Home Presentation

Bishop Home invites you to step back into history and enjoy an evening with first person historical interpreter Esa Wolff portraying Amelia Earhart

10 AM - 1 PM

Bishop Home - Casper, WY

Please send events for this calendar list and for Heard Along the Historic Trail by the 10th of each month prior to info@wyshs.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

By Fry Pan OR PAPER TRAIL

Wagon train descendants look back at the women who survived the Platte River Raids of 1864.

Presentation of the
Natrona County Historical Society
August 15, 6:00pm
Natrona Public Library, Casper, WY



A special presentation of the Natrona County Historical Society featuring eyewitness accounts of female survivors of the 1864 raids on the Oregon and Overland-California Trails around the Laramie Mountain Range will take place Thursday, August 15th from 6pm-7pm at the Natrona County Library Auditorium, 307 E 2nd St, Casper, WY 82601.

Join **Janelle Molony** and **Kylie Louise McCormick**, historians and co-authors of the

new release, *Emigrant Tales of the Platte River Raids*, as they dive into the critical role of female diarists as compelling storytellers and key witnesses to the events.

Special guest, Barbara Romine, is a relative-descendant of Fanny Kelly, who survived the attack at Little Box Elder Creek. Molony is a descendant of emigrant diarist, Sarah Rousseau who was on the Overland Trail during the events.

Book signing to follow.



BEYOND THE BOOK

An exhibition running through October will reveal Stan Lee the person, from his childhood to his later years. The exhibition will include documents, photographs and artifacts that have not been preserved elsewhere.

American Heritage Center - Centennial Complex
2111 Willet Drive - Laramie, WY 82071
307.766.4114



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VOLUNTEERS *needed*

If you can help out with our booth at the Wyoming State Fair, August 13 -17, please contact Aley at executivedirector@wyshs.org



WyoHistory.org Director Tom Rea is retiring this fall. If you would like to contribute to his retirement gift, please contact WHS Headquarters by August 15, 2024.

TOM REA RETIRES!

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends,

I can't believe it is already July. My, the summer is going fast this year! I enjoyed exploring Hot Springs County with some of you last month. The Trek ran the gamut, from driving past historic ranches and visiting a ranch cabin, viewing petroglyphs at Legend Rock, stopping at the remains of Gebo mining town, and visiting a historic jail in Kirby, etc. I was not on one of the buses to visit Anchor Dam, but I'm sure it was fascinating.

Along our treks, there was a bull lying in the road that refused to move, until the very end of the line of cars. And we actually saw two yaks hanging out on the side of the road. The people in my car were joking about tourists referring to bison as "furry cows," but that was

nothing compared to the yaks.

I want to thank the Hot Springs County Chapter and Aley for all their hard work. In addition to the delicious food, they seem to have a special knack for desserts – which as you know is always at the top of my list. I also wanted to thank the Wyoming State Parks staff, in particular for allowing us to set up our meeting tent/headquarters at this historic park. It was a beautiful site.

Because the Trek was near the end of June, and we have a lot of information to include in the newsletter; it is a combined issue. Thank you to the people who volunteered to run for the Executive Committee. It is greatly appreciated and important work. Please take a moment to vote. The ballot format has been changed to make it easier to quickly note your choices and mail it in.

I hope to see many of

you at the Annual Meeting in Newcastle September 6th through 8th. The Weston County Chapter always does a great job hosting the events. I'm looking forward to it. If possible, I encourage the Chapters to send at least one representative to the General Membership Meeting itself on the morning of September 7th. If you cannot attend in person, Zoom attendance is an option and highly encouraged.

Two of the Bylaw revisions, in particular, are important, and it would be great to have as many Chapters as possible take part in the voting. I discussed the Bylaw change proposed regarding how and when Bylaws can be revised in an earlier column.

The proposed due's structure revision is also important. The Executive Committee has worked at tightening the budget, but it is tight. As always, an influx of new members will help. But a slight dues increase

will go a long way to relieve the pressure. Recognizing that many of our older members are on a fixed income, an attempt has been made to change the due's structure to include a few ways to either keep their dues amount the same or even decrease it (if they are interested in the digital option).

The Awards Luncheon follows right after the meeting and is a great opportunity to visit with award winners and learn more about their great work.

Thank you for all of your support, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Cindy
WHS President



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

At Large
Johnny Philp
Phil & Joni Matthews

Campbell
Emma Lehman
Henry Muhlena

Carbon
John Allen

Fremont
Richard & Diana Currah
Jerry Dilts
Elizabeth Philp
Rob & Gloria Philp

Fort Bridger
Clayton & Mandy Flint

THANK YOU DONORS

Wyoming History Day
Chuck & Mary Engebresen

WyoHistory.org
Barbara Peterson

Above & Beyond
Chuck & Mary Engebresen
Carol Trusheim Waters

WHS 70th Annual Trek
Wyoming Humanities
WyoTee's

Hot Springs County Museum
Philp Sheep Company
Hot Springs State Park
Town of Thermopolis
Western Land Sales
Big Horn Federal
Zupan Electric & Plumping
Independent Record

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

The following Amendments to the Bylaws are being proposed to the Membership on Recommendation to Pass from the Executive Committee. These will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in Newcastle in September.

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting in person, you can attend via Zoom and still have your voice heard and your vote count. Please contact our Executive Director, Aley Philp, for a link to the Zoom Meeting by emailing her at: executivedirector@wyshs.org

AMENDMENT 1:

ARTICLE V: Amendments to the Bylaws

Section 1: These Bylaws may be amended ~~at an Annual Meeting of the Society~~ by two-thirds (2/3) of the vote cast, ~~providing the proposed amendment is received in writing by the Executive Director no later than the first week in May, prior to said meeting. Notice of such proposed amendment shall be given to the membership through the Wyoming History News not less than thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting.~~ by written ballot, with a sufficient number of ballots cast to constitute a quorum whether or not the vote were held at an in-person meeting of the membership, providing that:

1. The proposed amendment is received in writing by the Executive Committee and submitted to the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee for consideration. The Executive Committee and the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee may jointly either approve, disapprove, or propose further amendment of the proposed amendment.
2. If the Executive Committee and the Bylaws & Resolutions Committee either approve or propose further amendment of the proposed amendment, the President shall send (or cause to be sent) the final proposed amendment and an accompanying ballot, which shall state the deadline for the ballots to be received, to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the voting deadline. Ballots may be returned by email, online voting platform, or postage service. Ballots must be received at the central office on or prior to the deadline.
3. If the vote is taken, or the ballots are counted, at an in-person membership meeting of the Society, the results of the vote shall be announced at the meeting and through the next issue of the *Wyoming History News*. Otherwise, the vote shall be announced through the next issue of the *Wyoming History News*.

AMENDMENT 2:

ARTICLE VI: Membership Dues

Section 1: Annual membership in the Wyoming Historical Society renews on the anniversary date when a member joined the Society. Membership is open to all interested persons in the following categories and upon payment of the proper dues:

1. Single or Household ~~individual annual membership dues and joint annual membership dues (family members~~ persons residing at the same address) are ~~\$40.00~~:
 - a. Membership Dues - \$50.00
 - b. Senior Citizen Membership Dues (one or both over the age of 65) - \$40.00
 - c. Veteran Membership Dues - \$45.00
 - d. Contributing Membership Dues - \$100. 00
 - e. Sustaining Membership Dues - \$250. 00
 - f. Patron Membership Dues - \$500. 00

- g. Donor Membership Dues - \$1,000.00
 - h. Digital Membership Dues (only digital publications) - \$25.00
2. Subscription Membership Dues (billed monthly via credit or debit card) - \$5.00
 3. Students (through the age of 25, with proof of enrollment in an educational institution):
 - a. Individual Membership Dues - \$20.00
 - b. Digital Membership dues (only digital publications) - \$10.00
 4. Institutional Membership Dues (qualifying libraries, museums, and educational institutions) - \$75.00
 5. Corporate or Business Membership Dues - \$90.00

- ~~2. Student individual membership dues [registered students up to age 25] - \$20.00~~
- ~~3. Institutional/Business annual membership dues - \$60.00~~
- ~~4. Contributing annual membership dues - \$100.00~~
- ~~5. Sustaining annual membership dues - \$250.00~~
- ~~6. Patron annual membership dues - \$500.00~~
- ~~7. Donor annual membership dues - \$1,000.00~~

Section 2:

1. International members in any category, other than the Digital category, shall pay an annual fee of \$40.00 ~~\$20.00~~ in addition to their dues for postage.
2. Dues may be paid by check, credit or debit card, PayPal, or other such online payment center as utilized by the Society and may incur a transaction fee if paying by credit or debit card or by online service.
3. Wyoming Historical Society Membership dues do not include local or chapter dues.

Section 3: The Executive Committee may recognize individuals, groups and industrial companies who contribute to the advancement and purposes of the Society by issuance of non-voting honorary memberships as it deems proper.

Section 4: All membership fees and annual Society dues shall be paid to ~~the Executive Director of~~ the Society. Payments that are mailed shall be sent to the attention of the Executive Director of the Society at the central office. Dues are for a 12-month period, from date of receipt and entry into the Membership Database ~~on the computer~~, through that date of the following year.

Section 5: The fiscal year shall be from October 1 through September 30.

AMENDMENT 3:

1. Renumber the amended Article I following the existing Article V, as Article VI. Renumber the Articles following the amended Article VI “Membership Dues,” to be Articles VII “County Chapters,” VIII “Officers and Duties,” IX “Committees,” X “Quorum,” XI “Publications of the Society,” and XII “Parliamentary Procedure.”
2. Delete the existing Article VIII, which duplicates Article V.

Heard Along the Historic Trail:



Members of the Northern Arapaho tribe celebrated the last week of June as a long-lost tribal artifact has been unveiled to the public: The headdress of Chief Black Coal.

In 2019, the Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office received a phone call from Temple Smith, a retired professor in Marblehead, Massachusetts. The headdress had been in his family's possession for over 100 years, and Smith believed it was time for the item to return to the tribe.

Driven over 2,000 miles across the country from Massachusetts to Wyoming, the sacred headdress of Chief Black Coal has now returned to the Northern Arapaho people. Chief Black Coal's headdress is now on display at the Northern Arapaho Experience Room in Riverton.



Chief Black Coal was a prominent Northern Arapaho leader in the late 19th century, known for his role in securing territory for the tribe in Wyoming.

On July 1st, the Riverton Museum was excited to welcome a special gate into it's collection.



The gate is a reproduction of one located at the Georgia birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts. Made in 2002 to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts, it was displayed at the Daisy's Dream Girl Scout event that took place that year at CWC.

More than 1,000 Girl Scouts descended upon Riverton to take part in those festivities. This gate commemorates that event and the importance of scouting in general.



Union Pacific's legendary Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive traveled across the southern portion of Wyoming the first week of July. No. 4014 made several whistle-stops including Wamsutter, Green River and Evanston.



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Bar located in the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center. Part of the Museum's "Outlaw Days," it was hosted by HSCMCC, the Wyoming Historical Society, and the Hot Springs County Historical Society.

On Friday, over 100 people in nearly 40 vehicles traveled south along portions of the Old Yellowstone Highway to visit an historic cabin. The property where the cabin sits almost exactly on the Bridger Trail, was once part of "The Sheep Queen" Lucy Morrison Moore's ranch and has been part of Philp Sheep Company for more than 80 years.

While there, sitting in what is now lush green grass, nestled between red hills and a strong flowing stream, attendees were told tales of what it was like growing up and working in the area every summer running sheep. Coming up each summer to very rustic



Rob Philp fries potatoes and onions the traditional way in a Dutch oven over coals for the attendees of the WHS 70th Annual Trek to enjoy.



Ray Shaffer regales the crowd with the history of the ranching families of Hot Springs County before their first trek on Friday, June 21, 2024.

conditions, according to Diana Philp Currah, they would camp out there on that spot. They would get fresh milk from their neighbors, the Picards at the De Ranch, a few miles away, and forage for mushrooms, a rare treat. For several weeks each spring or early summer, a shearing crew and their families comprised of members of the Arapaho tribe would bring tents and stay there as well. The wool was then wagon-driven, or, in later years, hauled by trucks, down to the train station in Lysite.

In 1963, the cabin was built from logs out of the Dubois region. The horse corral was already there, built from railway ties. A saddle shed was added, built by Rob Philp and Grant Shippen, and, in the 1970's, larger pens up the draw were planned over many late nights by lantern-light and built under the direction of Frank Philp and Shippen.

Listening to these stories

and others of colorful characters, attendees were treated to some authentic Dutch oven cooking as Rob cooked fried potatoes and onions, Elizabeth Philp and Diana cooked up ham and beans and several delicious desserts from old recipes of their mother's, Ann Good Philp, who attended a cooking school in Edinburgh, Scotland. She came to Wyoming following WWII to marry John Philp.

On Saturday, everyone piled into three school buses and headed north to visit Anchor Dam, where John Vietti told the tale of the "dam that won't hold water;" followed by a drive through the Arapahoe Ranch and Hamilton Dome oil fields to get to Legend Rock Petroglyphs where **Mary Wojciechowski** enlightened the visitors to the importance of the area to the Shoshone Tribe and their journey to the healing waters of the mineral hot springs. *continued on the next page*



Kylie McCormick takes in a petroglyph of a spirit happy to return to the Underworld through the cracks at Legend Rock.

Taking the cut off dirt road of Sand Draw, the attendees stopped at the ghost town of Gebo, an historic mining town, where local author **Lea Cavalli Schoenewald** told them the unique history of the town which once was the largest in Hot Springs County. Several of the attendees of the Trek were born in Gebo. In their 90's, they came back with their families to

pass down stories and visit once more. If you know where to look towards the hills, you can see where the sagebrush doesn't grow was the football field and, on the rocks above, a faint "GHS."

Established in 1907 but never incorporated, there was nothing left of the town by 1971 when the final buildings were bulldozed. What remains is one large fan

leading to the coal mines, some cornerstones of houses on "Rock Row," and the cemetery.

Traveling two miles down the road, they visited the historic Kirby Jail, where some rowdy residents of all three of the towns (Gebo, Crosby, and Kirby) might have spent the night after having too good of time in the wilder town of Kirby. Sitting along side the railroad tracks, where Burlington Northern trains still run through, is now home to Wyoming Whiskey and a few residents.

The 70th Annual Trek concluded Saturday night with a dinner in Hot Springs State Park overlooking the terraces and the swinging bridge spanning the river lit beneath a clear night sky.

The Wyoming Historical Society's 71st Annual Trek will be held in Converse County in 2025.

We look forward to seeing you there!



John Anderson, tour guide for one of the buses, steps out of the Historic Kirby Jail with other trek attendees.

In Memoriam - Jeremy M. Johnston



The Wyoming Historical Society lost one of its very own outstanding leaders, Jeremy M. Johnston, who had the passion for preserving Wyoming's history. He passed away Saturday, June 15, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah surrounded by his family who loved him more than anything in the world. Jeremy was born on March 28, 1971 in Powell to Jack and Carol Johnston. He lived his life in Wyoming, graduating from Powell High School in 1989, attending Northwest College for one year and finishing his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in History from the University of Wyoming. In 2017, Jeremy received his PhD in American History from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland.

Jeremy cherished his childhood in Wyoming, spending time hunting, fishing and hiking with friends and family. He especially cherished his time with his grandparents from whom he developed a love of learning about the past. After Jeremy graduated from the University of Wyoming with his Master's degree, he returned home to Powell to begin a fifteen year career as a history instructor at Northwest College. There he developed lifelong friendships and inspired countless students. Following his tenure at Northwest, Jeremy began a career at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, first as the Managing Editor of the Papers of William F. Cody, and then added the job of Curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum. Jeremy loved his job and the people he worked with. He particularly enjoyed opportunities for research and continued learning. Jeremy was always happy to write book reviews for authors that asked and was in the process of publishing his dissertation, *Two Rough Riders: Theodore Roosevelt and William F. Cody*.

Jeremy was a very active community member from the local to the national level. Jeremy was a past master mason of Absarokee Lodge #30, and member of the Eagles. He was also a current member of the Wyoming and Park County Historical Societies, President of the Wyoming Historical Foundation, Pahaska Corral of Westerners, Theodore Roosevelt Association, American Heritage Center, Big Horn Basin Scottish Society, Western History Association, Wyoming Humanities Council, The Cody Heritage Museum Board of Directors, and the Cosmos Club. He was dedicated to all of these worthy organizations and others, a testament to his incredible ability to value many causes, touching the lives of so many.

Those who knew him remember him for his academic accomplishments, but even more so, they remember his sense of humor. His ability to connect with people and make them laugh created a special place for him in hearts all over the world. Jeremy was always ready with a good joke in all situations, no matter how formal or relaxed. He was a storyteller, and was able to use his humor and his knowledge to share his love of history.



WESTON COUNTY TO HOST 71ST

LOCAL TOWNS FEATURED DURING ANNUAL MEETING



Historic Flying V Cambria Inn

by Lucas Keeler

Named after John Weston, a discoverer of the coal at Cambria, Weston County encompassed the southern portion of Crook County until it was created by the Wyoming Territorial Legislature on March 12, 1890. Weston County once spanned from the western edge of Custer County, South Dakota to the Johnson County line until the formation of Campbell County in 1911. At 2400 square miles, Weston County is Wyoming's 18th largest county. Encompassing nearly 1.5 million acres, 1.2 million acres of which is range land, is largely agricultural dependent.

Coal in present-day Weston County was known as far back as 1879, but it wasn't until a major

discovery of coal was made in 1887 that the area became "coal country." John Weston and Frank Mondell, while prospecting for a coal source for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad's planned route through northeastern Wyoming, encountered a coal seam of excellent and sufficient quality. With the discovery, the future of the railroad was assured, and the coal mine and town of Cambria was founded. The underground coal mine would be in operation from 1889 until 1928, and at one point the company-owned town had a reported population of nearly 1,400 people. Today, Cambria is a ghost town, but its memories and legacy upon the coal industry remain.

As Cambria approached commencement of its

mining operations in 1889, a permanent city for the anticipated development in the area needed to be constructed. The coal deposits of the Cambria mine were located in a canyon with not enough room for the building of a sizeable community. Railroad surveys revealed that the main line of the railroad could not be brought nearer than the mouth of the canyon, a point seven miles from the mine. At this location, where the Cambria spur would join the railroad, a townsite was identified. The townsite was named Newcastle by Cambria Coal Company's Superintendent J.H. Hemingway after his coal shipping hometown of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England.

The historic Flying V-Cambria Inn, located north of Newcastle, was built by the Cambria Coal Company as a resort and a memorial to the Cambria coal miners. It was completed in 1928, but a few months later the coal mine would close, and its future became in doubt. Originally known as the Cambria Park and Casino, in 1931 the mining company leased the park and casino, and it was renamed the Flying V after the lessees livestock brand. The inn, with its construction of native sandstone from nearby quarries, is one of the architectural gems of Weston County.

In 1857, Lieutenant G.K.



Historic wagons at Upton Red Onion Museum

Warren and geologist Dr. F. V. Hayden, the first authorized military expedition of the region, constructed a log corral east of Newcastle along the bank of what became known as Stockade Beaver Creek. From this location Warren established a semi-permanent camp to explore the Black Hills. The site sat abandoned for eighteen years until on June 3, 1875 a party of geologists and miners arrived. Led by Professor Walter P. Jenney and 432 soldiers under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Richard Dodge, the site formerly occupied by the Warren expedition was perfect for their reconnaissance needs. Construction of a stockade quickly began and became known as Camp Jenney. After the departure of the Jenney party, the stockade became a stopover and stage stop on the Cheyenne to Deadwood stage route. In 1878 the stage route changed, and the stage stop was no longer

used. The surrounding land and the stockade were purchased by Joseph Spencer and became known as the LAK ranch. The LAK ranch is now owned by True Ranches LLC and is still in operation.

Weston County's oil history dates back to 1877 with the discovery of oil springs west of the LAK Ranch. The heavy characteristics of the oil were ideal for lubricating, enabling a strong market for the product at the gold mines in Lead, Dakota Territory. After the springs discovery, a small oil boom would ensue, and soon the foothills near present-day Newcastle were littered with prospector shacks and staked oil claims. This would be the first of many oil booms that would come to what would become Weston County. In 1919, a discovery well was drilled by the Mike Henry Oil Company near the small town of Osage. The well would be a gusher, and the

Osage Oil Field was born.

The small Weston County town of Upton' originated in the late 1880s when it was known as the settlement of Iron Town (or Iron City). The "hard winter" of 1886-87 devastated the cattle market, but some ranchers replaced their cattle with sheep. Pens and corrals were constructed near Iron Town and would be used for shearing and other sheep operations. With the railroad's arrival in 1890, Iron Town changed its name to Merino, in honor of the breed of sheep. In 1901, Merino was renamed Upton in honor of a railroad surveyor named George Upton. Today, Upton is known as "The best town on earth."



Rhonda Stearns, Weston County's premier cowgirl and speaker at upcoming Wyoming Historical Society's Annual Meeting.

PROMOTE. PROTECT. PARTICIPATE.

Are you passionate about history? Do you want to make a meaningful impact? Look no further! Many of our committees are seeking dedicated volunteers to join.

Whether you're interested in preservation, research, or community outreach, we have a place for you.!

The following committees are looking for members starting this coming fall.

- Bylaws (1 opening)
- Historic Preservation (1)
- Legislative (1)
- Management & Oversight (1)
- Nominating (1)
- Oral History (1)
- Projects (2)
- Publications (1)
- Website (1)
- WyoHistory.org (1)

By volunteering, you'll contribute to preserving our heritage, organizing events, and shaping our historical narrative. Join us in celebrating the past and building a vibrant future.

If you are interested in joining a committee, please reach out to Aley at WHS Headquarters 307.322.3014 or executivedirector@wyshs.org. Remember, your commitment can make a difference!

LODGING OPTIONS

ASK FOR THE WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING RATE

BOOK SOON IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND!

Auto Inn and RV Park **307-746-2734**

2503 W. Main, Newcastle
Reservations only
1-877-228-8646
1 bed \$99 per night;
2 beds \$125 per night;
RV 30 amp \$45 per night;
50 amp \$55 per night

Hilltop Motel **307-746-4494**

1121 S. Summit, Newcastle
1 queen bed \$75 per night

Iron Creek Inn and Suites **307-468-2300**

100 Buffalo Creek Road,
Upton
\$75 per night
Breakfast Included

The Newcastle Lodge **307-746-2600**

22918 Hwy 85, Newcastle
\$129 per night
Breakfast Included

Pines Country Inn **307-746-4334**

248 E. Wentworth Street
Newcastle
\$90 per night

Sage Motel **307-746-2742**

1227 S. Summit Avenue
Newcastle
Single, \$75 per night
Double \$85 per night

Sundowner Inn **307-74-3344**

451 W. Main, Newcastle
Single queen \$75 per night;
double queen \$85 per
night; king \$79 per night
3-night discount \$5 per
night
Breakfast Included

Super 8 **307-746-4426**

(previously known as The
Fountain Inn)
3 Fountain Plaza Road
Newcastle
King bed \$109 per night, 2
queen beds \$119 per night
Continental Breakfast



71ST ANNUAL MEETING Registration Form

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 2024
NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
MAILING CITY STATE ZIP

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

REGISTRATION IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2024

Cost \$90 per Person; includes 3 meals & Friday night transportation.

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

- Attending: **ALL EVENTS**
 or **THURSDAY NIGHT**
 FOR WHS EXECUTIVE , WH FOUNDATION, & WESTON COUNTY EXEC
 FRIDAY EXECUTIVE MEETING OPEN TO ALL TO ATTEND & LISTEN
 FRIDAY AFTERNOON &/OR EVENING
 SATURDAY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 SATURDAY AWARDS LUNCH
 OPTION TO ATTEND SATURDAY'S AWARDS LUNCH ONLY, \$20 per person
 SATURDAY PRESIDENT'S BANQUET
 **SUNDAY WHS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ORIENTATION
& BOARD ELECTION MEETING**
 SUNDAY TOUR / PROGRAM

ONLINE REGISTRATION PREFERRED.

Please visit wyshs.org/events to sign up and pay by credit card.

If registering by mail, please send a check to WHS and this form to:

Wyoming Historical Society Annual Meeting
PO Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

For more information and [Volunteer Opportunities](#) please contact
Mike Jording at mike_jording@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY
DINNER FOR
EXECUTIVE BOARDS

FRIDAY
CHECK-IN 8a - 11a
Newcastle Lodge

WHS EXEC MTG
9a - 12n
Newcastle Lodge

CHECK-IN 11a-5p
Anna Miller Museum

UNGUIDED TOURS:
Anna Miller Museum
Upton Loop Tour
Beaver Creek Loop Tour

GUIDED TOURS:
Walking Tour of
Newcastle Main Street
Episcopal Church

EVENING RECEPTION:
5p: Upton Old Town &
Red Onion Museum

6:30p: Catered Dinner

7:30p - History of Old Town by
Sam Haptonstall

SATURDAY

CHECK-IN
8a - 11a Methodist Church
11a - 12n Newcastle Lodge

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

WHS
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING
9a - Methodist Church

WHS AWARDS LUNCHEON
12n - Newcastle Lodge
Cambria Room

TOURS / PROGRAMS
2:30p
Lucas Keeler:
Whoop Up Canyon

Rhonda Stearns:
*Cowboys & Cowgirls of
the Cheyenne River*

PRESIDENT'S BANQUET
5:30p - Newcastle Lodge
Paul Horsted presents
*Exploring with Custer:
The 1874 Black Hills Expedition*

SUNDAY
8a - WHS EXEC MEETING
Newcastle Lodge

TOUR
10a - *History of the LAK*
by Jan Farella, Dan Johnson,
and Lucas Keeler



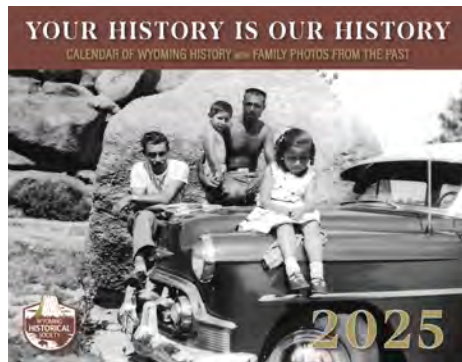
Wyoming Historical Society
PO Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

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CONTACT HEADQUARTERS TO ORDER WHS EXCLUSIVE GEAR



2025 CALENDARS - WATER BOTTLES - CAMP MUGS
BAGS - EXCLUSIVE DESIGN T-SHIRTS & STICKERS

INCLUDED INSIDE: MAIL IN BALLOT - ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION - BYLAWS