

# Wyoming History News

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## WOMEN OF WYOMING

### FOLLOWING WYOMING'S PROUD TRADITION OF STRONG WOMEN

The Wyoming Historical Society is proud to officially release the new oral history project titled, "Women of Wyoming: Then & Now." The first video presentation will be available online on the Society's brand new YouTube Channel starting Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The inaugural guest is **Rebecca Keays**, a granddaughter of Wyoming's state flag designer Verna Keays Keyes. Rebecca discusses little-known but significant and problematic details of the 1916 design contest that her grandmother entered. These details caused the final design, as we know it, to no longer be what was actually voted on. To hear what happened and why the state flag looks the way it does today, be sure to tune in.

The "Women of Wyoming: Then & Now" interview series began filming in late 2022. It captures conversations with distinguished women who have preserved important tales of our past, corrected historical narratives for the better, or are making history themselves. The series runs from March (Women's History Month) to December and each 25-minute episode releases on the first Friday of the month. Featured guests and topics correlate with monthly holidays and academic themes.

Teachers, libraries, and museums that want to host watch parties can receive a

program guide with suggested extension questions to engage their audiences. Another suggested activity to accompany the topic is to visit the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum in Buffalo, WY for the "Life of Verna" exhibit currently on display. Be on the lookout for April's presentation which highlights Dr. Grace Raymond Hebard, a suffragette, librarian, Oregon Trail preservationist, and the organizer of the 1916 state flag design contest. The project is directed by **Janelle Molony**, chair of the Society's Oral History Committee, whom also hosts the show.

For more information, please visit our Facebook page and YouTube Channel.



Verna Keays holds the Wyoming state flag, around 1960. She designed the flag four decades earlier.

WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES

## 70<sup>TH</sup> WHS ANNUAL TREK - JUNE 20 TO 23

The snow may still be here as we weather our way through 'Springtime in the Rockies,' but don't let that stop you from preparing for the First Day of Summer!

The Wyoming Historical Society, in partnership with the host chapter, Hot Springs County Historical Society, invites you to come to Thermopolis and be part of the Wyoming Historical Society's 70th Annual Trek starting Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024.

Trek options include Gebo Coal Mines, Hamilton Dome, Legend Rock Petroglyphs,

Anchor Dam and Reservoir, Arapahoe Ranch Field Station, Outlaw Days at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center featuring the infamous Hole in the Wall Bar, historic ranch tours, and many more exciting presentations! Brush up on some history of the locations we will visit in the following pages and on [WyoHistory.org](http://WyoHistory.org).

For more information, please visit [wyshs.org/events](http://wyshs.org/events). Online registration is now open and highly encouraged. Watch your mailbox for the Trek informational packet and registration form coming soon!

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## MARCH

### **3 - Native Line + Rhythm**

March First Sunday Native Line + Rhythm special programming in partnership with the Wind River Foundation. Featuring the Wind River Drummers:

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; and Bruce Cook Artist Demo & Presentation 12:45 p.m. – 2 p.m.

*Nature Museum of Wildlife & Art  
2820 Rungius Rd, Jackson, WY 83001*

### **3 - Celebrating Women's History Month: Women's Small Business Owners Team**

There will be a speaker presentation about historical women who have had an impact on our community, tea and refreshments, as well as an opportunity to meet women in our community who are leaving their impact on history for generations to come!

Free and open to all women's small business owners.  
*Teton County Library Auditorium, Jackson, WY  
2:00 - 4:00 pm*

### **8 - Tours & Toddies: Conserving the Collection**

Join Chief Conservator Beverly Perkins on Friday, March 8. She takes us on another deep dive into the care and preservation that goes into our world-renowned collections.

*Buffalo Bill Center of the West  
720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY  
6:00 - 8:00 pm*

### **14 - History of the Wyoming Flag**

Join the Pioneer Museum for this Wyoming Community Bank Discovery Speakers program as historian Kylie McCormick talks about the history of Wyoming's state flag.

This program is free and open to the public.  
*The Pioneer Museum, Lander, WY  
6:30 pm*

### **14 - Cody Culture Club:**

#### **Rock Art of the Bighorn Basin**

Rock Art of the Bighorn Basin With Dr. Gordon Ambrosino. Join us on select Thursdays January through April for Cody Culture Club. Appetizers & cash bar at every program. If you love Cody, you're part of the Club!

*Buffalo Bill Center of the West, 5:30 - 7:30 pm*

### **24 - They Pass Here...**

#### **Cemeteries of the Black Hills**

Over a period of nearly seven years, Hugh and Linda O'Gara of Hill City located and researched more than thirty cemeteries and lone graves in the Black Hills, relics from the 1870s gold rush camps, and a piece of the region's history.

*Weston County Historical Society  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
224 West Rd., Newcastle, WY  
1:00 pm*

## ONGOING EXHIBITS

### **"Hurrah for the Cowboy: Men of the Open Range"**

Travel exhibit on display through Dec. 2024. This collection of vintage engravings (1867-1911) depicts the North American cowboy – the most romanticized figure in American history – as seen by their contemporary artists, such as Frederic Remington, Charles Russell, Maynard Dixon, and many other notable artists.

*Campbell County Rockpile Museum  
900 W 2nd St, Gillette, WY 82716*

### **"Who She Is"**

This new display features Wyoming and National statistics on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), along with the red jingle dress worn in the opening of the documentary film

"Who She Is."

Due to the content of the film, viewer discretion is advised.

*Wyoming State Museum  
2301 Central Ave, Barrett Building, Cheyenne*

### **James Bama's "Portraits of the West"**

The exhibit James Bama's Photographs: Portraits of the West will run through April 10, 2024.

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

*Please send events for this calendar list by  
the 15th of each month prior to [info@wyshs.org](mailto:info@wyshs.org).*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends,  
The winter has been pretty mild so far down here in Cheyenne, but it's only a matter of time before reality (snow, cold, etc.) hits.

I'm excited to welcome the Wyoming Historical Society's new staff member, Jennifer Padilla. Jennifer has a background in non-profit including membership database systems, social media and website management. With Aley and Jennifer, the Society has a great support team in place.

I've been attending the 250th (Semiquincentennial) Anniversary Task Force meetings every month. It's amazing that the Society is being represented in this important work. The task force is still in the preliminary planning stages. The task force submitted a proposed theme to the Governor's Office, but we are still awaiting approval and feedback. To date, the task force has received one small federal grant for planning, and the Joint Appropriations Committee has included additional funding in the proposed budget. Similar to the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration, the aim is to provide support to county or local organizations who will organize local events and projects. The task force will also provide a list

of activities and programming ideas, and is working toward coordinating large events at the Wyoming State Capitol Building.

March is Women's History Month. As you have read on the front page, Janelle Moloney, Linda Fabian, and Leslie Waggener have launched a new interview series titled "Women of Wyoming: Then and Now" on the Historical Society's YouTube Channel. I encourage people to check out the series and also appreciate their hard work and perseverance on the project.

The Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund has generously provided support for many of our programs and projects. This includes the aforementioned "Women of Wyoming: Then and Now" interview series, and projects related to WyoHistory.org, the Fort Bridger Historical Association, and the Park County Chapter. It is always exciting to see such innovative and informative projects come to life.

Thanks again for all your help and support.

*Cindy*

WHS President

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Aley Philp, 307.322.3014

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or

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# YOU'RE IN HOT WATER NOW

## ANCHOR DAM AND THE RESERVOIR THAT WOULDN'T HOLD WATER

Excerpts from Annette Hein's  
WyoHistory.org article

Anchor Dam—some writers have called it a “boondoggle”—stands today high above a small pool of water on upper Owl Creek, a tributary of the Bighorn River in the southwest corner of Wyoming's Bighorn Basin.

According to historian Kathy Lindholm, who interviewed local residents about the dam in the 1990s, area ranchers knew about water seepage and losses underground along Owl Creek long before the dam was built. Rancher Henry Freudenthal had strongly opposed the early efforts to build a dam in the area because it would not hold water “on account of the red beds.”

Once it became clear that the federal government was prepared to spend large amounts of money on the project's construction, however, Freudenthal dropped his opposition and declared he would “entrust this point to the judgment of the government engineers.”

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation built the dam in the 1950s. It was intended to provide a reliable supply of irrigation water, but after three years and \$3.4 million spent on construction, it became clear that the geology of the area would not allow the reservoir to fill. After more than a decade of continuing attempts at remediation, the final cost of the dam topped \$7 million—and its reservoir still holds very little water.

Free State Baths, Big Horn Hot Springs, Thermopolis, Wyo.



The State of Wyoming agreed that the public would always be allowed to bathe for free in the mineral water that formerly had belonged to the tribes. Shown here, the state bath house in 1912. WYOMING TALES AND TRAILS

## WHEN THE TRIBES SOLD THE HOT SPRINGS

Excerpts from this article courtesy of WyoHistory.org

By the mid-1890s, local whites had begun to covet the magnificent hot springs just north and downstream from the mouth of Wind River Canyon—site of present Thermopolis, WY, then the northeast corner of the reservation. The springs were producing 19 million gallons of hot water per day. Some white entrepreneurs already had dug ditches to bring the flow to “tent-walled spas with names like Hotel de Sagebrush,” historian Geoffrey O’Gara writes. They wanted to develop a resort, but to do that they would need title to the land.

The country north of Wind River Canyon and the Owl Creek Range had little value to the tribes as its buffalo herds were long gone. James McLaughlin, veteran government negotiator with Native American tribes around the West, began talks with Shoshone and Arapaho leaders.

On April 21, 1896, of the 457 men in both tribes over the age of 18, 180 Shoshones and 93 Arapahos agreed to sign.

Cheif Washakie added a single condition to the sale—that people always be allowed to bathe there for free. That agreement later became part of the transfer of the land from the U.S. government to the State of Wyoming. Today, free swimming is available year round at the small state bath house at Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis. Swimming for a fee is available at two larger commercial pools.

At the time, Army Capt. Richard Wilson, acting Indian agent at the Shoshone Agency, noted that “the amount paid was abundantly low for the finest hot springs on earth.”

Learn more about the Sacred Waters and Hot Springs State Park on the Annual Trek! Meals and some presentations will take place in Hot Springs State Park.

# WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE

By [wyomingheritage.org](http://wyomingheritage.org)

Carved over thousands of years by prehistoric groups who made their living hunting and gathering in the Bighorn Basin, the petroglyphs of Legend Rock are a unique piece of Wyoming's history.

Nearly 300 images appear on the rock, most of which archaeologists associate with the Dinwoody tradition. Found west of the Bighorn River in the Bighorn and Wind River basins, Dinwoody tradition rock art is known for its distinctive figures pecked into the rock surface. These include large human or human-like figures with headdresses whose torsos are often decorated with patterns of lines. Despite having suffered some defacement,

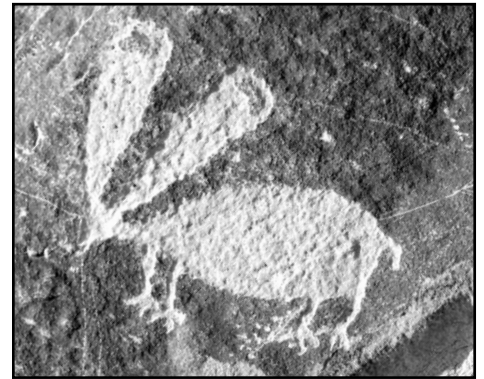
Legend Rock includes the oldest and best-preserved examples of Dinwoody tradition rock art known in the world.

The site is administered by the Wyoming Dept. of State Parks and Cultural Resources, and was named to the National Register of Historic Places on July 5, 1973.

Several trips to Legend Rock are planned during the Annual Trek in June. Visit [wyshts.org/events](http://wyshts.org/events) for more information regarding the Annual Trek.

The Wyoming Historical Society will also be visiting the petroglyphs of Whoop-Up Canyon in Goshen County for their Annual Meeting in September.

For additional information on petroglyphs and pictographs, read **Tom Rea's** [WyoHistory.org](http://WyoHistory.org) articles.



Many of the petroglyphs are the Dinwoody style which is unique to the region. PHOTOS BY HOT SPRINGS COUNTY TOURISM

## PIONEER DENTIST

Caroline Fuller had never heard of women's liberation in 1905 when she entered a field of medicine usually reserved for men—dentistry. How she came to pull teeth and take dental impressions while raising three children and teaching school in a remote part of Wyoming at the turn of the last century is only one phase of her interesting life story.

Caroline Fuller — Mrs. George Fuller—was about 93 years old when interviewed June 14, 1973, at the Wyoming Pioneer Home in Thermopolis, Wyo., by May Gillies on behalf of the **Hot Springs County Historical Society**.

The full transcript is available on [WyoHistory.org/oral-histories/caroline-fuller-pioneer-dentist](http://WyoHistory.org/oral-histories/caroline-fuller-pioneer-dentist)



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## At Large

Susan Alberi  
Donald Bennett  
Annie Ruth Bobo  
Glenn Borkenhagen  
John & Becky Davis  
Jay Durtsche  
David Hergert  
Kris Hunter  
Kevin & Lynn McBride  
Ken & Carolyn McCann  
Edith Nichols  
Patrick Pace  
Daniel Rea  
John & Karen Ross  
David M. Russell  
Robert Todd Scott  
Thomas Straka  
Carol (Trusheim) Waters  
Sylvia Wilkins  
Yellowstone Research Library  
Tom & Maria Sol Zupan

## Converse County

Jack & Becky Campbell

## Johnson County

Eugene & Carol Gagliano

## Fremont County

Jane Garber  
John & Barbara Paglione

## Hot Springs County

Patricia Powell

## Natrona County

Bebe Leik  
Robert Shook

## Star Valley

Todd & Cathy Bateman  
Lee & Marilyn Schwab

## Weston County

Carl & Wyoma Jungck

# THANK YOU DONORS

## Above & Beyond

Carly-Ann Anderson  
Pricilla Baker  
Col. (Ret.) Frank Bertagnolli  
*In Memory of his beloved wife, Fran*  
Glenn Borkenhagen  
Karen Dickenson  
Joe & Patricia Gingles  
Rebecca Keays  
Deborah Simon  
Jonita Sommers  
Claudia Thomson  
Drew & Heidi Walker  
Marjorie Wilder  
Terry Winchell

## Wyoming Historical Foundation

Joan Anderson  
John & Judy Andrikopoulos  
Hal Corbett  
William & Jan Hill  
Rocky & Lisa Marquiss  
Judy Musgrave  
Rosalind Schliske  
Deborah Simon  
Al & Ann Simpson  
Colin Simpson  
Marjorie Wilder

## Wyoming History Day

Joan Anderson  
Dona Bachman  
John Housel  
Deborah Simon  
Marjorie Wilder

## Homsher

Deborah Simon  
Marjorie Wilder  
Michael Bond & Vickie Zimmer

## WyoHistory.org

Marcia Britton  
Peggy Bromley  
Judy Musgrave  
Patrick Pierce  
Don & Marjorie Sanborn  
Deborah Simon  
Marjorie Wilder



## In Memoriam

Over the last several months, we have sadly lost a fair number of our treasured members.

Please remember them by continuing to tell their own unique histories.

### **BOBBI BROWN BARASSO**

1953 - 2024  
Casper, WY

### **MAURICE BROWN**

1933 - 2023  
Cheyenne, WY

### **DR. ELIZABETH ESTERCHILD**

1942 - 2023  
Dallas, TX

### **SENATOR JOHN HINES**

1936 - 2024  
Gillette, WY

### **CARL JENSEN**

1937 - 2024  
Wheatland, WY

### **MAXINE KAUL**

1930 - 2023  
Newcastle, WY

### **RUTH LAURITZEN-RUESS**

1962 - 2023  
Green River, WY

## Heard Along the Historic Trail:

### *Your Place for Chapter News*

Tom Rea mentioned that he and Kylie McCormick, as part of WyoHistory.org, are involved in creating the new interpretive exhibits to be installed at the Wyoming State Capitol Building this coming fall. It is an immense project with a large scope and breadth involving historical research.

In mid-February the Capitol Exhibits & Wayfinding subcommittee met to discuss the progress of that project. Much praise was spoken for Tom, Kylie, and the Wyoming Historical Society. At one point during the meeting, co-chairwoman Kristi Racines (State Auditor) said to Kylie, "We appreciate the life you have breathed into this project."

Thank you, Tom & Kylie, for the collaborative and high quality work you are doing with the Wyoming State Legislature.



The Weston County Historical Society had a busy February hosting three events. Starting the month off, the WCHS hosted a joint meeting with the Museum District. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Walt Soper spoke on the History of the Weston County Fire District. Lucas Keeler hosted two presentations, both on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, on "Homesteads and History - Researching using the GLO and Wyoming Digital Newspaper Collection."

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The Wyoming Historical Society welcomes Jennifer Padilla on staff as the Executive Assistant. Jennifer will be working most weekday afternoons and is excited to help implement all of the wonderful new features that help us better connect with our members now and in the years to come.

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The Natrona County Historical Society started off their 70th year with a program by former Representative Rick Tempest featuring his collection of historical campaign buttons.

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Wyoming Historical Society  
PO Box 247  
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82201  
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Address Service Requested

As we are moving over to our new Membership Database,  
we want to make sure your contact information remains accurate.

To get the full benefit of the new membership database,  
we need your email addresses and phone numbers.



Please send them to  
**info@wyshs.org**  
or call us at 307.322.3014.