

Wyoming History News

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CELEBRATING PIONEERS OF PROGRESS: Honoring Women's History Month in Wyoming

by **Kylie McCormick**

On June 15, 1889, Amalia Post stood before one hundred women in Cheyenne and delivered a passionate speech advocating for the inclusion of woman suffrage in Wyoming's Constitution. She closed her speech with a wish for the future, "may we all hope that women will be accorded an honored place in building up and maintaining the Great State of Wyoming."

This is a sentiment that holds true to me today. Depending on the way we frame our history in Wyoming, one can be

discouraged or inspired.

While Nellie Tayloe Ross served Wyoming as the first woman governor in the U.S., we have yet to elect another woman to that role in the last 100 years. Amalia Post's call to action in 1889 is as important today as it was on the eve of statehood.

Each generation of Wyomingites has fought to protect our founding ideal of equality. The first generation worked to prove it was possible. Esther Morris served as the nation's first woman judge and not a single decision was overturned.



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"... may we all hope that women will be accorded an honored place in building up and maintaining the Great State of Wyoming."

- Amalia Post, June 15, 1889, Cheyenne

Pictured above. Photo courtesy Wyoming State Archives

Amalia Post sat on juries, owned property, and shared her experiences on the national stage while serving as the Vice President to the National Woman Suffrage Association for more than 20

years.

Therese Jenkins delivered speeches around the world at a time when women were not yet valued as capable public speakers - her
continued on page 4

MARCH EVENTS

7th - Gilbert Leigh Hunting in Wyoming

Join the Johnson County Historical Society for
Local History Talks with Nancy! (Nancy Tabb)

3:00 PM

Johnson County Public Library

Fraleigh Room

174 North Adams Avenue, Buffalo, WY

7th - Tours & Toddies: Women's Handwork in the West

Celebrate the artistry and resilience of women in the American West. This exclusive event explores how women's handcrafts - quilting, embroidery, beadwork, and more - shaped survival, community, and culture on the frontier.

Limited spots available. \$60 per person (\$55 for members). Advanced registration required. Register online at tickets.centerofthewest.org, by calling 307.254.7073, or by e-mailing tours@centerofthewest.org.

6:00 PM

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY

9th - "Hank Mason & the Bear"

Presented by Author **Lucas Keeler**.

1:30 PM

Newcastle Senior Center

Michaels Room

627 Pine St, Newcastle, WY

11th - The Historic Bozeman Trail

The Sheridan Community Land Trust presents their SCLT Explore History series. Dave McKee will review the history of the Bozeman Trail between 1863 to 1868.

10:00 AM

The Hub on Smith - A Center for All Generations

211 Smith St, Sheridan, WY

13th - Women's History Artifacts

The Wyoming State Museum discusses artifacts in their collection relating to women's history in Wyoming. Attend in person or virtually. 307.777.7022

7:00 PM

Wyoming State Museum

2301 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY

13th - Cody Culture Club:

Dead & Gone in Wyoming - True Crime

Join the Buffalo Bill Center of the West for a riveting exploration of a different side of Wyoming's history, from Scott Fuller, the creator of the popular podcast, "Dead & Gone in Wyoming." This presentation delves into the chilling and enigmatic true crime stories that have shaped the Cowboy State's legacy. From notorious outlaws and unsolved murders to haunting legends and mysterious disappearances, we will examine the events that have left an indelible mark on Wyoming's landscape. Whether you're a true crime enthusiast or simply curious about Wyoming's unique past, this session promises to captivate and provoke thought about the intersection of history, mystery, and the human experience in the West.

5:30 PM

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY

16th - "Trails & Tribulations" Annual Historical Presentation

Presented by the **Hoofprints of the Past Museum** and Authors John Hanson & Ken Moreland.

Forth-generation Kaycee area rancher, John Hanson, and Ken Moreland will tell about their history of guiding hunters and packing mules in the Teton and Cloud Peak Wilderness Areas in the 1970's and 1980's.

1:00 PM

Harold Jarrard Park

603 Nolan Ave, Kaycee, WY

16th - Oral History in Upton

Presented by Steven and Janice Langer.

For more information please call the Red Onion Museum, 307.468.2672.

10:00 AM

Red Onion Museum

1920 US-16, Upton, WY

27th - The Hat Six Ranches

Presentation by Pat Mosteller, presented by the Natrona County Historical Society.

6:30 PM at Natrona County Library

307 E 2nd St, Casper, WY



250TH GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE



DECLARATION OF IMAGINATION

Press Release from State Parks and Cultural Resources

The Wyoming Semiquincentennial Planning Task Force recently announced the launch of Phase Two of the Semiquincentennial Grant Program. This initiative is eager to engage Wyoming communities in celebrating America's 250th Anniversary through meaningful projects and programs.

"We are thrilled to empower organizations and individuals committed to honoring this historic milestone," said former State Representative, Sandy Newsome, Chairman of the Task Force. "This is not just a celebration; it's an opportunity for communities to come together, collaborate, and preserve our shared history."

The grant program will support initiatives focused on strategic planning, public art, monuments, exhibits, cultural and historic preservation, and other areas designed to showcase Wyoming's

significant contributions to American history.

Phase One of the grant program opened in December and is focused on helping counties and tribes begin to plan their commemorative efforts. Phase Two seeks to expand the program's reach by encouraging partnerships with local organizations, schools, and communities. All partnerships must be formalized in writing before proposals are submitted.

This funding opportunity is exclusively open to local governments, public education institutions, nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils through their officially recognized designee(s).

Eligible applicants must have project management experience and, if applicable, be registered as a compliant 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. A letter of support from the official county Semiquincentennial Committee or County Commission is also required.

Applications are now open for submission and will be reviewed on a rolling basis until December 31, 2025. All applications must be complete; any late or incomplete

submissions will not be considered.

In preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, Governor Mark Gordon established the Wyoming Semiquincentennial Planning Task Force to develop and coordinate events and activities that honor this significant milestone.

Bring your community's project to life as we celebrate America's 250 years of history, culture, and community spirit through the Semiquincentennial Grant Program.

For more information regarding eligibility, application procedures, and project guidelines, please visit wyoming250.com/grants.

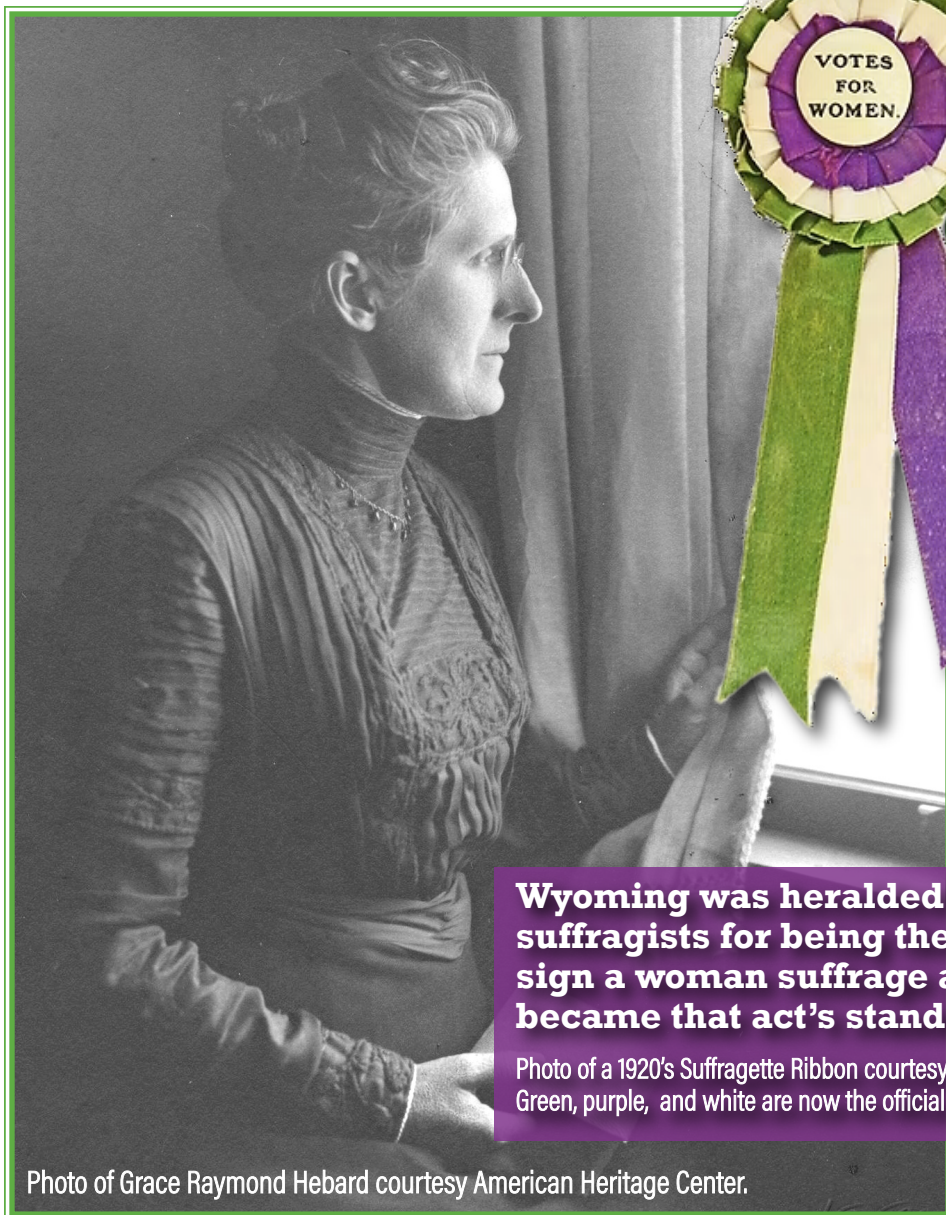
APPLY TODAY



A DECLARATION OF IMAGINATION EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY'S VISION

Wyoming is celebrating America's 250th anniversary. Secure grant funding for projects that honor Wyoming's past and shape the future.

GRANTS FOR WYOMING'S 250TH CELEBRATION



and Laura White.

In the 1970s, Margaret "Peg" Tobin became the Associate Dean of Students and the first-chairperson of The Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Women became integral members of their communities as business owners, doctors, and homesteaders.

Lola West, owner of the Black & Tan Café, helped to root out malfeasance in Cheyenne when she took part in a sting operation and was a key witness for the prosecution in a 1944 corruption and bribery case against the Mayor of Cheyenne, the

Wyoming was heralded among national suffragists for being the first state in the Union to sign a woman suffrage act into law. Hebard became that act's standard bearer. - American Heritage Center.

Photo of a 1920's Suffragette Ribbon courtesy of Today.com.
Green, purple, and white are now the official colors of Women's History Month.

Photo of Grace Raymond Hebard courtesy American Heritage Center.

continued from page 1
speech celebrating Wyoming's statehood was celebrated in Wyoming newspapers as the best speech of the day.

When the University of Wyoming was founded in 1886, women proved themselves capable of taking on important leadership positions. Acting Governor Amos Barber appointed Augustine Kendall, Mattie Quinn, and Grace Raymond Hebard to the University's Board of Trustees in 1891.

Hebard wore many hats at the university - secretary, librarian, and professor. She grew the library collection from several hundred books to around 60,000 by the time she left. Hebard used her position to uplift the entire state, training our rural educators and establishing a traveling library. Unprecedented at the time, women served as the heads of their departments, take for instance the history department, headed successively by Irene Morse, Agnes Wergeland,

Chief of Police and several other officers.

Lillian Heath assisted with the autopsy of Big Nose George and went on to become Wyoming's first woman doctor.

Elinore Pruitt Stewart published her letters to friends with anecdotes on homesteading and they were later adapted into a movie.

Judy Shepard faced tragedy and the devastating loss of her son Matthew Shepard by creating the Shepard Foundation to combat hate in 1998.

Ann Esquibel Redman

won a lifetime achievement award in 2017 after working for the State of Wyoming for 22 years and creating community organizations and events to celebrate Hispanic culture in Wyoming.

After statehood, women also began to run for public office. When Estelle Reel won her election as Superintendent of Public Education (1895-1899), she became the first Wyoming woman elected to a state-wide office. Others followed in her footsteps.

In 1911, Mary Bellamy was the first woman to serve in the Wyoming Legislature. Susan Wissler became Wyoming's first mayor when she served in Dayton in 1912.

In 1920, 23-year-old Pearl Williams, was called up to serve as Jackson's first female marshall by Mayor Grace Miller. Williams resigned after a year to resume her job as the drug store clerk because, "the town is now so quiet it don't need no marshal anymore."

Lizabeth Wiley successfully shut down the KKK in Greybull during her tenure as mayor in the 1920s.

Dora Barker McGrath was one of the first pioneers in Thermopolis and president of the American War Mothers during World War I. In 1930, she became Wyoming's first woman senator and served two terms. During that time, she spearheaded the bill to build the Wyoming Veterans Hospital and voted to

successfully eradicate Prohibition in Wyoming.

State Senator Elizabeth Byrd introduced a bill for Martin Luther King Jr. Day nine times before it was finally adopted in 1990.

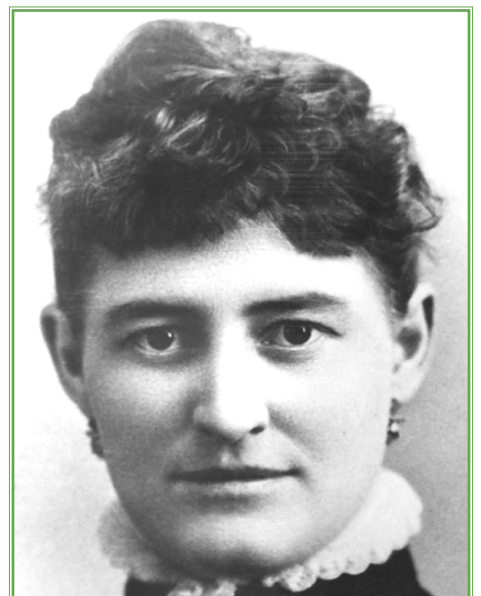
In 2015, Affie Ellis and her daughter took a trip to Cheyenne to see Wyoming state legislators at work in the state capitol. They were both struck by the lack of women they saw. Ellis' daughter turned to her and said, "Mom, do they let girls serve in the Senate?"

In 2017, Affie Ellis became the first Native American to serve in the Wyoming Legislature. During her tenure she advocated to preserve the history of Wyoming women like Esther Morris and supported legislation on education and addressing the epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW.)

Women have also given Wyoming some of our most beloved symbols. The Wyoming Legislature attempted and failed to pass a state flag into law in 1911 and 1915. Wyoming remained without a flag until the Daughters of the American Revolution held a contest in 1916, and advocated for the winning design during the next legislative session in 1917.

The winner of that contest, Verna Keays Keyes, was not only an incredible designer - she was also an active citizen who gave back to her community. She advocated for art instruction in our public schools and led Girl Scout activities in the Bighorns.

Women's History Month is a time to remember and celebrate the women of Wyoming. You can read many of their stories on WyoHistory.org. In recalling their struggles and dedication to our state, may we also be inspired to take on an active role in shaping our communities and ensuring that we continue to strive toward the ideals set forth in our constitution in 1889 - to protect the political equality of all regardless of sex, race or religion.



"Between the men and the women of this state there is a sympathetic understanding and the best kind of cooperation ... working together for the good of Wyoming."

Photo of Mary Bellamy in 1873 courtesy of the Wyoming State Archives, SUB NEG 13851

**THANK YOU
DONORS!!**



Above & Beyond

Tony Adams
IN MEMORY OF JEANNE BRYAN
AND DENICE WHEELER

Larry & Susie Barttelbort

Jim & Betty Fornstrom

Karon Grunwell

Lance McNeas

Leslie Stewart
TO WESTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

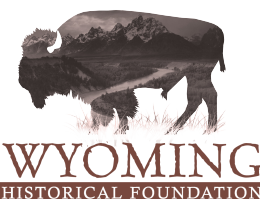
WYOHISTORY.ORG
A Project of the Wyoming Historical Society

WyoHistory.org

Larry & Susie Barttelbort
Fort Caspar Museum
Paul Hannan

Homsher Endowment

Sylvia & Ben Bruner



**Wyoming
Historical Foundation**
Barbara S. Abrahamer

WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Dear WHS Chapters and
Fellow Historians:

I am pleased to announce
that the 2025 Wyoming
Historical Society Awards
Manual is now available for
this upcoming 2025 award's
year.

We hope that you look at
your community and state-
wide contributors to help us
recognize and honor those
who have contributed to
sharing Wyoming History this
past year. This Award period
is for January 1 to December
31, 2024. Keeping Wyoming
history present in our present-
day culture is vital to
protecting our rich and en-
grained yesteryear.

These contributors may be
WHS members, authors,
researchers, historians, artists,
students, teachers, or local
historical or preservation
projects. Please know that the
publications such as books,
websites, social media sites,
podcasts, fine arts, or other
projects nominated must have
been published or completed
during the year of 2024 to be
eligible for this 2025 award
period. All student awards
can be for the 2024-25 school
year.

Our WHS Award's
Committee looks forward
every year to exploring the
efforts of those who
contribute so much to
Wyoming, as it encourages us
as fellow historians and
allows us to praise and
encourage others to see the
beauty of keeping our history
alive.

Nominations, except for
student awards, are due to be
postmarked no later than
April 30, 2025. Student
nominations are due to be
postmark no later than
June 1, 2025.

Should you have any
questions please feel free to
reach out to me. My email
is beki232@gmail.com. or my
cell at 307.899.4094.

We want to thank you for
your efforts and here's to
2025!

Sincerely,

Beki Speas
WHS Awards Committee Chair
NE Rep/2nd VP of the WHS
Executive Committee

Heard Along the Historic Trail:

Your Place for Chapter and Member News

Albany County Historical Society listened to a presentation on January 21 by **Barbara Allan Bogart** entitled "Oral History: From Memory to History."

...

Goshen County Historical Society hosted Mark Dexter, Wyoming Game and Fish Warden, on the history of the game wardens in Wyoming. Photo below.



...

Natrona County Historical Society attended a presentation in January at the M Building hosted by Diane McGinley. Revealing the transition of the bank building to the venue many enjoy today. Bob King also took them further back to early Casper banking history which included Wyoming National Bank.

...

Leslie Waggener was the featured presenter at the Wyoming State Archives Speaker Series on February 13. She discussed the historical impact of the second Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in Wyoming.

...

Nancy Tabb continued her "Local History Talks with Nancy" in Buffalo on February 21. The talk was on *Dr. Frackelton, Sagebrush Dentist*.

...

Kylie McCormick shared with the **Natrona County Historical Society** WyoHistory.org's current status, ongoing updates, and a discussion about her and **Tom Rea**'s work on the Cheyenne Capital Project on February 27.



Governor **Mark Gordon** First Lady **Jennie Gordon** (pictured below) were pleased to honor several of the Wyoming Historical Society's long standing members at the Governor's Arts Awards ceremony on February 28 in Cheyenne. **Albert and Sue Sommers** were 2024 Governor's Arts Award recipients for their long-standing advocacy and commitment to promoting and supporting the arts in Wyoming. Sue is a painter, book artist, and printmaker, and Albert served in the Wyoming Legislature from 2012 - 2024. The Sommers family have been in ranching in Wyoming since about 1900.



FROM THE WHS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Esteemed Members of the Wyoming Historical Society,

As we usher in the year 2025, we are filled with immense excitement, gratitude, and anticipation for all that lies ahead for our beloved Wyoming Historical Society.

As we stand at the crossroads of this new year, it is important to reflect on the incredible work we have done together in the past, and to look forward with optimism toward the vital role we will continue to play in preserving and celebrating the unique and rich history of Wyoming.

We are writing to you, our valued members, to express our deepest thanks for your support, your passion for history, and the dedication you have shown to our shared mission. It is because of you that we can continue to make significant strides in preserving Wyoming's past while ensuring that future generations have access to the stories, traditions, and experiences that have shaped this incredible state.

2025 promises to be a year filled with new opportunities for growth, learning, and volunteerism

within our community, and we are thrilled to share with you some exciting developments, volunteer opportunities, and ways you can continue to be an integral part of the Society's work.

Celebrating Wyoming's Past, Present, and Future

Wyoming's history is deeply embedded in the land itself—the wild, expansive plains, the rugged mountains, the Native American cultures, the pioneering spirit, and the stories of resilience and determination that have been passed down through generations.

As we look to the future, we must also ensure that Wyoming's history remains alive and relevant for all who call this state home, and for those who come to explore its beauty and heritage.

In 2025, we will continue to build upon the strong foundation established over the years by the Society. Our commitment to preserving and sharing Wyoming's history has never been more urgent, especially in light of



Executive Director Aley Philp, (pictured above at the Governor's Hospitality & Tourism Convention at the end of January in Cheyenne) has been focused on successful outreach, especially to community leaders across the state, through events, trade shows, and other programming. This has proven to be impactful for the Society in our efforts to build memberships, establish and maintain partnerships, and to preserve history. We, the Executive Committee, ask for your continued support of these efforts.

the changes that our state continues to experience.

The world around us is constantly evolving, and with that evolution, there is a growing need to protect and share the stories of our past, ensuring that they are not lost to time.

Through ongoing efforts such as our digitization projects, oral history archives, and public programming, we are determined to create accessible platforms for learning and reflection for all who are interested in our shared history.

It is vital to highlight key moments in Wyoming's history—from the fur trade and the settling of the frontier to the state's role in women's suffrage and the labor movement.

The Importance of Volunteerism

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support of the Wyoming Historical Society, and we ask that you consider helping us in one of the following ways:

1. Volunteer

Join one of our committees, assist with events, or contribute to our ongoing projects. Your time and expertise are vital.

2. Serve on the Executive Committee

If you are passionate about shaping the future of the Society, consider serving on the Executive Committee for the remainder of the fiscal year and/or running for the Board for the next term.

3. Support our Fundraising Efforts

Participate in or donate to our events and campaigns. Your financial contributions directly support our mission and programs.

4. Help us Expand Our Network

Introduce new members, partners, and allies to the Society. We need to grow our reach and build a broad coalition of people dedicated to preserving Wyoming's history.

Together, we can make 2025 a year of tremendous progress, new relationships, and exciting opportunities for the Wyoming Historical Society.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission. We are excited to work with each and every one of you to build a stronger, more vibrant future for Wyoming's history.

An Exciting Year

As we move forward into 2025, let us be reminded of the incredible journey we are all part of—the effort to honor the past, engage with the present, and build a meaningful future for Wyoming's history.

With our combined efforts, this year can be a turning point in our collective efforts to preserve the stories, people, and places that have shaped our state.

Thank you once again for your dedication to the Wyoming Historical Society. We are excited about the opportunities this year holds and look forward to working alongside you as we continue to protect and celebrate Wyoming's history.

Warmly,

*The Executive Committee of
the Wyoming Historical Society*

For comments or questions regarding
Wyoming History News,
please call 307.322.3014 or email
info@wyshs.org.

The Wyoming Historical Society (WHS) is a 501
(c)3 non-profit organization and is funded through
donations and membership dues.
The Wyoming Historical Society is not part of the
Wyoming State Government.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Fort Bridger:
Jerome Enzler
Chris Floyd

Fremont:
Charles Peart

Goshen:
Dasa Robinett
Dennis Vanatta

Natrona:
Marion Miller

Platte:
Sally Mack

Weston:
Ronda Pfister
John Williamson
Jen & Chris Womack

At Large:
Liz Bowers - VISIT CASPER
Joshua Chrysler - CHEYENNE
Town of Cokeville
Davien Francis - CHEYENNE

At Large Continued:
Mary Goodell - OREGON
Enoch Hart - WYOSIGNS, CASPER
Stephaen Haukaas - CHEYENNE
Robert E. King - LINCOLN COUNTY
Edward McAuslan - RIVERTON
Doug Moomey - SHERIDAN
Conor Mullen - DENVER, CO
Zane Pearson - IDAHO FALLS, ID
Christi Rogan - MEAD, CO
Bill Schrage - LARAMIE
Hailey Sorg - DOUGLAS
Reed Stoll - SHERIDAN



TWO LIGHTS
FOR TOMORROW

APRIL 18 & 19, 2025

A celebration of the 250th Anniversary
of Paul Revere's (& other's) infamous ride.
For more information contact Aley at
executivedirector@wyshs.org.
or call 307.322.3014.

SAVE THE DATE!

2025 WHS ANNUAL TREK: June 19-22, 2025

hosted by Converse County Historical Society - Douglas

More information to follow in the April Edition of the WHN



2025 WHS ANNUAL MEETING:
Sept. 11-14, 2025

hosted by Ft. Bridger Historical Association



APRIL EVENTS

APRIL

10th - Ochre Sunrise Mine

Kent Hargraves will discuss the long history of Ochre Mining at Sunrise before it was an Iron Ore Mine. Attend in person or virtually. 307.777.7022

7:00 PM

Wyoming State Museum
2301 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY

10th - Common Ground Cultural Presentation

Throughout long careers on opposite sides of the political aisle, Norman Mineta and Alan K. Simpson overcame their political differences and worked together to find common ground. Aura Sunada Newlin, Executive Director of Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, celebrates their legacy of empathy, courage, and cooperation in the newly opened Mineta-Simpson Institute.

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
1539 Rd 19, Powell, WY

18th & 19th - Lighting of the Two Lights

Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America, the Semi-quincentennial or more commonly known as America 250.

The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred on the overnight of April 18 – 19, 1775. Two Lights for Tomorrow commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of that shining light today as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

The Wyoming Historical Society's goal is to have every County Courthouse illuminate two lights overnight of April 18-19 in commemoration, followed by a day of service to your local historic places.

For more information, please contact the WHS Main Office at 307.322.3014 or info@wyshs.org.

24th - Dallas Laird Banquet

Natrona County Historical Society
Contact Becky Steensland for more information.
bsteen@bresnan.net

Ormsby Mansion

536 South Center Street, Casper, WY

26th - Wyoming and World War II History Conference

Featured speakers will be: Jenna Thorburn, Superintendent, Camp Douglas Officer's Club State Historic Site; Tione Willox, Friends of Camp Douglas; John Woodward, Cultural Resources Manager, Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum; and **Sylvia Bruner**, Director, Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum. Topics will include: POW Camp Douglas and Camp Douglas Officer's Club, the Casper Army Air Base, and the Wyoming Bomber Crash of 1943 (Bomber Mountain). Presented by the Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum. Tickets for the event are \$35 per person, must be purchased in advance from the museum, and are limited. Dinner and cash bar will be provided by the Virginian restaurant.

5:00 - 8:00 PM

The Playhouse
7 N. Main St., Buffalo, WY

APRIL 30th - DEADLINE FOR WHS AWARDS NOMINATIONS

See letter from Chairperson Beki Speas on page 6.

ONGOING

Visit the **Fort Caspar Museum** and see the new traveling exhibit "A Room for the Night: Road-side Lodging in Wyoming." This exhibit explores the transformation of Wyoming roadside lodging from hotels to motels during the late 19th and 20th Centuries. Historic photographs illustrate the changing architecture along Wyoming's high-ways. On loan from the Wyoming State Archives & Museum. This exhibit will be on view through April 12, 2025.



Wyoming Historical Society
PO Box 247
Wheatland, WY 82201

Non-Profit Organization
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82201
Permit No. 71

Season 2 Premieres in March!

Catch all of the episodes on Facebook or YouTube.

Women
of
Wyoming
Then & Now



facebook.com/WYSHS/

youtube.com/@WyomingHistoricalSociety

