

Wyoming History News

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SAVING PLACES - TELLING STORIES MAY IS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION MONTH

Historic preservation is a conversation with our past about our future. It provides us with opportunities to ask, "What is important in our history?" and "What parts of our past can we preserve for the future?" Through historic preservation, we look at history in different ways, ask different questions of the past, and learn new things about our history and ourselves. Historic preservation is an important way for us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations.

According to the Alliance for Historic Wyoming's Executive Director **Megan Stanfill**, this year's theme is "Preservation is Persistence." A nod to the resiliency of our historic places and spaces that have stood the test of time, but also to the preservationists who continue to advocate for, save, and tell the unique stories these places have held onto.

Debating this year is a new award program: *The Mary Humstone Excellence in Historic Preservation Award*, and will be presented to **Jackie Dorothy** of Hot Springs County for her work on the

ANNUAL TREK: IMMERSE YOURSELF IN HISTORY

Over 125 years ago, the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes approved the sale of 64,000 acres including the hot springs at present Thermopolis, Wyo., for \$60,000.

The healing waters of the area's mineral springs attracted dinosaurs, prehistoric migratory people, Native American tribes, Western settlers, and now travelers visiting and crossing Wyoming. Native Americans believed the water contained therapeutic power. In the early 20th century a sizeable medical community formed in Thermopolis, centered around the hot springs and treating those visiting in hopes the water would restore their health. The Shoshone and Arapaho tribes gave Wyoming the hot springs with the provision it remain accessible to the general public.

Preservation efforts have been a topic of conversation for several historical buildings in the Hot Springs State Park and Thermopolis. The local museum, Historical Society, and other organizations work on historic preservation each year.

The upcoming WHS Annual Trek is the perfect opportunity for you to visit and be part of the on-going history of the Hot Springs in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

For more information, please visit wyshs.org/events. Online registration is now open and highly encouraged. If you prefer to register by mail please contact WHS.

If you would like to get involved with historic preservation efforts, please contact the Alliance for Historic Wyoming.

*Historic
Preservation
2024 Month*



1920's Rural School Immersion program through the **Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center**. If you would like to know more about this project, please visit <https://thermopolis-museum.com/wyoming-rural-school-experience>

Event details for the

award presentation are being refined and will be announced on the Alliance's Facebook page, website, and e-newsletter. You can follow AHW on Facebook and Instagram for daily posts featuring historic sites and the people doing amazing preservation work throughout the month of May.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

11 - WHS Bylaws Town Hall

Zoom Meeting - If you would like to attend, please contact Aley, executivedirector@wyshs.org 307.322.3014 to receive the link.

10 AM - 12 NOON

Wyoming Historical Society - Wheatland, WY

ONGOING EXHIBITS



“Stan Lee: Beyond the Book” An exhibition running May through October will reveal 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

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY: HISTORIC PRESERVATION EVENTS

Numerous events for Historic Preservation Month will take place throughout the state. Please visit historicwyoming.org/historicpreservationmonth2024/ for a calendar of all of the events.

*There is still time to add an event to the online calendar.
Email Megan at execdirector@historicwyoming.org*

Please send events for this calendar list by the 15th of each month prior to info@wyshs.org.

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GET INVOLVED

There will be **THREE** open positions on the **Exec. Comm. in October.** Please contact Cindy or Aley for information if you, or if you know of someone, who might like to support Wyoming's History by serving on our Board.

Executive Director & Editor

Aley Philp, 307.322.3014

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

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or

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends,
I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Wyoming Historical Society trek next month in Thermopolis. I haven't spent a lot of time up there, so it will be great to learn more about the area and its history. Aley is helping the Hot Springs County Historical Society organize the event. The Executive Committee will be meeting in Thermopolis on the Sunday morning of the event. Please feel free to join us if you'd like.

The Committee met on April 13th in Casper. In particular, we reviewed a draft MOU between the Society and WyoHistory.org. With the urging of Mike Jording, we pulled documentation regarding the establishment of WyoHistory.org and discovered the original MOU establishing it as a project of the Wyoming Historical Society. It helped clarify that the Project Manager/Editor, Tom Rea, is responsible for the selection of any WyoHistory.org staff members, and removed the pressure felt by some of the Management and Oversight Committee and myself to coordinate the selection of a new WyoHistory.org editor. We're updating the MOU to match current project activities and future

planning. If you'd like a copy of the MOU, please reach out to Aley at executivedirector@wyshs.org

The other important topic at the Committee meeting was the draft Bylaws revision. Aley sent out the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws for review. Although I was able to share a few comments and suggested changes, we ran out of time for a deep dive into the documents by the Committee. As a result, Aley will be scheduling a follow-up Zoom meeting focused solely on the topic for the middle of May. This will be an opportunity for the Committee to identify proposed revisions to the general membership and timeframe and implementation workflow. Reach out to Aley via email for more information on how to be part of the discussion.

Mike Jording, Aley, and I met with Jennifer Stephens from the Wyoming Nursing Association. She is part of a special interest group focusing on Wyoming's nursing history and is interested in collaborating with the Society. This includes helping with a program at their annual meeting in the fall and a possible opportunity for Chapter members helping with a project to identify and interview nurses in the area. This is a great opportunity to build partnerships and honor this group of important, life-saving people.

The 250th Anniversary Task Force Community Engagement Committee includes Shawn Reese, Justice Kari Gray, Greg Bilker, Paul Flesher, Nick Neylon, Rebecca West, Andrew Schneider, and myself. We are considering having an updated version of the Documents of Wyoming Heritage, originally developed as part of the Bicentennial in 1976, republished. We also discussed collaboration on exhibits to commemorate the anniversary.

Other committee members are working on a list of possible 250th contests such as a commemorative poem, 250th song, beer, etc. Shawn is also meeting with the Wyoming Association of Municipalities and the Wyoming Association of County Officers to discuss the project and identify the best approach for sharing the legislative appropriated funds for local events.

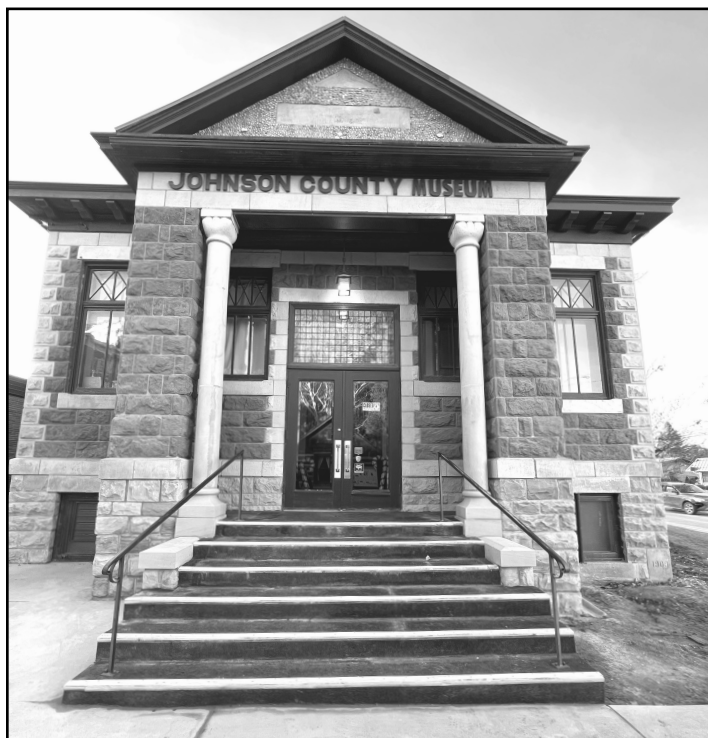
Cindy

WHS President



JIM GATCHELL MEMORIAL MUSEUM

A SPOTLIGHT ON PRESERVATION EFFORTS



Montana. Owner/operator Scott Loken is very familiar with the Buffalo community as he has also conducted work on other historic buildings in town including the Occidental Hotel, Margo's Pottery, and the Johnson County Courthouse.

Visiting with Scott and his crew results in learning interesting tidbits of history and information about the building. We knew from the 1976 National Register of Historic Places listing that the building was constructed of locally quarried sandstone with a limestone-based mortar, but we did not truly comprehend how every facet of the building's construction was

The Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum in Buffalo is in the process of conducting a substantial preservation/repair project on their 1909 Carnegie library building, which has been a part of the museum since 1988. The sandstone and limestone structure has weathered many years of harsh Wyoming elements, and the exterior of the building is undergoing treatment in multiple phases over the course of at least three years. Phase One was conducted during the fall of 2023 when the east side of the building (which is where the front entrance is located) received a thorough cleaning, a replacement of mortar and stones, realignment of columns, and a sealant treatment. Phase Two is scheduled for May/June of 2024. Future phases include plans for the same work to be completed around the remainder of the exterior and the installation of a drainage system within the sidewalk to pull water away from the building instead of into it.

The work is being conducted by Loken Historic Preservation, LLC of Missoula,



HONORING NURSES: PAST AND PRESENT

Since 1990, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has celebrated National Nurses Week in the lead-up to Florence Nightingale's birth date. Born on May 12, 1820 in Florence, Italy, Nightingale remains the professional icon for nursing despite almost two centuries of scientific and sociocultural revolutions.

The Wyoming ANA chapter was founded in 1908 and was called the Wyoming Nurses Association (WNA). The first president of the WNA was Sarah Jane McKenzie, a Canadian-trained nurse who had been recruited to as matron of the St. John's Memorial Hospital Nursing School (Cheyenne).

National Nurses Week is a time when nurses and others recognize the contributions of nurses and of the nursing profession to our society. The WNA chapter is looking forward to celebrating National Nurses Week from May 6 to 12, 2024 and we invite everyone to say "thank you" to a nurse for their work.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES,
B-916/11739 Meyers Collection (B-916) BY Joseph Shimitz



conducted by hand. The stone blocks were cut, shaped, and decoratively finished by hand. There are contrasting red and tan colored stones which create a beautiful visual effect. The tan stones have a rough surface that was intentionally applied for aesthetics. Although we now have access to a variety of power tools, most of the work being done by Scott and crew is also handicraft. Their skill, speed, and patience levels are impressive.

One of sixteen Carnegie libraries built in Wyoming (ten remain, with five of those still in use as libraries), this structure was begun in 1909 under the direction of Sheridan architect Richard V. Gough with the laying of the cornerstone by Buffalo's Anchor Lodge No. 7 A.F. and A.M. The work was done by Butler & Culp, a company consisting of J. H. Butler and Cornelius Culp, and was completed in a year. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. In 2006 it was linked to the original (1957) museum building with a structure that houses an elevator, providing accessibility to the facility.

For fans of the Longmire book series, they may recognize this building as location of the sheriff's office. Author Craig Johnson weaves many literary and historical facts and themes through his work and we appreciate the nod to this grand old lady of Buffalo.

LIFE BETWEEN THE RAILS

AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

The American Heritage Center (AHC) at the University of Wyoming is embarking on a remarkable project, and you're invited to join the adventure.

They are calling it "Life Between the Rails; An Oral History of the Union Pacific Railroad," and it's all about diving into the stories that have shaped the railroad and, by extension, our communities.

CALLING ALL UNION PACIFIC PERSONNEL

They are on the lookout for stories, and not just any stories. The AHC would like to hear from the heart and soul of the UP. If you're currently working, have ever worked, or are enjoying retirement after years on the railroad, they are interested in hearing from you. Your journey, your challenges, your achievements, and even your everyday moments are what the AHC is eager to document.

LET'S SHARE STORIES

"Our project thrives on a wide range of experiences, perspectives, and memories. Whether it was a day that turned everything upside down or a routine that you'll never forget, your story is a key part of the



railroad's bigger picture," shares AHC Archivist **Leslie Waggener**, the project's director.

They have group chats for sharing laughs and reflections and one-on-one sessions for when you want to dive deep into your narrative. This project is your platform to voice what life on the tracks has truly been about.

WHY YOUR STORY MATTERS

By joining in, you're not just sharing; you're preserving history. Picture someone years from now, getting a glimpse into your world and being touched, inspired, or simply informed by it. That's the power of your story, and that's the

legacy the American Heritage Center aims to capture and keep safe for the future.

HOP ON, LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER

Got stories to tell? Know someone who does? If you've been part of the Union Pacific Railroad's journey—working the lines, overseeing operations, or winding down into retirement—we need your voice.

Reach out to AHC at ahcrails@uwyo.edu or call them at 307.766.5575 to get more information on "Life Between the Rails." Together, we can ensure the story of the Union Pacific Railroad is narrated by those who know it best – you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

At Large

Tammy Baer
Elizabeth Degrenier
Lori Mallery
Marie McCoy
Rock N Records
Jo Schiller
Ryan Slattery
Scott Trabing

Fort Bridger

Nancy Beck
Martha & Kelly Powers

Lincoln County

Jere Borino
Cathy Knight

Park County

Josephine Cook
Laura Scheiber

Platte

Denise Diamante
Mary Wilhelm

THANK YOU DONORS

Above & Beyond

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Knight
Gary & Ruth Neely
Bruce & Patricia Noble

Heard Along the Historic Trail:

Your Place for Chapter News

The Laramie County Chapter of the Wyoming State Historical Society met on Sunday, April 21. Their guest speaker was Rebecca Hunt, a native of Casper. She received her BA in Education from the UW and eventually worked on advanced degrees in history. She worked in museums and taught American and Western women's history classes at the college level. She is a writer and her most current book is on the history of skiing on Casper Mountain.

For many years in Laramie County, there was discussion of who should be included in citizenship and given voting rights. In the end, the men played it safe and granted the rights to white propertied men. Over the next century, a big part of the American story would be deciding whether and how to expand citizenship rights. During her presentation, Hunt laid out the basics and then moved the story to the West where the greatest voting innovations occurred. The focus was on Wyoming in 1869 and Colorado in 1893. At the end of the talk Hunt led the audience in a discussion of how they can preserve the parts of their personal and community histories that deal with women's stories.



Executive Director Alea Philp attended "Beers Along the Frontier: An Oregon Trail Event" hosted by the Wyoming State Museum on April 20th. She hopes to help bring this fun and engaging event to other communities across the state.

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The State Wyoming History Day competition was held on April 29 at the University of Wyoming. Many members of the Wyoming Historical Society helped out by volunteering as judges of the event across various categories. We can't wait to hear who the winners are in the upcoming weeks!

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The Executive Committee held its quarterly meeting in Casper on April 13th. If you would like minutes from the meeting, please contact the main office.

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WHS GEAR NOW AVAILABLE



SCAN ME



Show your support with our wide array of logo'd WHS Gear! Apparel comes in multiple colors.

Scan the QR code above with your phone to link directly to the site, or visit:
teespring.com/70th-anniversary