

Wyoming History News

Published for the Members of the Wyoming Historical Society

November 2024

www.wyshs.org

Volume 71, Number 9

FORT BRIDGER RENDEZVOUS DRAWS RECORD CROWDS

by Joshua Camp, Fort Bridger State Historic Site Superintendent

The Rendezvous started in 1825 and was an annual event where fur traders could cash in their fur, as well as do their once a year shopping for the gear they would need to survive the next year.

In 1972 a small group camping at Fort Bridger discussed the Rendezvous of old and decided they wanted to experience it. With no time machine at their disposal, they committed to re-create the Rendezvous. The following year, in 1973, the first annual Fort Bridger Rendezvous was held over Labor Day Weekend. Consisting of six campsites, this small beginning became something incredible as the years flew by.

With the 51st annual Rendezvous successfully concluded, the event has grown to the second largest outdoor event in Wyoming with attendance

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Participants in the "Creating Fire" competition try their hand at starting a fire without modern technology. This and other "Mountain Man" games are held every year at the Fort Bridger Rendezvous.

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heights reaching 50,000. The event hosted at Fort Bridger State Historic Site is open for fur trade re-enactors as well as those in modern clothes, commonly referred to as "Flat Landers." Come and experience the Rendezvous for yourself. See what a fur trade campsite would have looked like, participate in and observe activities and competitions such as black powder rifle shoots, archery, knife and tomahawk throws, fire starting, frying pan toss, and cannon shoots to name a few. Or if you prefer, stroll down Traders Row and see what goods would have been for sale at the Rendezvous of old. With re-enactors ready to answer questions and demonstrate what life was like, there are plenty of things to see and do at the Fort Bridger Rendezvous.



The frying pan toss is another popular competition at the annual Fort Bridger Rendezvous. The 72nd Annual Meeting of the WHS will take place in Fort Bridger in September 2025.



Both teepees and tents adorned the landscape surrounding Fort Bridger. A wonderful drone video of a birds-eye view is available on YouTube showcasing the scope of the event. Go to the following link: https://youtube.com/shorts/FU0tFSjVnSk?si=0dW9RzRDh_KRG0Jk

ONGOING EVENTS

November 1-29:

“Why We Serve:

Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces - Smithsonian Special Exhibit”

Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum

100 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY

307.684.9331

November 2 - December 23:

“Big Horn Small Works” Show

The Brinton Museum

239 Brinton Road, Big Horn, WY

307.672.3173

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

2: Dia de los Muertos Family Day

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Wyoming State Museum Classroom
2301 Central Avenue, Cheyenne, WY
307.777.7022

7: Celebrating Our Veterans with Scott Ratliff

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Fremont County Pioneer Museum
1443 West Main Street, Lander, WY
307.332.3339

10: Veterans Day Program

2:00 pm hosted by Fort Phil Kearny &
Bozeman Trail Association
at the Kearney Community Hall
4444 Highway 87, Banner, WY
307.684.7967

11: Dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

1:00 pm at the Hoofprints of the Past Museum
344 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY
307.738.2381

11: Veterans Day Presentation, Parade & Cemetery Walk

1:00 pm Parade / 2:00 pm Presentation
at the Mount Pisgah Cemetery
804 Emerson Avenue, Gillette, WY
Presented by the Rockpile Museum &
University of Wyoming Extension Office
307.682.5723

19: Albany County Historical Society "WHS Award Nominees & Winners"

7:00 pm at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center
603 East University Avenue, Laramie, WY
307.760.7643 - wyoachs@gmail.com

21: Coe Family History

"Local Lore with Bob Richard" Talk and Illustrated Presentation

12:00 noon at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West
720 Sheridan Avenue, Cody, WY
307.587.4771

23: Decorating Day at the Trail End State Historic Site / Kendrick Mansion

Join us as we decorate for the holidays!
9:00 am - 12:00 noon - Lunch included
400 Clarendon Avenue, Sheridan, WY
307.674.4589 - teguilds@gmail.com

26: History Happy Hour

5:00 pm - hosted by Museum at the Big Horns
850 Sibley Circle, Sheridan, WY
307.675.1150

DECEMBER

5: Repeal of Prohibition Event

5:30 pm at the Rockpile Museum
900 West 2nd Street, Gillette, WY
307.682.5723

6-8: Holiday Open House

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm nightly
Trail End State Historic Site / Kendrick Mansion
400 Clarendon Avenue, Sheridan, WY
307.674.4589

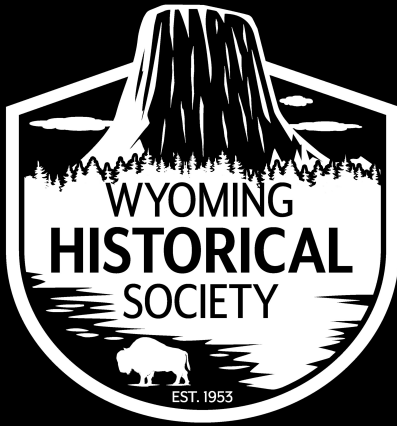
6: Holiday Open House

6:00 pm - Crook County Museum
120 North 4th Street, Sundance, WY
307.283.3666

8: Christmas Open House with Santa

5:00 pm at the West Texas Trail Museum
100 East Weston Street, Moorcroft, WY
307.756.9300

Please send events for this calendar list by the 10th of each month prior to lainprior.wyshs@gmail.com.



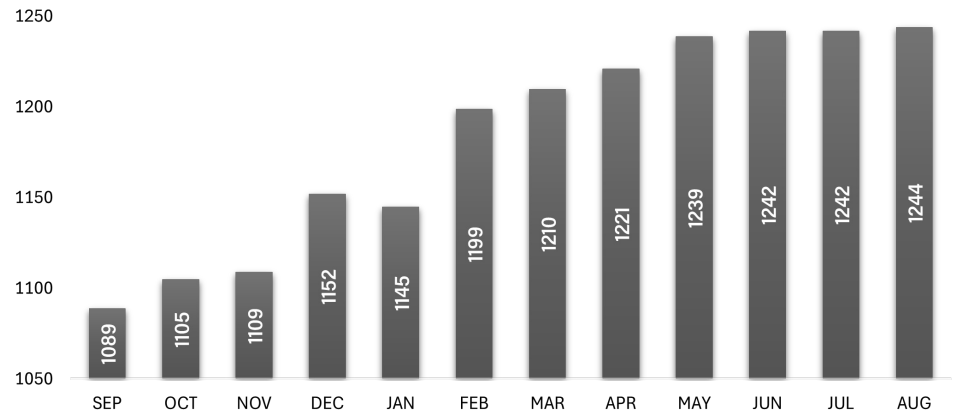
155
NET GAIN IN
MEMBERSHIPS

APX. **4,253**
PEOPLE
REACHED THROUGH
ATTENDING
23 EVENTS

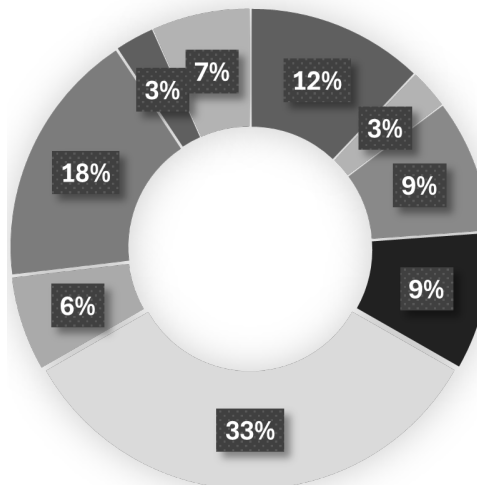
\$14,040
AWARDS & GRANTS
GIVEN BY WHS
IN FY 2024

WHS ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH FY 2024

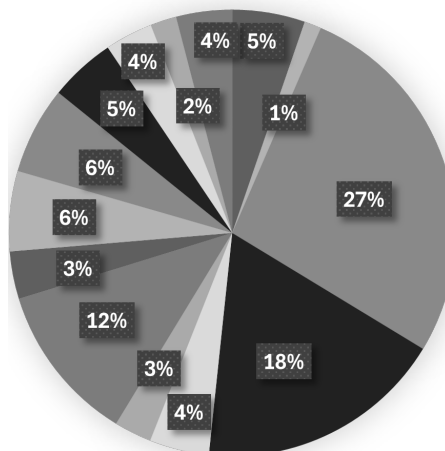


FY 2024 INCOME: \$260,861.⁸⁰



- SPCR PASS THROUGH GRANT - 12%
- HOMSHER ENDOWMENT - 3%
- WHF DONATIONS - 9%
- HISTORY DAY ENDOWMENT - 9%
- WYOHISTORY.ORG - 33%
- PRODUCT SALES - 6%
- MEMBERSHIP DUES - 18%
- OTHER DONATIONS - 3%
- OTHER INCOME - 7%

FY 2024 EXPENSES: \$266,395.⁹⁰



- AWARDS - 5%
- CONTRACT LABOR - 1%
- WYOHISTORY.ORG - 27%
- PAYROLL (ES, ED, EA) - 18%
- HISTORY DAY SALARY - 4%
- MARKETING - 3%
- PRINTING - 12%
- POSTAGE - 3%
- PROFESSIONAL FEES - 6%
- OFFICE EXPENSES & SOFTWARE - 6%
- RENT & UTILITIES - 5%
- TRAVEL - 4%
- MEETING / TREK - 2%
- PAYROLL TAXES - 4%

Detailed amounts / accounting reports are available upon request, please contact 307.322.3014 or executivedirector@wyshs.org for any questions or comments.

WHF ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024

The Wyoming Historical Foundation (WHF) exists to acquire financial assets that can be used to assist the Wyoming Historical Society (WHS) in the preservation and interpretation of Wyoming History.

As the fundraising arm of the WHS, they host annual fall and spring fundraisers and work with potential donors year-round. On July 16, 2025, the Foundation will participate in WyoGives, a 24 hour statewide fundraising effort hosted by the Wyoming Nonprofit Network.

Through the end of 2025, the WHF fundraising effort "Help History Thrive Through 2025" has set a goal to raise enough money to increase the long-term endowment to \$750,000. The WHF invites you to join us in this effort. With your help, we will reach our goal.

Some of our supporters have included gifts to the Foundation in their wills. Planned giving is a great way to support the Society for decades to come. If you want to learn more about ways you can give to the Wyoming Historical Society through the Foundation, please reach out to Foundation board president, Ann Noble at anoble1227@aol.com, or contact Society headquarters at 307.322.3014.



\$33,415
TOTAL DONATIONS
TO WHF FY2024*

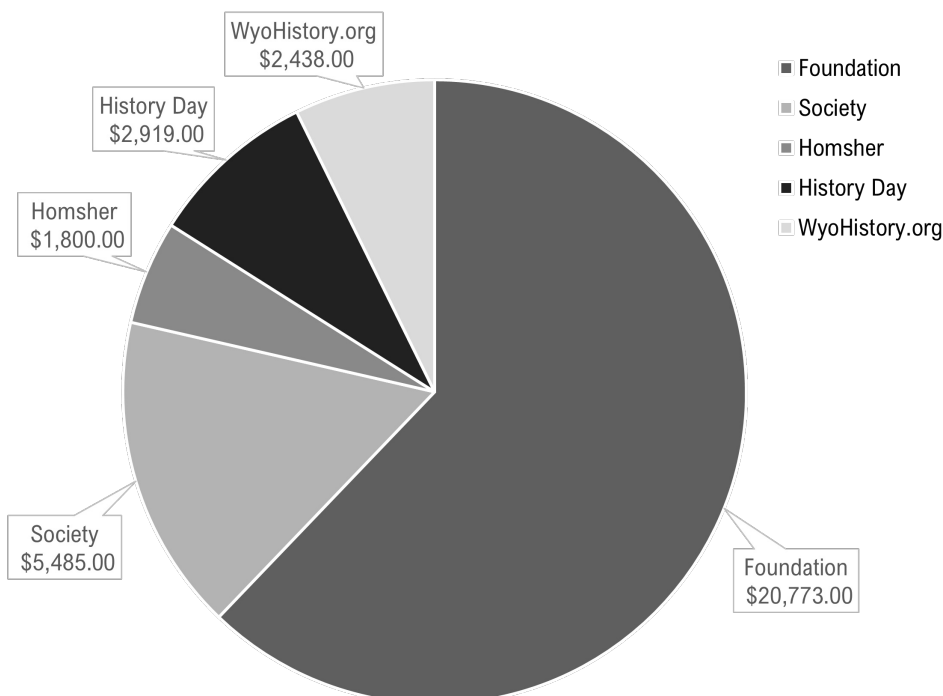
\$637,275
BALANCE OF THE
WYOMING
HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION'S
ENDOWMENT AT
WYOMING
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION (WCF)

\$19,257
DIVIDENDS FROM THE
WCF ENDOWMENT
2023**

*Funds donated to the WHF are typically invested in the WCF long-term permanent endowment corpus.

** Dividend funds are typically split 60/40 with 60% going to the WHS and 40% reinvested into the WHF's endowment at the WCF.

FY 2024 Donations to WHF: **TOTAL \$33,415**



FROM THE PRESIDENT: ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 5 VETERANS DAY: NOVEMBER 11

Dear Friends:

On Tuesday, November 5th, we participate in our democracy by casting a ballot. According to records at the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office, 45% of the voting age population in the state did not vote in 2022. Elections for local races on the school board, city council, and county commission are often close races. The Albany County commissioner's race in 2020 was decided by 62 votes. Your vote matters.

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, an armistice was signed between the Germans and the Allies ending WWI. In May 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill into law creating Armistice Day as a federal holiday. Six days later, the bill was amended from Armistice to Veterans Day and has been celebrated as such ever since.

On Monday, November 11th, communities around Wyoming will commemorate Veterans Day to honor the service of military



veterans of the United States Armed Forces. In Kaycee, Wyoming our friends at the Hoofprints of the Past Museum and the Kaycee Lions Club are hosting a dedication of the new Vietnam Veterans monument.

Since 2014, I have discovered veterans memorials in almost all Wyoming communities. Laramie has a beautiful WWI Memorial adorned with an eagle designed by Italian-born sculptor Giuseppe Moretti. Superior has a modest WWI and WWII Memorial installed by American Legion Twin City Post No. 74. Gold Star Memorial Park in Hudson includes a Battlefield Cross monument. Sundance honors veterans with the Crook County War Memorial in downtown. The Veterans Memorial in Powell reads, "The students and staff at Powell High School dedicate this memorial to all who honorably served, living or deceased, in peace or in war, from the Powell area. Their dedication, selflessness, and sometimes their lives are the price paid for the freedom we enjoy today."

Our friends at the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum (WVMM) in Casper share the stories of Wyoming veterans from the Spanish-American War to the Global War on Terror. One of my favorite parts of the WVMM are the Casper Army Air Base Servicemen's Club murals. According to an article by Eric Wimmer for WyoHistory.org, "Corporal Leon Tebbetts, an artist and a New Englander, wanted to



Veterans Memorial in Laramie, Wyoming provide his fellow soldiers stationed during World War II at the U. S. Army Air Base in Casper with colorful images from Wyoming's history. To do that, he and three other soldier artists covered the interior walls of the Servicemen's Club with vivid murals." They are beautiful and worth a visit.

11% of the adult population in Wyoming are veterans, almost twice the national average per state. It is likely we all know a neighbor, colleague, friend, or family member who has served. I am grateful for their service. Perhaps, one of the best ways to honor Wyoming veterans is to participate in our local communities by casting a ballot. See you at the polls!

Sincerely,

Jessica Flock



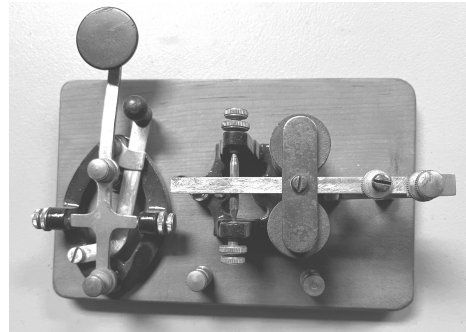
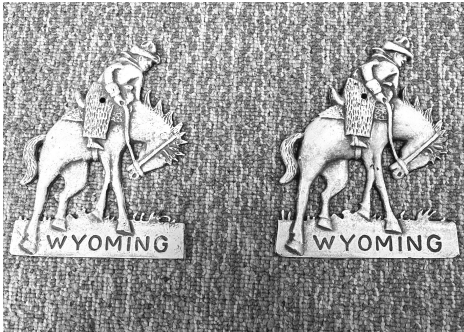
Veterans Memorial in Lovell, Wyoming

Heard Along the Historic Trail:

Your Place for Chapter News

The Natrona County Historical Society met and displayed some family artifacts at their meeting on September 26th. Doug Forsberg brought in horse castings made in the blacksmith shop where Gaslight Social is today. Kayci Kruhmin brought her father's telegraph key and sounder. This one could both send and receive messages through Morse code.

Photos below via Cindy Bower



The Hot Springs County Historical Society enjoyed a great program of local history presented by Pioneer Association President Ray Shaffer during their Annual Picnic on Saturday, September 21st.

Photo right via Barb Vietti



The Weston and Niobrara County Historical Societies hosted a tour to the site of the Battle of the Lightning Creek on October 19th.

Photo of a grave marker, left by Lucas Keeler

The Goshen County Historical Society went live on Facebook and in person for their presentation on the History of Sugar Valley on October 22nd.

The Platte County Historical Society hosted a talk on "Reflections of a Rural Schoolteacher" on October 29th.

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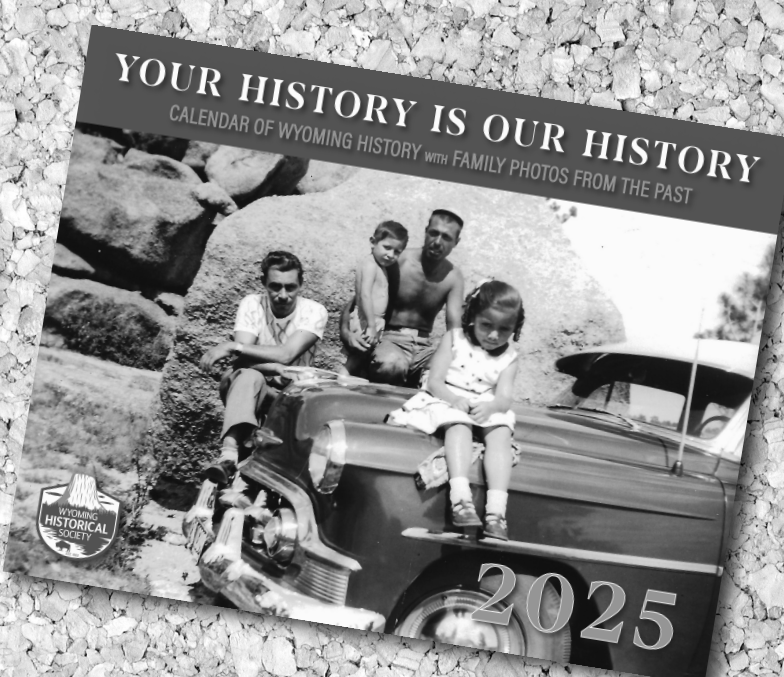
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2025 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE!



YOUR HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY
CALENDAR OF WYOMING HISTORY WITH FAMILY PHOTOS FROM THE PAST

2025

INDIVIDUAL & BULK ORDERS AVAILABLE!

Online at
STORE.WYSHS.ORG
or contact WHS
307.322.3014
info@wyshs.org