Jane Ivinson soaked in her fanciful 2nd floor bath. Scenes like this are often a result of the creative efforts of our registrar, Amy Allen, who brings the past to life.

Cal & Lorraine Van Zee smiled from the upstairs foyer. A glimpse at the IVINSON MANSION’S 2019 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Marian Helm hosted the Sewing Room one of the days.

Host Jake Anfinson peered over the architecturally amazing staircase.

RJ Lara and Ethan MacDougall looked dashing as they and Santa welcomed folks in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center and the Mansion this year. Our 2019 theme was Santas, Santas, Everywhere!

Jake Felton was the master raffle ticket seller and greeter in the Butler’s Pantry.

Wyoming Women Doing It since 1869!
We ended the 150th Anniversary Year as we began it: With men and women CHEERING the Wyoming Territorial Legislature’s unique December 10, 1869 action giving women the right to vote, hold office and property. We also toasted the women who stepped up in subsequent years to fill their equality shoes as the first woman voting in equal status to men (Louisa Swain), first woman bailiff (Martha Boies Atkinson), first women sitting alongside men on a jury, first woman justice of the peace (Esther Morris), and first woman in Wyoming’s Legislature (Mary Godat Bellamy), just to name a few.

In this 2020 year, we will continue to tell the Equality Story.

Join us for Museum Membership and the ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 at 2:00 p.m. Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center
When the territory of Wyoming applied to join the union, congress demanded they stop letting women vote. Their response was “We will remain out of the Union one hundred years rather than come in without the women.” Thus Wyoming became the first state to allow women to vote.

The inspiring story of Laramie’s Ivinson Mansion was saved from destruction and restored to its original opulence helped the Estes Park community realize the value of saving the historic mansion of F.O. and Flora Stanley. We all know of the infamous Stanley Hotel from movies and ongoing ghost tales, but the historic Stanley family home is a treasure in Estes Park that is just yearning for preservation and restoration so, too, can herald the history of this inviting Colorado mountain town. Just a year ago, the Board of the Stanley Home Foundation (a volunteer group working hard to save this historic place) met with Mary Montana to tour our Ivinson Mansion Museum complex, and hear the story of saving this beacon of Laramie history. It was a special exchange and the directors went back to Estes newly invigorated about their dream for the Stanley home. It could be done! Anne Rogers later asked Mary if she would write an article for the Estes Park News about the efforts to save the Ivinson Mansion and how the Laramie community feels about that effort this many years later. That article from the Estes News, with the pictures of the Mansion—before and after the rescue and restoration—by Mary shared, is posted here. As this issue goes to press, Rogers just sent Mary this email message: “I have good news to report concerning our mission to purchase the home of F.O. and Flora Stanley. Unless something really worsly happens, we will close on the Home on January 31st. We’re working hard to save this landmark, a great amount of work lies ahead. And one more milestone was recently reached as the Stanley Home was listed on the Colorado Registry of Historic Places!”

Linda Silya, Barb, Donna, and a jubilant Crystal raised their voices of support!
LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FACTS TO KNOW AS YOU VOTE ON THE BALLOTS FOUND IN THE CENTER OF THIS PUBLICATION
Barb Rouse and Pam Fisher have served the Board and Museum Association beautifully and are leaving us for well deserved rests and participation in their other interests. Thank you, ladies for your admirable service. We are better because you were directors. You can see below that we have three very well-qualified candidates to fill Barb and Pam’s slots and the one empty spot that had remained open on the Board throughout this past year.

(Kour LPMA By-Laws state that we are viable to operate with a Board that holds between 9 and 11 directors.)

We are very pleased that Sandy Blair and John Nutter are willing to remain for 2nd terms.
Both of these fine directors will continue to hold their officer positions—Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.

KAREN BARD
Being a military brat, I have traveled throughout all 50 of our beautiful states. With my parents we took a lot of trips and along the way stopped and toured many parks, historical markers and museums. In my adult life I continued to move around and then traveled the world with my children, just as my parents did with us. I loved to learn about the places where we traveled and in which I live. Within that learning came my appreciation for historical places. I have no training in historic preservation or history, but I have developed an understanding of the need for their preservation. I enjoy visiting these sites and want to have them available for my children and grandchildren. So I see things from a user’s point of view. I worked in the oil and gas industry for over 25 years, rising to the executive level. After leaving the industry I started a new career as a corporate director, receiving my certification from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. As such, I served on the Northern and York Consultative Committee; a government committee that was responsible for the management of all of the state parks and heritage sites within that area of South Australia. Since moving to Laramie I have been actively looking for opportunities for me to get involved with my new community. I am excited to have this opportunity at the Laramie Plains Museum and the beautiful Ivinson Mansion property, and I hope that my skills will be an asset to the board. Currently, I am active in the Laramie Woman’s Club and the Jacques Laramie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In addition, I am the Chair of the Albany County Historic Preservation Board., and look forward to this opportunity to serve this amazing asset of Laramie.

KAREN LANGE
Although a native of Wyoming, I left the state for 13 years, only to realize how much I missed the wide-open spaces of the Cowboy State. In 1989, with husband Bruce and our two children, we returned to Wyoming and settled in Laramie. As a family, we frequently visited the Ivinson Mansion, witnessing its ever-changing transformation into a beautiful treasure for the City of Laramie. Over the years we have attended LPM events, participated in fundraisers, and our daughter as a summer docent during our church clerk, treasurer, and member of the bell choir. I have served as a volunteer for LPM within the curatorial area. I digitized a photographic negatives collection that is now available for research purposes and may be accessed on the Museum’s database. Working on this project provided a tremendous opportunity to learn about the extent of the Museum’s resources and to appreciate the historical richness and potential of the Laramie Plains Museum’s collections for Laramie and Wyoming. Over the 30 plus years of living in Laramie, I have been involved in my P.E.O. Chapter, serving as president and other offices; the Jacques Laramie Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution as Regent, registrar, and treasurer; and a member of the Albany County Genealogical Society. In addition, I was a Girl Scout leader for 12 years, 4-H Leader, and treasurer of the Laramie Wrestling Club. I have served as our church clerk, treasurer, and member of the bell choir. My LPM volunteer work has provided me the opportunity to meet the staff and other volunteers. I have observed and truly admire their dedication, commitment, pride, and joy of working together to accomplish many challenging projects. Some of these have included the expansion of the Alice Hardie Stevens Events Center, participating in community historical events and tours, welcoming visitors to Laramie, and publishing books and articles. I would be honored to serve as a Board Member of the Laramie Plains Museum Association. I look forward to learning more about the contributions, vision, and goals of this outstanding place.

RJ LARA
After a two-year adventure on the East Coast to pursue a master’s degree, I am thrilled to return to the place I cherish most, LPM. I am a native of Torrington, and I discovered my love for history of the American West while exploring small-town museums throughout Wyoming. I received my B.A. from the University of Wyoming, majoring in Secondary Education and History with a minor in Museum Studies. My experience working at LPM during my undergraduate— and for museum patrons Jim & Silvyra Wear— further encouraged me to study American history through museum objects and traditional American craftsmanship at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library in Delaware. In 2019, I received my master’s degree in American Material Culture through the Winterthur Museum and the University of Delaware. At Winterthur I specialized in the material literacy, curation, and preservation of leather objects dating from the earliest European settlers in America to present-day leather tanning techniques. I have had the great privilege of holding the positions of Curatorial Assistant & Administrative Assistant at LPM, Collections Assistant at the University of Wyoming Art Museum, Vice President of the Albany County Historical Society, Lois F. McNeil Fellow at the Winterthur Museum, and most recently, Development Officer at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum. I am excited to be joining the LPM Board, helping preserve the heritage of the Laramie Plains and the Museum’s collection of decorative arts, and being even more involved in events and projects at this very special repository.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020
35,960 people were on the grounds in 2019 with weddings, receptions, tours, meetings and special events, to visit the Carriage House Gift Shop, meet with staff and researchers, or just to soak up the historic ambiance as they pass through checking out the lush and inviting landscapes. Weddings are our most popular event in the summer months (we had 30 of them in 2019) but the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center is now one of the most attractive venues for memorial services/receptions, non-profit fundraising events, and mid-sized gatherings—Christmas parties, graduations, retirements and other themed events. The Center offers impressive accommodations for events right in the heart of Laramie’s historic district, with easy access to Laramie amenities, including the historic Mason Loft Condos (the Stone House) for wedding guests and other visitors to our fair town, 6,343 people experienced guided tours of the museum, including 1,246 students of all ages and classrooms in Albany County, the state of Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region. We gave at least 364 complimentary tours through special showings and coupons given to our members and as promotional exchanges with Albany County Tourism, Louisa Swain Foundation and other entities.

Memberships in the Laramie Plains Museum Association ended the fiscal year at 137% above budget projections; rentals of the Museum facilities were 140% over budget! Could there be a correlation between the enhanced expansion and use of the rental venue—exposing more guests to the historic beauty and accomplishments of this outstanding historic house museum complex—and folks wanting to contribute to keep the positive momentum going? I like to think so. —Mary Mountain

FROM KONNIE CRONK, Curator:
The following letter was discovered in 2019, written by Neva Nelson Ford, daughter of Avon Nelson to Thyra Therkildsen, daughter of Sheriff Emil Therkildsen January 16, 1911. At the time, Thyra was the first woman elected as Albany County Clerk. She served in this position until her untimely death from Spanish Influenza in January 1919. This very enlightening section of the letter is posted in our Women’s History House for a few years now, but it’s got a great new look. Mike worked with Mary Moutain and Jessica Flock to update, edit and reprint this handy reference. Carriage House Gift Shop.
The Shop and the Museum reopen to public tours and shopping on March 3, 2020, but we are here working during these months so we can get you early access to the books, cards, pins and (soon) shirts if you call (307-742-4448)

1911 Letter Regarding Women with Equal Rights

January 16, 1911

My dear Thyra—

Of course I’ve been intending to write ever since your package arrived at Christmas time. I don’t think any of the presents gave me as much pleasure + surprise as yours. How did any one so busy as you have time to think of a friend so far away…… Oh yes—some of my friends are eastern girls who judge woman’s suffrage by the English suffragettes reports (newspapers) + think that any woman who votes must be dreadful while a woman who holds office must be abhorrently beyond hope. I told them about a friend of mine who recently had been elected to a county office + assured them that she was as nice + modest + womanly etc. as any of them and probably much drier. They had to take my word for that but assured me that you couldn’t possibly stay so you would undoubtedly become bold + mannish in a very short time. Sometimes I get so disgusted with peoples pointiness (sic) about something that they know absolutely nothing about that I’d like to bang their heads together. I suppose they think I’ve had the book, noting the history of the Suffrage Act and the women who made history from Laramie and other parts of Wyoming, in our shop and at the Women’s History House for a few years now, but it’s got a great new look. Mike worked with Mary Moutain and Jessica Flock to update, edit and reprint this handy reference. Carriage House Gift Shop.

Thanks to Mike Gray’s ingenuity, Albany County Tourism has used its 150th fund to reprint our Laramie Women Made World History booklet plus Voter pins, and postcards of Laramie’s important women. We have had the book, noting the history of the Suffrage Act and the women who made history from Laramie and other parts of Wyoming, in our shop and at the Women’s History House for a few years now, but it’s got a great new look. Mike worked with Mary Moutain and Jessica Flock to update, edit and reprint this handy reference. Carriage House Gift Shop.

So What Happened in 2019?

Highlighting the Laramie Plains Museum Association’s 2019 fundraising success and significant growth:

- Exposition and use of the rental venue—exposing more guests to the historic beauty and accomplishments of this outstanding historic house museum complex—and folks wanting to contribute to keep the positive momentum going? I like to think so.
- Membership in the Laramie Plains Museum Association ended the fiscal year at 137% above budget projections; rentals of the Museum facilities were 140% over budget! Could there be a correlation between the enhanced expansion and use of the rental venue—exposing more guests to the historic beauty and accomplishments of this outstanding historic house museum complex—and folks wanting to contribute to keep the positive momentum going? I like to think so.
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2020 INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

ALL memberships are significant in support of the preservation and maintenance of this special historic place. Members receive admission to the museum, 20% discount on purchases at the Carriage House Gift Shop, voting privileges, newsletters and notice of special events. Names of Benefactors and Businesses/Organizations at $1,000 or above (and already-established Life Members) are permanently displayed in the Ivinson Mansion’s Hall of Donors. Invinson Circle donors are also placed in the Hall of Donors, on the EI Circle plaque. Membership contributions receive acknowledgement, tax-deduction receipts and this year’s member card.

$1,000 + Life Benefactor
$1,000 Business Benefactor (additional promotion, including website link)
$250 Business Member (listed prominently for public view on a Business poster)
$500 Edward Invinson Circle®
$250 Jane Invinson Circle®
$100 Family
$65 Individual
$75 Senior Family
$50 Senior Individual

Members who contribute annually at Ivinson levels are acknowledged on the EI/Circle plaque in the Ivinson Mansion’s Hall of Donors.

Please accept this additional support to help the museum meet operational & expansion project needs.

Yes, I would like to make a gift to the future of the museum via the LPM Endowment Fund

$ TOTAL ENCLOSED

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

☐ Check (made out to Laramie Plains Museum)
☐ Credit Card (Your card is accepted) SECURITY NUMBER: __________ Exp. Date: __________

Thank you for supporting the Laramie Plains Museum! Your membership and endowment support are tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided for by law. A receipt will be sent for any monetary contribution.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2020?

February 16

Annual Museum Association Meeting

LPMA Members & Directors review the accomplishments and decisions of the past year and look forward to continued preservation success for this beauty of Wyoming history during this Suffrage Year. Election of new Board Directors. 2:00 p.m. in the Events Center.

March 3

Tours of the Museum Begin Again

New touring hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday until full time summer hours begin in mid-June.

April 3

Cheers for Volunteers!

Our evening of appreciation for the volunteers who help to make our Museum the outstanding site it is!

April 24, 25, 26

The Unexpected Company presents

The Unexpected Company presents Programs about Laramie’s history on the Vap Osa Stage in the AHSC. More information about the programs to be announced.

May 26

1st Tea on Tuesday

There are three of these special Victorian affairs occurring at 4:30 p.m. in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center one Tuesday each May, June, July. This May Tea will be a “Yellow Rose Tea” in honor of Suffrage.

Mid-June

Full-time Summer Touring Hours Begins

as Junior Docents volunteer at the museum.

June-Aug

Wyoming House for Historic Women

Laramie Plains Museum has worked for several years with the WHFW to open the gate and the House to this special repository of Wyoming women’s history. Viewing this year will be particularly special with the 100th Anniversary of national suffrage and the 150th Anniversary of our Wyoming woman’s vote!

June 23

2nd Tea on Tuesday

As women gained their rights, their wardrobes changed. Let our curatorial wizards show you some of the unique garments in our collection.

July 12

Art Fest on the Ivinson Property

Artists, vendors and authors are on the museum grounds and in the Events Center the last Sunday of the Jubilee Days week.

July 21

3rd Tea on Tuesday

As this goes to press, the program is still being determined. Invitations for the Tea will go out in late April and all three programs will be announced at that time.

August 15

Evening at the Ivinsons’

End-of-summer celebration on the Museum lawn raises awareness and funding for this special slice of history. This year has a special, fun theme celebrating the men and women who made suffrage happen in the West! Look for invitations in early July.

September 6

150th Celebration of Louisa Swain’s Vote

A LOOK BACK AT 1997 RESTORATIONS

Thanks to Kim Viner’s generous contribution in memory of wife, Barbara Barnes, we are tackling some more restorations in this very same front foyer, on the other floors of the Mansion, and in the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center. Kim has specified that his donation be focused for curatorial preservation efforts and with Ivinson Mansion capital maintenance and restoration. The Alice Hardie Stevens work is being paid for with some of the remaining balance from the Expansion Account. As you see in the list below, we still have many of our incredible volunteers stepping up for these important projects as we get them done in these first months of the year.

**We have contracted Windy City Hardwood Flooring to sand down and varnish the front foyer, alcove and Smoking Room flooring. We don’t believe that work has ever been tackled—spot jobs maybe—and so everything has been removed and plastic is covering all vulnerable pieces and doorways. Windy City gave us a good bid on this important work and is in the middle of sanding down the many layers on this beautiful historic wood. Their technique not only gives three coats of sealer with sanding in between, but a final coating that is harder and especially resistant to the many publics that view our collection each year. We are so excited!**

**We are working with Christel Walrath to renovate another 2nd floor closet in the Mansion. In 2019, Olsen used his top notch carpentry skills to dismantle and recreate the closet in the Guest Room so that it is beautifully able to exhibit clothing artifacts and also show some of the original lath and plaster in a sealed manner. It’s a charming addition to that exhibit room and now he and Walrath are teaming up to tackle the Sewing Room closet—again deconstructing and rebuilding with new drywall, wood and paint. Olsen is one of our most important renovation craftsmen within all buildings of the main Museum complex and with the 699 P St. Stone House structures. His time and talents have graced all renovations and many pieces of functional furniture, shelving, and signs. Ron is an amazing gift to our work here!**

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**Another gift with volunteering and renovations is Joyce Powell. Powell is mending and cleaning the peeling wallpaper and trim in the Mansion. She is skilled with wallpaper and is making the areas that have taken hits from fluctuating temperatures and our dry Wyoming air look like new again! She also has taken on deep scraping and sealing of some of the original, intricate flooring tiles. A master touch!**

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**Kim also hopes we will take care of the disintegrating wood on the southeast side of the front porch where gutter maladies have worked on the now-exposed wood over the years. Wood filler, primer, paint and gutter repair are on Stan Gibson’s to-do list with that job and with renovation painting on more chipped and peeling windewalls. Gibson got many painting and window fixups done at ground level in 2019, and with the restructuring of his job in 2020 (Ethan MacDougal is now the caretaker of the lawn and landscape), he is planning on getting on the ladder for those this spring!**

**Joyce, Ron, Stan, Christel, Mary, Crystal, Ethan and RJ Lara have tackled sanding and coating oak baseboards in the main room of the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center and will be moving into refurbishing work with painting, new baseboards and flooring in the kitchen later in February. The original renovations were done in the kitchen in 2007 and we have since found faults with some of the choices made at that time. New flooring and edging choices will be more durable, water resistant, and upscale looking to match the impressive work done in the main room areas. We are looking forward to reopening in March with all of these renovations enhancing our stunning historic buildings.**

AND FORWARD TO CURRENT PRESERVATION

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and contributed to these restorations. We are looking forward to a new season of volunteers and contributions to help us tackle the next batch of improvements.