



*Historic Ivinson Mansion
Laramie Plains Museum*

The Historic Ivinson Mansion Newsletter is published 4 times a year by the Laramie Plains Museum Association. 603 E. Ivinson Ave. Laramie, WY 82070 Phone: 307-742-4448 Send changes of address to the Museum address or e-mail: lpmdirector@laramiemuseum.org Web site: www.laramiemuseum.org

Graphics Design, Reporter, Editor
Mary Mountain

Reporters
Polly Wade
Kim Viner

Assistance to the Editor
Crystal Griffis
Amy Allen
John Nutter
Shirla Walker

Contributing Photographers
Danny Walker
Joyce Powell
Mary Mountain
Jason Roesler (Seasonal Property Shots)
Seth Lyle



Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Laramie, WY
Permit No. 23

Laramie Plains Museum Historic Ivinson Mansion



*Sugar Plum Fairies
danced on the lawn at the*

**NUTCRACKER
HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE 2018**
Saturday, December 8, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 9, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Ivinson Mansion Museum Complex
603 East Ivinson, Laramie, Wyoming



Happy Holidays from Executive Director, Mary Mountain

Our 2018 Holiday Open House at the historic Ivinson Mansion celebrates the University of Wyoming's *Nutcracker* ballet as well as this year of outstanding donor and volunteer contributions to bring our vision of more useable, expanded space to the Laramie Plains Museum property. I am someone with a birds-eye view of this most amazing year! I have seen a dreamed-about transformation come to pass in our Alice Hardie Stevens Center, thanks to an excellent architect, contractor and sub-contractors, superior donors, AND the hands-on vision and hard work of volunteers! This enhanced and expanded space to our property truly is a dream come true for excellent promotion and future sustainability for our favorite Laramie

museum. Our excitement and our words about all that has happened—and continues to happen with the stage, stairs, lighting, dressing rooms, curatorial and administrative storage areas—can hardly be contained. Our ongoing thanks seems small in contrast to the large amounts of giving and caring by our members, donors, staff and volunteers. We really are a community of individuals joined together in a common goal for goodness and success. Henry Ford's famous quote sums up the Laramie Plains Museum's journey through these decades: "Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success!" Look at the results!

With all of the *flash* happening with renters loving the new space upstairs, folks tend to forget that we're not quite finished yet; there is mighty work going on below deck. On the opposite page, you can see some of the volunteer workers continuing to accomplish great things for the future of our museum complex—with climate controlled storage and stage, dressing and bath rooms, lighting and sound so that organizations can bring in performances for even greater use and events, and in turn, sustainability for our Ivinson Mansion museum. The Mason Loft Condos have proven just how well a dream and volunteer hands can serve the Museum's income and future. That historic stone stable has been saved and is proving its worth as impressive, consistently-rented home-aways. Time and again, visions, transformations and good things have happened as Museum volunteers and members and donors stepped up. Thank you!

Now to celebrate: The Museum's annual Holiday Open House brings exceptional holiday design to the Ivinson Mansion via Laramie's talented florists, independent decorators and our amazing volunteer crews. Alongside the *Nutcracker* fun and sugar plum glistening of this year's theme, you'll experience songsters & musicians: Saturday, in the Mansion—That One Trio, 3:00-3:30 and then into the Alice Hardie Stevens at 4:00. *Shirla Walker* & her red accordion will perform in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center before and after the *Trio*. Sunday, in the Mansion—Wind & Roses, *Alice Freeman*, will grace the historic house with strains from her lovely harp while *The Melodees* from the Eppson Center will be in the Center at 2:00 p.m. and Shirla again in between. Laramie Woman's Club & local artisans will have great holiday sales while Zonta Club generously offers delicious cookies and cider. Everyone come! Be part of this very special holiday tradition!!



Above is a view of the Alice Hardie Stevens Center in past years, our very useable but smaller space, beautiful wood flooring from the Girls School days, with brown, heavy rectangle tables and metal chairs. All of that served us well to keep the Ivinson property integral to the community for 94 years. The two views to the right are of the enhanced, expanded space, new flooring, chandeliered lighting, lightweight round and rectangular tables, as well as 250 easily-handled champagne-colored *Chivari* chairs. The chairs are a nod to the styles of the 1920s when the building was first built as gymnasium and dormitory space for the Girls' School. Ron Olsen repurposed the original wood into picture frames, wainscoting, doors for the lower stage, a handsome, sliding kitchen door and art work for the new Event Center.

More heroes who made the Museum shine this year



LARAMIE GARDEN CLUB



Left: Board Directors, **Connie Palmer** and **Debbie Pinckney** helped at the rainy Art Fest during Jubilee Days.



Laramie Garden Club members, **Denise Greller, Dorothy Moore, Norma Pigg, Becky Russell, Carol Hoff, Sharon Leder, Barb Rouse, Judy Thomas, Amy Fluet** and **Eliza Fay** and others gave hours of loving tending to our stunning historic grounds.



BOARD DIRECTORS, STAFF & NEIGHBORS



Above: LPM Collections Manager, **Judy Knight**, and Albany County Attorney, **Peggy Trent**, stopped what they were doing to help clean the aftermath of our tree and mansion's roof hits from the summer storm. "It takes a village" to help keep this place shining!



Speaking of tender, loving care, we couldn't have our Victorian Teas each summer without the gracious floral teapot bouquets on the tables. Sisters, **Stevi Patterson** and **Claire Brooks** have been our *flower girls* for nearly 20 years—bringing special nods of color and grace to the Alice Hardie Stevens Center *Tea Room*. In the photo above, we also captured their granddaughter (and grandniece) **Whitney**, who has grown up helping with LPM Tea flowers. The ladies told us they were calling the 2018 Teas their last ones for this devoted flower work. Maybe we'll see them at other Teas, just enjoying the event. We will certainly miss their devotion and great, caring hearts. **Thank you, ladies, from the bottom of our ever-lovin' teacups** for all you've given!



Above: **Junior Docents** are the hits of each summer! Posed here with medals around their necks at their awards party in October, they showcased their spectacular smiles and the **Domino's pizza** they love so much! **Parker Jackson** was our **2018 OUTSTANDING JUNIOR DOCENT**—giving 250 hours of service with a winning smile and helpful heart.

YOUTH & ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Right: **John Savery**, kept his bagpipes going at the Art Fest, in spite of the drizzly afternoon. A true Scotsman!



TV CAMERAS AND INTERNATIONAL BLOGGERS SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT WYOMING'S REMARKABLE EARLY STRIDES FOR WOMEN!

Unrelated visits, but with the same focus, **Wyoming's Office of Tourism** with visiting international bloggers and **Denver's Channel 7 Annie Taylor**, reporter for *The Now*, requested special tours and interviews about Wyoming's fascinating history with women's firsts on the political scene. **Kim Viner** and **Mary Mountain** set the stage for our Wyoming story, beginning with telling about the **1869 Suffrage Act** passed by Wyoming territorial Legislature in the women's hallway at the Ivinson Mansion, and then taking the visitors to the **Wyoming House for Historic Women** in downtown Laramie. The History House and our Mansion women's hallway give us platforms for speaking about Wyoming Territory's important history for women. Most of our guest are startled to learn the facts—not only that **Wyoming had the first woman voter in the world, or the first woman bailiff, or first women on a jury**, and much more, but how firmly Wyoming stood in defense of the Suffrage Act of 1869. WOT's visiting bloggers have already started posting information about that quest for equality and Wyoming's vast, picturesque landscapes. *The Now* compressed our conversations into a blip that ran at mid-term election time, and now has gone viral. If you would like to see that snippet, just GOOGLE "Looking back at history in Wyoming, the first state where women voted...." and you'll get to see a bit of what Kim and Mary said during the presentations.

Then get ready: **2019 will bring all kinds of coverage of the 150th anniversary of the Suffrage Act and 2020 will be the BIG, national recognition of the first woman's vote (here in Laramie!).**

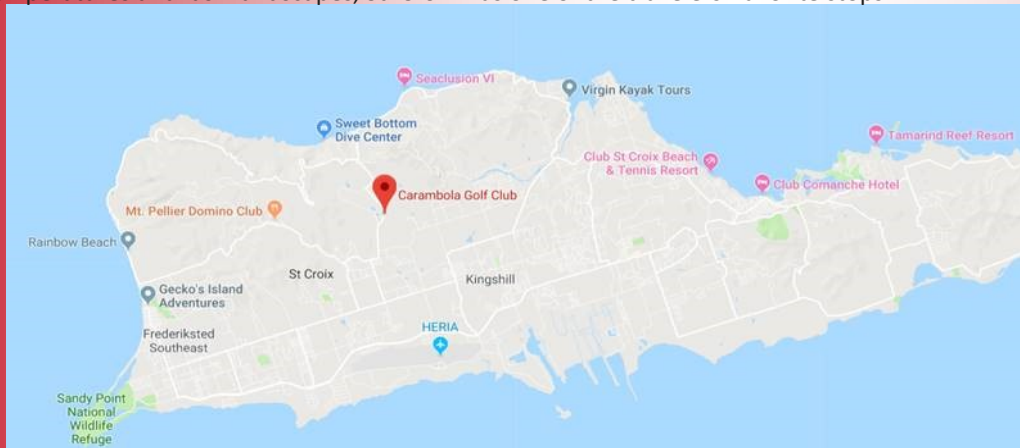
If you would like to share Wyoming's unique suffrage history (a perfect stocking stuffer booklet this year?) come to the Carriage House gift shop for our handy little book, **Laramie Wyoming Women Made World History**, telling how the Suffrage Act came about and just who those women were who stepped up! It's only \$5.00, and during the holidays you'll get 20% off! Nice!



These photos show Kim Viner during the interview (top photo in the Mansion dining room) with Annie Taylor from Channel 7, and (below in the Mansion first-floor foyer) with the 13 women of Wyoming Office of Tourism and their international travel writers. Mary Mountain coordinated the visits and took the groups to the History House following Viner's educational presentations at the Mansion.

****We owe Kim thanks for all of this and an overdue by-line for his work in the fall newsletter: ALL of the election articles were researched and written by him. Thank you, Kim for being our prolific and very willing historian!**

This fall, the Museum's Executive Director, **Mary Mountain**, traveled with friends and former LPMA Board Directors and LPM members, **Joyce Powell, Rhetha Davis, and Kathy Keenan**, specifically including the isle of St. Croix in their Caribbean travels. Mountain wanted to say they stood on the ground of the Ivinson family's life in the early 1800s. Ivinson historian, **Kim Viner**, again helped out with facts, indicating on the map where the Ivinson family's River Estate sat, on the north edge of what was originally the Bourke Plantation on St. Croix. Kim said that it was likely where the Carambola Golf Club sits now, where you see the red balloon on the map below. A taxi ride from the cruise ship port took the ladies to the acreage that once was a sugar plantation but is now a luxury golf complex, where they posed with signs noting Edward Ivinson's 1830 birth there. With balmy temperatures and lush landscapes, St. Croix was one of the travelers' favorite stops.



The AHSC Transformation Continues!

Ongoing City Permit

One of our lead volunteer renovators, Ron Olsen, is seen cleaning his trowel after laying dressing rooms and bathrooms flooring



This is the main room of the new reception hall, eventual curatorial and storage space. For now, volunteers' saws, tools and wood are housed here as they work on the insulation, dressing rooms, stairs and stage. Gary Espeland was an important volunteer with Van Oss for installing pink foam insulation on these cement walls.

Joyce Powell rolled the newly-laid flooring as Ron's sidekick for the installation.



Left: Renovation team leads, Dave Van Oss and Joyce Powell, conferred in the back stairwell. Van Oss has continued as the visionary Design Team leader of the project, on the LPM property and eating a sack lunch almost every weekday. Joyce and Ron are also always here, coordinating themselves and their teams with finish work.



Left: You see the basement hallway leading from north to south outside of actors' dressing rooms and bathrooms. Insulation batting, drywall, mudding, texturing, painting and clean up is all being done by the lead team and volunteers stepping up to keep costs down as we finish the space under the exciting new reception hall expansion. Nearly 3000 hours of volunteer service have been given to the expansion. Many of the volunteers have excellent craftsmen skills; others of us are simply willing to offer helping hands. Often, that's just what's needed. The Laramie Plains Museum is very, very fortunate to have our network of volunteers—of all life skills and backgrounds—who step up when things need to be done. We could not do the wonderful things we do for this extraordinary historic property without our selfless, talented volunteers. Kudos to all!

Jim Meacham works the mud and drywall.

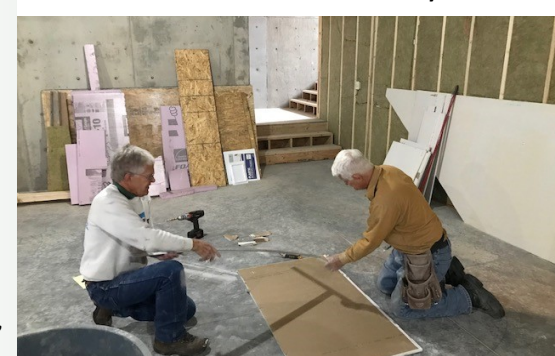


Suzu Taylor & Chris Walrath are mudders, painters, and cleaners.



Germaine St. John, Unexpected Company President, helps with painting.

John Nutter & Dave Van Oss work the drywall.



We are seeing the benefits of the extra space and stellar new ambiance—with increased rentals for special events, and therefore increased funds for our museum operations. Community groups and weddings have been very pleased with the new space. We continue to iron out the bugs of new construction (Electrical Solutions was here all this week getting our old heating system hooked up properly to gas and the new system. *That* should warm things up considerably!). It's really only been six months since we were able to open the doors to our first event on May 18, 2018, so we continue to have high aspirations for the future!

Life on Muskrat Creek

Book Review by Polly Wade,
LPM Docent, Donor and Laramie Woman's Club Doer

Life on Muskrat Creek is the story of **Ethel Waxham and J. David Love**—from his first years in Wyoming as a Scottish sheepherder, tending 5000 sheep for seven years, through their marriage in Denver, and through their life at the ranch on Muskrat Creek back here in Wyoming. During his sheepherding years, J David became friends with Butch Cassidy and Chief Washakie., and filed on a homestead in 1897. He met Ethel in 1905.

This congenial, homey book, compiled by great grand-daughters, **Frances Love Froidevaux** and **Barbara Love**, is about the Loves' ranching lives with two sons, **Alan** and **David** and daughter, **Phoebe**. It is made up of journals and letters from Ethel and David, as well as the writings of Francie and Barbara.

Son David married Jane Matteson, and I came to know both geologists after we arrived in Laramie in the 1950s. I knew Jane even better as one of her worker bees with her coupon fund-raising efforts to save the Ivinson Mansion from demolition when we were both mothers with youngsters in the late 1960's.

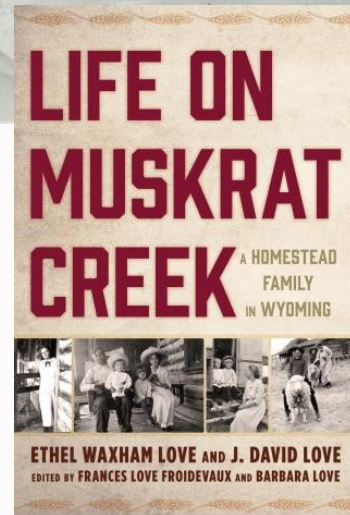
It was probably 25 years ago that Jane gave a program for our Laramie Woman's Club Christmas meeting. I have never forgotten how touched I was by the story of her husband, David's childhood on *Muskrat Creek*. Jane had read a story, written by David about the Love family's Christmas in 1920, telling that after severe drought and really hard times on the ranch, the two little boys knew there would be no Christmas celebration that year.

The 7 and 8-year old little fellows were sad when they went to bed on that Christmas Eve, but they soon heard a commotion in the kitchen and their parents called them to come out. There was a strange looking Santa, with a funny bag, who brought each child a gift. He changed their sad Christmas Eve to a happy one! Later, the boys found out that that Santa was a French sheepherder, whom they had never met, but was camped near enough to know that the two little boys had no tree or Christmas gifts.

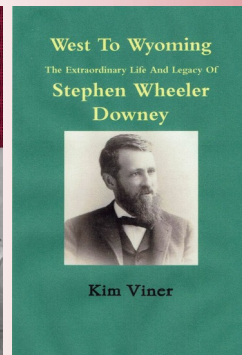
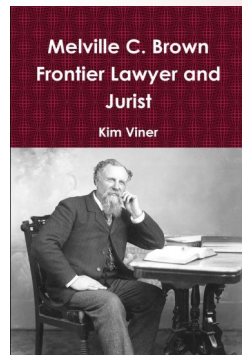
The sheepherder had waded through deep snow for three hours. Ethel helped him devise a red suit and white beard, of sorts. The whole family ended up celebrating with the French Santa and our whole Woman's Club was in tears hearing the tale! I asked Jane for a copy of the story, but she said that David didn't want it printed; he simply wrote it for the family.

I've never forgotten that poignant story, and even years later I asked Francie, Jane and David's daughter, for a copy of it. She told me she knew nothing about the story. You can only imagine my shock—and joy!— to find it in this special book of local family history. It is on page 129 of *Life on Muskrat Creek*, a special memory of one special man, making a big difference in little boys lives one Christmas on the vast Wyoming landscape.

I enjoyed this book so much it will be my Christmas gifts this year for many of my friends and family.



We are expecting an order of the Muskrat Creek book to arrive to the Carriage House Gift Shop during these holidays. These books are only in hard back and are an upon-demand print job, so we had to guess how many of you might want the book. If we do not have them, we will create a gift certificate for you to give until they arrive. In the meantime, know that we have some of the best in Albany County and Wyoming books, including these by Kim Viner and the *Blizzard of '49 in Wyoming*, new on the shelves. Come shop before, during, and the week after the Holiday Open House to get great 20% off deals!!



EDITOR'S NOTE: I am so pleased that our lovely Polly Wade was willing to read and review this book about one of our most endearing Wyoming pioneering families. Polly has certainly endeared herself to me—to all of us with the Laramie Plains Museum. She, Wanda Decora and Margaret Dickman were some of my very first examples of what exemplary museum volunteers were all about. Polly and Margaret gave me my first tours of the mansion; Polly, in her 90's now, still gives some of the very best insight to tours of our beautiful historic house museum. Her willingness to write this review was one more precious thing she has given.

David and Jane Love were very special to the University of Wyoming's legacy and certainly, to the story of the Laramie Plains Museum at the Ivinson Mansion. Jane was vitally important to the coupon drive that helped to raise the final dollars to save this stunning piece of Laramie's history, as well as the establishment of an endowment for the future years of the Museum. She was a very special friend to those of us who have been at the helm of the Museum's operations, always giving as she could and yet, always worrying that maybe those visionaries had saved something that would prove to be just too costly to maintain.

With the revenue streams we're establishing from the Mary Kay Mason Loft condos and the newly-enhanced Event Center, we are helping Jane's worries be settled. Thank you, all, for carrying the legacy forward.

Visions of Open Houses Past



Happy Holidays!

THERE'S STILL TIME TO GIVE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. WE'LL SEND A RECEIPT AND OUR WARMEST THANKS FOR HELPING THIS EXTRAORDINARY MUSEUM COMPLEX CONTINUE TO GROW AND THRIVE AS IT DOES.

I would like my/our tax-deductible donation to help the Laramie Plains Museum

_____ complete the basement renovations on the Event Center for expanded rental and use capabilities for Museum sustainability.

_____ to simply support the ongoing work of preservation and celebration of Albany County's history at the Ivinson Mansion Museum.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Enclosed is CASH/CHECK _____ CREDIT CARD _____ PAPPAL on our Website _____ (laramiemuseum.org)

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration _____ 3-digit code _____