Historic Ivinson Mansion Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

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The Women's Monument Garden at the Historic lvinson Mansion heralds some of Wyoming women's first actions in gender equality for the nation and the world: FIRST WOMAN TO VOTE IN A GENERAL ELECTION, FIRST WOM-EN ON A JURY, FIRST WOMAN BAILIFF, FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO WYO-MING LEGISLATURE. The statue of a Grecian woman holding a shock of wheat represents suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton's quote, the winter wheat that others will reap and enjoy..." and the i Act given by the Wyoming Territorial Legislature on Decemb We are sowing redible Suffrage 10. 1869!

A New Way of Dealing.... Coronavirus impacts all aspects of the

Laramie Plains Museum

Historic Ivinson Mansion

FALL NEWSLETTER 2020

In spite of the restraints on all of us with the coronavirus pandemic, *Laramie Garden Club* members Carol Hoff, Barb Rouse, Sharon Leder, Annie Nelson, 82-year old wonder Dorothy Moore, Denise Greller, Jenny Meyers, Eliza and Amy Fluet and LPM Groundskeeper, Ethan Mac Dougall and Handyman, Stan Gibson have kept this garden and the stunning Museum grounds in beautiful

A Reprint from an earlier LPM newsletter as 2020 Elections Loom **By Kim Viner**

LARAMIE'S HISTORIC VOTE - September 6, 1870

Wyoming Territory held an election on September 6, 1870 and those who participated made world history. It was the first time ever in which women could vote in a general election. The first woman who voted that morning was Laramie resident Louisa Swain, a seventy-year-old woman who was born in Virginia. Her participation is well known and has been recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives which declared 6 September as Louisa Swain Day.

But what about the rest of the voters that day? Who were they and how did they vote and what were the results? Unfortunately, the official Albany County records have been lost, but local newspaper articles tell some interesting stories. Cheyenne briefly tried to claim that the wife of U.S. Marshal Church Howe was the first female voter. After being challenged by the Laramie paper, Cheyenne conceded that Mrs. Swain had actually voted 30 minutes earlier.

The legislative assembly which gave women the right to vote in 1869 was made up entirely of Democrats. Of the 93 Laramie women who voted on that September day, 64 cast their ballots for Republicans. No exit polling was necessary; there were no secret ballots required until 1890 so everyone knew who voted for whom.

Census figures from June of 1870 revealed that Laramie was overwhelmingly male. There were 828 citizens residing in Laramie: 604 were males and 204 were females. Of the females, 121 were eligible to vote, meaning that 75 percent actually went to the polls, a very respectable turnout.

The heavy Republican vote by the ladies of Laramie was reflected in territory wide elections. Many Republicans were elected to county offices and the territory's new delegate to congress was a Republican, displacing his Democratic forerunner.

This apparently did not please the Democratic Party as one of their leaders, C. E. Castle of Uinta County, led an effort in the legislative assembly of 1871 to repeal the suffrage law. He was joined by other Democrats and some Republicans, and together they almost succeeded in taking the right to vote away from Wyoming women.

The assembly passed the repeal but Republican Governor Campbell vetoed the attempt and women's right to vote was sustained. The assembly then mounted an effort to override the veto but fell one vote short. Laramie representatives Melville C. Brown and Ora Haley were instrumental in keeping suffrage from being taken from Wyoming women. They sided with the governor.

Reports also indicated that voters were given either a Republican or a Democratic Party ballot. Voters voted straight tickets. One woman in Cheyenne wrote that she was unhappy with the name at the top of her ballot, so she tore off the top of the ballot in order to avoid voting for him.

Despite the large majority of women voting for Republicans, Albany County officials elected in September 1870 were almost evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. The Democrats held all three county commissioner positions, the probate judge, coroner, two of four justices of the peace and the two constables.

The Republicans on the other hand received the majority of votes for Wyoming's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives (non-voting), county clerk, sheriff, assessor, surveyor, superintendent of schools, and two of four justices. Of those elected from both parties, three Republicans are the most widely remembered in local history: Sheriff Nathaniel K. Boswell, Surveyor Stephen W. Downey and Superintendent Melville C. Brown.

Both the Laramie and Cheyenne papers reported that the presence of women voters at the polls greatly improved the behavior of the men who went to vote. They indicated that drunkenness and rowdiness were completely absent and

that women were treated with the utmost courtesy.

Voting requirements were very liberal. There were no voter registration rolls. Lawmakers felt the population was so transient that registration would curtail the right to vote. Anyone over the age of 21 who was a U.S. citizen or declared that they intended to become a citizen could vote. This resulted in a very high turnout with an almost unbelievable 97 percent among Laramie men

Voting went smoothly in Albany County except for the town of Rock Creek. Thirty-seven of the fifty-one votes cast were thrown out due to "irregularities" which were not detailed in the newspapers.

The large turnout on September 6 and the relative lack of problems revealed that Laramie citizens' participation was sincere and showed their commitment to the democratic process. Especially noteworthy was the women's vote which was widely praised by local newspapers. Their engagement was so successful that it became a permanent fixture of Wyoming's political scene and was enshrined in Article VI of the 1889 Wyoming Constitution.





The casting of her hisoric ballot caused the ocal newspaper, THE ARAMIE SENTINEL, to ditorialize, "There was too much good sense n our community for ny jeers or sneers to be seen on such an occasion"

LEFT is the impressive statue of Louisa Gardner Swain, designed and created by local artist, John Baker, in the plaza at the entrance to the Wyoming House for Historic Women in downtown Laramie, within a stone's throw of where Louisa cast her notable vote in 1870. The Women's History House was a dream of Weldon Tuck so that Louisa and Laramie's other notable "first" women could be appreciated for the new standards set for Wyoming women in response to the Suffrage Act put forth by the Wyoming Territorial Legislature, December 10, 1869.

*A Bit of Trivia: The background colors of this newsletter are purple, yellow and white, the colors chosen by the suffragists as they marched and fought for voting rights.



OTHER RESPONSES TO NOTE!

The Gift Shop and offices are open Tuesday - Saturday 11:00 to 3:00. Masks, social distancing, and sanitizing procedures are in place. We have a great array of new Wyoming history books as well as neat greeting cards, gifts, the 2021 Wyoming Historical Society calendar, and lots of cool Halloween things!

Check our website frequently—www.laramiemuseum.org Our curatorial wizards are regularly posting vignettes of history alongside their virtual tours of the Mansion on the website and Laramie Plains Museum's Facebook & YouTube platforms. Some "stars " you can see with just a click on their photos:

Kim Viner telling Edward Ivinson's story. **Susan Shumway** as Eliza Stewart, early Laramie teacher & first woman called to jury duty (in the world!) Al Tremblay as J.H.Hayford, editor of Laramie's early newspaper, The Laramie Sentinel. Gary Crawford presenting Sheriff N. K. Boswell. Jerry Hansen talking about Laramie's railroad history. Sylvia Hansen, with her *docent discourse* on some of her favorite rooms in the Museum.

Look for virtual holiday tales as we get closer to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Mrs. Ivinson may even appear on the website telling her lady friends stories about her mansion!

We are unable to hold our traditional Holiday Open House this year. In past years, we have had anywhere from 400 to 800 people moving throughout the mansion during the event. This simply cannot happen this year, nor can we ask our volunteers to be guides so that the public can freely roam into each of the historic rooms of the museum. It is unfortunate, but a must for safety and wellness. Two things that we still will do:

- our traditional 20% holiday discount beginning in November.

Registrar/Assistant Curator, Amy Allen and Head Curator of Collections, Konnie Cronk,

have been very responsive to the impact on folks unable to tour our beautiful Museum. Not only have they rethought and reset current exhibits to be more illuminating (informative and enlightening, revealing and emphasizing facts that might have been previously obscure), they have made extra efforts to obtain additions to our LPM Collection, and posted virtual histories and tours via our laramiemuseum.org website. COVID downtime has given many of us new looks at how to efficiently do remote work and reconsider "what we've always done...." in one particular way. That reassessment is a very good thing.

1) The Gift Shop will remain open Tuesdays—Saturdays from 11:00 to 3:00 through December 19th, with

2) We will focus on exterior décor and lighting this Christmas season so that passersby can still see holiday sparkle on these outstanding historic grounds. We're planning to feature increased outdoor lighting and holiday "scenes" so that cars will want to detour this way during the holiday season.

What's So Great About Donor Advised Funds? Julie M. Edwards, Partner, Nicholas & Tangeman,

You have heard about them. Maybe your neighbor has touted the great advantages of using Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) for his charitable giving. Why is he so excited about DAFs anyhow? Well, DAFs provide numerous benefits to both donors as well as the nonprofits who benefit from the charitable contributions.

What is a Donor Advised Fund? Quite simply, a DAF is an account with a nonprofit sponsoring organization, such as a community foundation, which invests assets that have been placed into the account by a donor. Many national financial services firms have DAF accounts too, such as Fidelity, Goldman Sachs, Schwab and Vanguard, since DAFs have become quite popular in recent years. Gifts made to the DAF by the donor are irrevocable. The donor may contribute various types of assets, including cash, real estate, stocks and bond, artwork, etc. The sponsoring organization is ultimately responsible for making distributions to charities, but will typically rely on recommendations and requests from the donor.

Charitable donors give for many reasons: to make a difference in their community, to benefit a particular charitable cause, or to leave a legacy. However, let's be honest: many donors make charitable contributions largely because they receive favorable tax treatment for their donations. THERE ARE TAX ADVANTAGES.

Income Tax. Donors receive an immediate income tax deduction in the year a contribution is made to a Donor Advised Fund, even if the funds are not distributed to charities in that taxable year. As with any charitable donation, the IRS does place a limitation on the amount an individual may deduct in a given year, depending on the type of gift made and the charitable recipient. DAFs are treated like public charities for the purpose of determining deductibility – which is the most favorable treatment. The donor may deduct the full value of cash donated to a DAF in a given year, up to sixty percent (60%) of his adjusted gross income for the year of the donation (additional, unused deduction may be carried forward five years).

Capital Gains Tax. In addition, a donor who donates appreciated property to a DAF will not incur capital gains tax on the gift (as opposed to selling the asset and donating proceeds). However, the donor's deduction for appreciated property is limited to thirty percent (30%) of the donor's adjusted gross income (with five-year carry forward). This allows a donor to contribute appreciated stocks, real estate and retirement accounts/IRAs to a DAF, which otherwise would be subject to tax on the sale of such assets (or upon distribution of the retirement assets). Therefore, the donor not only avoids the capital gain tax, but he receives a charitable deduction on his income tax return. When considering the donor's tax advantages as well as the funds passing to the charity, that is a win-win-win!

Estate Tax. The assets donated to a DAF will also not be subject to estate or gift taxes upon the donor's death when gifted during the donor's lifetime. If the donor chooses to donate to a DAF upon his death, his estate will receive an estate or income tax deduction for amounts passing to the DAF as well.

NON-TAX ADVANTAGES OF GIVING TO DAFS. Donor Advised Funds allow a donor to make a charitable donation immediately, receive a deduction and decide where the money will go at a later point in time. The donor may make recommendations to the DAF administrators to distribute gifts to particular charitable 501(c)(3) recipients, which are generally respected; however, the donor does not have full control over making distributions. For donors who may not itemize their deductions on their income tax return each year, this process can be allow the donor to deduct their charitable contributions by making several years' worth of contributions at one time; yet, the charitable recipients can continue to receive the gifts over a period of years. Receiving predictable, steady contributions is often

important to nonprofit organizations trying to determine annual cash flow and budgeting for their operations.

Donor Advised Funds can be a valuable charitable giving tool for many people. Ask your local community foundation, financial advisor, accountant or attorney for more information on how to get involved with DAFs today!

Editor's Note: We have no affiliation with Julie Edwards from Nicholas & Tangeman, but they are our museum neighbors, situated in another beautiful historic house, and Julie was immediately willing to help us find out more about this special way of giving to places like our beautiful Ivinson Mansion/Laramie Plains Museum.







The Laramie Plains Museum Board of Directors has honored Joyce Powell with their highest commendation, the Edward Ivinson Award. It recognizes sustained support for and contributions to the reputation, operation, and preservation of the museum, its collections, and its properties. Powell received the award at the museum's annual Evening at the Ivinsons' gala.

Powell has served on the museum's board of directors for three, threeyear terms and has assisted with the preparation for and coordination of the annual gala for more than 15 years, often serving as co-chair, coordinator of live and silent auctions, and/or theme and decorations planner.

floors.

selection.



By John Nutter, Laramie Plains Museum Board Secretary

She worked diligently to bring into fruition the dream of her dear friend and long-time Laramie resident Mary Kay Mason to acquire, rehabilitate and furnish the properties across University Avenue from the museum block. Powell was an early advocate, designer, primer, and painter for the renovation of the Brick House at 609 University Ave. as a modern, easily assessable work area for the museum's curatorial staff. She chaired the Stone House planning committee, developed the interior design, coordinated purchases, provided countless of hours of manual labor, and-with her dedicated husband Doug-now manages, cleans, and shows what became the Mason Loft Condos at 611 University Ave. that help provide income for museum operations.

In like manner, she was a co-coordinator of the Alice Hardie Stevens Center expansion project, researching and spearheading interior designcoordinating purchases, paint colors, chandeliers and lighting, wood flooring, shades and draperies, tiles, and furnishings-along with hundreds of hours of physical labor, painting, scraping, cleaning, and polishing. She gave similar guidance to designing and organizing the new artifact, clothing, and property storage space and the theatre dressing rooms in the lower level of the center. She has regularly and consistently volunteered to lead workdays and projects for the museum such as preparing and installing sound absorption panels in the events center, replacing the lvinson mansion storm windows, painting and restoring wallpaper in the mansion, refinishing baseboards, and cleaning/restoring tile

As a professional photographer, Powell has taken descriptive and quality photographs at many events for use in newsletters, and other publications benefiting the museum. She continually makes significant contributions through auction items, creative ideas, personal encouragement, and untold hours of work. Powell is the fifth recipient of the Edward Ivinson award. She joins outstanding prior recipients Mary Mountain, Kim Viner, Ron Olsen, and Dave Van Oss. She received a Resolution of Honor and a crystal plaque commemorating her

AS WE SPEAK ABOUT EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN THIS YEAR, IT IS OUR HONOR TO NOTE THAT ALICE FREEMAN'S MUSICAL TALENTS HAVE GRACED OUR MUSEUM EVENTS FOR 20 YEARS! HERE IS JUST A SMATTERING OF THAT GRACE

> 2006 in the Mansion Library at the Holiday Open House







2005 on the Alice Hardie **Girls' School stage**

in Mansion 2nd floor foye



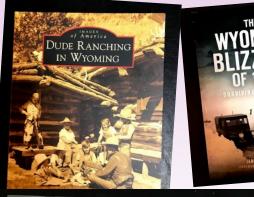
Doug Freeman, a very special accomplice.





the Mansion Music Room

Want to Learn More? **Our Gift Shop Has Some Excellent History Books**



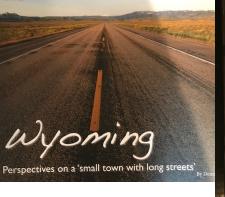


2021 Wyoming Historical Calendar Wyoming State Historical Society

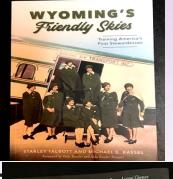


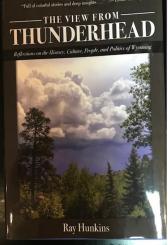






Including these excellent gifts: Wyoming's 2021 Historical Society Calendar and very





reasonably priced coffee table books on Wyoming's vistas by Dennis Davis and Ray Hunkins.

We have Judy Knight's Wyoming suffrage and Jane Ivinson Girls' School hot pads and table runners and we also are now carrying great signature Wyoming fabric items (ornaments, face masks, pot holders and handy make up and arm bags created by our own talented Janie Van Oss in support of organizations needing assistance.

COME CHECK US OUT TUESDAY—SATURDAY 11:00 TO 3:00







Hard working masked men—Jason Mountain, above, and Doug Powell and Stan Gibson, below-made repairs and the best of the smaller, less costly canopy tents used this year to shelter a bit but still allow social distancing in this time of coronavirus.

RIGHT: Museum Executive Director, Mary Mountain, and former LPM curator, Joney Wilmot, took off their masks long enough to reveal smiles about the socially distanced *Evening*. In spite of the necessary changes with reduced invitations and attendees, only outside gathering and no full service with a meal, live auction and impressive tent, we believe we made close to our average \$20,000 in net proceeds, for this 2020 modified affair! We know that was because we reduced our usual spending to make it a lavish signature affair, but also because our supportive members and friends stepped up to help with buy-in to our Card Shark Raffle, donation box and auction items that night, and the caring monetary gifts we received from those weren't quite ready for a social do. The Board will most likely allow these proceeds to be used with covering operational costs in this year of much depleted income, rather than special projects or endowment investment. Thank you, friends, for your continued care for this special place. We are making it through this cautious year and will thrive once again because of YOU!



Above: Resilient Joan Porter was a special presence in support of the Museum's Evening in spite of the worrisome day she'd had. Joanie is always a trooper!

Left: Board Director Cheri Bellamy and husband, Bill, were Card Shark winners of the \$1000 bounty!

Joyce Powell, Debi Ockers and Mary Mountain were the Evening Committee Chairs during this very interesting year.

was captured by Dr. Eric Nye, a frequent guest and donor to this lovely LPM garden event.

rounding up wandering cattle when she needs to, and Kathy Keenan, a Wyoming girl from a family farm near Huntley, she taught in Albany County for 35 years, sometimes traveling 120 miles one way to get to her students in the rural schools. Both ladies are longtime supporters of this special museum. **Right:** Though our junior docent program was unable to happen during this COVIDimpacted summer, some of our favorite students of past years came to assist with this year's Evening. Parker Jackson and Katherine McIrvin helped prepare, serve and clean up the plates of appetizers we offered attendees.

H Cautious Evening" 2020



ABOVE: LPMA Board Directors and their spouses offered gracious welcomes to our guests as our Evening greeters. Behind the masks: Director Karen Lange and her husband, Bruce and daughter, Sarah; Director Steve and Lissa Maki, and Director John Nutter

with wife, Suzanne Lewis.

Top: A great panoramic photo Left: Talk about your Women of *the West!* We've got authentic ones right here: Carolyn Durand, with 50-plus years working her Jenkins Creek Ranch, still packing iron (a Colt 22 Peacemaker) and

Our theme this year was SKIRTS AND SADDLES— Recognizing the



women and men who helped make suffrage happen in Wyoming!





Diversity on the High Plai

Konnie Cronk, LPM Curator

It is generally regarded by many that the population of the high plains were much more culturally diverse than seen in early reports and popular culture. One of the most culturally diverse groups belonged to the cowboy profession. Part of this may be due to the social stratum of the cowboy which was guite low compared to most.

The pay was low (on average \$1 per day), the work was long, and not everyone wanted to do it. However, this left space for those who were willing to bare the wilderness, cold and danger.

Because cowboys ranked low in the social stratum of western society it is difficult to know exactly who was a cowboy. New research using US Census records suggests that approximately 25% of cowboys were black, 15% were Latino 20% were Indigenous. These are all guestimates and probably vary by region but gives a vastly different picture than that in pop culture.

One such character was "Broncho" Sam Stewart. He was born in Mexico in 1852; Sam was part black and part Latino and fully dedicated to living his life to the fullest. His skill for wild horse breaking, bull busting and acts of feat were legendary in not just Laramie but according to early written records "from Mexico to Canada," during his lifetime. A post about his life on Ancestry.com, states that he "grew up with the Caballeros [translates to "horseman of the southwest."] of Mexico and Texas," at the time of the Civil War.

Sam travelled north from Texas, ranging cattle with Charlie Goodnight to Cheyenne, Wyoming (the railroad was built to this point in 1867). Around 1877 he worked as the postman between Fort Laramie and Laramie City. He displayed his prowess for breaking wild horses, staying astride a bucking horse or bull on every occasion it warranted, usually a holiday or rodeo or just for fun. In "Wyoming Pioneer Ranches," by Burns, Gillespie and Richardson, Sam went to work for Tom Alsop, Albany County rancher, breaking horses and working on

the round-up. Tom ran a stage stop near the Big Laramie River. In the spring, it was common for the snow melt to flood the river. One year, Tom's 3-year-old son, John fell in the raging water.

Sam immediately "came a-running and jumped off the bridge fully clothed to rescue little John." The family never forgot Sam's deed and regarded him highly.

In 1881, Sam married Kitty who was identified only as "a full-blooded squaw." Rumors convinced Sam of his wife's infidelity. In 1882, he ended up shooting his wife and then ended his own life. Court documents seen by Gladys Beery (author of many local titles including "Sinners & Saints: Tales of Old City

Laramie) regarding the incident show that the rumors were unfounded.

Another black cowboy who was famous during his lifetime in Laramie is Thornton Biggs or Thorn't, as he was often called. Thornton was born into slavery in Maryland in 1855. According to Burns, he was known for training racehorses. After the Civil War, in 1885, Thornton married

Molly Workman and had a son named Fred. It is unclear why or what happened with his family, but Thornton made his way west and there is no indication that there was any contact between the them after this point.

According to Holly Hunt, Albany County rancher, he came west with Owen Hogue as a cook with the trail herd. Ora Haley, another well-known Albany County research, hopefully an even more rancher, purchased part of the cattle from Owen and Thornton stayed with the herd. Thornton worked for Ora Haley and was regarded highly by the cowboys. In "The Negro Cowboys," by Durham and Jones, Ora credited part of his success to the knowledge and hard work of Thornton. He trained "a whole generation of future range managers, wagon bosses, and all-around cowpunchers the finer points of the range cattle business," though he was never



promoted to any of these positions himself. Thornton was said to posses an "animal sense," which allowed him to pair a lost calf with its mother among thousands of other cattle. Legend said he had a knack in healing the sick and injured. Thornton is mentioned in relation to a scandal around 1900 in a downtown Laramie establishment where the barman was shot. The story was made sensational by the newspapers and Thornton's name was in almost every edition regarding the

scandal even though he was not implicated in the murder. Despite this Thornton was frequently cited in the newspapers also for his participation in local rodeos and events. He often raced horses.

It was in 1920 that Thornton went to work with Holly Hunt. According to Holly he stayed with him as long as he was physically able. He was an outstanding cowman as well as being a very loyal and devoted to the Hunt family." It is unclear how long Thornton stayed with Holly, but the 1940 US Census

shows that Thornton lived the last of his days at the Colorado State Hospital until 1940 dying at age 90 years.

Both Sam and Thornton are examples of Diversity on the High Plains. It is fortunate that information exists on these two characters, due in part to their fame during their lifetimes. With further detailed picture will emerge.



2020 — A YEAR WITHOUT TEA ON TUESDAY! LIKE A YEAR WITHOUT SUNSHINE...



ABOVE: Early Tea Ladies: Esther Kelley, Elinor Mullens, Sally Young, Win Bessey, Carolyn Nelson and Margaret Dickman. The style, grace, etiquette and great foods we learned from these ladies and others set the high standards for our elegant and very successful Teas.





LEFT: Other special Tea volunteers, Izola Kopf and Lynn Erickson smile while they work in the AHSC kitchen. Teas have always been fully created, served and cleaned up by volunteers so that all proceeds are able to help fund the Museum's curatorial work. Each Tea can use as many as 33 of our wonderful volunteers to make it a success!



Thornton Biggs



ABOVE: Executive Director, Mary Mountain was one of those learning the ropes from the Tea Ladies when she and Stevi Patterson were new as volunteers in 1998. She remembers helping to carry dishes up and down from the 2nd floor of the Alice Hardie Stevens for each Tea. The kitchen at that time had no extra room to store the vintage cups, saucers and teapots. Favorites delicacies were Carolyn's Strawberry Tarts and Margaret's Genevoise. LEFT: This photo captures our early Tea Room, always packed to its brim. Service of Tea goodies was from the north wall of the room, with attendees standing in line with their plates. (With the Alice Hardie Stevens Center transformation, we now can accommodate double the amount of guests so much of the delectable foods are served to the tables on tiers. You can see Alice Freeman playing harp in the back near the large glass block window that was there prior to the historic 1910 back bar that now sits on that wall.

BELOW: Alice Silver, Judy Knight and former Director, Dan Nelson pose on the old Girls' School stage with the artifacts to be used for a Tea program. Historic programs have always been a special feature of our Tea on Tuesdays.

