

Historic Ivinson Mansion
Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

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WEDDINGS, WEDDINGS, WEDDINGS!
The Ivinson Mansion property and its
enhanced facilities make it the perfect
place for such special events. We had **27**
weddings from May through September
and we're not done yet!



The Historic Ivinson Mansion

Laramie Plains Museum

Newsletter
FALL 2018

2018 held a great summer season of events, visitors, student volunteers, 150th history, ongoing preservation, exhibits, and rescuing rooms and artifacts from construction aftermath. Here are a few numbers that mattered and this issue has some fine pictures of the happenings. Enjoy!

48 Junior Docents lead tours, volunteering 3,599 hours of service

27 Weddings and/or Wedding receptions were held at LPM facilities—May to September

260 meals were served at this year's *Evening at the Ivinsons* and we realized what a full house in the new facility is all about!

2,795 people took guided tours of the Mansion Museum between May and August

1,203 of those tours of the Ivinson Mansion were discounted or complimentary tours to encourage new visitors and help faithful supporters renew their interest

Tours and coverage to keep the Wyoming House for Historic Women open brought \$5000 to the Laramie Plains Museum coffers. Free visits of the important house were encouraged with coupons given to LPM visitors. The WHHW was open June through August because of 15 caring LPM docents.

24 Arts & Craft Vendors were on the grounds and in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center for the Jubilee Days Art Fest. Many will return for our annual Holiday Open House, December 8 & 9

491 walk-thru tours were taken during the Art Fest

393 guests came to our 3 Victorian-styled Tea on Tuesdays

148 talented volunteers remain involved so that the Ivinson property is a vital presence in Laramie, Wyoming. Some of those very-significant volunteers work our gardens each spring, summer and fall. On this page you see Betsy and Brody who posed in the glorious women's monument flower bed for their August wedding. The stunning events, weddings, receptions & promotions of Laramie history held here *would not be possible* without the focused work of Laramie Garden Club!



Some Final Thoughts as Mid-Term Elections Approach

POLITICAL ATTACKS AS OLD AS LARAMIE

KIM VINER, LPM Historian, Docent, Author

Political writers today bemoan the acrimony of our political discussions. In Laramie's history, this is nothing new. Edward Ivinson, who ran for Wyoming governor as a Republican in 1892, was routinely attacked by newspapers across the state. These Democratic controlled papers often referred to Ivinson as "Old Gilded Guts," noting his wealth and causing, they hoped, working men and women to vote against him.

Even worse, the Buffalo Free Lance newspaper openly made fun of Ivinson's public speaking ability when it stated, "Ivinson, well he seems to be afflicted with an impediment in his standing up capacity. He might make a good reading clerk in a deaf and dumb barn if he could be tied up far enough away from the stalls to keep the animals from kicking him." Ivinson did not respond in kind, and he was defeated by Democrat John Osborne, largely due to top Republican politicians' role in the Johnson County War which alienated many Wyoming voters.

Ivinson was not the first Laramie political figure to suffer these kinds of attacks. When Stephen Wheeler Downey first ran for public office in the early 1870's, he was routinely attacked by both Republican and Democratic controlled newspapers. Many Republicans opposed him because he was aligned with one of two quarrelling factions in the party. They said he was part of a "ring" of corruption aligned with Wyoming's first governor John Campbell. The Democrats baselessly attacked him repeatedly claiming he misused public funds, campaigned illegally (though there were no campaign laws at the time) and disparaged his abilities as an attorney.

As an example, a Cheyenne newspaper printed an article titled "Downey as an Attorney" which covered one full column. It attacked Downey's abilities as a lawyer and stated his "crooked dealings" in that occupation would also be seen in the territorial legislature if he was elected. Like Ivinson, Downey did not respond in kind. Unlike Ivinson, he won a resounding victory despite the false attacks and would go on to serve in many elected capacities in Wyoming Territory and later the state of Wyoming.

It is sad these attacks, by members of both parties against their opponents, occurred. In researching the life of Stephen Downey, I encountered an editorial that he addressed to the Laramie Sentinel newspaper on January 21, 1871. Had political leaders of each party later heeded his early call for civility, those early elections would not have been so nasty. Downey wrote, "I often think, however, it would be far better for some of us if we would stop, and in order to judge the motives and actions of others, to even put ourselves in their place and from a standpoint thus attained, to judge them. Did we do this we might, perhaps, have more charity, see more to approve, and less to censure. To judge your enemy and prove your friend, put yourself in their place, and after careful self-examination plant your standard on high, and move forward to conquer the devil in your own heart, and then you will find that the clear light of day as seen by another's vision, will sweep away the cobwebs which have accumulated and blinded you, and leave you a better and nobler man." (emphasis in the original).

It would greatly improve our current political discourse if all of us would take Downey's words to heart.



Nutcracker Open House

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**for our annual
Holiday Open House at the Ivinson Mansion!**

Saturday, December 8, 2018—3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 9, 2018—1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The Nutcracker reprisal at the University has us embracing that theme again for LPM's Holiday Open House. Nutcracker and other lavish holiday décor and lights will deck the halls and the grounds. Our traditional musicians and singers will be here alongside Laramie Woman's Club's discount-Christmas tables and treats in the newly-updated Alice Hardie Stevens Mountain Event Center. With the expanded space this year, we will have even more to offer: some of our favorite Art Fest artists will return to showcase their wares for your holiday buying!! Come experience the fun and history of the Ivinson Mansion at Christmas!

2018 Evening Celebrated Laramie's Beginnings

Our favorite senior theater group, **The Unexpected Company**, answered our call for a robust, historic melodrama—something those earlier pioneers might have seen at Bull's Big Tent or Keystone Hall when they first arrived to Laramie City. The cordial senior group did not let us down, bringing Bad Bart, Sunbonnet Sue, the hero, John, colorful townspeople, even Jane and Edward Ivinson to the big tent performance. Kudos to **TUC president, Germaine St. John**, and savvy director and musical maven, **Susan Shumway**, and all the **Company** for making history come to life on the stage at the *Evening* event!



Above, **Barbara Barnes** seems a bit skeptical during her conversation with the lavish historic beauty, **Donna Thompson**, during the *Evening's* early cocktail hour. (Note the old fashioned root beer in the photo's foreground.)



Joyce Powell, one of the lead designers and volunteers for the Alice Hardie Stevens expansion, was wistful in her historic garb as she posed beside the dedication poster in the "new" facility.



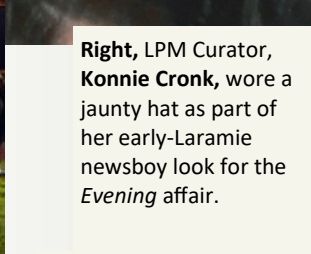
Left, Ivinson Mansion neighbor, supporter, and impressive cowman, **Barry Hildreth**, sat alongside visiting sheriff, **Aldie Johnson**, who was in from Pasadena, California at the busy *Evening's* meal held in the newly-expanded Alice Hardie Stevens Mountain Event Center.



Above: cowpoke singer/musician and auctioneer, **Dan Brain**, "Danno!" was an energizing part of the festivities once again. Right, **Bob Mountain**, in his long Western dress coat and hat, plus spurs! fit right into the 1868 theme.



Above: Something caught the eye of cowgirl, **Joney Wilmot**, and pioneer mother, **Susan McGraw**, in the garden tent that night. Do you suppose it was **Danny Walker**, left, ambling along with his Lorenz Model 1862 Rifled Musket slung over his shoulder? Maybe they were intrigued knowing that was the third most common rifle during the Civil War. Or maybe they liked his slouch hat and pants.



Right, LPM Curator, **Konnie Cronk**, wore a jaunty hat as part of her early-Laramie newsboy look for the *Evening* affair.



Right, a vintage Laramie statesman, **Dave Van Oss**, consulted with the Keystone hall musicians, **Susan Shumway** and **Valerie Clymer-Smith**, in preparation for *The Unexpected Company* singers trilling their 1800's tunes before dinner and their melodrama during the traditional beef, potatoes and cobbler meal.





Judy Knight created another extraordinary quilt for this year's themed Evening. It was commemorative of Laramie's 150th, using Civil War reproduction fabrics given by Wendy Ware for the historic pattern.

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The 2018 Evening Honoree
 was **ALL OF THE DONORS,
 DOERS & VOLUNTEERS WHO
 HAVE MADE THE MUSEUM
 SHINE THROUGH THE YEARS**

Thank you, all!



In front, FIB Cowboy Banker, Gary Negich, gets a kick out of *The Unexpected Company's* melodrama as part of this year's Evening! With characters like, Bad Bart, Sun Bonnet Sue, Good Old John, and the Ivinsons, *The Company* proved why they deserve to perform on the Event Center's new Van Oss Stage and why they have chosen to be so supportive of the expansion, stage, dressing rooms and basement accoutrements for their partners at the Laramie Plains Museum.



Rentals Coordinator, Crystal Griffis, showed that she's mighty even though she may be small when she hauled two garbage cans as part of the important volunteer crew that meets each year on the Saturday morning before *The Evening* to set the whole scene. Below, Joyce Powell and auctioneer, Dan Brain, Danno! banter to get the best bid on Bob Adam's great case of wines. Newell Wines were a hit!

Evening at the Ivinsons' 2018

It was definitely an affair to remember! Exuberant examples of the history of our community—the history of ourselves and our families—came to life throughout *The Evening* gala this year. As Laramie turned 150 years old, we celebrated the Hell on Wheels—End of the Tracks pioneering town it was in 1868 when that first train arrived. There were cowhands and lawmen, statesmen and ladies of questionable intent. We saw housemaids, hardy ranchers—women and men, newsboys, *Belles of the Ball*, and rodeo heroes. The suspenseful melodrama showed Bad Bart trying again and again to hold Sue captive for the deed to her Wyoming ranch, but good-hearted John saved the day and her heart! Our annual *Evening at the Ivinsons'* this year was one-of-a-kind as we tied the traditions of past years with the vibrant new updates and expansion to our beautiful reception area. Guests began in the Ivinsons' garden area for drinks, tasty appetizers and a chance at some pretty nifty auction items. Then there were folk songs streaming from the Keystone Hall curtain and guests moved into the Mansion to pose for a vintage photograph and look at exhibits of the era—a poker game set up in Edward's smoking room, an historic photography studio on the second floor, and wedding attire of all decades posed in Mrs. Ivinson's sewing room. Libations flowed and the skies opened up to release a battering of rain and hail so that our vintage guests were hurried into the Events Center slightly ahead of schedule. Never fear! Hilton Garden Inn was at the ready with their homespun offerings of slabs of beef, mashed taters and gravy, green beans and peach cobbler. It was more than a bit busy and crowded, but we reckon that those early days of Laramie City were probably just as unpredictable and jumbled as things got sorted out to build our town.

The bottom line is that we had more guests than ever, new faces enjoying our history and our updated venue. We gave special deals so that we could have many historic characters join our *Evening* fun, enriching our experience of this very special place and the history that it preserves and celebrates. We are working to iron out the kinks and the acoustics so that next year's event will be even better! Promise. The generous hearts that supported us for this year's event brought \$25,000-net to the LPM coffers and shored up our vision for this expansion and enhancements that will help our Laramie Plains Museum sustain far into the future. Thank you!

Y'all come agin, won't ya?



Above, Guests and longtime LPM supporters, Joney and Roger Wilmot were at the event. It was Joney who, when she was our Museum curator, dreamed along with Administrative Assistant-at-that-time, Mary Mountain, of an evening on the Mansion property that would celebrate, elevate, and fundraise for this beautiful historic site. We've come a long way since our first "Evening" in 2005. Her husband, Roger, was an important addition to the LPMA Board of Directors more than that 20 years ago when stewardship decisions with membership and endowment were very important focuses.

Perservation Notes

Konnie Cronk, LPM Curator

The curatorial staff was very busy this summer (like everyone else!) with events, research and exhibits. As we wrapped up summer and moved into fall, our main objective has been to clean our artifact storage space on the second floor of the Alice Hardie Stevens Center (AHSC) and to clean the artifacts themselves that were impacted by construction dust. You may have seen us outside as we cleaned artwork and books—letting the dust fly away rather than rearranging itself onto other objects upstairs. That was just the beginning! Soon we hope to move on to a thorough dusting of the contents of our 87 boxes of paper documents, and then we will be removing dust from uniforms and coats that were hanging on the second floor. This aftermath clean up has given us the perfect opportunity to really see what we have!

The walls, floors and ceilings of the curatorial areas on that AHSC second floor have been our focus throughout October so that the rooms are ready for cleaned items to return. Volunteer craftsman extraordinaire, **Ron Olsen**, stepped up to patch, smooth and texture our long-overdue cracks and holes in the drywall in that area. We were fortunate to also have UW students on THE BIG EVENT Saturday to help with damaged wallpaper removal and deep cleaning of our weather-weary Marshall School House. Now we're ready for wiping walls, priming and final painting. The Alice Hardie Stevens Expansion painting team (Joyce, Chris, Mary, just to name a few) are joining the curatorial team (Amy, Judy, Dennis, Konnie) to get the walls freshened with new paint.

Another huge change as we reorganize into more useable spaces will be to move all objects we call "props" (unaccessioned but possibly useful objects) into the curatorial areas in the basement of the new addition of the AHSC. When we accession items, we promise to keep them "forever," stored and exhibited as safely as possible. Props, on the other hand, make up a large part of the items that we have in storage. These things are expendable—we can walk on them if they are rugs, wear them if they are clothing, and when worn out, we can dispose of them. Gradually we have been removing props that were stored with accessioned items. This is essential and allows us to better utilize space. As we update the layout, this gives us an opportunity to conduct an inventory of the collections stored on the second floor as well as to deep clean. As we look ahead to the completion of the basement of the new addition, we have been researching what items and materials are suitable for storage in this new environment. Right now, props are overflowing in the museum basement. We will be transferring them to the new AHSC basement in order to keep them together. This will also give us an opportunity to conduct an inventory of the "old" mansion basement.

We have been very fortunate as several new volunteers have come aboard in the curatorial area. **Amy Allen** of Torrington, who began as our spring intern in 2017 (now graduated with a degree in European history with a minor in museum studies) has been brought aboard as our **new registrar**. Many of you may already know Amy since she has been an administrative assistant in the Carriage House this summer. She is assuming the registrar position as she takes a gap year while looking at graduate schools.

Karen Lange is a long-time Laramie resident and retired librarian from LCCC. Karen has been helping us since earlier this year with our photo archives. She has been digitizing our Boomerang negatives collection which documents mid-20th-century Laramie. Karen has been an indispensable help to our department and we are grateful to have her expertise.

Pam Murdoch, Laramie native, has a long history on UW staff in a number of positions and recently retired as the CEO's administrative assistant at Iverson Memorial Hospital. Pam is partnering with LPM's photo archivist **Jerry Hansen** for the interpretation of our photographic collection, including the newly digitized Boomerang Collection.

Judy Knight, collections manager and **Ann Boelter**, Laramie native and long-time volunteer for the curatorial staff are focusing on the cleaning, inventorying and reorganizing LPM's storage and storage records.

University of Wyoming sophomore, **William Stone**, has come on board as an intern to help and learn about what we do in the curatorial area. William grew up on a farm just outside of North Platte, Nebraska and is currently studying anthropology with a minor in museum studies.

As your curator, I have kept busy organizing and planning the changes in our collections areas as well as designing the layout of our new space in the basement of the new addition. As usual for this position at LPM, I have a hand in all things around here. That's a good thing! If you have any questions or comments, or you would like to see for yourself what is happening, please feel free to stop by the mansion for a chat or email me at konniecronk@gmail.com. I always love to hear from our visitors, members, and volunteers. It keeps us current with your hopes, dreams and our continued vision for best preservation and exhibits of our wonderful collection!



Curator, Konnie Cronk, and newly-chosen Registrar, Amy Allen, used the end of summer fresh air to dismantle and clean all framed artifacts. They found some "historic" bugs in some of those 100+ year-old frames.

MARCH 15, 1944.

New Collection Of Relics Given To Local Museum

A new collection of relics have been donated to the Laramie museum by A. F. Samuelson of 211 1/2 South First, who has been making collections for several years. The relics are now on display at the museum in the city hall which is open from 3 to 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

The collection contains an English muzzle-loader brought from England in the 1860's; three muzzle-loaders brought over in the 1880's, and a single barrel flint lock used in the battle of New Orleans during the Civil war.

A collection of 20 guns, which were picked up on Custer's battlefield by Boots Smith of Laramie, and a revolver and United States rifle which were found in Fort Sanders are also on display.

Other guns on display are three cap and ball pistols of the 1850's and a bootlegger's sawed off shotgun.

One item of special interest to tourists, it was announced, was a leather baby shoe that was brought by the Jap Daniels family from Japan in 1850 to Colorado and then to Wyoming.

Other relics include a bull whip used on the old Chisholm trail; a buffalo head found on the Laramie plains; four, five and six hole ox shoes, a pair of cavalry spurs, and a bullet mold found in an old log cabin in the Medicine Bow mountains; a shell filler, seven old shoes and a World War I "dud".

One item in the group of relics

Many folks wonder how our museum acquires its collection—do we search and buy, trade? We have our very special collection of artifacts because **Laramie Woman's Club** members took it as their mission to save items of historic interest beginning in the early 1900's. Albany County families have continued that tradition.

Out of the blue, an impressive remnant of history will come through our doors simply because someone thought enough to save it, and then thought enough to bring it to us so that we can preserve it for the long haul. Each time we receive a new, unexpected piece of the historic puzzle, we are delighted!

LPM volunteer, **Danny Walker**, recently ran across this *Boomerang* article from 1944, when Laramie's museum was simply some shelves and boxes monitored by LWC in City Hall. The Laramie Plains Museum Association was not officially founded until 1966. Its first real location was in the Roach house at 15th and Grand with the Iverson property becoming home to that rich collection of six decades in 1972.

For what ever reasons, some of the items mentioned in this article are not part of our present collection. The preservation data logs and methods today are a far cry from what might have happened between early 1944 and boxes being hauled into the mansion in January, 1972.

We do know that every piece of history is a precious view to the past. The following article will tell you how we recently acquired this view to the right. It is a new look at **Jane Iverson**, her adopted daughter, **Maggie Iverson Grow**, and **Edward's sister, Frances Eleanor Iverson Thomas**.—a marvelous addition to our visual knowing of the Iverson family legacy.

that is not of the early western variety is a collar from the propeller of one of the first Wright brothers' planes. The museum is open to the public free of charge.



Chandler Scheetz 828 Arch Street. Philadelphia.

By Mary Mountain, Executive Director

We don't ordinarily run obituaries or listings of our deceased patrons. Too many hurt feelings happen when we single out certain folks for remembrance by the Laramie Plains Museum. We *do* miss them all; every person is part of our foundation of success for the preservation of Albany County's intriguing history. A recent loss, however, is highly significant to our Iverson history, so I would like to mention her here and the gifts of our Iverson history she has bestowed upon us.

Frances Tenison of Evanston, Illinois was a direct descendant of Edward Iverson. She was born July 15, 1925 and left this world July 28 of this year. In 2009, she contacted us about a portrait of her great, great grandfather in which we might be interested. Ms. Tenison told us she was a descendant of Edward Iverson and had the striking framed painting of **Edward's father, Thomas!** You can only imagine our delight to receive this impressive link with our past. Frances was so happy to know that we had a special place for this artifact in the Iverson mansion (pictured below left and posed magnificently on the north wall of the mansion Drawing Room. It took a while for all things to move into action for transport, but we did indeed receive this amazing artifact. Frances' note to me after the holiday edition of our newsletter, following her gift of the portrait said, "*The snowy holiday issue of the newsletter was particularly lovely and appropriate...great, great grandfather made his debut! It gave me a thrill to find him celebrating the holidays with "close family" in Laramie.*"

With Frances' passing this summer, her son, **John Tenison**, emailed some views of family albums he was finding as he sorted through his mother's estate. They were black and white photos of the family visiting Laramie and Eaton's Ranch up north. Seeing that human connection across the years is a viable, intriguing addition to our Iverson story. John wrote that one of his



mom's favorite things in recent years was receiving our museum newsletter. He enjoyed seeing what we were doing and how we were caring for the Iverson history. I replied that he and his mother "*are special advocates for us and the legacy of the Iversons in Laramie. I will miss knowing that she is sending cheering vibes from her eastern side of the nation. I am happy that Frances was able to see our latest newsletter and learn of the continued successes at this beautiful place. Thank you for being an endearing liaison between her and us; it is a special thing to know that your name and family heritage lives on and is cared for. We are happy to be doing that for her and the Iversons.*"

John then sent the above picture of Jane, Maggie, and Frances (Iverson) Thomas. It is a view of the ladies that we have never seen, so it is incredibly important to our continuing enrichment of the Iverson history told at every tour of our stunning Museum in the Mansion. **Frances Iverson Thomas** was Edward's sister and possibly the namesake of one of Maggie's daughters: Frances, known as Fanny.

The legacy of Laramie's history at the Plains Museum and the Iverson Mansion is strong for many reasons. One of the most notable is that our collection has been built from families and organizations wanting to save historic items and tales. For more than a century, people have given of their treasures, memories and stock. **Frances Tenison is a special part of those treasures and our legacy.**

A Look Back as Elections Loom

LARAMIE'S HISTORIC VOTE - September 6, 1870

Wyoming Territory held an election on 6 September 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 6 September 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.



Above we see the impressive statue of **Louisa 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 Plaza heralds visitors and locals to remember the significant women of Wyoming who set new standards as they responded to the Suffrage Act set forth by the Wyoming Territorial Legislature, December 10, 1869. For six years now, Laramie Plains Museum volunteers have responded to Louisa Swain Foundation director, **Weldon Tuck's** request to be a welcoming presence for the History House each summer. The WHHW and LPM are grateful for this important service provided five to six days each summer week by the following docents:

Deb Thomsen, Kim Viner, Danny Walker, Joanne Lindahl, Germaine St. John, Dan Nelson, Sylvia Hansen, Bernie Horst, Luella Flores, Sandy Blair, Polly Wade, Mary Mountain, Judy Knight, Susan McGraw and Pennie Espeland.

The casting of her historic ballot caused the local newspaper, THE LARAMIE SENTINEL, to editorialize, "There was too much good sense in our community for any jeers or sneers to be seen on such an occasion".

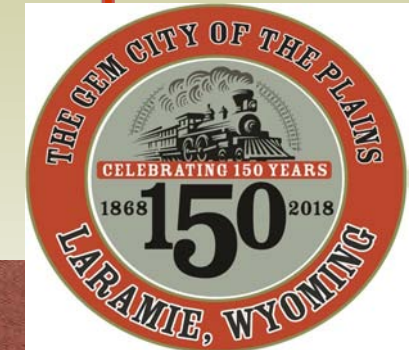


The back of Jerry Hansen's flatbed truck carried patriotic participants, Jove Hansen, young Liam Hansen, and Joy Hildebrand as well as historic characters Susan (Sarah Montgomery) Thomas & Nancy (Trabing) Michelson.

Capturing Laramie's Sesquicentennial Moments



Governor Mead visited with Laramie's historic legends on the opening day.



The Unexpected Company actors were especially great about portraying historic characters throughout the summer—at special events, at the cemetery, on Laramie streets and here at the opening festivities at Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site. On the boardwalk, you can see Nancy Chase, Karen Bard, Chris Knudson, Ron Olsen, Naomi Hilton, Darlene Olsen, Will and Nancy Bessler representing Laramie's stalwart men and women. Of course, folks just like these are who carved out an existence and established a fine town on these dusty streets on the high plains of Wyoming.

Here are more historic figures from the Green Hills Cemetery gravesites. Susan Thomas portrayed Stephen Downey's mother, Sarah Montgomery, and Kim Viner was Downey, himself!



Jessica Flock is shown here, readying her bike tour of Laramie monuments at the Louisa Swain Plaza. Jessica led 8 of the 15 walking or biking tours. Germaine St. John and Judy Knight were others who told Laramie's fascinating history beginning in historic downtown Laramie.



Edward Ivinson (Ron Olsen) and wife, Jane (Mary Mountain) made appearances during cemetery tours orchestrated by Judy Knight this sesquicentennial summer. Laramie legends were dotted throughout Green Hills, including Christy Grover and her "ladies" telling tales of life in early Laramie City. The tours were such a success, we're considering doing them more often.