

What a Difference a Year Makes!



Thanks to donors who didn't stop, volunteers who keep stepping up to help, and to stalwart lead designers and workers who are giving again and again—nearly every day of each week—the Laramie Plains Museum's stunning Ivinson property has one of the most favored venues for weddings and receptions in our area! Soon-to-be-brides can't get enough of the majesty of the cathedral ceilings and chandeliers that blend so beautifully with the historic charm of the older buildings and the lush landscape of the full square block property.

The addition onto our charming Virginia Cottage/Alice Hardie Stevens Center is the beautiful, useable, mid-sized rental facility in historic downtown Laramie that we hoped it would be. The monetary figures in its creation are amazing. When the basement curatorial and administrative storage areas, actors dressing and bathrooms, service elevator, and stage are completed this more-than 4000 square foot expansion will come in at a \$1.5 million price tag; \$150,000 of that as in-kind and volunteer hours given to the project. Between donors and volunteers, no loans were taken for this enhancement to the reception center. More than 3400 hours of volunteer service were given to this inspiring project. Nationally, the volunteer work is valued at \$24.69 per hour and we know that we have craftsmen and women who are bringing skills worth far more than that. We are forever grateful. The legacy of the Laramie's history is strong at this extraordinary Museum complex because of the great people who have stepped up in service and care. We thank you for your continuing support!



Wedding photographs are the talents of **Megan Lee** and **Gabe Cook**, just some of the superior wedding photographers in our area.



Historic Ivinson Mansion

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 2019

MEMBERSHIP ISSUE

Join us!

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 at 2:00 p.m.

Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center

The Annual Meeting is open to all Museum Association members and the general public. It is our report on the business of the Museum, our vote for new directors to the LPMA Board, and our recognition of those who have given in extraordinary ways to the welfare of the Laramie Plains Museum.

Jan 31, 1974

A LOOK BACK: 45 YEARS AGO



LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM officers and staff for 1974 include (from left) Jack Corbett, Elizabeth Hoffman, Vallie Dunn, Joyce Wright, Ed McGraw, Zoe Carr, Charles Parker, Mildred Roberts, William P. Rice Jr., and Oliver Knight. (Boomerang photo by Stoesz)

Laramie Plains Museum Is Big Drawing Card for Visitors

by Alice Stevens
How many people visited the Laramie Plains Museum between its opening in the Iverson Mansion April 1 until Dec. 31? Would you say 3000? 6,000?
Wrong! The number signing the register during that period was 9,600. And that's not complete because some did not register and others signed "and family."

Mrs. Vallie Dunn, treasurer, gave a detailed financial report, pointing out that an effort is being made to build up investment funds to ensure income for operating expenses. The \$45,000 originally invested from funds collected for obtaining the Roach house was not touched while Iverson Mansion funds were collected and is the basis for present investments.

The museum director reported receipt of 153 collections from the Laramie Plains area during the year, totaling 1134 separate pieces.

Work is continuing on the carriage house with its buggies, ox-cart, ranch implements, etc. and it should be ready for the tourist season. The lower floor of the Alice Hardie Stevens Center is popular for social affairs and meetings and its use is increasing, Mrs. Wright said. Information about rental rates may be obtained by calling the museum office. 742-4448.

the grounds has been repaired by FFA boys and will be installed as soon as cement can be poured. An over-all plot of the grounds has been prepared by John Hill, UW civil engineering professor, McGraw reported, and Otto Dahl, landscape foreman for the University, will supervise landscaping of the Iverson grounds. New trees and shrubs will be planted.

Historic Iverson Mansion Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

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

Historic Iverson Mansion
Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter
is printed in Laramie, Wyoming.

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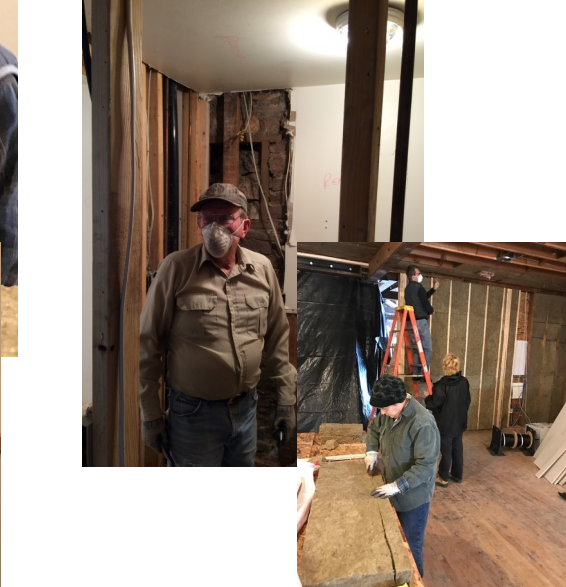
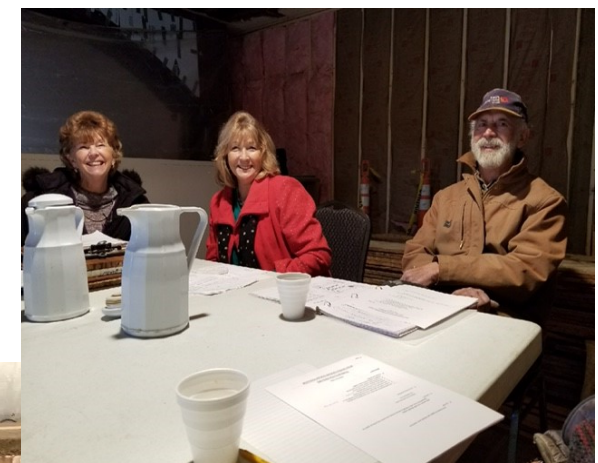
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Permit No. 23

DREAMIN' THE DREAM A Few Names that Mattered



Dan Swift, Luke Sweckard, Don Adams, John Nutter, Colley Engineering, Barb Rouse, Germaine St. John, Christensen, RD Masonry, Dave Van Oss, Ron Olsen, Ancient Elements, Eagle Plumbing, Mark Wade, Joyce Powell, Laramie Woman's Club, City of Laramie, Guthrie Family, Lydia & Connie Kercher, A&J Plumbing, Bill & Cheri Bellamy, Judy & Dennis Knight, and our ROCK STAR volunteers and donors of Any and All amounts!



150

YEARS 1869—2019

We are delighted to join in the recognition & celebration of Wyoming Territorial Legislature's unique December 10, 1869 action giving women the right to vote, hold office and property! The cavalcade of "firsts" for women that followed in subsequent years gives Laramie and Wyoming exciting her-story to tell.

The cover of this issue shows one of the Ivinson Mansion property's snow laden heritage evergreens with an insert from the Museum's Monument Garden. *We are planting the winter wheat that others will harvest and enjoy*, states the brass placard at the feet of the Grecian statue in that garden. It is a statement attributed Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of America's early suffragettes, symbolizing what all those who fought for women's rights believed, and it is just what Wyoming Territorial legislature did 150 years ago! 50 years before women were given the right to vote and hold office on a national and international level, Wyoming gave women that right. It is a remarkable things to remember.....and celebrate.

The center of the Women's Monument Garden is a square two-level stone and cement structure with a sculpture of a lady holding a shock of wheat. Such sculptures—for interiors and in gardens—were very much part of the Victorian story and this one is a most poignant representation of Stanton's quote and this 150th year. Originally, the monument was a simple cement structure with a modern art spire atop, placed there by the Laramie Woman's Club to honor Albany County's "First Ladies" who pioneered civic and political responsibility by women in the country and the world. Laramie Woman's Club was organized in 1898, and because of its members' diligence throughout the years with saving items of local history, in their home closets and back rooms of the court house and City Hall, and then joining with the Albany County Historical Association to organize Laramie's first museum in 1966, they are known as *The Mother of the Laramie Plains Museum*. We continue to respect and honor Laramie Woman's Club and these women of unique valor on the garden monument. who made national and world history with their actions in the political arena: **Louisa Gardner Swain, the first woman to vote in a general election**, September 6, 1870; **the six women who were the first to serve on a jury** in March, 1870; **Martha Symons-Boies** who, in 1870, was the **first woman bailiff**; and **Mary Godat Bellamy, the first woman elected to Wyoming's legislature**, representing Albany County in 1911, and was instrumental in forming Laramie's Woman's Club at the turn of the century. These women were able to step into their civic duties because our Territorial legislature gave them their rights to do so.

On December 10, 1869, Wyoming passed the first unconditional law in the U.S. permanently guaranteeing women their inherent right to vote and hold office – a full 50 years before women in the rest of the nation were guaranteed this same right. *The Wyoming Governor's Council for Wyoming Women's Suffrage Celebration* invites you to join them as we all honor the 150th anniversary of women's suffrage. In an effort to commemorate the anniversary, the Councils asks you, your organizations and community to participate by creating projects, programs and events honoring the women of Wyoming and the right, privilege and responsibility of the vote.

Share your own stories via social media using #ThatsWYwomen

In March—Women's History Month—of this extraordinary suffrage anniversary year, the *Laramie Boomerang* will run a very special supplement honoring extraordinary achievements by women. LPM has been asked by the editor to have our reporters and researchers help with this notable publication. We're looking forward to it!



MORE OPEN HOUSE SMILES

- 1) **Mary Vaske**, a Guest Room hostess.
- 2) **Judy Adams** in the Sewing Room.
- 3) **Germaine St. John** at the front door.
- 4) **Alice Freeman** through harp strings.
- 5) **Ron Olsen** in red, not work garb.
- 6) **John Savery's** bagpipes in crisp sunshine.
- 7) A *Nutcracker* welcome on the front door came from **Barb Rouse's** creativity
- 8) **That One Trio** smiled and sang in the Mansion and the Reception Center
- 9) **Kim Viner**, aka Ed Ivinson, bids a holiday hello to one and all on both days of the festive event!
- 10) Our *Bow Queen*, Registrar Amy Allen!

MUSEUM EVENTS IN 2019

February 17

Annual Museum Association Meeting

LPMA Members & Directors review the accomplishments and decisions of the past year and look forward to riding the wave of the smart renovations and expanded facilities of our Museum property. Election of new Board Directors.

March 1

Regular Tours of the Museum Begin Again

April 4

Cheers for Volunteers!

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

May 14

1st Tea on Tuesday

Call the museum office if you're not on the invitation list for these special Victorian affairs occurring at 4:00 p.m. in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center one Tuesday each May, June, July.

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's knowledgeable adult docents staff this significant site telling of Wyoming's women's history. The WHHW is open in the summer, Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 to 5:00 p.m.

June 18

2nd Tea on Tuesday

July 12

"Marry Me in Laramie" at the Ivinson Mansion

10 am- 2pm Enjoy Laramie's true history with music and time period actors. **Renewal of vows and reception** is open to 70 couples. \$125 per couple. Check out this event at VisitLaramie.org/60th. After your vows, get a *Marry Me Laramie* certificate personalized by Robert Fuller and a group photo. Enjoy wedding cake and light refreshments in the Alice Hardie Stevens Events Center.

July 14

Art Fest on the Ivinson Property

Artists, vendors and authors are on the museum grounds the last Sunday of the Jubilees celebration. Authors, James C. Fuller and Kim Viner will sign their recent, popular books.

July 23

3rd Tea on Tuesday

July 28

Stephen and Eva Downey Day!

Following morning festivities, an afternoon reception will be held at the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center at 2:00 p.m.

August 17

Evening at the Ivinsons'

The Museum's dazzling end-of-summer celebration on the Ivinson Lawn and in the newly renovated Reception Center. This special event raises awareness and funding for this special slice of history. This year we'll celebrate Jane Ivinson Hall, our Girl's School in the Mansion for 40 years. Look for invitations in early July.

October 25-Nov 1

A Ghost's Tale

Carol Homer has written a wonderful production for the antics of Laramie's favorite Senior Theatre—*The Unexpected Company*. As with all of their productions, this over-50 group makes it all look fun and easy! Watch for more information and ticket outlets.

December 14, 15

Holiday Open House

The community is invited to complimentary tours of the decorated, historic Ivinson Mansion, complete with treats, music & holiday sales.

Another Very Fine Year!



Art Fest on the Ivinson Lawn during Jubilee Days



Marry Me in Laramie with Jess Harper!



Teas on Tuesday



Evening at the Ivinsons'



Holiday Open House

IVINSON MANSION'S 2018 Nutcracker HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE The Traditions Continue

All too often, our members miss seeing the wonderful photographs taken by Danny Walker of our special events. Even though the holly berries and trees are put away for another year, we thought you'd like to see some of the views, faces and fun Walker captured at the Nutcracker Open House.

It was more than twelve years ago, that the ultra-creative minds of talented **Marsha Knight, Lee Hodgson and Ron Steger** reinvigorated the every-four-years production of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Ballet*. The tradition of the tale was always a strong draw at the University of Wyoming's theatre, but when costumes and scenery needed a facelift, Hodgson suggested embracing Laramie and the West, including the Ivinson Mansion, and so all three masters breathed new life and charm into the production. We can't get enough of the design, costumes and dance of the classic story that had its premiere in 1892, the same year, that the Ivinsons built their grand home. We are forever charmed by the dance of the fairies on the Ivinson Mansion lawn.



Ballet dancers and stars of the production, high schoolers, **Sophie and Autumn**—*The Nutcracker* show's Clara and the Chinese Doll—graced the Drawing Room and touched children's hearts this year.



Former, longtime curator, **Joney Wilmot**, continues to grace the Ivinson kitchen with her take on holiday whimsy and décor each year. For the 2018 Open House, Wilmot commissioned **Sweet's Bakery** to create the beautiful concoction picture above. Made with mincemeat and chocolate, the exterior was then artfully decorated in the *Nutcracker* theme. Too pretty to eat, the lavish cake drew oohs and aahs throughout the two-day Open House event.



Polly Wade and Bob Wilson continue the popular sale of gently-used holiday fare from Laramie Woman's Club's Christmas stash. Polly and Bob have long been Bart's booth workers and sorters bringing income to the many Museum restorations and special projects.



Left: **Janet Killian** never fails to create a sensational themed centerpiece to raffale at the Open House. This fella brought \$139 to the LPM coffers.



Holiday magic and smiles were found in the Carriage House Gift Shop by elves, **Amy Allen, LPM Registrar, and Crystal Griffis, Administrative Assistant/Rentals Coordinator**. As is our tradition, all purchases are 20% each holiday season.



Tasha Bauman, longtime **Zonta** member, was one of several of that dynamic philanthropic group at the Open House. **Zontians** have long given service hours, cookies and smiles to the special tradition of the Mansion's Open House, as hostesses to the comings and goings of holiday guests in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center. It's a delicious community service!



Above: **Mary Jean Honeycutt** and the joyful **Eppson Center Melodees** have brought holiday cheer to the Alice Hardie Stevens Center for as long as anyone can remember. Their voices and energy are regular smile-bringers around town.

Left: **Shelly Forster** is a decorator-extraordinaire, joining Laramie florists in adding splashes of vibrancy and collectible charm to the Dining Room, Drawing Room, Foyer, Library—you name it! If she has a special holiday figurine, floral grouping, or a *zillion* nutcrackers, she brings them to embellish our Open Houses!

NOMINATIONS FOR 2019 LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHRIS WALRATH

“Living in Laramie for the past forty-five years, I have watched the transformation of the Ivinson Mansion from the “haunted house” on Ivinson Avenue to one of the most beautiful Victorian mansions in the west and the home of the Laramie Plains Museum. Over the years many friends have been volunteers and board members as this wonderful transformation has happened. As a dental hygienist for over forty years, I was fortunate to work in the same dental office for twenty- seven years, then transition to a career in public health as Community Oral Health Coordinator where I worked in the schools and preschools in Albany and Carbon counties. My presentations and data collected included over three thousand students and young children each year. When I retired two years ago I was invited to volunteer with the demolition/rebuilding/finishing of the Mason Loft Condos and then the Alice Hardie Stevens Center expansion project. Mostly I have helped with finish work and painting. It has been rewarding to see those projects from the beginning and join in support for the vision of sustainability for the museum property. As these projects are completed it opens the door to great opportunities at the LPM. I see a bright future for our museum, its many donors, friends, and volunteers. I would be honored to serve as a board member. My husband, David, and I have four grown children, Elaine, Erica, Erin and Mike. Presently I am President of my PEO chapter and serve on the Downtown Clinic Board of Directors. I spend extra time cooking, traveling, playing tennis, hiking, gardening, skiing, and playing cards.”

LORRAINE VAN ZEE

“I grew up in Northeast Kansas and received a BS in Biology from Fort Hays State University. I am a past President of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority in Hays, Kansas. I moved to Laramie in 1980, a single girl looking for a man. I fell in love with Wyoming and found my man Cal Van Zee and never left this beautiful state. I started working at Ivinson Memorial Hospital as a Nurse Aide with an EMT certification for a few months. I was in the Army Reserves and transferred to Active Army January 1981, working in Personnel and Administration for the Wyoming National Guard until I retired in 1997. While I was in the National Guard I was in the re-activated Wyoming Girl Guards, a part of Wyoming History enacted in 1889 to perform ceremonial drills at State functions. I enjoyed being a part of bringing back the history of Wyoming Girl Guards. After I retired from the Army, I worked for Albany School District Slade school for 17 years as a monitor and part time school secretary. Cal and I have two daughters and four grandsons and were foster parents for 14 years. I have been involved in many youth organizations in the community including Girl Scouts, FFA, and Sunday School teachers, and Youth hand bells. Currently I sing with the Melodees and am a member of The Unexpected Company. I wish to become a board member because I enjoy the history of Wyoming and Laramie and feel the Museum is a valuable asset to the community of Laramie. I look forward to learning lots more about Laramie and the Ivinson Mansion.”

STEVE MAKI

With a busy job as Patient Advocate at Snowy Range Vision, Steve would like to step out of our treasurer position but remain with us to continue giving his enthusiastic involvement to a second term. He and his wife, Lissa, particularly love dressing up for our *Evenings at the Ivinsons* and Steve is the resident “chef” in the Mansion at the Holiday Open House each December. Steve was born and raised here in Laramie, graduating from Laramie Senior High School in 1978 and receiving a BS in Business Administration from the University of Wyoming in 1993. Steve was a good find for our treasurer over his three years with us since he was a personal banker for ANB Bank and Bank of the West as well as holding earlier positions in credit administration, loans, finance, and operations with First National Bank of Wyoming/Capital West Bank. Being a Laramie native, Steve remembers when the Ivinson mansion was in bad repair and the efforts of his parents to help save the property by clipping coupons and coordinating bake sales. Steve is the son of Leroy Maki – past president of the LPMA Board, benefactor, and all around great guy who passed this last year. We all remember Leroy as a wonderful supporter of our museum efforts and Steve has carried that tradition valiantly through his three years of service to our Board. With your votes, we will be happy to welcome him to a second term.

JUST SO YOU KNOW: Connie Palmer, Liz Otiveroz, and Steve Maki’s terms are up so we will say good bye and many thanks to the ladies. Steve is hoping to stay for a second term so you are finding him on the ballot. Debbie Pinckney, who has been a Board director for many years has a too-full plate right now so she has asked John Nutter to complete her term. We are delighted that John said yes, and we are more than grateful for the many hours of service Debbie has given. We are a better organization because of her.

**Use the ballots below to vote for candidates. Feel free to write in a candidate of your choice.
Family and Benefactor memberships use both ballots.
Return to the Museum in time for the count at the Annual Meeting, February 17, 2019**

2019 Ballot Laramie Plains Museum Board of Directors

_____ Steve Maki (2nd term)

_____ Lorraine Van Zee

_____ Chris Walrath

_____ write-in option

2019 Ballot Laramie Plains Museum Board of Directors

_____ Steve Maki (2nd term)

_____ Lorraine Van Zee

_____ Chris Walrath

_____ write-in option

TELLING THE STORY: WYOMING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

By Kim Viner

Agitation for women’s voting rights was well known in 1867 in what would become Wyoming Territory. That year editions of the only two papers in the area, the *Cheyenne Leader* and the *Sweetwater Mines*, carried short articles on efforts to establish female suffrage in the United States.

Over the next two years leading up to the 1869 Wyoming Suffrage Act a few more newspapers were established which carried similar reports. The *Wyoming Tribune* and the short-lived *Rocky Mountain Star* appeared in Cheyenne and the *Frontier Index* (temporarily) and *Sentinel* in Laramie.

What did they tell their readers about the suffrage movement? Unfortunately, we don’t know what the *Sentinel* reported because the entire first 12 months of its issues (May 1869-May 1870) have been lost to history. There are enough Issues of the other papers, however, to give a rather clear idea of what a typical reader would learn from their local paper.

There are some caveats. First, papers are accessible at <http://newspapers.wyo.gov/> but not all issues have been digitized due to missing papers or papers in very bad physical condition. Second, from July 1867, to November 1869, only one paper the *Cheyenne Leader*, is regularly available to the current researchers. Its editor, Nathan Baker, ran hot and cold in his support/opposition to female suffrage. Finally, Baker and owner Edward Lee of the *Tribune* were both staunch Republicans. Despite that, the did not like each other and were at odds over female suffrage.

There are about 60 articles over that 1867-1869 period which address female suffrage. Some are very short notices of activities of suffrage supporters in other locations and some are longer examinations of the issue. All of the articles are being featured on the Laramie Plains Museum Facebook page, but are too voluminous to be carried here. An overview is, therefore warranted.

These articles are presented as written with no editorializing by the LPM. They are not intended to persuade or dissuade. Rather they are simply given to let you know what those early residents would most likely learn about the female suffrage issue.

The very first mention of female suffrage appeared in the *Leader* on October 3, 1867. It read, “A Wisconsin lady has a beard two inches long, and her husband had not a hair on his head. It has all grown since the agitation for female suffrage and supposed to be a consequence thereof.”

While that article has one take on female suffrage, only five days later the *Leader*

carried a longer article on the upcoming female suffrage vote in Kansas. It stated, “If the experiment of female suffrage should be deemed wise and prudent, after trial, and no serious evils succeed, this revolution in the civil and social system, other States will undoubtedly follow the example of Kansas.” The article concluded with the *Leader* saying it’s view on the subject would not determine the outcome. One month later the *Leader* reported that the vote failed.

Little was said about female suffrage in the papers until the next spring. On May 30, the *Sweetwater Mines*, published in Fort Bridger, carried the entire proposed act which would create Wyoming Territory on its front page. Readers would learn that Section 5 of the act stated that only males could vote. The act was signed by President Andrew Johns signed the act and Wyoming Territory was created on July 25, 1868. In early July 1867, the *Frontier Index* reprinted an article from the *New Orleans Times* highly critical of female suffrage.

The *Leader* carried an even more disappointing statement on female suffrage on December 9, 1868, “If women were always treated without regard to sex, they might not like it so well. Their rights are really certain privileges and exemptions *on account of their sex*. They have the right also, to climb a greased pole at a German festival if they choose, but it must be admitted their husbands, fathers and brothers would prefer to see them in a less elevated position. Women’s rights and women’s happiness seem to be separating.”

At the end of the month, the *Leader* carried an important note that the Dakota Territory Legislative Assembly had passed a female suffrage act in the house of representatives. Shortly thereafter it reported that the act had failed by one vote in the upper house.

In early January 1869, the *Leader* praised the Dakota attempt, but only a week later in an article titled “Humbug” it seemed to dismiss the vote stating, “it never was the intention to pass the bill.” At the end of the month the paper informed its readers that an attempt to add female suffrage to the proposed 15th amendment to the U.S. Constitutional allowing African Americans to vote also failed.

In May readers were informed that powerful U. S. Senator John Sherman of Ohio might be in favor of female suffrage except that as he stated, “the right to vote will tend to disturb the harmony of society, make discord in the family, and thus cause much greater evil than good.”

Throughout the summer the *Leader* con-

tinued to comment on the female suffrage effort, mostly in a negative vein, calling supporters “old biddies,” praised women who opposed suffrage and attached additional negative nicknames to Anna Dickinson and Susan B. Anthony, major supporters of female suffrage.

The *Leader* closed out the summer with two articles in September which opposed female suffrage. A long one, presumably written by editor Nathan Baker, called such a movement a “Reform Against Nature” and called supporters demagogues. The other was a reprint of an article from Cincinnati which poked fun at women attending a suffrage convention in that city.

On the 24th the *Leader* turned over much of its front page to an article which stated that women were treated very well in America and that the rights they had gained were due them. But after that was said, the article stated, “It is because we support the real rights of women, that we should oppose *female suffrage*.” (emphasis in the original).

Later that fall the *Leader* noted that female suffrage campaigners Anna Dickinson and Redalia Bates spoke on the subject in Cheyenne. In both cases the paper remarked on the physical appearance of the women, their clothing and demeanor and said almost nothing about their message.

A very important item appeared in the *Leader* on November 27, 1869. It noted that a legislator from South Pass City, William Bright, introduced a bill that would allow women to vote and hold all political offices in the territory. The same day, in another article, the paper said the “Interesting Question” would be discussed by the legislators that evening.

Little more was said by the *Leader* but that same day a new paper, the *Wyoming Tribune*, was more effusive about the bill Bright introduced headlining their brief article “The World Moves.” The owner of the paper was Edward Lee, secretary of the territory, the second most important post in the government. Noteworthy is that Lee came from Massachusetts where he had been an ardent supporter of female suffrage.

On December 4, Lee’s paper presaged the passage of the bill in an article on page 4 of the *Tribune*, “The passage of the Woman’s Suffrage Bill is likely to be THE measure of the session, and we are glad our Legislature have taken the initiative in this movement, which is destined to become universal. Better appear to lead than to hinder when a movement is inevitable.”

With that, the bill passed and was signed by Governor Campbell on December 10, 1869.

NUMBERS THAT MATTERED IN 2018

25,860 people were on the grounds last year with weddings, receptions, tours, meetings and special events. Many more than that came onto the property to assist with the expansion and renovation of the Alice Hardie Stevens Reception Center, view the gardens, sit on the benches, visit the gift shop and meet with staff and researchers. Even with rentals of the Center unable to begin until May 19th because of the construction and volunteer projects, **31** weddings and/or their receptions were held on the Museum property.

5,906 folks experienced guided tours of the museum, including **1242** students of all ages and classrooms in Albany County, the state of Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region. We gave at least **253** complimentary tours through coupons given to our members and as promotional exchanges with Albany County Tourism, Louisa Swain Foundation and other entities. **2018 was our year of vision and work** to create spaces for greater sustainable income and promotion for this outstanding historic house museum property. We want to know that our history will long be showcased and celebrated on these grounds and in these exceptional historic buildings. The legacy of the Laramie Plains Museum is strong because of the vision, the hands-on work and the donations from our members and friends. We thank you. **Here's to an excellent 2019!**

WHY A "DOWNEY DAY?!?"

BY KIM VINER, AUTHOR, LPM DOCENT



Similar to Edward and Jane Ivinson, Stephen and Eva Downey played key roles in the development of Laramie and Albany County from 1869 to 1937. Downey contributions spanned political, legal, educational, social, business and religious fields:

- Stephen Downey served brilliantly in the Union Army during the Civil War.
- Stephen Downey served seven terms in the Wyoming Territory and State legislatures.
- Stephen Downey is hailed as the Father of the *University of Wyoming* for his work in the 1886 Wyoming Territorial legislature to create, fund and locate Wyoming's first university in Laramie.
- Eva Downey was a charter member of the Laramie Woman's Club which eventually supported the creation of the Laramie Plains Museum.
- Stephen Downey was the Wyoming Territory's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Eva Downey was a charter member of the Wyoming Literary and Library Association, a precursor major contributor to the creation of the Albany County Library.
- Stephen Downey was twice Albany County Attorney, including for the March, 1870 grand jury in which, for the first time in the world, women served on a formal jury. Downey later, in 1871, upheld the right of women to vote when the legislature tried to nullify the 1869 Suffrage Act.
- Eva Downey raised 10 children, all of whom attended the University of Wyoming. One became a two-term U.S. Senator; one was the first woman in the United States to head an academic department at a university; another was elected mayor of Laramie, and yet another become one of the foremost experts in the U.S. on water law.

At least 40 Downey descendants will be in Laramie to celebrate Stephen and Eva Downey Day, July 28, 2019. That Sunday morning, a plaque honoring the Downeys will be unveiled on the Albany County courthouse grounds. A 2:00 p.m. reception will be held at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center on the Ivinson Mansion property.

Historic Ivinson Mansion hosting the Laramie Plains Museum and the Alice Hardie Stevens Mountain Event Center



Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Please make sure we have your correct name and address when you return this entire sheet.

2019 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*. Yearly Business Memberships are posted at obvious points around the museum and noted in the newsletter. 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 Ivinson Circle*

_____ \$ 250 Jane Ivinson Circle*

_____ \$ 100 Family

_____ \$ 65 Individual

_____ \$ 75 Senior Family

_____ \$ 50 Senior Individual

_____ 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

* Edward and Jane Ivinson were instrumental to the development of Laramie as a thriving town. We have two membership categories reflecting their benevolence with cultural and economic development. LPM Members who contribute at these levels will be acknowledged on the *EI* plaque in the Ivinson Mansion's Hall of Donors.

You are also able to renew or begin your membership on the Internet with *Paypal*. Just go to our website: www.laramiemuseum.org
If you run into a snag with this option, please call Mary at 307-742-4448

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Check (made out to Laramie Plains Museum)

Credit Card (most all cards accepted): Account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

The Laramie Plains Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit association. 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.

Laramie Plains Museum — 603 Ivinson Ave. — Laramie, WY — 82070 — 307-742-4448