

**A glimpse at the
IVINSON MANSION'S
2019 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**



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



Host Jake Anfinson peered over the architecturally amazing staircase.



Cal & Lorraine Van Zee smiled from the upstairs foyer.



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



Marian Helm hosted the Sewing Room one of the days



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

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

Historic Iverson Mansion

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 2020

MEMBERSHIP ISSUE



Wyoming Women Doing It since 1869!

We ended the 150th Anniversary Year as we began it: With men and women CHEERING the Wyoming Territorial Legislature's unique December 10, 1869 action giving women the right to vote, hold office and property. We also toasted the women who stepped up in subsequent years to fill their equality shoes as the first woman voting in equal status to men (Louisa Swain), first woman bailiff (Martha Boies Atkinson), first women sitting alongside men on a jury, first woman justice of the peace (Esther Morris), and first woman in Wyoming's Legislature (Mary Godat Bellamy), just to name a few. In this 2020 year, we will continue to tell the Equality Story.

**Join us for Museum Membership and the ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 at 2:00 p.m. Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center**

**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 Phone: 307-742-4448 E-mail: lpmdirector@laramiemuseum.org Web site: www.laramiemuseum.org Send address changes to LPM address or e-mail

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

Graphics Design, Reporter, Editor:
Mary Mountain

Reporters this Issue:
Konnie Cronk
Mary Mountain

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

Contributing Photographers
Joyce Powell
Danny Walker
Mary Mountain

Address Service Requested

REFLECTION FROM LPM's EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

I remember that it was a totally unexpected, almost breathtaking moment. I was standing where those first, hope-filled women had stood, breathing that same eastern-seaboard air on a crisp December morning. And the realization was really quite by accident: we were not on a quest to see where a fist might have been raised in defiance for freedom in 1848, where flags were marched, whipping erratically in the wind, symbolic of the new fight for rights that all *who are created equal* should certainly have. No, we had taken a simple night flight into Rochester, New York from Laramie, Wyoming, and then a late night drive to our hotel in Seneca Falls for a holiday getaway. As we stood on a bridge with hundreds of bells tinkling, we also stood just a block from the place where the first women, and a man, stood to address the inequities women were accustomed to and what that small band could do.

Our first clue that this charming but not overly impressive, small town held major nuggets of truth, vision and goodness was an inconspicuous sign. It said First Amendment Area, so we followed the sidewalk, through a back alley, up a snow covered slant, to an entire wall of engraved words over a churchyard. Here in the glint of upstate New York sunlight, with streets crunchy after an icy rain the night before, we viewed the impressive *Declaration of Sentiments* that was 161 years old. Here in the Wesleyan churchyard and then inside the simple gathering room, I stood where those first idealists dreamed that women and people of color would have the same rights as the white men who were leading their lives and their nation. *"That all laws which ...place women in a position inferior to that of man...; That woman is man's equal...; That it is the duty of the women of this country to secure...their sacred right..."* were just some of the beginning words of the straightforward resolutions on the wall. Riding the wave of shouts of freedom from slavery, this first small group—Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Louisa Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt among the few others, with some of their daughters and Fredrick Douglas—stood with abolitionists and others of their gender for equality of rights. I was humbled to stand where their vision and enthusiasm took root. It felt like sacred ground, not just because of Divine Providence hallowing the churchyard, but that this was the place where those early American voices spoke clearly so that a First Amendment of Freedom was stated aloud.

Fast forward and 1637 miles from Seneca Falls and I stand at the place where the first woman, Louisa Gardner Swain, actually placed the first vote in a general election with equal status to men. Twenty two years after that group gathered in the churchyard of an Eastern state, Louisa walked to cast that first vote in the Western town of Laramie, Wyoming. 150 years ago, Wyoming's Territorial Legislature granted women the groundbreaking Act of Suffrage December 10, 1869, and I can travel down another alley to an inconspicuous place where that soft-spoken Quaker woman of conscience cast that first remarkable legal vote with no repercussions, because the men of our Territory allowed that right.

I am still amazed that I live in the Western community where that Suffrage Act was first given, where the first woman voted because of it, where the first women bailiff and jurists were assigned as a result. I get to live in the state where there was vision to place women on equal footing with men in political representation and with property ownership. No one can quite believe it when I tell that tale to our visitors who come to Laramie's stunning historic house museum to learn of Laramie, Albany County and Wyoming's unique history. In my job, I am often given opportunities to consider those stalwart pioneers, those first women arriving to carve out new lives out West. Not all of them stepping off the trains were fighting the glorious equality fight alongside the suffragettes on the Eastern side of the nation. They were simply digging in, doing what needed to be done to settle towns, create homesteads, build schools and churches for the new folks landing at end-of-tracks villages. They rolled up their sleeves to work hard because it needed to be done. They served sandwiches and supplies, built homes, started restaurants, laundries and stores because they were needed. Our women and our men did *what needed to be done* in all aspects of their lives on this vast frontier.

And so, we gathered to raise a glass to

150 YEARS



Linda, Silvya, Barb, Donna, and a jubilant Crystal raised their voices of support!



The first to arrive for *The Toast* were our Laramie ladies of distinguished ages: Elaine, Joan & Colleen.

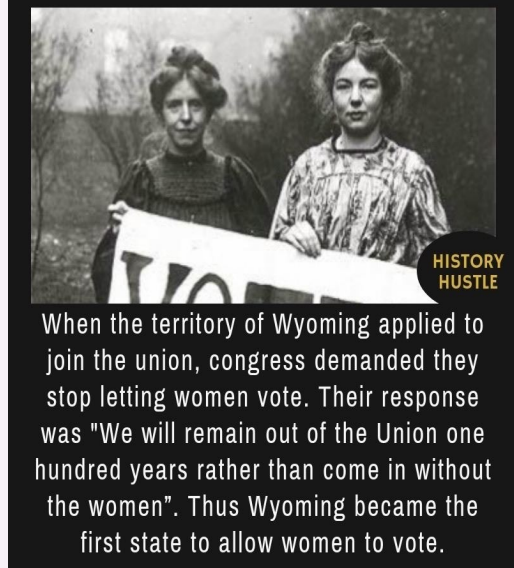
THE TOAST!
DECEMBER 10, 2019



Janice and Christel raised glasses!



Joyce & Ron were here! Joyce was wonderful about capturing photos.



HISTORY HUSTLE

When the territory of Wyoming applied to join the union, congress demanded they stop letting women vote. Their response was "We will remain out of the Union one hundred years rather than come in without the women". Thus Wyoming became the first state to allow women to vote.

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

We at LPM know how great all that good news can feel!



Landmark Still Stands Proud Despite Modern Man and His Ways
NEGLECT, DECAY, DESPAIR: The Ivinson mansion, once the social spot in early Laramie, now lies nearly as a large ruin, having been attacked by the weather—and passed over by the Laramie Plains Museum Association to purchase the property and restore it to its former state for use as a living museum. (Dawnwing photo)

Dreams Really Do Come True



By: *Mary Mountain*

Note: The following describes how the storied Ivinson Mansion in Laramie, Wyoming, was saved and became the treasured Laramie Plains Museum that preserves important aspects of both Laramie's and Wyoming's history. The mission of the Laramie Plains Museum Association is similar to the current mission of the Historic Stanley Home Foundation which is to preserve F.O. and Flora Stanley's historic home as a museum and education center.



As I see our docents tell the stories of our community with guided tours—from a personalized tour for just one, to 15 visitors or classroom students at a time—I know our dreamers, who held the first bake sale to raise funds and awareness, are smiling. 46 years ago, as longsuffering volunteers held their vision against the naysayers, moving artifacts into the barely alive Ivinson home, cleaning and salvaging so that history could be celebrated.

Every time I enter the Laramie Plains Museum, Laramie's extraordinary historic house museum to open exhibits for visiting publics to view Wyoming's fascinating history, I am reminded of those who dreamed this dream more than 50 years ago. I am grateful for and inspired by each one of them.

In 1966 Laramie finally formed a Museum Association. Artifacts had been stored in boxes at the courthouse, in Woman's Club members' closets, and at City Hall. None of those were satisfactory places for the special history residents had sheltered as they dreamed of a museum for decades. The new Association used a member's home to set up shop for a while, but the house, in the University District, was awkward for displays and parking.

The dreamers were still dreaming anyway: some of them saw the dilapidated historic mansion of pioneering citizens Edward and Jane Ivinson, and sighed that a full city block of Laramie's history was to be razed for modern apartments and contractors' purses. After its majestic 19th Century life as a Queen Anne Victorian, then its lively and poignant 40 years as a Girls School, the Church who owned it could no longer keep up with the needy historic property and it slowly descended into a decade of ruin. Passersby saw only a gutted shell of the former opulence. The dreamers, however, saw grandeur and accommodating spaces. They could actually picture history being told in this precious artifact of the early days.

They envisioned telling the story of how this railroad city came to life and thrived because of the unexpected English couple who arrived on the first train, built businesses and churches and this home, and ultimately developed this majestic property as a centerpiece to this town on the high plains of Wyoming.

As one of those early fundraising mothers was approaching her 90th birthday, almost 40 years after helping save the historic property, she asked, "Did we do the right thing? Should we have saved the mansion or has it been an albatross around the necks of museum boards and small, almost-volunteer staffs, trying to keep it alive, restored, and promoting history?"

For our community and our state, they did the right thing. Our visitors, from all over the world, are most charmed that we can tell the family's story as a backdrop to Laramie and Wyoming's history. Our community loves and supports this historic property with events on the Ivinson property expected and renowned in the region. We can't imagine not having this showpiece of our community, attracting tourists, scholars, schools and new dreamers wanting to keep history alive and well.

Not only are those original dreamers smiling, but the Ivinsons who first envisioned a fine community as they stepped off that first train, must be happy that their home showcases the history that they helped to create.

Please join us in preserving and celebrating the life and accomplishments of F.O. and Flora Stanley by supporting the mission of the Historic Stanley Home Foundation to purchase, renovate, preserve and operate Rockside, the F.O. Stanley home, as the Historic Stanley Home Museum and Education Center. To learn more or find out how you can be a part of this important effort, please visit the Historic Stanley Home Foundation website at www.historicstanleyhome.org or Like Us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/historicstanleyhome. You can also call Tom Shamburg at 970-590-9468 for more information.

Mary Mountain is Executive Director of the Laramie Plains Museum in Laramie, Wyoming; <http://www.laramiemuseum.org>

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FACTS TO KNOW AS YOU VOTE ON THE BALLOTS FOUND IN THE CENTER OF THIS PUBLICATION

Barb Rouse and Pam Fisher have served the Board and Museum Association beautifully and are leaving us for well deserved rests and participation in their other interests. Thank you, ladies for your admirable service. We are better because you were directors. You can see below that we have three very well-qualified candidates to fill Barb and Pam's slots and the one empty spot that had remained open on the Board throughout this past year.
(Our LPMA By-Laws state that we are viable to operate with a Board that holds between 9 and 11 directors.)

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

KAREN BARD

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

KAREN LANGE

Although a native of Wyoming, I left the state for 13 years, only to realize how much I missed the wide-open spaces of the Cowboy State. In 1989, with husband Bruce and our two children, we returned to Wyoming and settled in Laramie. As a family, we frequently visited the Iverson Mansion, witnessing its ever-changing transformation into a beautiful treasure for the City of Laramie. Over the years we have attended LPM events, participated in fundraisers, and our daughter as a summer docent during her junior high years. In 2016 I retired with over 40 years working as an academic librarian. Within a month after retiring, I began as a volunteer for LPM within the curatorial area. I digitized a photographic negatives collection that is now available for research purposes and may be accessed on the Museum's database. Working on this project provided a tremendous opportunity to learn about the extent of the Museum's resources and to appreciate the historical richness and potential of the Laramie Plains Museum's collections for Laramie and Wyoming. Over the 30 plus years of living in Laramie, I have been involved in my P.E.O. Chapter, serving as president and other offices; the Jacques Laramie Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution as Regent, registrar, and treasurer; and a member of the Albany County Genealogical Society. In addition, I was a Girl Scout leader for 12 years, 4-H Leader, and treasurer of the Laramie Wrestling Club. I have served as our church clerk, treasurer, and member of the bell choir. My LPM volunteer work has provided me the opportunity to meet the staff and other volunteers. I have observed and truly admire their dedication, commitment, pride, and joy of working together to accomplish many challenging projects. Some of these have included the expansion of the Alice Hardie Stevens Events Center, participating in community historical events and tours, welcoming visitors to Laramie, and publishing books and articles. I would be honored to serve as a Board Member of the Laramie Plains Museum Association. I look forward to learning more about the contributions, vision, and goals of this outstanding place.

RJ LARA

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



Frank and Bill raised a glass!



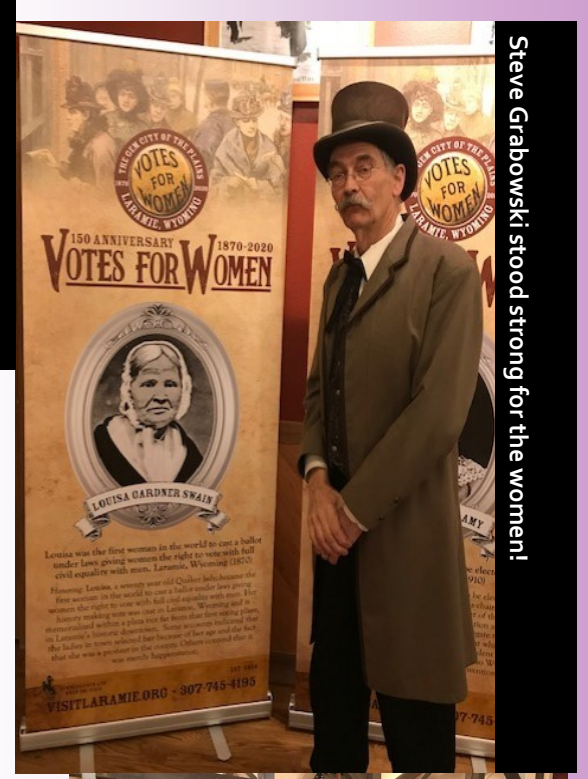
LPM Board directors: were here: Chris, John, Barb (Chris not pictured)



Mike Gray & Mary Mountain organized the gathering. Mike created the banners!



Doug raised a bowl (and a few glasses)!



Steve Grabowski stood strong for the women!



Of course, League of Women Voters were represented: Jamie, Sid, Jean Anne raised their glasses and longtime support for women's rights.



Linda, Darlene, Germaine, Connie, Susan and Jan toasted with us!



Above: Sue and Linda were cheering supporters. Below: Suzy, Kim, Mary & Mary Lou came to raise a glass and help with the facts of the historic Act!

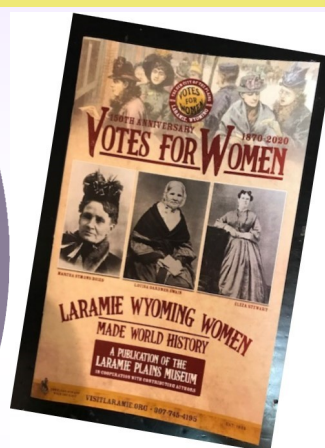


Our Suffrage Toast was finally able to be held after the LPM staff enticed the long-reserved renters in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center that evening to "make a trade." We were delighted to have a great group share in the impromptu event—many smiling, appreciative Laramie folks toasted the men and women of Wyoming who stood strong.

SO WHAT HAPPENED IN 2019?

35,960 people were on the grounds in 2019 with weddings, receptions, tours, meetings and special events, to visit the Carriage House Gift Shop, meet with staff and researchers, or just to soak up the historic ambiance as they pass through checking out the lush and inviting landscapes. Weddings are our most popular event in the summer months (we had 30 of them in 2019) but the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center is now one of *the most attractive* local venues for memorial services/receptions, non-profit fundraising events, and mid-sized gatherings—Christmas parties, graduations, retirements and other themed events. The Center offers impressive accommodations for events right in the heart of Laramie’s historic district, with easy access to Laramie amenities, including the historic Mason Loft Condos (the Stone House) for wedding guests and other visitors to our fair town. 6343 people experienced guided tours of the museum, including 1246 students of all ages and classrooms in Albany County, the state of Wyoming and the Rocky Mountain region. We gave at least 364 complimentary tours through special showings and coupons given to our members and as promotional exchanges with Albany County Tourism, Louisa Swain Foundation and other entities.

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



Thanks to Mike Gray’s ingenuity, Albany County Tourism has used its 150th fund to reprint our *Laramie Women Made World History* booklet plus *Votes* pins, and postcards of Laramie’s important women. We have had the book, noting the history of the Suffrage Act and the women who made history from Laramie and other parts of Wyoming, in our shop and at the Women’s History House for a few years now, but it’s got a great new look. Mike worked with Mary Mountain and Jessica Flock to update, edit and reprint this handy reference. We carry it and other suffrage items in the Museum’s Carriage House Gift Shop. The Shop and the Museum reopen to public tours and shopping on March 3, 2020, but we are here working during these months so we can get you early access to the books, cards, pins and (soon) shirts if you call (307-742-4448)



1911 Letter Regarding Women with Equal Rights

FROM KONNIE CRONK, Curator:

The following letter was discovered in 2019, written by Neva Nelson Ford, daughter of Avon Nelson to Thyra Therkildsen, daughter of Sheriff Emil Therkildsen January 16, 1911. At the time, Thyra was the first woman elected as Albany County Clerk. She served in this position until her untimely death from Spanish Influenza in January 1919. This very enlightening section of the letter is posted in our Women’s Exhibit in the Ivinson Mansion and was noted in the interviews with C-Span and Sports Illustrated during the suffrage coverage for 2019 and 2020 release.

January 16, 1911

My dear Thyra—

Of course I’ve been intending to write ever since your package arrived at Christmas time. I don’t think any of the presents gave me as much pleasure + surprise as yours. How did any one as busy as you have time to think of a friend so far away.....

Oh yes--some of my friends are eastern girls who judge woman’s suffrage by the English suffragettes reports (newspapers) + think that any woman who votes must be dreadful while a woman who holds office must be abhorrently beyond hope. I told them about a friend of mine who had recently been elected to a county office + and assured them that she was as nice + modest + womanly etc. as any of them and probably much shyer. They had to take my word for that but assured me that you couldn’t possibly stay so – you would undoubtedly become bold + mannish in a very short time. Sometimes I get so disgusted with peoples pointiveness (sic) about something that they know absolutely nothing about that I’d like to bang their heads together. I suppose they think I’ve only been saved from contamination by being removed from the land of “Wild Indians + wilder cowboys” in the nick of time.

Well I must stop + write some other letters as I’m miles behind with them + don’t have much time to write. I want to thank you again for your picture + the pretty bonnet.

Lovingly,

Neva.

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



Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

E-mail _____

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

2020 INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

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

_____ \$ 1,000 + Life Benefactor

_____ \$ 1,000 Business Benefactor (additional promotion, including website link)

_____ \$ 250 Business Member (listed prominently for public view on a Business poster)

_____ \$ 500 Edward 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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2020?

- February 16** **Annual Museum Association Meeting**
LPMA Members & Directors review the accomplishments and decisions of the past year and look forward to continued preservation success for this beauty of Wyoming history during this Suffrage Year. Election of new Board Directors. 2:00 p.m. in the Events Center.
- March 3** **Tours of the Museum Begin Again**
New touring hours will be 11:00 p.m.to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday until full time summer hours begin in mid-June.
- April 3** **Cheers for Volunteers!**
Our evening of appreciation for the volunteers who help to make our Museum the outstanding site it is!
- April 24, 25, 26** **The Unexpected Company presents**
Programs about Laramie's history on the Van Oss Stage in the AHSC. More information about the programs to be announced.
- May 26** **1st Tea on Tuesday**
There are three of these special Victorian affairs occurring at 4:00 p.m. in the Alice Hardie Stevens Center one Tuesday each May, June, July. This May Tea will be a "Yellow Rose Tea" in honor of Suffrage.
- Mid-June** **Full-time Summer Touring Hours Begins as Junior Docents volunteer at the museum**
- June-Aug** **Wyoming House for Historic Women**
Laramie Plains Museum has worked for several years with the WHHW to open the gate and the House to this special repository of Wyoming women's history. Viewing this year will be particularly special with the 100th Anniversary of national suffrage and the 150th Anniversary of our Wyoming woman's vote!
- June 23** **2nd Tea on Tuesday**
As women gained their rights, their wardrobes changed. Let our curatorial wizards show you some of the unique garments in our collection.
- July 12** **Art Fest on the Ivinson Property**
Artists, vendors and authors are on the museum grounds and in the Events Center the last Sunday of the Jubilee Days week.
- July 21** **3rd Tea on Tuesday**
As this goes to press, the program is still being determined. Invitations for the Teas will go out in late April and all three programs will be announced at that time.
- August 15** **Evening at the Ivinsons'**
End-of-summer celebration on the Museum lawn raises awareness and funding for this special slice of history. This year has a special, fun theme celebrating the men and women who made suffrage happen in the West! Look for invitations in early July.
- September 6** **150th Celebration of Louisa Swain's Vote**
- December 12,13** **Holiday Open House**
The community is invited to complimentary tours of the decorated, historic Ivinson Mansion, complete with treats, music & holiday sales in the Alice Hardie Stevens Events Center.



The Unexpected Company
will present a new production



Teas on Tuesday



Evening at the Ivinsons'



Holiday Open House

& of course, all year long, we'll have Weddings & Receptions on the Museum Property! →



A LOOK BACK AT 1997 RESTORATIONS



THE LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM will reopen Monday, April 21, with tours available Monday-Friday from 1-3 p.m. "Wow" has been the consensus comment from museum and Laramie Woman's Club members who have had a sneak preview of the newly restored main foyer, grand staircase area, upstairs foyer and exhibit hallways. This significant undertaking was underwritten by the Laramie Woman's Club, longtime supporters of the museum, who raised the funds through their booth at the Golden Flea Gallery and fund-raising dinners. Recently

gathered in the restored main foyer are, from left, Laramie Woman's Club Civic Improvement Project committee member Polly Wade, committee member Wanda Decora, immediate past president of the Laramie Plains Museum and the Laramie Woman's Club Margaret Dickman, and museum curator Carolyn Nelson. Not pictured is committee member June Boyle. The Woman's Club is so pleased with the results of the project that they have approved plans to fund the restoration of another room in the 105-year-old Ivinson Mansion.

(Boomerang photo by Tim Chesnut)

April 4/20/97

AND FORWARD TO CURRENT PRESERVATION

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

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

****Ron Olsen** is working with **Christel Walrath** to renovate another 2nd floor closet in the Mansion. In 2019, Olsen used his top notch carpentry skills to dismantle and recreate the closet in the Guest Room so that it is beautifully able to exhibit clothing artifacts and also show some of the original lathe and plaster in a sealed manner. It's a charming addition to that exhibit room and now he and Walrath are teaming up to tackle the Sewing Room closet—again deconstructing and rebuilding with new drywall, wood and paint. Olsen is one of our most important renovation craftsmen within all buildings of the main Museum complex and with the 609/611 Stone House structures. His time and talents have graced all renovations and many pieces of functional furniture, shelving, and signs. Ron is an amazing gift to our work here!

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

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

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