

Historic Ivinson Mansion
Laramie Plains Museum Newsletter

The Mansion is published by the Laramie Plains
Museum Association four times a year.

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Cover: Ivinson Mansion during Girls' School Era,
Episcopal Church Scrapbook.

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ISSUE 5

the mansion

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM AT THE
HISTORIC IVINSON MANSION

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Tales of Girls' Schooling

Curator Konnie Cronk explores
Ivinson Hall's legacy of education
and opportunity for young
Wyoming women. Pages 10 and 11.

Spring Membership Issue

We've made some exciting
changes to the membership
program this year, check them
out on pages 4 and 5.

LARAMIE PLAINS MUSEUM - 603 E IVINSON AVE



Spring's Just Around the Corner—We Hope.

AMY ALLEN

Dear Friends of the Laramie Plains Museum,

Punxsutawney Phil might have predicted an early spring, but in true Laramie fashion, we brought in February with snow. Despite having to dig ourselves out, we are excited for all the opportunities the new year will bring us. Konnie and the curatorial staff have been working away at cleaning and prepping the Mansion for our reopening on **March 5th**, while I and the administrative staff have been working on catching up on paperwork after an event-filled holiday season.

All of us are preparing for the **Annual Membership Meeting**, to be held on **February 25th, 2024, at 2 pm**. Please join us if you are able; we'd love to see you! There, we will be electing new board members, so feel free to bring your ballots to the meeting or send them back to us via the mail or email. You'll find them and information on the new and leaving board members on pages 6 and 7. All museum members have voting rights and are encouraged to vote.

This newsletter is also our membership issue—and you'll find the updated membership form on page 5. We've made some pretty exciting changes, including expanded member's benefits, meaningful alterations to business memberships, and the addition of a kid's category designed for families with children 18 years or younger. We hope you'll find these changes appealing and spread the word to neighbors, friends, co-workers, or family. Our goal for this year is to expand our outreach efforts into the local community and bring more Laramie friends into the museum family. Do you know of a young family or business that might be interested in joining? Let us know!

Additionally, check out page 8 for a calendar of upcoming museum events, which includes dates for Cheers for Volunteers, the Victorian Teas on Tuesdays, this year's *Evening*, and much more.

Join us in the Spring when we reopen for tours. The gift shop will be running some excellent specials as we decrease inventory in preparation for the Carriage House Renovation. Stop in for great deals and to say hi! We love when our friends visit.



Dancing Queens. Girls from Ivinson Hall perform "The Winds" on the East Lawn. Circa 1920s.

children who attended these schools had a far better education than their city counterparts, but they only attained up to a sixth or eighth-grade education.

The Jane Ivinson Memorial School for Girls was one solution to remedy this shortening of education. It also continued the trend to increase women's access to formal education. An advertisement in *The Wyoming State Journal* on June 22, 1921, states, "Ivinson Hall fills a timely need, for in Wyoming there are many communities where there are no high schools." It also states that the school has room "for a few girls under high school age." The girls who were to attend high school went to the State University High School or University Prep, today known as the Lab School.

The Girls' school was more than a high school, however. The Episcopal Church was interested in enriching all aspects of the girls' education, including deportment, music, physical, and religious education (all denominations were welcome). In the same advertisement listed above, the school will provide a "general education... at the public schools," where they will learn such subjects such as "social and folk dancing and

conversational French taught at the hall."

The school tuition fee included "books, board, room, bedding..." There were also scholarship opportunities offered and opportunities for girls to conduct household chores to help pay for their tuition. More importantly, the article explains that the well-rounded education would "give them a vision of the splendid opportunities which are open to them as citizens of Wyoming."

The Girls' School was located in the Ivinson Mansion for 37 years, from 1921 until 1958. It was home to many girls over the years. The book *Polished Corners of the Temple Walls*, by Lea Schoenewald, relays hundreds of stories obtained through interviews and research describing their school experiences. The stories tell of school, living in the house, experiences during the War, and so much more.

If you've never had the chance to read *Polished Corners*, swing by the Carriage House and pick up a copy. For a limited time, copies will be reduced to \$10 a piece in honor of Ivinson Hall's unique history here at the museum complex.



GIRLS' SCHOOLING

KONNIE CRONK

Our curator, Konnie Cronk, discusses the Jane Ivinson Memorial Hall and its legacy of education and opportunity for Wyoming women.

May Day. Girls' School students practice their Minuet. Circa 1920.

When one thinks of education today, we most likely imagine children 18 years and younger attending a publicly run and funded system. However, public schools are a relatively new concept and did not really begin to emerge until after the American Revolution. The emergence of public education is in part related to the rise of urban centers and the Industrialization of the American economy. Prior to this shift, children were most often educated at home using the Bible as their source. The Industrial Revolution pulled families into cities where children often worked in the factories from a young age to provide income for the family alongside their parents. Schools in cities provided an alternative to child labor as well as a place to go while parents worked (for

those young'uns who didn't work in the factories or who worked shorter hours in different types of work, i.e., newsies).

Rural communities tended to consider public education unnecessary; however, after the turn of the century, parents and administrators of municipalities and cities did see the benefit of providing an education to youth in the countryside. This often looked like a one-room schoolhouse; however, it was challenging to maintain teachers in those regions since they were often remote. Any number of factors affected the education children in rural areas received, including weather, the distance of travel to the school, harvest season, etc. However, studies show that

2023 in Review

AMY ALLEN

We had a stellar year here at the Museum Complex. Between wonderfully generous donations, steady membership, and incredible volunteer participation, 2023 proved to be a great success, mostly in part to important folks like you.

We saw some significant changes and a few transitions, but with our outstanding pool of volunteers, board members, and museum friends, we rang out the year in a splendid manner. We hope that as you are reading this in your easy chair or at your kitchen table, you stop to give yourself a pat on the back for your own successes and contributions to the Laramie Plains Museum. Every donation of time or money, every helping hand or kind word means the world to us. And we hope we continue to be your favorite place to work, volunteer, and spend time.

Please keep us in mind if you're ever looking for a place to utilize your talents. Or if you know of someone looking for a volunteer opportunity. We have so many areas of interest—history buffs will love getting to work with archival items as a volunteer in the Curatorial department, or maybe feather-dusting is more your speed, or helping out as a senior docent in the Mansion giving tours to patrons sounds good to you. The Laramie Plains Museum is full of places to make meaningful contributions and to find a warm, welcoming community.

Don't miss the membership form on page 5. Feel free to cut it right out and return it to us with the included envelope. We've made some exciting changes, including more benefits and categories designed to appeal to demographics where our membership usually falls a little short. You can see a summary of these changes on the next page. And as always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to us at any time.

By the Numbers

This year the Museum Complex was visited by approximately 12,000 people.

Our docents gave tours for a whopping 207 days last year. Approximately 1006 people signed the guest book. They ranged from locals to tourists from all over. We had folks come to see us from 47 states, and 20 countries.

We hosted 35 weddings, 5 celebrations of life, and over 40 conferences, parties, and non-profit fundraisers. The Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center continues to bring in amazing revenue and remains a popular destination.

The museum held 10 events of its own, including 3 Teas on Tuesdays, an *Evening*, and our annual Holiday Open House. We also continued the new tradition of Halloween at the Ivinsons where 136 parents and kids toured the mansion and received heaps of candy.

In 2024 we are hoping to increase these numbers even higher.

Membership Updates

For 2024, we've made some exciting changes to our membership categories, and added new benefits to our existing membership levels.

Added Benefits For All Members

All membership levels will now have the added benefit of being the first invited to special behind the scenes tours of museum spaces. Ever wondered where Konnie and the Curatorial staff work their magic? Join us for special tours of the Brick House office and other interesting spaces. Members will also be given special invites to our Flickerlight Tours, happening in October, where guests will be taken on a unique candlelit tour of the Mansion. Members will also receive special offers and discounts for the Gift Shop in our Member Appreciation Week, which will be advertised later in the year.

New Perks for Businesses and Organizations

Business memberships will now be offered to businesses and local organizations alike. The updated Business and Organizations category will feature impressive perks like opportunities for cross-promotion in the Carriage House office, exclusive discounts on *Evening* tickets, a free half-day rental of the Alice Hardie Stevens Event Center, opportunities to sponsor museum events and exhibits, and free admission to the mansion for their employees.

Family-Friendly Features

In our new membership category, Family with Children, parents are encouraged to engage their children in the museum experience. We're planning to pull out all the stops for these lucky kids! With this category the whole family can get free admission to the museum, and kid members will receive invites to special kid-friendly events for all ages. Younger kids will love our new monthly Storytime Hour hosted in the Drawing Room, where museum staff will read through historic-themed stories. And older kids can sign up for immersive workshops where they can learn the ins-and-outs of working in a museum setting. All kids will also receive copies of our special kid's newsletter which will be printed twice a year. LPM kids will also get to beta test exciting new museum kids' programming, like sensory tables and educational scavenger hunts.

Know of anyone who would like to be a member of the museum but isn't on our newsletter list? Reach out to Amy or Helen in the Carriage House and we'll send them some information to get started. We're always happy to meet new folks!

And...some fun stuff

We were told our puzzles from the December newsletter were a hit, so we're back with a doozy!

Mansion Words

S	C	H	T	A	E	R	W	R	I	A	H	G	R	P
L	D	L	X	I	F	Z	T	S	P	N	N	M	A	R
I	U	X	O	C	L	O	C	K	S	A	F	E	D	A
A	A	D	O	I	B	S	H	N	R	J	P	Q	I	H
R	M	I	G	I	S	U	Z	E	T	V	I	S	A	O
E	T	Z	W	K	M	O	M	E	Z	U	B	F	T	T
R	Z	M	A	I	G	O	N	V	K	U	C	N	O	U
U	T	Y	D	J	O	N	E	N	E	B	J	G	R	A
T	B	O	L	B	A	S	J	C	E	S	O	T	M	V
C	R	L	Q	N	T	A	T	P	Y	L	G	A	N	A
I	S	O	E	I	L	I	T	H	O	G	R	A	P	H
P	B	E	B	P	N	D	G	U	N	M	V	T	V	R
D	U	U	H	I	T	Q	G	W	Y	Q	U	M	W	U
Q	L	P	W	K	L	Q	U	A	J	F	R	A	K	Q
E	O	U	A	N	C	Y	P	F	N	B	Y	K	Z	D

Anaglypta
Autoharp
Boomerang
Clock Safe

Cloisonné
Hair Wreath
Humidor
Lithograph

Picture Rails
Queen Anne
Radiator
Vestibule

Challenge your friends and family to find these Mansion related words.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Laramie Plains Museum 2024 Events

LPM Annual Meeting	February 25th	Art Fest on the Lawn	July 14th
Open for Regular Tours	March 5th	July Tea on Tuesday	July 23rd
Cheers for Volunteers	April 5th	Evening at the Ivinsons'	August 17th
May Tea on Tuesday	May 14th	Flickerlight Tours	Mid-October
Summer Tour Hours Begin	Mid-June	Halloween Event	October 26th
June Tea on Tuesday	June 18th	Holiday Open House	December 14 & 15th



I'm the perfect size for your fridge!

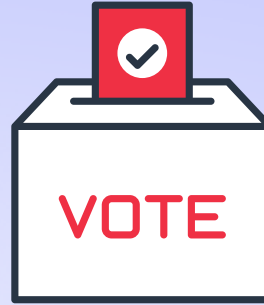


Make sure to join us for the
Laramie Plains Museum Association's
Annual Membership Meeting
February 25th, 2024 at 2:00 pm
at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center



Don't forget
your ballot!

Don't forget
your ballot!



The Laramie Plains Museum at the Historic Ivinson Mansion



Laramie Plains Museum
Historic Ivinson Mansion

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

2024 Invitation to Membership

Museum memberships at all levels support the preservation and maintenance of our historic complex. Members receive free admission to the Museum, a 20% discount on all purchases at the Carriage House Gift Shop, voting privileges, newsletters, and invitations to and notice of special events. Names of Benefactors and Business/Organizations at \$1000 or above are permanently presented in the Ivinson Mansion's Hall of Donors. All membership contributions receive acknowledgement, tax-deduction receipts, and this year's membership card. Benefactors and Life Members are not required to fill out any kind of membership form, unless a change of address has been made.

- _____ \$1,000 + Life Benefactor
- _____ \$1,000 Business Benefactor
- _____ \$250 Business/Organization Member
- _____ \$500 Edward Ivinson Circle*
- _____ \$250 Jane Ivinson Circle*
- _____ \$125 Family
- _____ \$100 Family with Children (A new category designed for families with children under 18 years)
- _____ \$75 Individual
- _____ \$100 Senior Family
- _____ \$50 Senior Individual
- _____ Please accept this additional support for the restoration of the Carriage House
- _____ Please accept this additional donation to 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.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

_____ Check (made out to the Laramie Plains Museum)

For Credit Card transactions, please call us at the Carriage House at 307-742-4448 or visit in person.

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 E Ivinson Ave. —Laramie, WY—82070—307-742-4448

Current Board Members

Officers:

Tanner Evans
President

Brie Blasi
Vice President

John Nutter
Secretary

Karen Lange
Treasurer

Directors:

Bernie Horst
Scott Morton
Debi Ockers
Suzi Taylor
Bob Routson
Christel Walrath

Leaving Members

We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the outstanding board members whose terms end here in 2024. **Debi Ockers** and **Bernie Horst**, both long-time supporters and friends of the museum, will be leaving the LPM board. Both of these extraordinary women have served with distinction and pride.

Debi Ockers served as the Vice President and was a powerhouse force on the board. She played a critical role in *Evening* preparations and provided an abundance of cookies and baked goods for the Holiday Open House, some of which we are still dreaming about! She was an invaluable source of experience and financial advice.

Bernie Horst served on the Nominations committee, so all the hard work wrangling the new prospective board members whose bios you see opposite was hers. Bernie also served on the Search Committee as the board sought a new Executive Director. She was always a fantastic help during *Evening* activities and the Holiday Open House.

These are just a few examples. If we listed out all of their achievements during their time on the board, this would be a very long newsletter indeed!

But have no fear; this isn't the last we've seen of Debi and Bernie. Both of these amazing women are LPM volunteers, helping us out in essential and meaningful ways, such as participating in our Teas on Tuesday events through the summer. We'd be lost without them!

Thank you, Debi and Bernie, for your time and service to the Laramie Plains Museum Board of Directors. Your participation has meant the world to us, and we hope to see you back one day.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting on February 25th, to further celebrate Debi and Bernie's contributions.

2024 Board Candidates

Greg Bauman

Hello everyone. I am happy to be able to return to the board of the Laramie Plains Museum, and to be able to interact with the wonderful staff and volunteers that make it such an asset to the surrounding area. I was raised in Baggs, Wyoming, a small town with a great sense of community. After graduating from high school I attended Western Wyoming Community College in Rock Springs where I met my future wife, Tasha. Following WWCC we moved to Laramie where I completed my formal education with a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the University of Wyoming. During this time I also began my career with the City of Laramie's Water Department and have enjoyed the last 15 years working to safeguard the community's drinking water. You may have noticed that in the few short sentences above I have referred to communities several times. A strong sense of community is very important to me, and I think that this is why the LPM is where I choose to volunteer my time. Whether it is one of the great formal events that the Mansion itself is hosting such as the Evening at The Ivinson's, or one of the countless retirement parties, memorial services, weddings (including my own), or any other private event held there, the LPM is a nucleus of togetherness and comradery. Many stories and friendships begin at the mansion and many memories are created there, so I am honored to be able to help do my part in ensuring its continuous service to the Gem City of the Plains.

Best regards.

David Cutbirth

I am a Laramie native and graduate of Laramie High School. Upon graduating high school in 1979, I went to work for Carbon Power & Light. I started out as a laborer, went thru the lineman apprenticeship, became a foreman and then Operations Manager. During my working profession, I had the opportunity to work on many construction and maintenance projects. Some of my responsibilities included safety, managing employees, yearly budgets, coordinating contractors, getting bids for projects and interacting with members regarding day to day operations. After a 42 year career, I retired in 2021. My wife Yvonne and I have been married going on 40 years and we have one daughter. I am now hoping that my skills and knowledge would be a benefit to the Laramie Plains Museum.

JoNel Wilmot

My name is JoNel (Joney) Wilmot, and I am running for a position on the Laramie Plains Museum Board. I am a long-time Laramie resident and a graduate of the University of Wyoming. I taught 8th grade English at Laramie Jr. High School for 30 years, then I became the curator at the Laramie Plains Museum for nearly 12 years following my teaching career. I have been a board member and volunteer for Laramie Main Street, a volunteer here at LPM, and a volunteer at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center. I currently serve on the board of the Louisa Swain Foundation and volunteer at the Wyoming Women's History House. I have loved this place since I was a young girl and came here for church camp, and I hope to be a part of the continuing legacy of Laramie Plains Museum with membership on its board.

2023 BALLOT

_____ Greg Bauman
_____ David Cutbirth
_____ JoNel Wilmot
_____ Write-in Option

VOTE FOR UP TO (3) THREE

2023 BALLOT

_____ Greg Bauman
_____ David Cutbirth
_____ JoNel Wilmot
_____ Write-in Option

VOTE FOR UP TO (3) THREE