

JACKSON HOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM CHRONICLE

Volume 38, Issue N° 2 | August 2018

CONTENTS

Welcome to August!	2
Events and Announcements	3
Story Corps & Oral Histories	4
Education & Programs Update	5
Research & Collections Update	6
Historic Treasures on Broadway	7
Museum Celebrates 60th Year	8
ABCs of Jackson Hole	9
Year in Review	10

< Do you recognize this motel? JHHSM founder Homer Richards opened the Flame Motel in Jackson in the 1950s. Turn to page 8 to learn more about Homer and our history!

Greetings from Jackson Hole



JACKSON HOLE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
MUSEUM



Mission Statement

To collect, preserve, and explore the cultural history of Jackson Hole.

Staff

Morgan Albertson Jaouen

Executive Director

Becky Kimmel

Director of Development

Nora Dewitt-Hoeger

Research and Collections

Quinn Feller

Marketing and Operations

Frances Ritchie

Education and Programs

Maria Rachal

Administration and Programs

Alexei Cree

Education and Research Intern

Samantha Ford

Research Historian

Matt Stirn

JH Archaeology Initiative

Rebecca Sgouros

JH Archaeology Initiative

Board of Directors

Bill Best, *President*

Jim Hunt, *co-Vice Pres.*

Clayton Andrews, *co-Vice Pres.*

Marlin Risinger, *Treasurer*

Sybilla Balkanski, *Secretary*

Mike Gireau

Laura Ladd

John Lummis

Bob McLaurin

Sherry Smith

Sara VanGenderen

Rob Wallace

Find us at:

PO Box 1005

225 N Cache Street

Jackson, WY 83001-1005

307.733.2414

info@jacksonholehistory.org

www.jacksonholehistory.org

Welcome to August!

Hello, History Friends!

Wow, August already! We've had a great year keeping ourselves really busy and we hope you've noticed some positive changes at the museum.

Thirty years ago, Homer Richards reminisced about the start of the Jackson Hole Museum, stating "Slim Lawrence and I was good friends... I happened to think he had all that stuff scattered around that wasn't doing anybody any good. I asked him if he wouldn't bring it all to Jackson and start a museum." In 1958, this organization was established to share the history of Jackson Hole and now 60 years later, we are recommitting to a community-centered approach focused on accessibility, inclusion, and diversity. We are stewards of this tremendous archive and artifact collection started by Slim, but it only does "anybody any good" when we offer meaningful ways to learn about, connect with, and be inspired by the history of this place. The JHHSM is dedicated to providing space, resources, and programs that invite community members in to further our understanding and appreciation of the unique places, stories, traditions, culture, and artifacts that define the past, present, and future of Jackson Hole.

Our priorities over the next two years include securing a permanent, consolidated space for our primary operations, inventorying and moving our museum collection to a new storage facility, and intensifying our public outreach efforts and program offerings.

This is an exciting time for the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, and we continue to need your help. If you have enjoyed some of our new programs and are encouraged by the direction we're headed, we have a ton of great ways you can support us! Read on to learn more.

Thank you and we'll see you this month at the museum!

Morgan Albertson Jaouen

Morgan Albertson Jaouen, Executive Director



Events and Announcements

Old Bill's Fun Run

This is your opportunity to increase the impact of your JHHSM donation by giving through the Old Bill's challenge! Be a History Hero and make your mark on history by being a part of our most important fundraiser of the year. Plus, when you give to the JHHSM through Old Bill's, you get an opportunity to be a part of building our window timeline. Stop by 225 N. Cache to check it out!

Now through September 14, when you donate through Old Bill's they'll match a portion of your contribution. Visit our booth at the run and grab a Tootsie Roll—an homage to our co-founder Homer Richards. To donate, visit www.oldbills.org.

Oral History Initiative

Know someone with a story to share? Encourage them to participate in one of our new oral history programs! We're building oral history kits to check out, planning events and workshops to provide oral history training, and building a community-sourced exhibit to share people's stories. Read more on the next page!

Upcoming Events

For a full list of JHHSM's events, see: jacksonholehistory.org/calendar.

AUGUST 13 | 5:30PM | POP-UP PROGRAM
NPS Underwater Archaeology and Jackson Lake finds

AUGUST 30 | 7PM | BEERS & BANTER
Teton County Search and Rescue

SEPT 4 | 10:30AM | THE HOLE STORY
Kids' Storytime at the Mercill Education Center (105 Mercill Ave)

SEPT 8 | 4PM | HISTORIC TRADE SCHOOL
Leather branding (registration required)

SEPT 10 | 9AM-3PM | ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP
Day-long training with Barbara Bogart (registration required)

SEPT 14 | 8AM | YOGA
Free yoga in the museum gallery

SEPT 19 | 6PM | LIVING IN THE WEST
JHHSM archaeologists Matt Stirn & Rebecca Sgouros, field update

SEPT 27 | 7PM | BEERS & BANTER
History of river rafting in Jackson Hole



Story Corps® & Oral Histories

Most people learn about the past of their family or home through spoken word—stories from a grandmother about their dad as a kid, a recipe as described by an aunt—and these thoughts woven together create our understanding of a place and the people who created it. These seemingly trivial anecdotes are the ground on which oral histories are born and the

collaboration. The kick-off event was a sunshine soaked morning complete with live- broadcasting from Wyoming public radio, music from the Canyon Kids and Aaron Davis and Dave Bunday, an interview with Mayor Muldoon and even cookies in the shape of bison. Then the real work started - collecting oral histories from over 100 individuals between May 22 and June 24. Staff

some particularly moving stories.

One story we found interesting and unique to the local history of Jackson, was the recorded interview with Glenn Taylor. Glenn was born across the mountains in Idaho but has spent most of his life here in Jackson Hole. His early memories include adventures up in the mountains where his mother worked for the Forest Service as a

I hope we've taken care of what we had the opportunity to take care of.



<Glenn Taylor, with daughter Laura Taylor Voyles (l) and daughter-in-law Amy Taylor (r).

ground on which Story Corps built its mission. Story Corps is a nonprofit dedicated to encouraging, recording, and collecting oral histories from around the nation. They catalyze conversations about the past by taking the opportunity to ask questions that otherwise might not be answered. This summer, JHHSM was fortunate enough to be the host to Story Corps when they set up shop in Jackson Hole with their mobile recording studio.

When Story Corps initially approached JHHSM about being a potential partner on this project, we were ecstatic. Their mission connects directly with our own - to preserve the past through community

and community members alike got the chance to step into the refurbished Airstream trailer and put on a headset to ask their loved ones questions about life in Jackson. After recording, the stories were processed by the folks at StoryCorps and then sent to the Library of Congress collection, as well as a digital archive to be kept at the JHHSM research center. Stories recorded during Story Corps's time here in Jackson included everything from local politics to the struggle of buying a house to riveting adventures in the wild. Before hitching their trailer and moving on to their next location, Story Corps had a final listening event at the Teton County Library featuring

fire lookout. He and his brother later attended school near the Moosehead Ranch. One of the most unique parts of the school day was the commute—in the warmer months he and his brother would ride horses to school but as the days turned colder, they would arrive in a sleigh complete with a stove inside to keep them warm. At the age of 13, he bought his first cow. At the time, the



cow cost him \$165 which he paid for by collecting coke bottles at 5¢ a piece (that's 3300 coke bottles!). 69 years later, he has owned cows ever since. His favorite thing about the valley is the ranch where he lives up in the Gros Ventre. He hopes that to strangers, it looks like a place that has always been cared about. Caring about a place is important to him because as the valley undergoes so many changes, he wants to leave a legacy of looking after it. In his own words Glenn said, "I hope we've taken care of what we had the opportunity to take care of."

Inspired by the work of Story Corps and our own rich, local history, JHHSM is launching a

new oral history campaign and exhibit entitled "My Jackson Hole History". This campaign will be a two part program with a focus on empowering the community to engage with the past through pertinent, creative opportunities. We will be hosting an Oral History workshop for community members to outline the procedures of facilitating oral history recordings and we will also be putting together Oral History backpacks that will have all the necessary tools of the trade. The campaign will culminate with a community-curated exhibit called "My Jackson Hole History". The exhibit will be fully built by the community and will include objects

from the JHHSM collection chosen by volunteers and museum members. Additionally, local students will be asked to finish the sentence "My Jackson Hole History..." and their answers will be tiled throughout the exhibit. The exhibit will open Winter 2018. We hope you stop by before then as we start to curate our local history through the inspiration, insight and help from individuals like you!

Check out jacksonholehistory.org for details on registering for the oral history workshop on September 10.

Interested in listening to some of the StoryCorps interviews? Schedule an appointment with our research center: nora@jacksonholehistory.org.

Education & Programs Update

Kid Quote of the Month

TEACHER: Why do you think the trappers hunted beavers?

STUDENT: They probably were training them to cut down wood for their house.



A prolific house-building beaver.

Greetings from the JHHSM education department! This summer has been full of new, exciting programs for patrons. We have piloted new initiatives for early education, adult education and exhibit interactives. In Youth education, we have a new program called "The Hole Story," a parent/tot story time geared towards early education literacy, which has brought young kiddos in to explore and ask questions about the exhibit spaces. In July, we hiked the History Trail with over 80 students from Parks and Rec. They hiked 5 miles all the way down the pass and saw remnants of an old ski tow, trail marks of the historic wagon road and a rock that was painted as a billboard for the Reed Hotel!

Our adult programs have also brought some new faces into the museum, between Beers and Banter, Living in the West and our

other Adult education programs we have showcased the Powars II archaeology site to the Jenny Lake Climbing Rangers. Our Beers and Banter programs have standing room only and offer the opportunity for new speakers to share their stories of the valley. Fall 2018, we are piloting a new initiative for Adult Education called "Historic Trade School" -- a workshop style class that combines hands on craft and history. In partnership with artists from the Art Association, this four part series focuses on the history of Metalsmithing, Leather, Candlemaking and Fibers. The workshop will have time for participants to learn about the craft, see examples of objects from our collection and experiment with the materials to make one of their own. Sign up and learn some historic crafts this Fall!

Research & Collections Update

This has been the summer of research for the Historical Society where we have seen an increase in requests from people wanting to know a little bit more about Jackson's history. Most of the research requests can be categorized in one of a few ways - people wanting information on their personal family history, visitors trying to rediscover Jackson's past, locals looking for historic photos, and writers searching for more information on their subject. No matter how arbitrary the request may seem, we can generally accommodate any Jackson Hole question. We love when a family member comes in looking for a

photo or any information of their long lost relative and we are able to share that with them.

Recently we received an intriguing photo that we are excited to share. Do you remember Frontier Land? In the mid-1960s, Bill and Pauline Bailey built and operated a chairlift ride that took you to the top of the butte near the present day location of National Museum of Wildlife Art, just 3 miles north of town. Frontier Land also operated a campground, gas station, and general store during its nearly decade long stint. Since we have no record of it in our archives, this piece of Jackson history was news to us.

If anyone has additional photos of Frontier Land that they would like to donate permanently to our archives, please let us know by reaching out to nora@jacksonholehistory.org or give us a call at 307-733-2414. We are limited on what we can accept at the moment but we would love to see what you have that could help us preserve this unique piece of Jackson's history.



< A museum visitor brought Frontier Land to our attention. This photo shows the chair lift installed in the area where the National Museum of Wildlife Art exists today. You can see Snow King and the elk refuge in the background.

Historic Treasures on Broadway

By Sherry Smith, Historian and
JHHSM Board Member

When Roy Van Vleck learned that the National Park Service was interested in expanding Grand Teton National Park's boundaries to include much of the Jackson Hole valley north of town, he was mad. Since he had arrived here in 1906 that expanse was ranching country. Sure, cattle grazed on public lands and homesteaders enjoyed the largess of the federal government in acquiring free lands for their ranch homes. But now, tourists would replace cows, the federal government would remain a permanent fixture, and he feared for his livelihood as owner of Jackson's first Mercantile store.

His fears proved misplaced. Instead, tourism became the lifeblood of Jackson and, particularly over the last sixty years, its exponential growth has brought prosperity along with significant pressures to further commercial development. In the process, it is Jackson's history that is now under threat....including the log cabin Roy Van Vleck built, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The "Genevieve block" is currently for sale. Just a short walk from the town square, the property retains beautiful old trees and a cluster of historic buildings which immediately connect locals and tourists alike to Jackson's earliest history. The most prominent is the Van Vleck House, now housing "Café Genevieve."

Roy and his brother Frank came to Jackson Hole, from Michigan, in 1906. They tried running a store in Colorado but decided to move on to Oregon...until they stopped in this valley. Originally intending just to spend some time gathering provisions, they ended up staying. The brothers opened the mercantile and purchased a cattle ranch near Hoback Junction. In the end, Roy kept the store and Frank, the ranch. As the town slowly grew, so too did Roy's business. He began building his log house in 1910 and then returned to Michigan to fetch his bride, Genevieve Lawton. They lived in that cabin until 1960.

The Van Vlecks contributed greatly to Jackson's development and civic life. Genevieve was among the five women composing the nation's first all women's town council. Running in May 1920 to initiate reforms regarding sanitation and other town matters, the women's victory tossed the all men's town council out of office and garnered national attention for it. Roy served as Land Commissioner (administering the Homestead Act), and on the hospital and school boards. They raised two daughters, Jean Stewart and Stella Weston, in that house.

Another historic log structure on this lot, now housing "The Juicery," was built by Stella Van Vleck and her husband, Harry Weston who married in 1934 and moved into their new

home in 1936, right next door to Roy and Genevieve who either gave or sold them the land. The Westons also became active members of the Jackson community.

The open space and the log buildings on this lot remind us of the actual character of Jackson's history: not some "wild West" but rather a small, agricultural community tucked away in spectacular mountain country. The structures' purposes have changed, now housing restaurants rather than families. But their presence and architectural integrity are integral to the historic fabric of Jackson Hole and our community's connection to its rich past.

Jackson Hole continues to evolve and grow and the JHHSM is encouraged to see a number of efforts that meld existing historic buildings with contemporary needs. As the Town and County plan for the future, our organization is very supportive of any creative solutions that allow our community to pursue progress while maintaining the integrity of our dwindling historic building stock. We understand development needs and do not wish to freeze time, but instead hope to see a balanced approach that benefits both our past and future. – Morgan Jaouen

Museum Celebrates 60th Year

Sixty years ago, on June 5, 1958, Governor Milward Simpson dedicated and officially opened the Jackson Hole Museum to a crowd of several hundred individuals. The new Museum opened in one of the town's oldest buildings: the Deloney Store, built in 1906. It was a joint venture by two long-time Jackson Hole residents, Slim Lawrence and Homer Richards. Richards owned the building, and Slim had spent four decades collecting what they called the "curios and curiosities" on display.

Much ado (rightfully so) is made about Slim Lawrence and his extensive collection, which is still on display today. Many remember Slim for his long residence at the AMK Ranch as caretaker and for his exploits around the valley. Slim first arrived in the valley as a young boy in 1912 on a family trip. Like so many after him, he vowed to return. Finding work and his wife Verba in Moran, they made their residence permanent at the AMK Ranch. From here, Slim credits his wife and his employers as being supportive and "humoring" his collective tendencies.

Slim was fortunate in his friendship with Homer Richards. Richards was a prominent member of the community; by 1958 he had resided in the valley for 34 years. Through their newly formed partnership, Richards gave the Slim Lawrence Collection a true home. Richards, a long-time Rotarian, had owned and run several successful businesses including a barbershop

and gas station by Jenny Lake (where he homesteaded), later building a few cabins to house overnight tourists. When the Snake River Land Company formed in 1929, Richards sold his homestead and relocated to the town of Jackson where he built the Ideal Lodge, a small cabin court

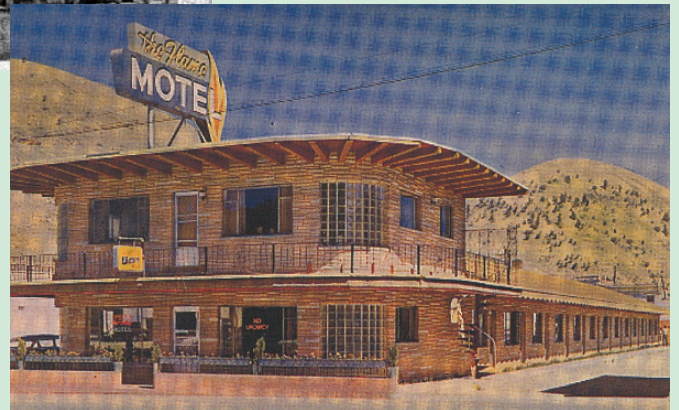
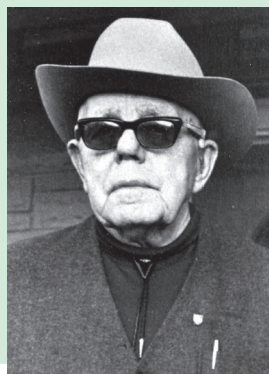
partnership, Slim and Homer offered the only illustration, through artifacts, of the valley's history. In 1965 the Teton County Historical Society formed with the full support of the Museum. Where the Museum housed artifacts, the Historical Society began collecting photographs, stories



[Left] A newspaper clipping announces the opening of the Jackson Hole Museum on Deloney and Glenwood, where we still have a location today.

[Below] The Flame Motel, postcard photo courtesy Collection of Michael Cassity.

[Below left] Homer Richards.



similar to his lodgings at Jenny Lake. In the 1950s, Richards remodeled the Ideal Lodge into the Flame Motel, modernizing for the increased expectations of tourists. Rumor has it that Richards offered the first modern plumbing in town. The Motel is no longer standing, but Richards' house he built from the same stone remains, a hidden secret in downtown Jackson. Today it houses offices and is no longer a residence.

and research on the homesteading history. The two organizations finally merged in the 1980s to form the present-day Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum. Building on the valuable work these "old timers" started, we're proud to continue to share the heritage and history of our community. The old Deloney Store still functions as a museum, a testament to the vision of Slim Lawrence and Homer Richards.

In the first decade of their

ABCs of Jackson Hole



Some of the ABCs featured so far include the Kelly Flood (below), Grovont (bottom right), Bar B C (bottom left), and Irrigation (left).



We are excited to announce the launch of our ABCs of Jackson Hole video series this summer! To celebrate our 60th year, we are releasing over 60 minutes-worth of rare photographs and narration about Jackson Hole's history! We are posting weekly short videos to our Facebook page and YouTube Channel about a facet of Jackson Hole's history, matching all 26 letters in the alphabet. So far we've released: Antler Arches, Bar BC, CCC Campground at Jenny Lake, Dam at

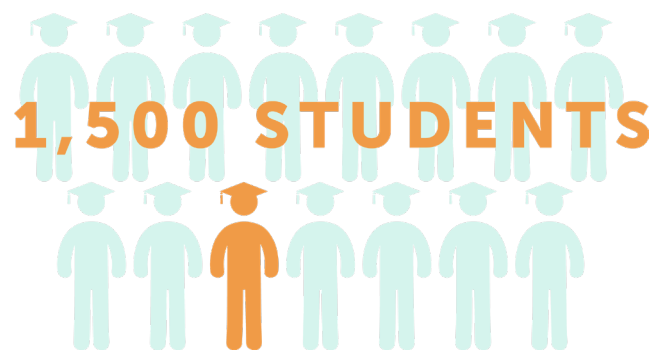
Moran, Elk, Fur Trade Era, Grovont, Hayden Survey, Irrigation, Jackson Lake and Kelly Flood. We're excited to get started on the second half of the series and we've got some exciting letters coming up.

Each video contains about three minutes of commentary, overlaid with historic photographs. Many of these photographs are rarely seen, from the depths of our collection of over 12,000 photos. The videos are designed to be watched either

in order, or standalone. Once completed, the project will be compiled onto our website, with future plans for an installation in the museum gallery.

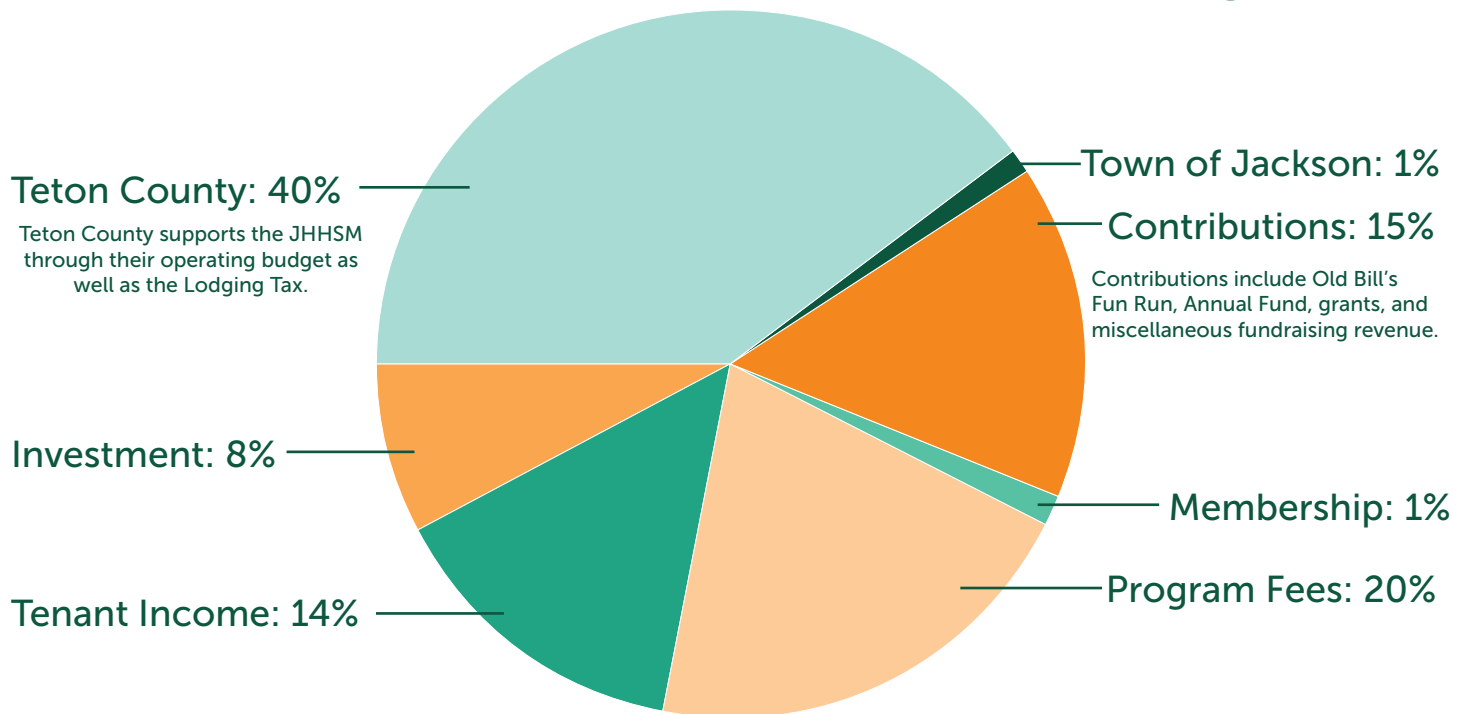
We're about to embark on the second half of the alphabet, so if you haven't seen them yet, check out Facebook (www.facebook.com/jacksonmuseum) or our YouTube Channel (Jackson Hole Historical Society & Museum, or search Jackson Hole History ABCs!)

Year in Review

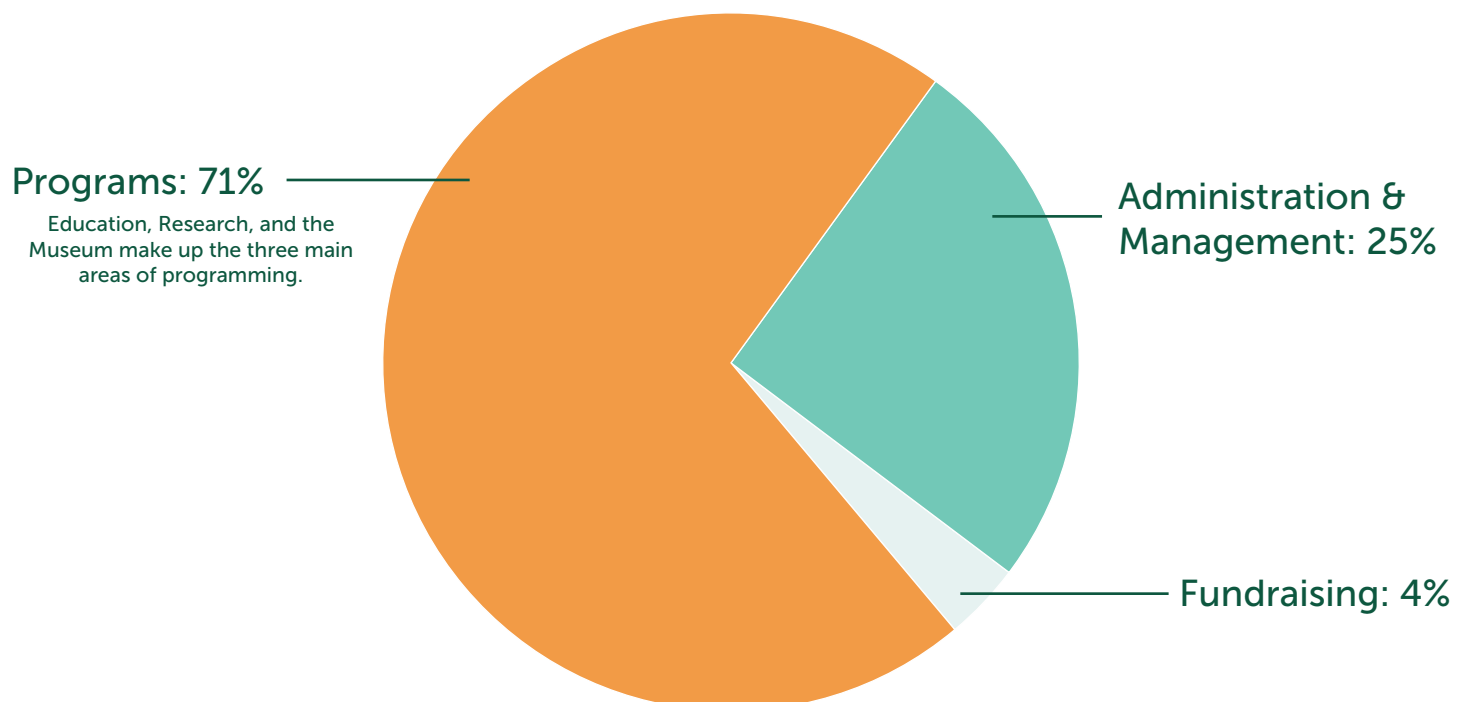


These numbers represent the people served by JHHSM in 2017. "Visitors" includes daily museum visitors as well as program attendees. In 2018, we've seen an increase in the number of people attending programs, and expect next year's statistics to reflect that.

JHHSM Sources of Funding



Use of Funds





P. O. Box 1005
Jackson, WY 83001-1005

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit organization

U. S. Postage
PAID
Jackson, WY

Permit 82

become a
**history
hero!**



**Donate through
Old Bill's today!**

Supporting us supports programs like our archaeology field trips!
Look inside the newsletter for more information.

