

# JACKSON HOLE

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR  
ON PAGE 3!

## CHRONICLE

VOLUME XXXVII NO. 3

Summer 2017

### Jackson Hole by Number: Using Primary Sources to Color Your Story

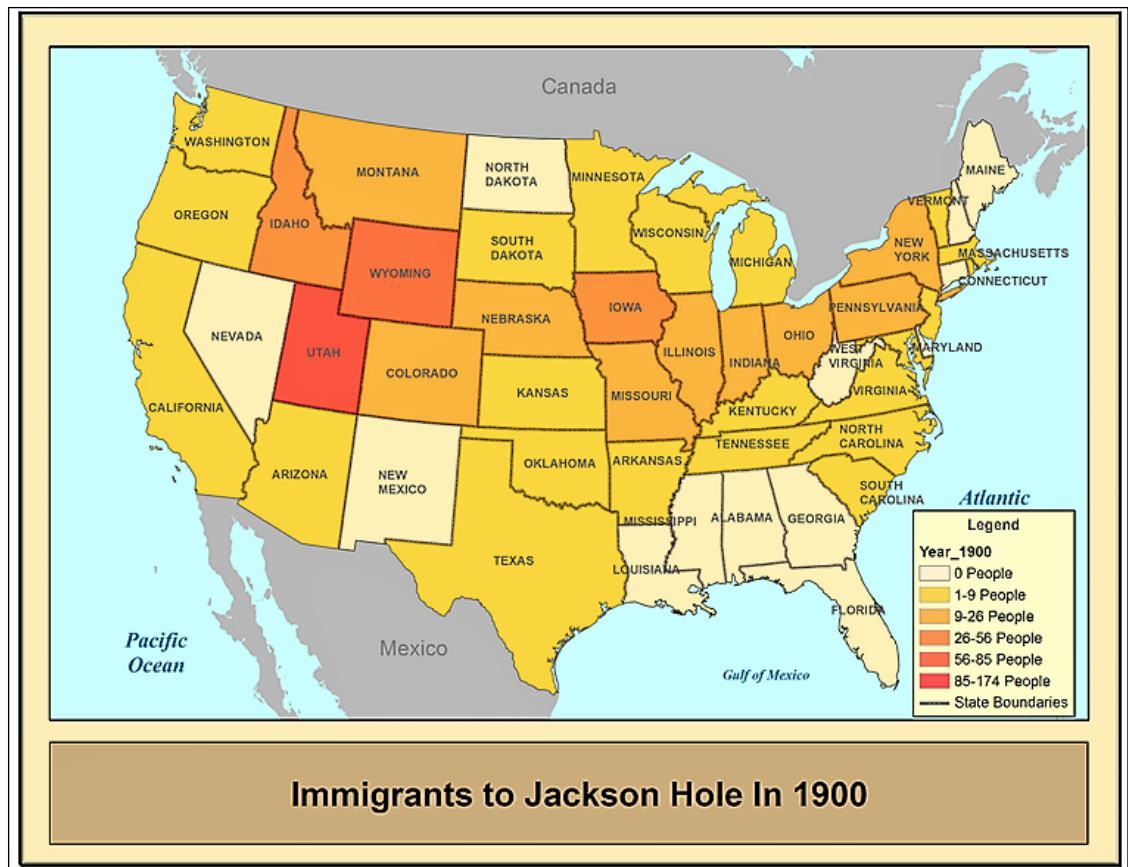
by Samantha Ford, JHSM staff

This summer the museum received an inquiry about the birthplaces of the earliest homesteaders in the valley. Where did these people come from? How far had they potentially traveled to get here? At first, it might seem like a monumental task to track down and compile the birthplaces of all 651 people living in the valley during the early homesteading era (1890-1900). How many records would that entail? Would the time spent equal the benefit of having that kind of information? Both answers are simple: just one source is needed, and the information would help to create a more detailed story about the valley's history. The United States Census is an integral member in the tool belt of the genealogist, or anyone conducting historical research.

#### ABOUT THE CENSUS

The data collected in a Census was a means to track the growth of the country. This information was used to predict future needs and to plan for sustainable town/city and territory growth. The first Census was conducted in 1790, and the most recent in 2010. The Census of 1850 included the first detailed account of social issues, city infrastructure, industrial and agricultural growth. This same year, all members of a household were listed with name, age, race, education, birthplace and occupation.

The detailed information



[Continued on page 4]



### Mission Statement

*Preserving and sharing the heritage of Jackson Hole*

### Staff

**Morgan Albertson**  
*Executive Director*

**Brenda Roberts**  
*Assistant Director*

**Steve Roberts**  
*Retail, Marketing, Research*

**Nora DeWitt-Hoeger**  
*Research Assistant*

**Marilyn Wartig**  
*Visitor Services*

**Alexei Cree**  
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**Samantha Ford**  
*Historical Research Projects*

**Matt Stirn**  
*JH Archaeology Initiative*  
**Rebecca Sgouros**  
*JH Archaeology Initiative*

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## REMEMBER: OLD BILL'S FUN RUN SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017



# JACKSON HOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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## MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: MORGAN ALBERTSON!



As a historian, dates are important to me; a new date that will stick with me is July 10, 2017. That is when I began this new journey as the Executive Director of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum – a historic organization in its own right and important fixture in the Jackson Hole community. As we approach the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this organization, it is a time of great reflection. This place has evolved from Slim Lawrence’s private collection, to artifacts on display, to *the authority* on Jackson Hole heritage. I am so impressed with the two museum spaces, research center, and educational programs that are the heart and soul of this organization. As we hurtle into the next 60 years of service to our community, we’re looking

forward to focusing on how we actively share this information and cultural material – how we engage with broader audiences, offer more opportunities for participation, and stay relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We all know that Jackson Hole is often touted for its natural scenery, wildlife, and land conservation, but it’s important to recognize the human stories that also help define this place and provide a deeper connection for locals and visitors alike. The JHSM is here as a community resource and I am looking forward to helping sustain our operations and defining our future trajectory.

Now you may be wondering about my background and how I became so passionate about this place. I am not a local, but instead have one of those classic transplant stories. I first visited Jackson Hole as a five-year old on a family cross-country camping trip. We were driving across I-90 for the majority of the trip until we got to Wyoming, where we dipped down to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Most of my young memories from that trip are pretty vague but what clearly stood out was camping on Jackson Lake and hiking in the Tetons. Since that moment, it has always been in the back of my head to someday make this place my home. Now it’s also worth mentioning that I grew up in a small historic New England village, Old Deerfield, Massachusetts, where my neighbor was a house museum and there were regular weekend historical re-enactments. These experiences have certainly driven my current career path. After earning my bachelors degree in archaeology, I moved to Jackson and have been here ever since (with a brief stint in Oregon for graduate school). Over the last 5 years I have been working as a cultural resource specialist for Grand Teton National Park, completed my Masters of Science in Historic Preservation, and have worked on special projects for the Teton County Historic Preservation Board and Alliance for Historic Wyoming. My particular interests include western vernacular architecture, ranching, conservation, and outdoor recreation.

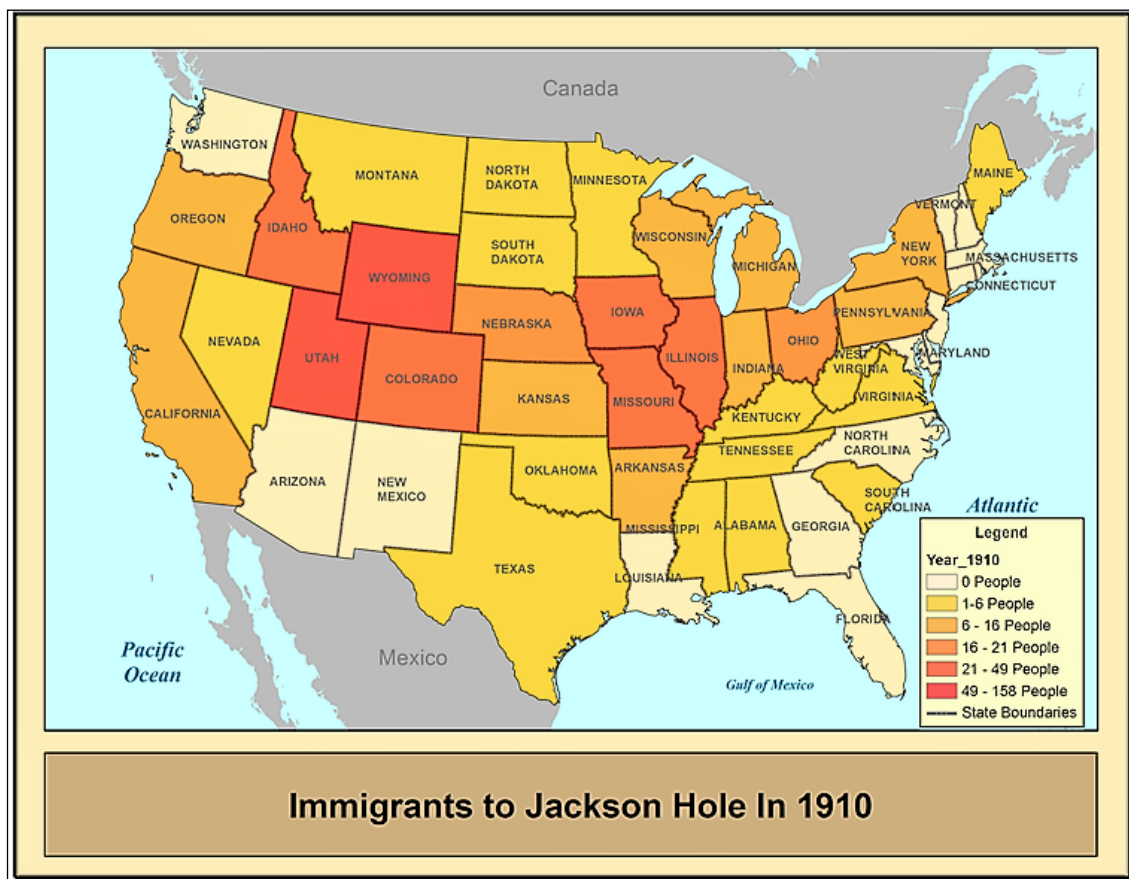
My focus thus far has been on the built environment and historic character of Jackson Hole, but I now look forward to becoming more involved with museum collections, interpretation, and history-related programming. My love of historic buildings is not lost though at the JHSM because of the variety of historic buildings we utilize and maintain! Did you know that the Deloney Museum was one of the first commercial structures (1906) in Jackson and a rare example of masonry construction using local brick? These buildings are gems and are an important part of the JHSM portfolio.

While I’m very new to the organization, I do have a few quick updates. At the height of summer, the museums have been busy and we’ve hosted a youth education program almost every day. As things begin to slow down, we are looking forward to revamping our speaker series, expanding our educational offerings, and creating updated temporary exhibits for the next season. Also, make sure to check out our website [www.jacksonholehistory.org](http://www.jacksonholehistory.org) as it is continuously updated with more online exhibit content and educational resources. Our partnership with the National Park Service is moving forward as we begin to collect stories, imagery, and ephemera from the White Grass Dude Ranch, one of the earliest dude ranches in the West located within what is now Grand Teton National Park. We’re also keeping the momentum rolling right into September! Keep an eye out for our booth at Old Bill’s Fun Run; stop by to pick up a western bandana, bumper sticker, and even a book! Or come check out our temporary History Timeline at the Astoria Hot Springs “Day on the Land” event on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to meeting our dedicated membership. Please stop by and say hello when you visit the museum!

*Morgan Albertson*

recorded in the Census from 1850 forward creates a staggering historical record from which to draw nearly complete stories of family, community, and land use. The Census allows us to create a near-complete biography of an individual, their family and their community. Whether or not someone immigrated to the United States, learned English as their second language, the kind of job they held in a certain location, their income level (if they owned or rented their house). In some areas, the address listed on the Census is searchable on Google Maps, and sometimes the house is still standing.



## JACKSON HOLE NUMBERS

For our work, we tallied numbers from the U.S. Census of 1900, 1910 and 1920 to track community growth and patterns as Jackson Hole grew from a small pioneering community into the “golden age” of dude ranching in the 1920s. The Census of 1890 would have been included, but it was unfortunately lost to a fire in 1921. We tallied the birthplaces of the homesteaders themselves, to see how far they traveled within their own lifetime to end up in Jackson Hole. The Census also listed the birthplaces of their parents, which can be added as the project expands.

Our timeline begins in 1900, after the period of westward expansion and exploration was officially closed in 1890. Routes out to the west were well-traveled, and railroads were now reliable transportation services. Unsurprisingly, the states with the highest numbers of emigrants were those nearby: Utah, Idaho and Wyoming itself. Utah had the highest numbers, as Mormons began searching out additional territories in the West. Jackson Hole’s own Mormon community, known as Gros Ventre (also Grovont and Mormon Row) sprung up in 1896. By 1900, the line village was expanding toward the north, where the two famous Moulton barns would later be built in 1913.

The other states with numbers of interest are all located along well-established railroad routes, from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, to Colorado and Wyoming. As you travel further out from these states, the numbers decrease significantly. Access to transportation routes seems to be a factor in how far families were willing to travel before settling. These themes are carried through in 1910, where increased numbers were traveling along the railroad corridors, and by 1920 the majority of those living in Jackson Hole had been born in Wyoming.

## COMMUNITY NEEDS

In addition to birthplace, we also tallied the different occupations that were listed in 1900, 1910 and 1920 and found compelling information. The needs of an early pioneering community would be very different from one

catering to tourists and dudes. These stories were easy to recognize in the types of occupations present in 1900, as contrasted with those in 1920. In 1900, the town of Jackson had not yet been platted, and the only community gathering space had been established just four years prior. There was just one doctor, butcher, mail carrier, grocer; four blacksmiths, four carpenters and one stonemason listed. The remaining occupations were blank for women and children, but the overwhelming majority were farmers, farm hands and day laborers. This was an agrarian community, whose focus was on establishing crops, cattle and

their own homesteads. Any specialized work that was needed for the animals, farming equipment, or basic human needs, was often up to one person to service the entire valley.

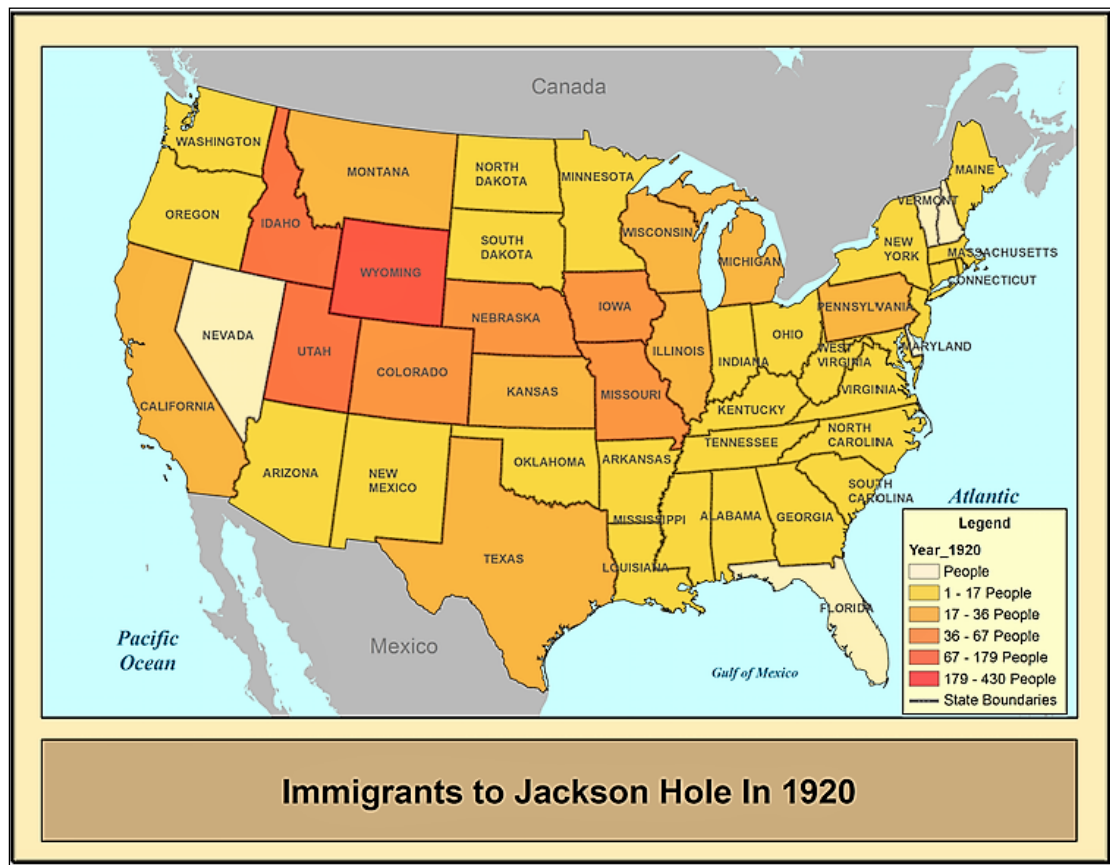
In 1920, we see the emergence of the term “rancher” rather than farmer. Other occupations like banker, baker, game warden, forest ranger, telephone manager, newspaper, electrician and real estate are present. These are the people who support a growing community who are no longer living off of their own land, but requiring services that involved travel. This suggests road systems were now more reliable, and utility systems like telephones and electricity that were once luxuries are now 20<sup>th</sup> century necessities. Newspapers to circulate information replaced word of mouth. Dude ranches had taken off since the JY ranch was the first to open in 1907, followed by the Bar BC in 1912 and White Grass in 1913. These three ranches would become the preeminent vacation destinations of the 1920s, and in the summers the dudes would more than double the local population.

Primary sources allow us to peer into the past and to understand it as our ancestors wrote it themselves. Rather than relying on information retold by someone who wasn’t present, primary sources are a direct window into historical events. Diaries, letters, newspaper articles or any preserved written materials composed during the historical event are considered primary, or firsthand sources of information. They are our most valuable records, from which endless amounts of data and information can be drawn to color in a full picture of what life was like for our great-great grandparents. Where they were born, how far they traveled (if at all) in their lives, and their roles in their communities. There are many similarities to be found through these resources that relate to us today, especially as we participate in our own upcoming Census in 2020.

For more information on life on early homesteads, please visit our First Families online exhibit at: <http://jacksonholehistory.org/first-families-of-jackson-hole/>

For more information on the Census work, please visit the Jackson Hole By Number online exhibit at: <http://jacksonholehistory.org/jackson-hole-by-number/>

To see this newsletter in its color format so you can discern the different shades on the maps more clearly, you can also go to our website and look under “Newsletters.”



# EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONNECT KIDS TO HISTORY!

This summer Education Director Brenda Roberts has been busy teaching youth workshops in the MAC (Merrill Archaeology and Teaching Center) at 105 Merrill Avenue.



Our full-sized tipi at the Merrill

Tipi Tales, the last program in a five-year education plan successfully launched in May of this year. Three, four, and five year old classes from local preschools were invited to participate in a monthly activity-supported story time at the Museum annex (MAC). Groups of children gathered on the porch of the building, removed their shoes, quietly entered Room #1 and crawled into a large Tipi where they stretched their bare feet toward an “Amazing Blazing” electric campfire. Calming Indian flute music played in the background as they breathed in the scent of Sweet Grass hanging from a Lodge Pole near the smoke hole at the top of the conical shaped dwelling. Mrs. Roberts led the children in a deep breathing exercise before encouraging them to close their eyes and put on “Imagination Hats” so they may pretend she had changed into a Shoshone Grandfather, or Trickster Coyote, or a young Indian girl’s purple pony – any one of the primary characters in a lifeway tale.

Next, an engaging interactive story began perhaps imagining they were Shoshone grandchildren learning their first rhythm on their first drum made by Grandfather who taught them the sound of his heartbeat – without being asked they began to clap their hands to the sound of the beating heart tapped on a drum (from the museum’s collection). In a moment the drum was passed from child to child as they reverently

tapped the rhythm and were softly told that when they were sad, or lonely, or afraid the Grandfather would hear the heart beat - drum beat wherever he was and send his spirit to comfort them.

After the children removed their “Imagination Hats” activity time began in Room #3 where a stratigraphy wall filled the NE corner and colorful beads, small tinkling metal bells, and plastic replica elk teeth or bear claws laid on tables awaiting eager little hands to create paper plate drums to “beat, beat, heart beat” as they danced out the door to gentle Indian drums playing in the background.

Tipi Tales is one of the many workshops provided by museum staff year-around for children and youth attending Teton County public and private schools and nonprofit organizations reaching out to Jackson Hole families.

For more information about JHSM youth education programs please contact Brenda Roberts: [brenda@jacksonholehistory.org](mailto:brenda@jacksonholehistory.org).

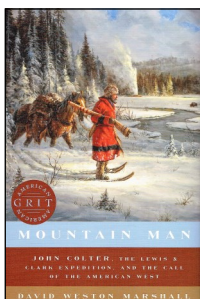


Brenda shares the stories of our valley using hands-on teaching methods in our museums.

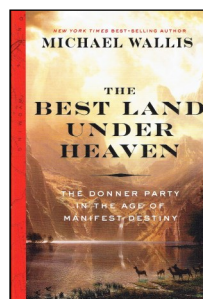
## Want to discover more about the history of the Old West?

Check out the newest titles in our Museum Bookstore or online: [jacksonholehistory.org/shop](http://jacksonholehistory.org/shop)

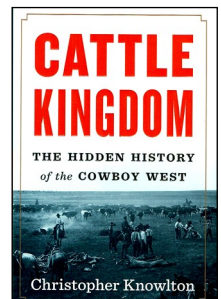
A new look at John Colter’s life and significance!  
*Mountain Man: John Colter*, by David Weston Marshall



Dispelling the myths and mysteries surrounding the Donner Party—the latest research from Michael Wallis.  
*The Best Land Under*



Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the cowboy and the cattle industry!  
*Cattle Kingdom*, by Christopher Knowlton  
2017; 426 pp.



# RESEARCHING THE PAST

## NORA DEWITT-HOEGER

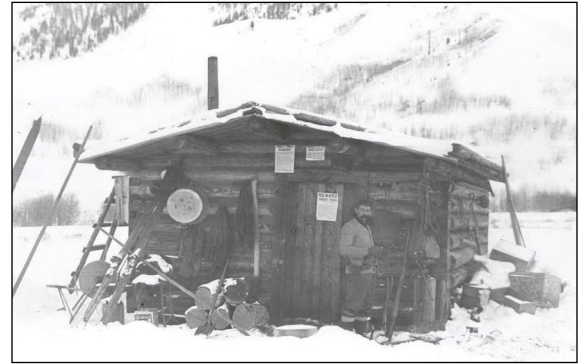
The research department has been especially busy as of late. Recently we had a gentlemen email us because he is writing an article regarding the ambush of the Alfred Stephens party in 1832. This is a relatively well known story. Following the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade's rendezvous over in Pierre's Hole in July of 1832, the companies led by Milton Sublette and Nathaniel Wyeth were attacked by a band of Gros Ventres. Fortunately for the trappers they came out victorious, but Milton Sublette was wounded. Nathaniel Wyeth's party continued on west toward the Pacific,



Al Austin

but Sublette's party, bound for Jackson Hole, was left to wait for Sublette to recover. Soon a group of seven men, Joseph More, a Mr. Foy, Alfred K. Stephens, 'two grandsons of the celebrated Daniel Boone' and two unknown men, clearly disgruntled with the delay separated from Sublette's group and continued on into Jackson's Hole alone. While they were nearing the junction of the Snake River and the mouth of the Hoback they were suddenly ambushed by some of the same band of Gros Ventres. More and Foy were killed immediately and Stephens succumbed to his injuries a few days later, while the rest of the group somehow retreated back safely to Sublette's camp.

Now fast forward some 70 years later and a man named Al Austin was homesteading in Jackson Hole around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He homesteaded near the mouth of Hoback River and in 1904 he apparently found a

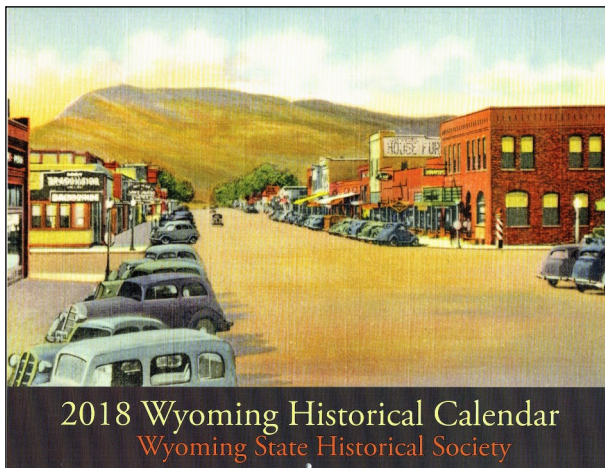


Al Austin at the Bryant Flat Ranger Cabin on Camp

human skull on his property. Rumors are that he took the skull to town and it was on display at the Jackson Hardware store for a number of years. This gentlemen doing research with us believes there might be a link from the ambush of Stephens' men to this skull if only we knew where it ended up or anything more about the skull. It's a stretch, but if anyone reading this has heard these rumors or has any more information regarding this, please give us a call or stop by the Museum—we would love to help solve this mystery!

## Time to plan ahead....

Pick up your 2018 Wyoming State Historical Calendar from our Museum Store and be ready for the coming year!



2018 Wyoming Historical Calendar  
Wyoming State Historical Society

Still only  
\$8.95

Don't have time to stop in?  
You can order online at our website:  
[www.jacksonholehistory.org/shop](http://www.jacksonholehistory.org/shop)  
or call us and we'll send it to you:

307-733-2414

## **Annual Archaeology Update coming August 24!**

Join us Thursday, August 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Teton County Library to hear the latest updates from the field by our staff

archaeologists Matt Stirn and Rebecca Sgouros. Every summer Matt and Rebecca head into the high country to record ancient sites, monitor melting ice patches, and piece together our understanding of the Greater Yellowstone region over the last 13,000 years. Their latest findings include the paleoenvironmental results from a soil core taken from a high elevation lake in the northern Teton Mountains. Ancient pollen trapped in the soil can be used to illuminate the climate, temperature, and precipitation patterns of the Tetons over the past 12,000 years. Matt and Rebecca will talk about their results - highlighting the landscape of the high Tetons



Lake core sample taken from



Rebecca Sgouros



Green Lake region in the Tetons.

## **OPEN HOUSE**

**JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE TO MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MORGAN ALBERTSON!**

**WE'LL HAVE A TENT SET UP ON OUR TERRACE BEHIND THE MUSEUM AT 225 N. CACHE STREET ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, FROM 11:00 A.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M. WHERE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO**

**WELCOME MORGAN TO OUR MUSEUM FAMILY! NATURALLY, THERE WILL BE HOMEMADE COOKIES AND LEMONADE AVAILABLE. PLEASE STOP BY AND SAY "HELLO!"**



# JACKSON HOLE ARCHAEOLOGY INITIATIVE

A review of Tory Taylor's *On the Trail of the Mountain Shoshone Sheep eaters*, by Matt Stirn

Have you ever wondered what it is like to discover an unknown prehistoric village at 12,000 feet? Or how about living for an entire year only off of what you hunt or gather in the mountains? In a recently published archaeological memoir, Wyoming native Tory Taylor takes readers on an exciting adventure into the prehistory of Wyoming's remote, alpine wilderness.

Ancient people weren't supposed to have lived in the mountains. That was, at least, the common consensus for most of history. Taylor begins his book, *On the Trail of the Mountain Shoshone Sheep eaters* by exploring the history of the Sheep eaters, a sect of the Shoshone who traditionally lived amongst the high mountains of the GYE. Despite the Sheep eaters having a deep history to the area, the Wind River Range was rarely investigated because past perceptions of wilderness and alpine terrain considered it too harsh and rugged to support ancient life. This misconception created a vacuum, a blank spot on the historic map of the American West, that once discovered, offered a Pompeii-esque environment to explore a little known history. Tory Taylor was there from the very beginning and his book provides a fascinating account of what it took to unravel the past in a remote and difficult research environment.

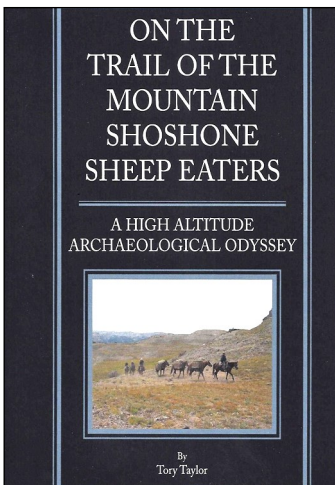


Matt Stirn

After providing a detailed (and easy to read) introduction to the archaeology of the GYE, Taylor transitions into his personal account of collaborating with archaeologists on research projects in the mountains. Amongst their most prolific discoveries was that of High Rise Village, an entire Sheep eater village consisting of over 50 ancient houses at nearly 12,000 feet. From there, the team canvassed the mountains of northwestern Wyoming discovering hundreds of previously unknown archaeological sites, more mountain villages, and frozen artifacts melting out of glaciers. All of these were truly remarkable finds and Taylor captures the excitement of discovery in his writing.

The second half of the book transitions from wilderness research expeditions and into Taylor's quest to understand what it was actually like to live in the Wind River Mountains 2,000 years ago. Using a combination of meticulously researched historical accounts, and his own experimentation, Taylor takes the reader on an adventure into the life of a Mountain Shoshone. Experiment No. 1) Construct and hunt with an authentic Bighorn Sheep Bow. Experiment No. 2) Discover how far people could actually travel in a day... before the invention of planes, trains, and Netflix. Experiment No. 3) Go full hunter-gatherer for one year, eating only plants and animals that he personally foraged or hunted in the mountains of Wyoming.

If you are at all interested in archaeology, exploration, or the life of a modern day mountain man, *On the Trail of the Mountain Shoshone Sheep eaters* will offer an exciting and informative read. Pick up your copy in our museum store or order from our website: [www.jacksonholehistory.org/shop!](http://www.jacksonholehistory.org/shop!)



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- \$35 - Individual; \$60 - Regular Family [includes children under 18 living at home]
- \$25 - Individual Senior [60+ years] / \$50 - Senior Family [includes member & spouse]
- \$100 - Friend [also Basic Business level]
- \$250 - Contributing; \$500 - Sustaining; \$1000 - Benefactor

These are annual membership fees; you can join for one or two years.

**Membership includes:**

Quarterly Museum Newsletters; early notices of programs and events

## A TRADITION LIVES ON AT JHHSM

A Concord Yellowstone Stagecoach originally belonging to Stanley Resor (Bill Resor's grandfather) has come home to the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum by a circuitous and interesting route. It was built by Abbot and Downing of Concord, New Hampshire and began operating in 1883 when the Northern Pacific railroad reached the town of Cinnabar a few miles north of Gardiner, Montana. Today looking across the Yellowstone River on the way into Gardiner is an empty field where Cinnabar's busy train station once welcomed visitors to the Yellowstone area. These carriages were used for 32 years transporting folks from regional train stations to Yellowstone, which was declared a National Park by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872.



Resor acquired the coach after it was decommissioned by YNP in favor of buses. For many years Stanley used it to transport himself and others on Sunday mornings to the Chapel of Transfiguration in Moose. Later Stanley made a gift of the big yellow carriage to the Town of Jackson for stagecoach rides for tourists.

Sandy Winchell's enthusiasm (coordinator of the second annual Old West Days in Jackson) is still felt each Memorial Day weekend since she expressed "it's a time to honor our heritage....." in an April 7, 1983 Jackson Hole Guide article. In the same article titled *Old West Days aims to start a tradition*, Betty Franzen, Stagecoach Restoration Committee Chair, is seen accepting a donation check from Grand Teton Lodge Company's Vice President Bernard Iliff.

Thanks to six decades of TLC, Big Yeller will again roll in this year's Old West Days parade. We hope you'll stand waving your hat and shout out a resounding "Yee-Haw" in support of this wonderful old fella as the tradition lives on under the JHHSM banner.

If you know of places the stage was displayed in addition to the sod roof Visitor Center on Cache Street and the Airport, please share with the history museum. We're researching this particular vehicle for our archives and will be

More  
interesting  
insights  
into the  
valley's  
history  
can be  
culled  
from the  
U.S.  
Census  
records.



### Early Jackson Hole Occupations



HOSPITALITY	1900	1910	1920
Commercial Traveler	1	1	
Caretaker			1
Contractor		2	1
Cook		2	
Hotel Keeper		1	
Hotel Manager			6
Hotel Wait staff			4
Laundress		1	
Waitress		2	
Summer Resort		5	
Housekeeper	7		3

**Population (Est.)**  
1900: 651  
1910: 692  
1920: 1347



TOWN	1900	1910	1920
Baker		3	
Banker		1	
Barber		3	
Butcher	1		1
Clergyman		1	
Clerk		8	
Dentist		1	
Doctor	1	2	2
Electrician			1
Engineer	2	2	
Flour Miller			1
General Store			2
Grocery	1		
House Painter	1		
Land Lady		1	
Lawyer	2	1	
Mail Carrier	1		
Mason		1	
Mechanic			8
Merchant			8
Music Teacher	1		
Salesman	3		
Painter		1	
Pharmacist		1	
Plasterer	1		
Postmaster		1	1
Printer	1		
Schoolteacher	10	8	
Tailor		1	
Taxidermist	2	2	2
Telephone			1
Tinsmith	2		
Stage Driver		3	1
Stonemason	1		
Hardware			2
IRS Employee			1
Retail Merchant	1	3	
Livery Barn			1
Real Estate		1	2
Writer			1



PUBLIC LANDS	1900	1910	1920
Forest Ranger		6	3
Forest Supervisor			1
Game Warden			3
Guide		1	
Trapper		7	3
Miner	2	2	1
Mining Engineer			1
Prospector		1	
Surveyor			1
Reclamation		2	



AGRICULTURE	1900	1910	1920
Blacksmith	4	3	6
Carpenter	4	7	7
Cattle Rider		1	1
Day Laborer	45	3	212
Farm Hand	50	76	
Farmer	152	105	1
Foreman		4	
Horse Dealer		2	
Horse Trainer	1		
Horse Wrangler		1	
Ranch Cook		3	
Rancher	152		
Sawyer/ Lumberman	1	5	1
Stableman		1	
Homemaker	1		
Homesteader			13

## WHO IS OUR NEWEST VOLUNTEER?

A JH Middle School student joined the History Museum volunteer staff this summer. After an initial interview for volunteer intern this seventh grader willingly offered to assist museum staff with class prep and cleanup, administrative filing and first phase research, and constant set up and take down for programs. When asked to help the response is always “sure, I can do that!”

A hit with museum staff and students as well: Lead Education/Research Intern, Alexei Cree has dubbed this volunteer “One Shot” describing him as the guy you give instructions once and it’s done right every time. Workshop participants from three to twelve years old listen intently to his stories and eagerly put his activity instructions to use week after week. If your child or grandchild came home from a History Museum education workshop this summer wearing a decorated and beaded vinyl vest, it was our red-headed marvel who walked them through the directions.



He also volunteers at the Rec Center as a counselor one day per week. In addition to his studies during the school year this fella welcomes new students to JHMS orienting them to the facility while sharing pertinent information from a Middle Schooler’s point of view that will make their first week easier.

Who’s Our Newest Volunteer?

**IT’S LANDON SHANAFELT, THAT’S WHO!**

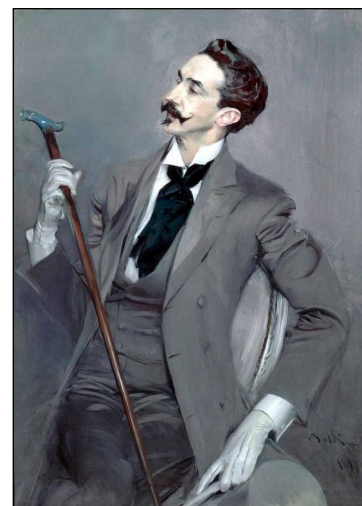
### Hey, Dude!

The first known usage of the word “dude” was in New York in 1883. Later that year it was referred to in a London paper as “American slang for a new kind of American young man.” A couple of months later a Massachusetts paper confirmed its spread: “The new coined word “dude” ... has travelled over the country with a great deal of rapidity since but two months ago it grew into general use in New York.” Rarely is there such a precise dating of the origin of a word, but who coined it and why remains a mystery.

Dudes were aesthetes and dandies - any man who was extremely fastidious about his clothes, speech, and general behavior. They often dressed in a British way and affected a British tone of voice. If you were clothed like a dude, you were *duded up*. But soon the word began to extend its meaning. Any city-dweller who went ‘out West’ as a tourist would be called a dude. *Dude ranches* developed to cater for the demand from *city dudes*. And it wasn’t long before the female dude was identified - and given a name: *dudess* or *dudine*, though neither of these words has survived in general usage.

By the turn of the century anyone who stood out in a crowd was being called a dude. In small-group settings such as classrooms, street gangs, and jazz clubs, it became a term of approval. Eventually any group of people hanging out together would refer to themselves as dudes. It became one of a large number of ‘cool’ slang terms for people, such as *cat* (in the jazz world), and *geek* (in the computer world).

**So, the next time they ask....**





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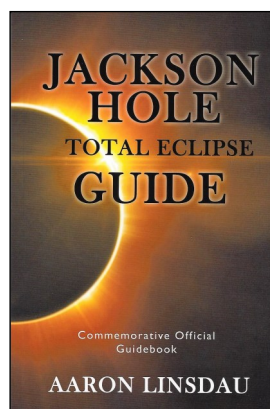
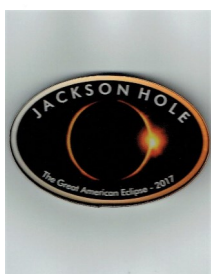
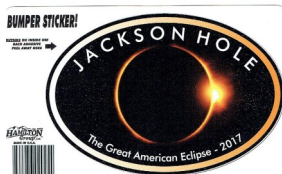
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\* A Mountain Man's alternate term for gee-gaws.