JACKSON HOLE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
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Wilderness Fever Runs High in Jackson Hole!

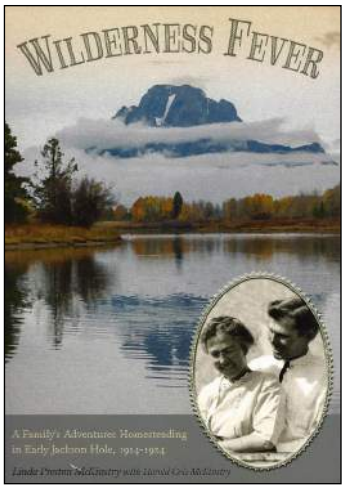
Linda and "Mac" McKinstry's story of homesteading in Jackson Hole in 1914 is not well known. In fact, until the very recent publication of their memoirs under the title of "Wilderness Fever," few outside of family and friends had even heard of the McKinstry's fledgling cattle ranch on the outer most boundaries of what was to become Grand Teton National Park and a major gateway to Yellowstone. Today, we focus more on those whose ventures left their mark in the names of the once famous dude ranches now located inside park boundaries, or on those ranches bought by wealthy investors - 'outsiders' who had the resources to finance a future that those like the McKinstry's could only dream of. Yet in many ways their story is far more typical of how the community of Jackson grew and of how people in the early part of the past century coped with the realities of homesteading in this still remote region of the American West. With the publication of "Wilderness Fever" by Wyoming's own High Plains Press (based out of Glendo), we needed someone who could put the McKinstry's story in historical perspective and turned to one of JHHSM's newest board members, Dr. Sherry Smith. Dr. Smith is a western historian and long-term summer, and now permanent, resident along with her husband Dr. Robert Righter, of Moose. Sherry agreed to write the Forward to "Wilderness Fever" which we have featured here by way of an introduction to this remarkable story. - Dr. Sharon Kahin

When Dr. Sharon Kahin invited me to write the Introduction to Linda McKinstry's wonderful memoir, now published as "Wilderness Fever", I jumped at the chance. The story focuses on the Moran/Pacific creek area – a place that has not received much attention from historians yet certainly deserves more.

McKinstry shows us the particular challenges she and her husband faced: living in the remotest corner of an already isolated patch of the West, contending with conservationists and irrigators for control of land and water, and finding community with neighbors – including the very few women who shared the experience. - Sherry L. Smith, Ph.D.

FOREWORD from "Wilderness Fever"

For most Americans, the word "homesteader" evokes an image of a nineteenth century man striding into the West leading a sun-bonneted wife, a clutch of tow-headed children, and a pair of oxen or stocky horses hauling a wagon of supplies. Their destination: a sod hut on the wide open prairie. Part of the inspiration for this picture is undoubtedly movies and television shows or novels such as Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie or Willa Cather's My Antonia. Of course, there is some historical justification for this impression. The Homestead Act which provided people the opportunity to gain a free slice of the nation's public lands dates to the Civil War era. It was, initially, a nineteenth century phenomenon and certainly helped greatly accelerate the peopling of the Plains.



Yet, much of Wyoming, with its arid high plains and mountains, did not attract significant numbers of homesteaders until the turn of the 20th century. Several factors explain this. The greater attraction of more suitable farm and ranch land and better access to transportation and markets elsewhere was certainly crucial in explaining Wyoming's tardy involvement. Jackson Hole, ringed by mountain ranges, was particularly isolated and its altitude and rocky soil posed impediments, too. However, as prices for agricultural products *[Continued on page 4]*

Mission Statement

Preserving and sharing the heritage of Jackson Hole

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Masthead sketch by Robert Rudd:
Joe Pfeiffer's homestead on Antelope Flats Road.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

The Stan Klassen Research Center is in many ways the heart and soul of the JHHSM – we never know who might come by or why when researchers make an appointment on Wednesdays and Thursdays when the Center is open to the public. Sometimes it's a student working on a project for school, or a local resident checking up on family history - but just as often it's someone coming to bring us a treasure, a piece of history about Jackson Hole that adds significantly to our understanding of the past.

The memoirs of homesteading at the mouth of Pacific Creek in 1914, written by Mac and Linda McKinstry initially came to us in 2013 from Herb Pownall, the husband of photographer Jack Crandall's daughter Quita, Jack was a good friend of the McKinstry's youngest daughter, Stella. One glance told us that what we had here was a truly unique document – a firsthand account of what it was like to homestead in the still remote valley of Jackson Hole at the beginning of the last century. Now available to the public through the museum's gift shop, and just in time for Christmas (!), the McKinstry memoirs, retitled "Wilderness Fever", offer us a rare window on to the past. With electricity to brighten winter nights and keep us warm, and with cell phones and the Internet to connect us, one can't help but read with a certain amount of awe the story of Mac and Linda's love affair with the wilderness that sustained them through the long winters over 100 years ago as they strove to make a home and help build a close-knit community just miles from the old town site of Moran. If you are looking for a gift that could help others understand your love for the Jackson Hole Valley, you might want to consider giving them a copy of "Wilderness Fever".

Sadly, Stella passed away here in Jackson just weeks after we were able to give her an advance copy of her parent's book but we are grateful to her and to her family, especially Stella's niece Kathy Nelson of Castle Rock, CO, for helping us bring Mac and Linda's story to fruition.

And the surprises and donations just keep coming: we are currently working with another local author, Bob Rudd, on a manuscript about the Square G Guest Ranch on Jenny Lake: with Zaidee Fuller to catalogue her mother Virginia Huidekuper's collection of writings and historical photographs; with the former dudes, wranglers and staff at the White Grass Dude Ranch who are helping chronicle and archive their memories and photos; with Judy Anderson, who is collaborating with our Research Historian, Samantha Ford, on the creation of an online and gallery exhibit for the Sylvester Wilson family; with Joe Arnold, Joe Albright's nephew, who is sharing with us the letters his grandfather wrote when he was "lawyering" on horseback in the Jackson Hole area around the turn of the century.

These and so many other donations are keeping us hopping! We are fortunate indeed to have volunteers such as Reade and David Dornan and others who help us keep the Center humming. If you are interested in volunteering or have treasurers to share please don't hesitate to call us!

From the staff at JHHSM to all our members, we wish you the very best for 2017.

Sharon Kahin

Executive Director

How did a knife from the Donner Party end up in Jackson Hole?

Among the JHHSM's more surprising artifacts is a knife that once belonged to James F. Reed, a member of the ill-fated Donner party that headed to California in the spring of 1846. Trapped by early snows and blizzards after making the disastrous decision to leave the main California Trail and taking the route known as Hasting's Cut Off, many in the Donner Party perished - and some resorted to cannibalism.

Knife inscription:
James F. Reed His Knife
Springfield, Illinois
A D 1844

Somewhere along the Humboldt River, Reed, a former soldier in the Black Hawk War of 1832, is reported to have killed a teamster by the name of John Snyder during a quarrel – supposedly stabbing him to death with this very knife. While this anecdote cannot be verified, this story was passed on to the museum's founder Slim Lawrence when Slim, an avid history buff and collector, was going through a trash dump on a private ranch, roughly in the same vicinity. According to Bob Rudd, former director of the JHHSM, who got the story of the knife directly from Slim, the rancher told Slim the full story, adding that he was welcome to the knife. Rudd, worked closely with Slim on many of the collections and remembers Slim's special interest in this artifact.

James Reed and the Donner Party

In 1845, James Reed decided to head west to California and organized a small group which left the Springfield, Illinois, area in the spring of 1846. The other members were George Donner and his brother Jacob, along with their families and hired hands. Each head of household had three wagons. In addition to two supply wagons, Reed had a particularly comfortable one made for his family to ride in. The Reeds and Donners left on April 14, and on May 19 joined a large wagon train led by William H. Russell.

James Frazier Reed

While camped in Wyoming, the Reeds, Donners, and several other families decided to take a new route, Hastings Cutoff, and elected George Donner captain, creating the Donner Party; the Donner Party separated from the other emigrants on July 20. While crossing the desert west of the Great Salt Lake, Reed was forced to abandon two of his wagons after losing nearly all his oxen. The exhausted Donner Party re-joined the California Trail on September 26 near Elko, Nevada, having taken 3 weeks longer than the traditional route.

On October 6, while traveling along the Humboldt River, Reed became involved in a quarrel with two teamsters and in the ensuing fight stabbed John Snyder to death. One emigrant proposed hanging Reed, but after Reed's wife pleaded for leniency, the other emigrants decided to banish him. Reed initially refused to accept their decision but finally agreed to go ahead to Sutter's Fort in the Sacramento Valley for supplies.

After a difficult journey, during which he nearly starved, Reed reached the fort on October 28. After two days' rest, he attempted to take provisions back to the wagon train, but deep snow blocked the way. The early onset of winter not only blocked Reed's route, it had also trapped the Donner Party in the Sierra Nevada. The Donner Party members built shelters, hoping to resume their journey, but were forced to spend the winter in the mountains. They were already low on supplies and had to slaughter their oxen for food. As the winter wore on, many of the emigrants starved to death, and some resorted to cannibalism.

Meanwhile, Reed, now stuck in California, tried to organize another relief expedition, but turmoil from the Mexican War disrupted his efforts. In early February 1847, the citizens and naval officers of San Francisco funded a rescue party. Its leader was Selim Woodworth, a naval officer, with Reed as his second-in-command. Reed rounded up men and supplies then headed up into the mountains. He met his wife Margret, his stepdaughter Virginia, and son James, Jr., coming out of the mountains. After an emotional reunion Reed and his men continued on to the camp, where his remaining children, Patty and Thomas, were still stranded. Reed led a party of emigrants out from the camps, but a severe blizzard trapped them at the top of Donner Pass for two days, during which the party ran out of food. When the storm ceased, most of the refugees were too weak to continue. Reed departed with his children but was forced to leave the others behind; a few days later, however, another rescue party arrived and brought them out.

- Resources: *Ordeal by Hunger*, George Stewart; Wikipedia.

increased and a “back to the land” movement (in response to the more distressing consequences of urbanization and industrialization) emerged among the educated middle class, Wyoming’s high, dry grasslands and its remote northwest mountain region beckoned.

Linda and Harold McKinstry, then, were among those who started anew in homesteading’s later phase, staking their claim to a patch of countryside near Moran in 1915. The very earliest Jackson Hole homesteaders had arrived thirty years before, in 1884, when John Holland and John Carnes selected their homestead lands in the Flat Creek area (near the present day town of Jackson). The following year a handful of Mormon families, the Wilsons and Cheneys, settled along Fish Creek and South Park, having migrated over Teton Pass from Idaho. But the real surge in homesteading came decades later, peaking between 1908 and 1919. It unfolded in a south to north trajectory, eventually spreading to the Gros Ventre River, Spring Gulch, Moose, Jackson Lake, and finally to the Moran/Pacific Creek areas.

So, what propelled the McKinstrys west and were they typical Jackson Hole homesteaders? From their own accounts, their motive seemed straightforward and commonplace. Harold McKinstry, tiring of his bureaucratic job in Washington, D.C., longed to be a rancher. He and his bride were ripe for adventure and their government was offering free land. They may have shared the century-old Jeffersonian vision of the public domain as a resource which, as historian Michael Cassity aptly described it, would create a nation of “independent producers” who would “subsist in freedom, and …prosper morally and politically, if not always financially.” Many homesteaders embraced this prospect, so why not the McKinstrys?

Yet, this couple had certain qualities which set them apart from other Wyoming homesteaders. Both were college educated, young professionals living and working in an urban setting – Linda as a home economics teacher and Harold as an employee of the Department of Agriculture. Neither had experience with ranching or living in the arid and mountainous west. Linda grew up in Massachusetts. Harold hailed from North Dakota where he had studied dry land farming at North Dakota State University. So Harold, at least, had some background in agriculture. Still, they both faced steep learning curves when they arrived at their homestead on Pacific Creek.

Interestingly, it was a *Saturday Evening Post* article about Jackson Hole’s potential for cattle ranching that initially brought the valley to Harold’s attention. Consequently, he included it in his itinerary during a whirlwind tour of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming in the summer of 1914 in search for just the right spot for his homestead. Once in Jackson Hole, he became convinced the Teton area was the place for him. Although he did not say so in his fragmentary memoir, it seems quite possible the aesthetic appeal of Jackson Hole played some role in the choice. Who can resist the pleasures of Rocky Mountain summer days? The beauty of the Tetons had certainly attracted an influential cluster of other Jackson Hole homesteaders whose educational and economic profile resembled that of the McKinstrys. Princeton-educated Struthers Burt and his wife novelist Katherine Burt took up land along the Snake River to develop their famous Bar BC dude ranch. Geraldine Lucas, an Oberlin College graduate and retired teacher from New York City, planted herself at the base of the Grand Teton in 1913 primarily because of its stunning view of the mountains.

The Burts, Lucas and the McKinstrys all shared one other thing. They brought capital. They had means. They were not a hardscrabble bunch. If the homestead venture did not pan out, they had other options. Yet the McKinstrys were more “typical” homesteaders in one respect: they came to establish a working cattle ranch. They hoped to earn their living from the land, not from dudes. In their struggle to get the enterprise off the ground -- even with the railroad boxcar load of machinery, tools, and the impressive, top-of-the-line Majestic Range (kitchen stove) they brought with them – they replicated the experience of many Wyoming homesteaders. They endured incredibly hard physical labor and the loneliness of long winter months with short days and deep snows. They relied upon neighbors for help. They took joy in community social events and shared the sorrow of other families’ losses. Linda longed for women companionship and in their ultimate failure to actually achieve their original dreams, their experience was “classic.”

Among the McKinstry neighbors on the terraces along Pacific Creek were Elmer Arthur, the Bramens and the Snells. William Thompson filed on 160 acres at the outlet of Two Ocean Lake and Samuel Wilson homesteaded along Pilgrim Creek. All arrived around the same time, hoping to graze their cattle on National Forest Service lands during the summer and grow sufficient hay on their homesteads to feed their livestock through the winter. Weather, altitude, isolation, and the short growing season posed near impossible challenges. *[Continued on page 5]*

They soon realized, however, they shared additional concerns and possible obstacles to their success – issues particular to their corner of the state. Northwest Wyoming, for all its isolation, was not unknown. Other people with other interests competed with the homesteaders for the power to ultimately decide the future of its lands and waters. Would it sustain small ranches? Would its water snake around the Teton range and irrigate Idaho farms? Or would it become parkland, either as part of Yellowstone National Park or perhaps a distinctive park in its own right?

Farmers and ranchers in Idaho, for instance, hoped to control the clear, cold water, planning to dam lakes and transport water to the west side of the Tetons for irrigation. Their first success came with the erection of Jackson Lake Dam in 1906 (replaced by today’s concrete version in 1911). This Bureau of Reclamation Project elicited no protest whatsoever. Then the irrigators set their sights on Jenny, Two Ocean and Emma Matilda Lakes. This time some the federal government employees balked. Congress had created Yellowstone National Park in 1872 to protect that vast expanse from development. It consequently closed parklands to settlement. By the turn of the century, some began to lobby to expand its boundaries to incorporate the startling beauty of Jackson Hole and close it all to homesteading and additional water diversion projects. Further, the realization that the wasteful dispersal of public lands and resources during the 19th century was no longer sustainable, led Congress to pass the Forest Reserve Act in 1891. This remarkable piece of legislation allowed Presidents to set aside land as national forests with the power to regulate the resources and withdraw these lands from homesteading, as well. The consequences for northwest Wyoming were dramatic.

President Benjamin Harrison was the first to exercise these powers, creating the Yellowstone Park Timber Reserve in 1891 that included the northern reaches of Jackson Hole. Six years later President Grover Cleveland effectively closed most of the valley, north of the 42nd parallel, to homesteading when he established the 829,440 acre Teton Forest Reserve. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt expanded that reserve to 1,991,200 acres but simultaneously reopened the valley lands to settlement. This helped set off a “small-scale land rush” in Jackson Hole. In short, the federal presence in the area was considerable and actually preceded most homesteaders. Importantly, neither the National Forest Service, created in 1908, nor the National Park Service, established in 1916, considered homesteaders’ interests as necessarily pre-eminent. In fact, it is fair to say national parks and homesteads had antithetical goals.

For the McKinstrys and their neighbors, the greater concern came from those with ambitions to expand Yellowstone National Park. As early as 1897, Colonel S.B.M. Young, the park’s Superintendent, suggested the park’s southern boundary be extended into Jackson Hole. The following year Director of the United States Geological Survey Charles D. Walcott concurred; or, if that proved politically difficult, he recommended Congress create a separate national park. Interestingly, his greatest concern was protecting the elk herd rather than the scenic values of the Teton Range or the valley at its base. Congress, however, failed to respond to either option.

The next push came when Stephen Mather and Horace Albright, Interior Department employees in charge of the national parks, came through the Teton Country in 1915. They immediately hoped to incorporate the spectacular country into the park system. Once they secured the more formal bureaucratic power of the National Park Service in 1916, they enlisted the aid of Wyoming Congressman Frank Mondell to renew the park extension effort. Two years later he introduced a bill attaching the Tetons, the gorgeous lakes at its feet, and the country down to the Buffalo Fork to Yellowstone. This plan included the McKinstry “neighborhood.” A slightly modified bill passed the House but failed in the Senate when an Idahoan, on behalf of constituents who feared (wrongly) they would lose grazing rights, killed it.

The homesteaders of Pacific Creek and vicinity certainly followed these events. In fact, as Linda and Harold noted in their memoirs, representatives of the National Park Service including Yellowstone Superintendent Horace Albright, occasionally came through to talk with the settlers about park extension. The prospect of such an outcome undermined homesteaders’ sense of security and raised doubts about whether investment in their properties would be worthwhile. Would they be allowed to remain as in-holders or would they be forced to sell out? Things looked particularly ominous when President Wilson issued a 1918 Executive Order that prevented all future forms of entry onto the Teton National Forest and allowed NPS veto power over any proposed developments, including water and irrigation projects, pending resolution of the Yellowstone extension issue. In fact, the NPS effectively used this power to stop a plan to dam Jenny Lake.

Meanwhile, the McKinstrys and some of their neighbors filed for water rights to Emma *[Continued on page 6]*

Matilda and Two Ocean Lakes. Albright could have blocked these plans, as well. Instead he allowed them, supporting a right of way for their ditches. In return, Harold and a handful of others informed Albright they wanted to go on “record as being in favor” of the extension. He had calmed their fears, although one of the men later indicated people still worried that park jurisdiction would effect their right to carry firearms and exterminate wolves and coyotes. Other interests were less easily appeased, however. The National Forest Service, the livestock interests who opposed further federal controls, and the dude ranchers who also disliked rules, regulations, and roads, all continued to oppose extension. So the issue died, at least for another decade.

In the thick of these competing interests, Harold McKinstry had the wherewithal to back up his dream to become a rancher with acquisition of an additional skill. He became a surveyor. This proved to be an important source of income for the family, as their ranching prospects were not flourishing. Local homesteaders hired him but so too did the Osgood Land and Livestock Company, a group of Idaho ranchers, who coveted northwest Wyoming waters. In 1920 they purchased one homestead below Two Ocean Lake and the water rights of six additional Pacific Creek area homesteads before constructing headgates at Two Ocean and Emma Matilda. By the early 1920s they began diverting water to Idaho. The following year the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company purchased these water rights. The state of Wyoming and the National Forest Service approved the plan but the NPS did not, setting the stage for a legal showdown. In the meantime, McKinstry benefited from a steady income in the company’s employ.

Of course, Horace Albright opposed water diversion to Idaho, hoping to protect the Tetons from further development or what he might see as desecration. Finally, in 1928, Congress added the Teton range to Yellowstone. The following year President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill that established the area as the new, separate Grand Teton National Park. This, however, left the valley to the east open to potential exploitation. Not yet satisfied, Albright introduced John D. Rockefeller to Jackson Hole, showing him the breath-taking landscape while educating him about the threats to it. He inspired the wealthy philanthropist to purchase the valley lands. Starting in 1928, Rockefeller eventually purchased, under the auspices of the Snake River Land Company, 33,562 acres and deeded them to the NPS in 1949. Among the parcels he bought was the McKinstry homestead.

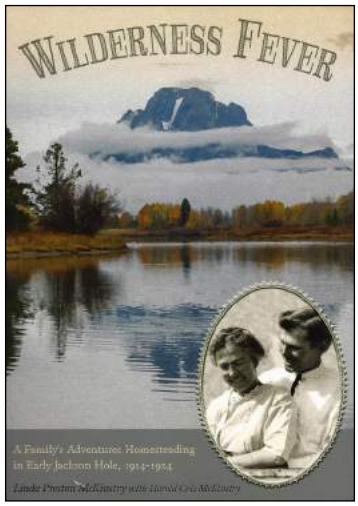
By the mid to late 1920s, the McKinstrys and many other homesteaders in Jackson Hole were ready to call it quits. As early as 1920, one rancher informed Albright that making a living on these properties was impossible. The “climate was too cold, the soil too barren, and…people were destroying the lives of themselves and their families by trying to ranch in this country.” An agricultural economic depression that hit rural American a full decade before the Great Depression slammed the rest of the country, only underscored the difficulties. True, once people learned it was John D. Rockefeller, Jr. who was buying up property, they were resentful. The idea of a wealthy Easterner coming in and determining the fate of Jackson Hole disturbed many. Complaints arose that the Snake River Land Company did not pay fair market prices. But historians have concluded such rumors were unfounded. The prices were fair and most homesteaders, though not all, were eager to sell.

The Snake River Land Company also prevailed over the Idaho irrigators. Challenging the legality of separating water rights from the land, they claimed the Idaho Sugar Company did not control the waters they had purchased, after all. Rather, the Snake River Land Company, in buying up the homesteads, was the legal owner. The two sides fought this out in the courts between 1938 and 1942 with the Wyoming State Supreme Court finally siding with the Snake River Land Company and effectively ending Idaho’s efforts to secure northern Jackson Hole water.

By the 1940s it was clear the NPS had won the contest for control of Jackson Hole, pealing back National Forest Service jurisdiction as Grand Teton National Park expanded its boundaries and receiving the generous gift of homesteads and water rights from the Snake River Land Company. Conservation trumped cattle; tourists trumped water for Idaho potatoes and sheep. The McKinstrys by this time had moved on, leaving Wyoming for another new start – this time in Colorado. But they departed with some additions to their family, three children all born in Jackson, and the rich trove of memories both Linda and Harold preserved over the years regarding their experiences among the last homesteaders of Jackson Hole.

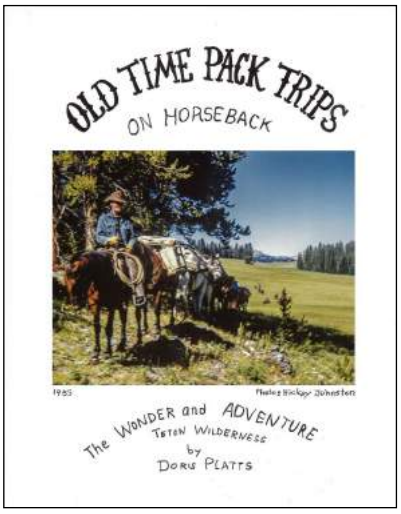
Clearly, for all the hardship they endured during their years on Pacific Creek they felt enriched by their time there. Happily for us, they recorded their daily lives in letters to Linda’s mother and in the memoirs they crafted years later. Although Linda meant these pages for her own family, I think it very likely she would enjoy knowing others find them interesting, as well. One hundred years after their arrival in Wyoming, you now hold those memories in your hands.

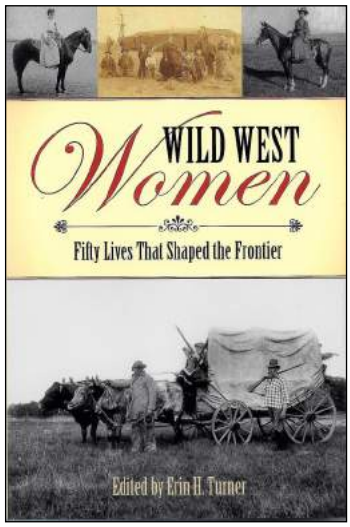
Offering you the newest in history books from our Museum Store for 2016:



Wilderness Fever: A Family's Adventures Homesteading In Early Jackson Hole, 1914-1925, by Linda Preston McKinstry with Harold Cole McKinstry. [Highlighted in this issue.] 223pp. $19.95

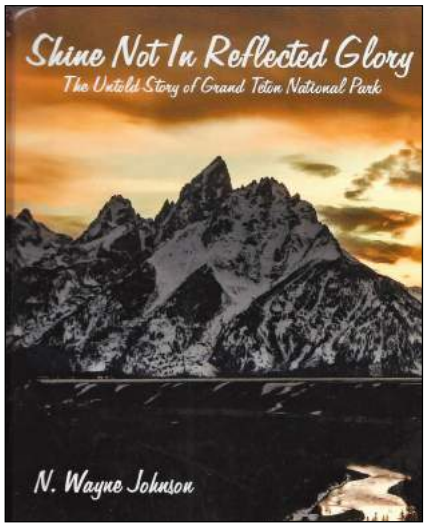
Old Time Pack Trips on Horseback: The Wonder and Adventure, by Doris Platts, 80pp.
Hand-lettered in the author's traditional style, with full color photos, this was her final contribution to the valley she loved, completed just one day before her death in 2015. $19.95

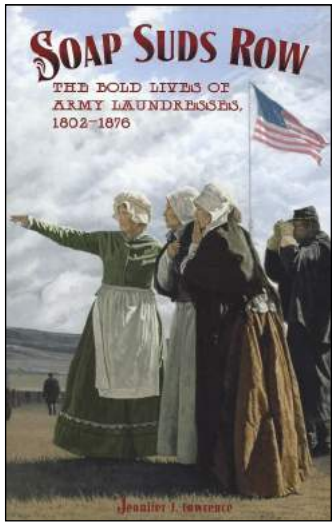




Wild West Women: Fifty Lives That Shaped the Frontier, Erin Turner, ed. 410pp.
Ranging across 15 western states with historic profiles of a cross-section of women from all ethnic and economic backgrounds. $18.95

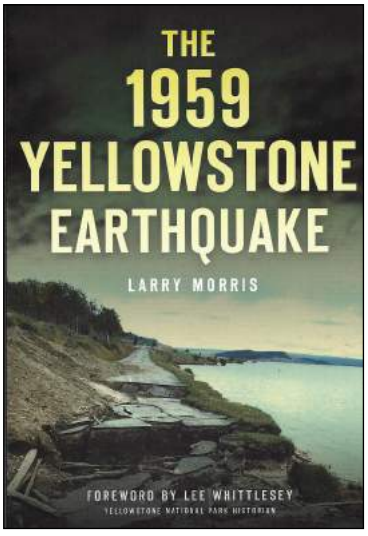
Shine Not in Reflected Glory: The Untold Story of Grand Teton National Park, by Wayne Johnson, 493pp.
Offering a fresh, in-depth perspective on the Park's history including the stories of the homesteaders it displaced. $34.95





Soap Suds Row: The Bold Lives of Army Laundresses, 1802-1876, by Jennifer Lawrence .
Every man in the frontier Army was dependent on two key people: mule skinners for supplies and women to wash and mend his clothes. This is the amazing story of those women! 157pp. $17.95

The 1959 Yellowstone Earthquake, by Larry Morris.
In the middle of the night a 7.5 magnitude earthquake buried a portion of the Madison River, created Earthquake Lake, and changed the lives of over 200 people trapped in the canyon forever. 191pp. $19.95



All these titles and more are available from your Museum Store, online through our website [www.jacksonholehistory.org], or by phone: 307-733-2414.

The Jackson Hole Archaeology Initiative

Matt Stirn & Rebecca Sgouros

Exploring the High Tetons

The Teton Archaeological Project team hikes towards basecamp during an August project.

The Jackson Hole Archaeological Initiative (JHAI) had another exciting summer exploring in the mountains that ring Jackson Hole and we are already looking forward to 2017. During this past season, JHAI archaeologists Matt Stirn and Rebecca Sgouros teamed up with Marcia Peterson, Assistant Wyoming State Archaeologist (Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist) to continue surveys for new prehistoric sites in the high Teton Mountains. With the help of several volunteers, including JHHSM's Research Intern Alexei Cree, the team located nine new archaeological sites in unexplored areas of the northern Teton Range. Ranging from the Cody Complex (approx. 9,500 years ago) to the Mountain Shoshone (200-500 years ago), the new sites continued to show us that people have lived in the Tetons continuously over time.

Rebecca Sgouros, Alexei Cree, and Marcia Peterson map a prehistoric stone circle found high above treeline in the Tetons.

Other significant discoveries from the 2016 season included several bison bones melting out of ice patches near the Teton Crest. While these specimens are still awaiting radiocarbon dating, they provide evidence that bison used to frequent the high country and were likely a plentiful resource for Native Americans living in the alpine ecosystem.

Collaboration with "Wilderness Adventures" of Wilson, WY

As they plan for the upcoming year, researchers on the JHAI team are continuing their work and creating exciting new opportunities for the public to participate in exploration. As a collaboration with "Wilderness Adventures" based out of Wilson, the JHAI will also be offering a two week archaeology-themed adventure for 7-9 graders: From July 30 – August 12, young students will have a unique opportunity to experience life-changing adventures including:

- Participating in archaeological excavations at the Linn Site in Victor, Idaho
- Exploring the Tetons by mapping new archaeological sites around the Tetons
- And sea kayaking along the shores of Yellowstone Lake!

Rebecca Sgouros holds a chert scraper that was used to deflesh animal hides.

Visit the Wilderness Adventures website at www.wildernessadventures.com or call Tom Holland at 1-800-533-2281 for more information. Details of our "Teton Archeology Explorer Program" can be found at http://www.wildernessadventures.com/teton-archaeology/

Marcia Peterson walks alongside a permanent ice patch that exposed several prehistoric bison bones.

Keep an eye out, too, for other upcoming programs including more chances for students to dig in the dirt at the Linn Site, our

THE LATEST IN RESEARCH & ARCHIVES

Nora DeWitt-Hoeger

We want to introduce you to our newest member of the Museum team, Nora DeWitt-Hoeger! She began this past summer working as summer staff at the *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* museum and is now in our Research Center as our Research Assistant.

Nora grew up in sunny Redondo Beach, California. With both parents as teachers, work schedules were flexible enough to take long road trips across the country or travel abroad during the summer months—inspiring her interest for history and travel. For college she decided to head north to get out of the sun and enrolled at the University of Oregon. She volunteered in the exhibits and programs at the Natural History Museum on campus and with a historic archaeologist. She participated in a reconnaissance archaeology field school for a summer in Belize and spent a fall semester studying abroad for her history degree in dynamic London.

After graduating with a BA in History and Anthropology (Spring of 2013) she moved to Grand Teton National Park for 'just a summer job' and got hooked. Since spending summers growing up doing trail maintenance in Glacier, hiking Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Parks and scooping ice cream for a concessioner in Yellowstone she decided that Jackson was right up her alley. While taking advantage of all the outdoor pursuits Jackson has to offer such as hiking, backpacking, running and skiing she decided that she wanted to be more involved in the valley's unique history which brought her to the Museum last spring. Nora is excited to continue working as a Research Assistant and in the museum to help preserve the historic record of Jackson and continue to make it available to the public.

annual 'Archaeology Update' lecture (later this spring), and a new Archaeology Blog (distributed through our email blasts, website, and Facebook). Our blog will feature exciting updates on local and regional Archaeology!

As always, if you are interested in supporting JHAI's research and outreach efforts don't hesitate to contact Matt or Rebecca (Matt@jacksonholehistory.org or Rebecca@jacksonholehistory.org). Our efforts are entirely funded by grants and donations and there are plenty of opportunities to sponsor scientific tests, field surveys, or for student scholarships.

Archaeologist Rebecca Sgouros pauses while surveying the Teton high country.

Nothing But Thanks to Our Museum VIPs!

It's Thursday afternoon at the museum. A familiar voice calls out "Hi, we're here!"

Year-round volunteers Reade and David Dornan arrive ready to work. Industrious and efficient, they set up their work space in the Stan Klassen Research Center where they're finishing up their latest project. Together this energetic couple have spent about 100 hours taking inventory of the Cecil "Slim" Lawrence Library located within the center. David sits on a stool calling out information about each book on every shelf to Reade who feeds it into a spreadsheet for later reconciliation with an earlier inventory.

A love of books and history initially brought the Dornans through our doors – they stay because they make a difference! Our research staff depends on the expertise of volunteers like the Dornans and builds on the foundational data they create; we're a team of like-minded folks saving and preserving Jackson's history to share with current and future generations.

Last week I asked David what a Jackson native, world class mountain climber, author, and Public Health Consultant has in common with an Archivist, a Curator, and a Researcher? David exclaimed without hesitation "It's a solid interest in reading and history!" It must be true because the Dornans are adding an extra room to their home to house their collection of about 2000 books and they've read most of them!!!

Reade, also an author and a retired English Professor loves library work. She earned a PhD from Michigan State University and proudly claims a year of study at the University of Vienna, Austria. It isn't surprising to learn that while teaching school in Malaysia she founded *The Reade Library.* "Asians reverse the order of one's name" Reade explained, "so I was known as Mrs. Reade by my students".

Accustomed to very busy lives in respective careers and raising two children, Ellen and Wythe, we're glad this couple makes their home among us. Now retired and settled on the hill behind the museum they are a natural fit with our hard-working volunteer family.

Museum staff is often heard claiming that our volunteers are the backbone of daily operations – we're saying it again in slightly different words: thankfully, neither rain or snow, or fun in the sun keep David and Reade Dornan from their Thursday afternoons at the museum.

Want to join our Museum VIPs? Contact Brenda@jacksonholehistory.org or 307-733-2414.

Join Us Today - Become a Part of History!

$35 - Individual; $60 - Regular Family [includes children under 18 living at home]
$25 - Individual Senior [60 years and older]
$50 - Senior Family [includes member and 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
Free admission to our Museums and programs; and a free book
15% OFF regular-priced Museum Store books and merchandise
Call, go on-line, or stop by today to find out more - 307-733-2414

JHHSM MEMBERS & DONORS

Whether students researching a topic for Wyoming History Days;local residents tracing their family tree; Authors, interns or volunteers with a passion for the past – JHHSM serves them all!

ONE MISSION: THREE LOCATIONS

"The mission of the Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum is to collect, preserve and explore the cultural and related natural history of Jackson Hole and the Greater Yellowstone area through research, public programming and collaboration."

As the only non-profit in Teton County, Wyoming that collects and preserves the valley's history JHHSM offers classes to over 2,000 K-12 school students a year at our three locations:

HOMESTEAD MUSEUM – 225 N. Cache Street

INDIAN MUSEUM - 105 Glenwood Street

ARCHAEOLOGY & TEACHING CENTER – 105 Mercill Avenue

YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT WILL HELP US CONTINUE TO BRANCH OUT AND GROW IN 2017!

Sincere Christmas Greetings & Thanks from our Board and Staff!

JACKSON HOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Olde Tyme Christmas!

13th Annual Celebration

Honoring Kelly Reubrecht with thanks for sharing many years of entertainment with Jackson Hole!

December 8, 2016
7:00 p.m.—Thursday

in the Jackson Room at the Historic Wort Hotel

6:30: Fireside Caroling with the Cathedral Voices

Holiday Music: Teton Fiddlers

Christmas Memories: Bob Lenz
Sing-a-long: Lynette Parry & Fiddlers