Two railroad steam engines running in tandem near Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming. (1915) Denver Public Library
Kim Viner - Laramie Plains Museum volunteer researcher and docent

May 2018 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the City of Laramie. That same year, Wyoming Territory was created, and Albany County came into existence in December. To mark these historic occasions, Laramie and Albany County will celebrate the 150 years of our existence beginning on May 4th.

While a few Europeans had been permanently residing on the Laramie Plains since at least 1862, and Fort Sanders was constructed in 1866, it was not until the railroad tracks arrived in what is now downtown Laramie on May 4, 1868, that a permanent settlement was created. That same week, Laramie’s first election was held, choosing a provisional government. Although it failed after six weeks, it marked the beginning of the effort to form a cohesive community.

From that time, the city and county have marked many milestones. Overcoming a six month period of lawlessness, the city settled down and became the focus of world attention in 1870 when, for the first time in history, women served on a formal jury and voted in a municipal election, enjoying equal rights with men. Rapidly, local businesses began to flourish with ranching and mining complementing the railroad as major employers in the county.

The city grew from 788 citizens in 1870 to 2,697 in 1880 and the county from 2,021 to 4,067 souls. Growth was additionally assured by the creation of the University of Wyoming (founded in 1886), and its location being fixed by the Wyoming Territorial Legislative Assembly at a location “near Laramie.”

While there were the expected ups and downs in the economy, the city and county have weathered the fluctuations and have grown to be the home to more than 36,000 residents who enjoy the benefits of wide open spaces and cultural amenities provided by a top-notch university.

Throughout the remainder of 2018, various events will be announced that highlight not only the 1868 founding of our city and county, but the entire 150 years of our more than interesting history. The Laramie Plains Museum will have an open house, the Laramie Historic Railroad Depot will have a model railroad display, the Lincoln Community Center is hosting a Cinco De Mayo celebration and the University’s American Heritage Center will be showing photographic displays of our history. Go to http://visitlaramie.org/laramie150 for more events all summer long!
By the early 1700s, Arapahos were in what became Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. They acquired horses in the 1700s, adopted the Plains Indian horse-and-bison hunting culture, and expanded further south and west. About 1811, Arapahos allied with Cheyennes and the two groups often traveled and hunted together in the central Great Plains.

After signing the Horse Creek Treaty of 1851, the Arapaho and Cheyenne shared land encompassing one-sixth of Wyoming, one-quarter of Colorado and parts of western Kansas and Nebraska. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 left the Northern Arapaho without a land base, and by 1878, they were placed with the Shoshone in west central WY, on the Wind River Reservation.
Jacque La Ramee and other trappers came to this region and worked the streams for beaver from 1817 until 1843. Gen. William Ashley’s trappers traveled part of the future Overland Trail route in 1824-25, Jim Bridger knew of the route by 1835, and John Fremont camped along it in 1843. The Cherokee used it to travel from Oklahoma to California in 1849, for which it became known as the Cherokee Trail. Local tribes gathered ash for bows and held ceremonial dances in the nearby mountains to cure diseases. The use of ash for bows are said to be “good medicine” and this phrase gave the mountains, and later the national forest, their name: Medicine Bow. “The rest they say is history.”

In 1862, Ben Holladay established his stagecoach line on this road, with stations located between ten and sixteen miles apart. Despite frequent attacks by Indians, Holladay set up permanent stage stops and transported passengers and mail across the county. (AHC)
In 1868, a “showdown” occurred at Fort Sanders between General Grenville Dodge and Dr. Thomas Durant, American financier and railroad promoter, over the proposed route of the Union Pacific Railroad. Also at the meeting was General Ulysses S. Grant (with hands on fence) (AHC).
The Union Pacific Railroad
Laramie City - Hell on Wheels (1868)

Union Pacific construction crews laid the track connecting Laramie to the rest of the country on May 4, 1868; a few passengers arrived the same day and regular service began less than a week later. The arrival of the railroad inspired entrepreneurs to build more permanent structures in what had been a “Hell on Wheels” tent city. For a few months Laramie was the western hub of the Union Pacific Railroad, but even after track was laid to points further west, Laramie’s reputation and population continued to grow.

- The rest they say is history!

Photo: The 650-foot (200 m) Dale Creek Crossing, completed in 1868 and UP Largest and highest elevation bridge at 8,000 feet. The Ames Monument is close by and marks the highest point on the Union Pacific. (AHC)

“Jack” Casement was a construction contractor who built the line where the UPRR surveyors had laid it out (1868) (AHC)
**HISTORIC WOMEN OF LARAMIE**

WHAT MADE WYOMING THE EQUALITY STATE (1870)

The Wyoming House for Historic Women honors

1. **Louisa Gardner Swain:** The first woman in the world to cast a ballot under laws giving women full equality to men, September 6, 1870. The 19th Amendment was passed in 1920, 50 years after Louisa cast the first vote!

2. **Eliza Stewart:** The first woman subpoenaed to serve on a court jury. She was Laramie’s first school teacher and her notice for jury duty was delivered in March of 1870.

3. **Martha Symons Boies:** She arrived in Laramie, Wyoming in a horse drawn cart with her children in 1868. She became the first woman in the world appointed as a bailiff. Her appointment took place in March of 1870 in Laramie, Wyoming.

- The rest they say is herstory!

Louisa Gardner Swain: The first woman in the world to cast a ballot under laws giving women full equality to men, September 6, 1870. (AHC)

Laramie citizens voting with Nellie Tayloe Ross, University of Wyoming (1925)

She was inaugurated Jan.5, 1925, as the 14th Governor of Wyoming and the first woman governor in the United States. (AHC)
LAWMEN AND OUTLAWS
FRONTIER JUSTICE ON THE PLAINS

Albany County’s first sheriff, Nathaniel K. Boswell — or at least its first sheriff to show up for the job — arrested Jack McCall for shooting Wild Bill Hickok in the back and sent McCall to Deadwood to stand trial. McCall was hanged for murder. Boswell was also appointed as the Wyoming Territorial Prison’s first warden. (AHC)

A posse responding to the holdup of The Union Pacific Railroad No. 4 — The train was specially outfitted, kept ready in Laramie, Wyo., containing cars for horses, equipment, food and men — to the robbery site, near Wilcox Station (Located in Albany County). This posse train arrived at the site about 9 a.m., just seven hours after the holdup. Although the Union Pacific had its own detective force, it also brought the Burlington Railroad and the Pinkerton Detective Agency into the chase. The Wilcox holdup would become one of the West’s most famous train robberies making Butch Cassidy’s Wild Bunch more infamous throughout Wyoming! (AHC)

LARAMIE 150 YEAR CELEBRATION
Pioneers of Laramie City

Little Town on the Prairie (1868)

Little Town on the Prairie. With this 1875 view, one would find it difficult to imagine that Laramie would eventually become a thriving community of 32,000 people. Endless wind, hard winters, and sparse population must have been extremely difficult, to say the least. What made Laramie a thriving community was the people that wanted to make a name for themselves and start a business in this town on the “Gem City of the Plains.” Entrepreneurs like the Ivinsons, the Trabings, the Prahls, the Cordiners, the Hollidays, the Wallis, the Baths, and other not so famous all of whom arrived early to help the community grow.

- The rest they say is history!

Laramie, Wyoming 1875

Find it down at Prahls - Frederick Prahl arrived in Laramie from Denmark in 1869. Within a few short years, his F. Prahl Dry Goods and Groceries store was very popular, shown here is 1873. (AHC)

Two German-born brothers, Frank W. and George Freund, followed the track of the Union Pacific Railroad westward, including to Laramie, Wyoming Territory. (AHC)
IMMIGRANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
SCANDINAVIANS, CHICANOS, ASIANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS SETTLED IN ALBANY COUNTY

Alfred Nelson was born about 1885 in Sweden. He settled in Laramie, Wyoming, with his wife, Hulda, son, and daughter, and died in 1940 at age 55. Alfred was a cement contractor and coal dealer 1918 - 1919 (AHC)

Immigrants from Southeast Asia working for the Laramie Land & Freight Company 1921 (AHC)

Immigrants from Norway settling in Laramie, Wyoming (AHC)

Faustino the “Lightman”

Faustino Mendoza

Laramie Homestead, Norwegian style log cabin (Date Unknown) (AHC)
The oldest ranch in the county was the one started by Philip Mandel along the Overland Trail line (probably in 1862). Other ranches along the Laramie Valley included the Bath Brothers Ranch, which began in the spring of 1868, when Herman Bath and his immediate and extended family immigrated to the Wyoming Territory from Germany. Today, the Bath Brothers Ranch is 135 years old and still remains in the Bath Family.

In 2006 the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office reinstated the Wyoming Centennial Farm and Ranch program, which seeks to honor Wyoming farms and ranches that have remained in the same family for more than 100 years.

In 1947, Laramie’s first Jubilee Days Rodeo took place in celebration of Wyoming’s statehood. Rodeo’s roots and the cowboy culture run deep within Wyoming’s Wild West history.
Travelers along the Oregon, Mormon, Pioneer, California and Overland trails went across Wyoming in the central and southern corridors around 1840s, '50s and '60s. As many as half a million people may have traveled this corridor in the 19th century. To many, the environments of the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains and Great Basin seemed like another planet, full of strange and alien landscapes. Transportation through the years from the Overland Stagecoach, Union Pacific Railroad, Lincoln Highway, Early Air travel, Snowy Range Scenic Byway and Interstate 80 make Southeastern Wyoming a fun place to take a road trip even today!

- Overland Stage (1862-1869)
- Union Pacific Railroad (1868-Present)
- Lincoln Highway (US 30) (1913-Present)
- Airmail crosses Wyoming (1931)
- Snowy Range Scenic Byway (1988-Present)
- Interstate 80 (1956-Present)

- The rest they say is history!
The University of Wyoming (UW) started construction on Old Main in 1886, when Wyoming was still a territory. In September 1887, UW opened its doors with 42 students and 5 faculty members as befitted the university of "The Equality State", both the students and faculty included women from the first day. Built on the outskirts of town in Laramie’s city park, Old Main was UW’s first building and held classes, the library, and administrative offices during the first years of the University’s existence.
Chief Washakie was the last Chief of the Shoshone Tribe, and he is commemorated for his life as a statesman, warrior, and champion of education because he believed education would protect his people in the days to come. (LOC)

Ames Monument: An unusual 60 ft. pyramid shaped monument, this haunting limestone mass stands alone on the prairie and towers over the remains of the one-time railroad town of Sherman. This monument was built in 1882 to honor the Ames brothers, Oliver and Oakes, who were influential leaders in the construction of the transcontinental railroad. The pyramidal monument, designed by architect Henry Hobson Richardson, was built for the Union Pacific Railroad at the highest point on the line. In July 2017, it was dedicated as National Historic Landmark.
Henning Svenson settled in Laramie in 1905 and became the primary commercial and studio photographer in the town. He was known for his portraiture of Laramie residents and scenes of the surrounding area.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt rode horseback 65 miles from Laramie to a ranch west of Cheyenne. Changing mounts three times, for a total of four horses ridden, Roosevelt was accompanied by 10 prominent citizens, including Sen. Francis E. Warren, U.S. Marshal Frank Hadsell, Deputy U.S. Marshal Joe LeFors, Albany County Sheriff N.K. Bissell of Laramie, local stockman R. S. Van Tassell, and Black Hills Forest Reserve Supervisor and former Deadwood, S. D. lawman Seth Bullock. (AHC)
Michael H. Murphy (b. 1845) came to Wyoming in 1867 with the Union Pacific Railroad. He settled in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1871, where he operated a saloon, called Tammany Hall, at 301 First (Front) Street. (AHC)
Laramie 150 Year celebration

The Gem City of the plains

Lynch Grocery Company, Store Front 1878 (AHC)

Automobile Race, Thomas Flyer, New York to Paris Racers in Laramie 1908 (AHC)

Laramie Fire Department 1939 (AHC)

Looking south down 2nd Street

LARAMIE 150 YEAR CELEBRATION

THE GEM CITY OF THE PLAINS
U.W. Cycling team, taken November 13, 1897 (AHC)

Group photo in front of Huempfner’s Beer Hall 111 Grand Ave. (1890-1918) (AHC)

Looking west down Ivinson Avenue

Albany County Fair 1905 (AHC)
Laramie 150 Year Celebration
Laramie and Albany County Today!

Bull riding Laramie Jubilee Days (BHP Imaging)

Medicine Bow Peak (BHP Imaging)

Laramie Mural Project (BHP Imaging)

Mountain Biking at Vedauwoo (BHP Imaging)
Downtown Carnival (BHP Imaging)

Downtown Farmers Markets (BHP Imaging)

Music Festivals (BHP Imaging)

Rock Climbing at Vedauwoo (BHP Imaging)
LARAMIE & ALBANY COUNTY WYOMING’S 150TH PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

AT THE LARAMIE PLAINS CIVIC CENTER - PHOENIX BALLROOM

Friday, November 9, 2018

• 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. - Opening Reception

• 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. - “Albany County: A Sense of Place” by Jessica Flock

• 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. - “Railroads from the Dale Creek trestle to Laramie and beyond in Albany County” by Jerry Hansen

• 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. - “International Wyoming: Early Immigration to the Equality State and Albany County” by Phil Roberts

Saturday, November 10, 2018

• 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. - “Law, Lawyers and Judges on the 19th Century High Plains” by Phil Roberts

• 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. - “Recent Archaeological Investigations at Fort Sanders” by Danny Walker

• 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. - “The Trabing Brothers and Their Role in Laramie and Wyoming’s Early Settlement” by Nancy Mickelson

• 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. - “West to Wyoming: The Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Stephen Wheeler Downey” by Kim Viner

• 3:00 to 3:15 p.m. - Break (15 minutes)

• 3:15 to 3:45 p.m. - “Laramie Hoy! A History of Chicanos in Laramie” by Dewey Gallegos

• 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. - “University of Wyoming: Monuments, Memorials and Public Art” by Jessica Flock

• 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. - “Vigilante to Lawman: N.K. Boswell, Second Sheriff of Albany County” by Judy Knight

• 4:45 to 5:00 p.m. - Break (15 minutes)

• 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. - “The First Territorial Roads in Albany County: Dreams and Tragedy” by Jane Nelson

• 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. - “Scandinavian Influence in Laramie” by Rine Kaskcow

• 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. - “The Women of the 1870 Grand Jury – Tested and Proven in a World First” by Kim Viner

• 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Closing Reception

MEMBERS OF THE 150TH STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Deborah Amen - Wyoming Territorial Prison
- Peter Bauman - Laramie Boomerang
- Mary “Juice” Cisneros - Lincoln Community Center
- Joseph Cook - Laramie Historic Railroad Depot
- Todd Feezer - City of Laramie
- Jessica Flock - American Heritage Center & Pedal House
- Mike Gray - Albany County Tourism Office
- Katherine Kasckow - Alliance for Historic Wyoming & Albany County Historical Society
- Judy Knight - Laramie Plains Museum
- Jane Nelson - Albany County Historical Society
- Monica Owens - Albany County Public Library
- Trey Sherwood - Laramie Main Street Alliance
- Renee Slider - Wyoming Territorial Prison
- Devin Stadler - City of Laramie
- Mayor Andi Summerville - City of Laramie
- Kim Viner - Albany County Historical Society
Laramie 150 Years
BRASS COINS
$10 and 3 inch x 3 inch
stickers $3.00

Laramie 150 Years - POST CARDS (12 different 4x6 collector cards) $1 each or complete set for $12

Laramie 150 Years - FLAG (3 feet x 5 feet) 150 total $25

Laramie 150 Year Celebration

SPONSORS: