

Our Year in Review



The programs and activities sponsored by the Sublette County Historical Society/ Museum of the Mountain Man alongside the exhibits, collections and publications become more and more popular every year. 2014 was another exceptional year, evident by the growing number of visitors from neighboring states and international countries, who travel out of their way to experience our extraordinary history.

The SCHS/ MMM hosts four major events every year. We also open our grounds and facilities for other businesses, organizations and conference-goers, upon request, to showcase our beautiful Museum and welcome their historical inquisition.

YEARLY EVENTS

Our four major programs are generously sponsored by various entities, businesses and corporations every year. These sponsors help us reach out to a broader audience and assist us in meeting our goals and objectives through much-needed finance and man-power. Their connection and involvement with the Museum and Historical Society enable us to offer these projects and programs free to the public.

2014 opened with the Society and Museum's "Annual Meeting and Spring Thaw Party" on March 13th. During the business portion of the evening, Board President, Sam Drucker, introduced and thanked Sublette County Museum Board members, alongside Historical Society board members who previously served on our board and committees, giving so much of their time and energy to the organization.

Ronnie Wilson was the only Trustee leaving the board this year. President Drucker cited his quiet and thoughtful input during meetings, and thanked him for his 8 years of service to all of us. Officers elected for a second term in 2014 were: President – Sam Drucker and Vice-President – Geoff Sell.

Quickly on the heels of the Annual Meeting and May 1st opening, we welcomed back the American Mountain Men Association for Living History Days, May 13 – 15th, 2014. Graciously sponsored by Sublette County School District # 1 BOCES for the past 13 years, nearly 1,000 school children, teachers, parents and chaperones from all over western Wyoming attended this popular event.

The **AMM** consists of professional individuals dedicated to the traditional, cultural and historical accuracy of the fur trade era, mountain men and rendezvous system.

Green River Rendezvous Days were held July 10-13th in 2014 and, again, provided 35 educational programs over the four-day weekend, ranging in topics from the scholarly to children's activities. Presentations and educational seminars were presented by the five authors of the *RMFT Journal*; the American Mountain Men Association and **Bad Hand** set up their historical encampments while **Lapita Frewin** led eight Native American craft sessions for children of all ages. These venues were generously sponsored by corporations: **Anderson Ranch**, the **Sublette County Museum Board**, **School District #1 BOCES**, **EnCana**, **Linn Energy and Rocky Mountain Power**. Our local **SWEP I** (**Shell CO**) also sponsored and manned the annual Buffalo Burger Fry.

As special guest for Green River Rendezvous Days, the SCHS/ MMM and entire community welcomed Thomas Steuart Fothringham, Laird of Murthly Castle and Strathbraan Estates of Perthshire, Scotland. As a descendant of Sir William Drummond Stewart, this was Laird Fothringham's first trip to his ancestral roots and he participated in all aspects of the four-day events.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Watry joined our staff as Curator of the Collection on November 1st. Betsy holds a Master's Degree in History from Montana State University and is an author/ co-author of several books.

The twenty-first Annual Wreath and Chocolate Auction kicked off the holidays at the Pinedale Library Lovatt Room on December 5th and we had the best year yet. Thanks to all the volunteers and beautiful wreaths, the annual fundraiser netted \$16,156 with the help of long-time sponsor, **1st Bank**, providing the evening's refreshments.

OUR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

The Sublette County Historical Society/ Museum of the Mountain Man would like to extend another big thank you to the Sublette County Museum Board, who partner with our organization to preserve and interpret the history of our area. Van Huffman, Mark Eatinger, Clint Gilchrist, Becky Thompson and Tim Thompson donate countless hours of their time and energy to work with us on budget issues, funding representation to the County Commission and guidance of historical direction.

We would also like to thank and recognize the Sublette County Commissioners, **Joel Bousman**, **Jim Latta and Andy Nelson**, for their continued support of our organization and museum.

In 2014, Sublette County provided \$260,000 in matching financial support to the Historical Society and Museum. For over 50-plus years, this strong and prosperous public/ private partnership between the two entities enhances the well-being of our organization and keeps us strong, viable and successful for future generations.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Non-profit organizations cannot survive without its dedicated volunteers. Throughout this past year, numerous groups and individuals contributed generously of their time and skills to help the SCHS/MMM fulfill its mission. Their efforts and generosity are greatly appreciated and vitally important to our organization.

Our volunteers help with our various projects and programs such as Rendezvous, the Wreath Auction Sommers Homestead Living History Museum and the Lander Trail-New Fork River Crossing Historical Park. They also assist with tasks and work on different committees in finance, curatorial and landscaping.

Thank you volunteers and please know how much we appreciate you!

Thank You Ronnie Wilson!

The Sublette County Historical Society/ Museum of the Mountain Man would like to convey our deep and sincere gratitude to Ron Wilson for his eight years of service and dedication to

our organization. Ron served his first four years 2002-2006, and returned again 2010 – 2014. Ronnie managed the position of Vice-President during his later years of tenure.

As a native of Sublette County, Ronnie was very knowledgeable about the fur trade as well as local settlement history. He became involved in a number of areas in the society and museum, but was one of those "go-to guys" that we could always call on short notice to help with some arduous task. Ronnie's humor and humility will be missed by all of us.

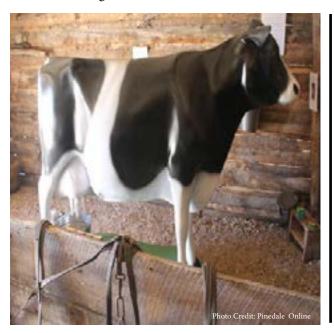
Thank you Ronnie – (We will continue to call you on short notice!)



Sommers Homestead Living History Museum

The Sommers Homestead Living History Museum completed it's third year, opening to the public in 2012. The facility was open Fridays and Saturdays from 10AM to 3PM during June, July and August. During the spring and fall off-season, the Homestead was open by appointment and for school group tours in May, September and October.

The Homestead had 1170 visitors in 2014 including 15 youth groups totaling 479 kids from Big Piney, Pinedale, Farson, Green River, Lander and Rock Springs. The Homestead is all-volunteer-run and admission is by donation. At least 979 hours were donated by 37 different volunteers, and funding to date has been through private donations and grants.





In 2014 the Homestead was pleased to receive a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, to purchase four life-sized fiberglass livestock animals to put in the barn for hands-on living history demonstrations. Those animals included a milk cow that can really be milked, a work horse, a saddle horse, and a small pony. Also new at the homestead was the addition of a small gift shop with items that relate to homesteading.

Located 7.2 miles south on the East Green River Road, the site interprets the homestead era in the Upper Green River Valley during of the 1900s. It is jointly managed by the Sublette County Historical Society, the Green River Valley Museum, and siblings Jonita and Albert Sommers.

In addition to private donations and income from the gift shop, a 'Friends of the Sommers Homestead' program has been started to help raise funds to support the living history programs and operations of the Homestead historical site. Volunteers are always welcomed to help with the demonstrations, school group tours,

maintenance and operations.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Sommers Homestead please contact
Dawn Ballou at dawn@pinedaleonline.com
307-360-7689
Thank You!

Lander Trail- New Fork River Crossing Historical Park Dedication

The Lander Trail-New Fork River Crossing Historical Park held its official Grand Opening on June 21, 2014. The site has been under development for the previous four years as archaeological surveys were being conducted and infrastructure construction was in progress.

Approximately 200 people attended the Grand Opening, including 18 representatives of the 29 organizations that contributed in making the new historical park possible.

The celebration included presentations by founding partners, an awards ceremony, and finally a ribbon cutting to officially open the trail through the park. A lunch was paid for by a private donation and served by the Pinedale Lion's Club.



In 2014, at least 200 individual and 29 organizations donated thousands of hours and more than \$1,300,000 to purchase, develop and maintain the site. The park is unstaffed, but maintained by volunteers. The park was open to the public from June 21st through November during 2014. Visitors were welcome to explore a one-mile self-guided walking trail with nine historical interpretation signs at points of interest. The park had approximately 900 visitors during its first season.



The new 100-acre historical park is located where the Lander Trail, a portion of the Oregon Trail, crosses the New Fork River in Sublette County. The land was purchased by the Sublette County Historical Society with contributions as part of mitigation for project work in the nearby Pinedale Anticline natural gas field that impacts the Lander Trail. The park includes ½ mile of New Fork River frontage that has public fishing access. The park is an ongoing project that interprets the Oregon Trail emigrant migration history and experiences at a significant river crossing and campsite along the travelers' journey between 1859 to 1869.

Sommers Homestead Living History Museum Volunteers & Donations

Volunteer

Mary Anne Almquist Dawn Ballou Bob Beiermann

Jeff Bell

Deanne Bradley Carolyn Brazell Ashley Brewer Heidi Brewer **Iamie Brewer** Tom Colerick

Shane Copeland **Elaine Crumply** Toni David

Mark Denekas

Cassidy Espenscheid Kaitlyn Fennel Barry Fisler Barbara Ford

Mary Helen Goicoechea

Clint Gilchrist Richard Kail Iamie Kaul Helena Linn Jeannie Lockwood Kay Malkowski Nikki Marincic Deena Martin Delta McCormick

Madeline Murdock Lisa Parra Ted Reinwald Sonia Rife Jenny Roberts

Tawny Roberts Jim Roscoe Bev Sharp Sam Sharp

Hannah Scherbel Clayton Shelby

Pat Schuler **Jonita Sommers** Sue Sommers

Terrie Springman Tv Swain

Dick Tanner Dave Vlcek Liz Wardell Mary Lynn Worl

Donations

Mary Anne Almquist Barbara Amburn Dawn Ballou Caroline Brazell **Jamie Brewer**

Bob & Dahlia Griffin

Toni David Diana Helzer Roberta King Jeanne Lockwood Maggie Miller Judi Myers Charles Price Carole Richie Linda Sanders Sharon Schell Eugene Scrivner Kristy Sims Terrie Springman Eileen Stewart Albert & Jonita Sommers

<u>Donations - Businesses</u>

Cowboy Shop Dandylion Den Heritage Quilts JB's Welding M&M Transfer Office Outlet Pinedale Aquatic

Karen Taylor

Emmett Williams

Center

Pinedale Online Sommers Ranch

Lander Trail - New Fork River Historical Park Volunteers & Donations

Volunteers

Miles Anderson Dawn Ballou Bob Beiermann Travis Bolev Jon Boroff Nancy Brown Cade Clark Cody Criddle Josh Criddle Spencer Criddle Correen Donnelly J.D. "Sam" Drucker Kimberly Finch Barry Fisler Clint Gilchrist Mary Hopkins Darrin Kaufman Joe Kautza Mike Kautza John Krizek Tom Rea Maureen Rudnick Summer Shultz Geoff Sell **Jackie Sell** Brianne Thiele Dave Vlcek Bill Wadsworth Jim and Beth Allen Mindi Crabb

Donations

Bonneville Archaeology Wyoming Trails District Boy Scout Troop 18 Joel Bousman Family National Pak Service

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Association Pinedale FFA Pinedale Lion's Club Pinedale Online Pinedale Rental

Rocky Mountain Sculpture Sublette County Historic Preservation Board

Garley Swain

Wyoming Department of

Transportation

Wyoming Game & Fish Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office



Jeff Goltz

Ric Stott

Martin Hudson

Jerry Kirchhoff

Fur Trade History Travels to Scotland in 2014

"The 176th Anniversary of William Drummond Stewart and Alfred Jacob Miller at the 1837 Green River Rendezvous"

The Sublette County Historical Society/
Museum of the Mountain Man was pleased to
present and co-sponsor a Rocky Mountain Fur Trade
Forum and Three Worlds Meet this past September in
Scotland. The programs offered a fascinating blend
of history, art and culture at Murthly Castle and
Strathbraan Estates of Perthshire and the Birnham
Institute in Birnham-Dunkeld. The heritage of the fur
trade, mountain men and rendezvous era 1820-1840
was presented to over 500 people in the area.

History forums, a full encampment and demonstrations from the American Mountain Men Association, Shoshone Indian speeches, as well as tours of William Drummond Stewart's castle hall and Chapel were held for the public during the day on September 6th and 7th.



- Mike Powell in the AMM encampment in front of William Drummond Stewart's grove of fir trees he brought back from Western America.



-A Scottish clan from the Blairgowrie Highland games pose for a picture with the AMM, Scott Walker, Doc Ivory, Doyle Reid and Mike Powell

The 3WM presentations were spearheaded by historians and authors James C. Auld, Jerry Enzler and Jim Hardee.

It involved numerous actors, mountain men, a Native American contingency of Shoshones, as well as scholars, historians and theatre personnel. All participated in two evening performances at the Birnham Institute, as well as attending primary schools in the district.

The 1837 Rendezvous was a pivotal year when Alfred Jacob Miller rendered over 900 watercolors, pen and ink sketches, and dozens of paintings of the Green River Valley. He embellished the rich and extraordinary encounters of mountain men, Native American cultures and the diversity of American and European fur trade business.

Presenting this heritage of the Museum of the Mountain Man, the Green River Valley and the significance of the Scotland connection was a goal and dream come true for many who traveled there and participated.

Click on this link to view more pictures of the rendezvous in Scotland on our website!

Our 2014 Donors & Volunteers

Donations & Gifts

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The Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal

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Green River Rendezvous Days

Our Sponsors

Anderson Ranch BOCES, School District # 1 Linn Energy Rocky Mountain Power SWEP I (Shell) SC Museum Board

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Terry Camp Dawn Ballou Clint Gilchrist

Betsy Greenwood Wendi Schwartz

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AMM Camp

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Lodging

Baymont Inn & Suites Lakeside Lodge

AMM Living History Days

Richard Ashburn James Chandler Todd Glover Steve Harkness Keith Hipol Veni Musumecci Mike Powell Tony Powell Todd Schult James Stamper Mark Wardle Rick Williams

Special Thanks for **Thomas Fothringham Presentations**

American Mountain Men Association Green River Rendezvous Pagent Association Kay Malkowski -Grand Marshall Wagon Mayor Bob Jones and the Town of Pinedale

Sublette County Chamber of Commerce Shoshone Tribe of Riverton



Photo Credit: Pinedale Online

Wreaths Donated *By*:

McKenzie Meningitis **Foundation** (Pictured Top Left)

Natalie Sorenson (Pictured Top Right)





(Pictured Bottom Left)





21st Annual

Wreath & Chocolate Auction Donors

Sommers Homestead Volunteers:

Kristy Sims

Peg Bryant

Toni David

Kaylynne Pierce

Thank You Thank You!

Dawn Ballou

Sam Drucker

Sam Drucker

Elaine Crumpley

Our Sponsors: First Bank **Pinedale Library Our Hosts: Our Auctioneer: Jav Fear**

Our Elves:

Geoff Sell

Dawn Ballou Jackie Sell Sheryl Boroff Bev Sharp Jon Boroff Sam Sharp Peg Bryant Brent Thomas Jamie Wood Terry Cain

Lindsey Collis Our Top Buyers: Julie Early JB's Welding Aaron Fandek Jonah Energy Jay Fear

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Our Wreath Donors: Allen Agency Real Estate Altitude Drug Andrews, Gene & Connie Peg & Lurch Bryant Mary Ann Bryant Cowboy Shop Dennis Trucking Co Jay Fear Real Estate Julie Early Lakeside Lodge McKenzie Meningitis Foundation

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Mountain Man Back Country Horseman MMM Front Desk Staff Obo's Market and Deli

(Continued...) Fred & Michelle Pape Millie Pape Pinedale Dental Rio Verde Engineering Rocky Mountain Bank Hayley Ryckman Stained Glass Sundays Sage & Snow Garden Club Geoff & Jackie Sell Sorenson, Natalie Don Strube Sublette County UW Extension Sublette County Library - Pinedale Sublette Insurance VFW

Wind River Dental

Wind River Stone Scapes The Gayle Kinnison Memorial Wreath

2015 Event Calender

Thursday, March 12

Annual Meeting and Spring Thaw Party, 6-9p.m

May 1- September 30

Season Hours Daily: 9a.m. - 5p.m

May 12th - May 14th

American Mountain Man Living History Days

July 9th - July 12th

Green River Rendezvous Days 80th Anniversary of Sublette County Historical Society & 25th Anniversary of Museum of the Mountain Man

August 29th

Sommers Homestead Living History Museum Open House

<u>September 11th - 12th</u>

Wyoming State Historical Society Convention

September 23rd - 26th

National Fur Trade Symposium Bent's Fort, Colorado

Thursday, November 1

Museum closes for the season

Friday, December 4

22nd Annual Wreath & Chocolate Auction
Lovatt Room
Pinedale Library

The Publication Corner

The Sublette County Historical Society and the Museum of the Mountain Man are proud to announce that *Obstinate Hope: The Western Expeditions of Nathaniel J. Wyeth, Vol. 1*, written by Jim Hardee, has been awarded a Wyoming State Historical Society book award.



Wyoming State Historical Society book awards are intended to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation of the history of Wyoming and the West.

Obstinate Hope: The Western Expeditions of Nathaniel J. Wyeth Volume 1, 1832 - 1833 by Jim Hardee \$24.95

This was the third award that the SCHS/MMM received from the Wyoming State Historical Society in the past five years. The first was *Pinedale, Wyoming: A Centennial History 1904-2004*, a historic work written and researched by historian Ann Noble. The second was the *Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal*, in its "Magazines and Newspapers" category. And the third was Mr. Hardee's book.

Volume 8 of the *Rocky Mountain* Fur Trade Journal was presented in conjunction with Green River Rendezvous Days, July 10-13th.

Published in this year's journal was an article about William H. Ashley's newly-discovered journal the Museum had the privilege of displaying this summer.



2014 Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal, Volume 8 Full Color Paperback, 8-1/2 x 11, 124 pages, \$25.00

To purchase these publications, please visit our gift shop or our online book store at www.museumofthemountainman.com

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2014 SCHS Members- 423

Life Members

Carney, Mrs. Otis Gowans, Fred & Gloria Kanski, Janice McNealey, Mrs. James Oliver, Ruth Pape, Millie Parker, H. Lawrence & Reggie Reed, Ellen Simms, Bob and Martha Smith, Ken & Nancy

<u>Jim Bridger League (\$1,000</u> Jackson, H. Reid Jamieson, David

Baker, III James & Susan Ballou, Dawn / Pinedale Online Blatt, John Hagenstein, Paul Haub, Erivan & Helga Jensen, Dale Judith Walker & George Hallenbeck Hayden H. Huston Family Mollring, Ted & Christine Office Outlet Ricketts, Joe & Marlene SWEP I Smith, Richard Spitzer, Horton Tegeler & Associates The Rendezvous (\$500)

Andrikopoulos, John & Judy Cooney, Michael & Jeanette Smith, Tucker & Jean Sullivan, William & Joyce Thomas, James & Kathy Sell, Geoff & Jackie

Rocky Mtn Fur Trade (\$250) Baymont Inn & Suites

First Bank
Fisler, Barry & Debra
Gooch, Rusty & Rosemary
Harrigan, Jim & Marla
Ivie, Tim
Miller, Marguerite
Pinedale Travel & Tourism
Powell, Mike
Ptasnik, Greg & Martha
Thompson, Becky
Wakefield, Forrest & Sofia
Wilson, Ron & Cynde

The Trapper (\$100) Aarstad, Rich

Ballou, Dawn
Banks, Stephen & Mary Lou
Benner, Dave
Bing, Robert & Carolyn
Boroff, Jon & Sheryl
Boroff, Max & Dianne
Bosco, Edward & Nancy
Brown, G R
Buston, Kay
Cramer, Dennis & Chris
Crandall, Jo
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Stroklund, Neil
Stroklund, Neil
Stroklund, Neil
Stroklund, Neil
Fowler, Doug
Sublette County Artists' Guild
Frick, Guido
Frick, Guido
Gagnelius, Ja
Giebel, Edmu
Uintah County Regional
History Center
Glaser, Ed
Walter, John & Wendy
Godfrey, John

Wright, David

Walters, Mitch

Wood, Jamie

Wood, Ralph

The Astorian (\$40)
Ahendsen, Rosalie
Alexander, Kip & Bonnie
Allen Co. Public Library
Ares, James
Auld, James
Austin, Tim
Ballou, Gail
Bartly, Michael
Bauer, Paul

Bechtol, Marilyn

Belason, Bruce

Beck, Abie

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Heiny, Craig

Hipol, Moki

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