

## Dating and Caring for Historical Photographs



Earnest Family, 1899, Fossil, Wyoming, American Heritage Center collections

Few objects possess the ability to transcend time as old photographs. They are one of our most immediate links to the past. Old photographs have aesthetic and historical value and when they are family photographs, there is also nostalgic and sentimental appeal. But sometimes those pictures are not properly identified, which greatly limits their value, both as historical objects and as family mementos. Photo Archivist, **Leslie Shores**, will lead a hands-on discussion on identification of photograph types, clues to dating historical images, and preservation of photographic images including advice on supplies and techniques.

## Papermaking and Marbling Traditions

This talk by **Ginny Kilander** will trace the development and history of the papermaking and marbling traditions, and include a discussion of materials, equipment, and methods used in the production of these arts. Papermaking was developed in ancient China and was kept a closely guarded court secret for hundreds of years. The knowledge of the tradition slowly spread to the Middle East and to Europe, where papermaking mills replaced the Asian production methods. The art of marbling on paper and fabric developed in both Japan and

Persia in the thirteenth century, but each method used unique supplies and equipment. Like papermaking, the knowledge of marbling was kept secret and the marbling guilds were reluctant to share their knowledge with the world. As the tradition spread through various countries the patterns and colors were altered and adapted, and today certain historic styles are associated with, and often named for, the country of origin. This talk can include both the papermaking and marbling traditions, or either of the traditions can be presented individually.



16th Street in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1868, American Heritage Center collections.

## Frank Hopkins

Frank Hopkins claimed to be a western frontiersman who served the military as a dispatch rider, knew many famous westerners, such as Buffalo Bill Cody, and participated in four hundred endurance races, winning them all. He told these stories to willing listeners during the 1930s and 1940s. After his death in 1951 his wife continued to propagate stories about his western adventures. The recent movie, *Hidalgo*, was supposedly based on his true exploits. However, many historians have asked are any of Hopkins adventures true? Did he ever visit Wyoming where he claimed to be born? Was he truly called the Laramie Kid? **Rick Ewig's** talk will explore how Frank's adventures were published and came to be accepted, and how research in primary sources cast great doubt on the veracity of Hopkins and his western tales.



Frank Hopkins, American Heritage Center. Robert Easton papers.

## Wyoming Suffragist: Amalia Post of Cheyenne

In 1870, a national conference was held in Washington, D.C., to discuss the status of women's rights. The delegate who spoke for Wyoming was Amalia Post, wife of a prominent Cheyenne banker. Who was Amalia and why did she feel impelled to travel across the country to agitate for rights for all women? This talk, presented by **D. C. Thompson**, will cover Amalia's life from romantic bride to bitter divorcee to activist, and examine the way that her life experiences and expectations shaped her beliefs. It will also look at ideals of womanly behavior and the effects that such role models had on women of the nineteenth century.

## How to Preserve Your Important Family Documents in a Digital World

A recent study indicated that worldwide, enough new information is created in one year to fill 500,000



Libraries of Congress, which is the equivalent of a stack of paper 30 feet high for every person on Earth. We are living in a truly hybrid environment of paper and electronic documents, but the pace of change often makes the information disappear before we realize the importance of saving it. **Mark Shelstad's** presentation will provide guidelines on helping to make decisions about how to safeguard the longevity of items that do not have a physical form, including e-mail and digital images.

## Cultural Heritage on the Web: The Ten Most Interesting Sites You've Probably Never Heard Of

Archives, libraries, and museums are using the Web to provide continuous access to extensive stores of cultural information.

Go beyond Yahoo and Google to find out how the Web is transforming the creation and presentation of cultural heritage materials



(such as art, artifacts, and archives) and research methods and expectations in the digital age. **Mark Shelstad's** presentation will provide a sampling of the best Web sites that are using innovative technology and design to present their collections online.

## Lester C. Hunt

Lester C. Hunt was one of Wyoming's most popular politicians from the 1930s to the 1950s. A Democrat, he never lost an election. Twice he served as Wyoming's secretary of state, six years as the state's governor, and one term as U.S. Senator. Hunt is credited with the idea for the bucking bronco which has resided on the state's license plates since the 1930s. He served as governor during World War II and during his term in the U.S. Senate he witnessed firsthand the excesses of McCarthyism. **Rick Ewig's** talk will examine the partisan atmosphere in the U.S. Senate during the early 1950s and the events which led to Hunt's suicide in his senate office on June 19, 1954.

## "He's Got My Papers, This Man:" Archivists, Archives, and the American Heritage Center

Not to be confused with architects or anarchists, archivists are the little-known professionals who ensure that the papers, photos, films, and, increasingly, computer files that carry the historical record are preserved and accessible. Some archivists have a legal mandate to support accountability of government to the public; others have a cultural mandate to help illuminate the ordinary and momentous people, events, and places of history. Using the American Heritage Center as one example, **Mark Greene** will present an introduction to archivists and archives, and pass along some tips on how family historians can care for their papers and photos like a pro.

## "Chinese Warren" and the Rock Springs Massacre

Was the massacre of more than two dozen Chinese miners in Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1885, a race riot or the result of poor labor management practices? Should Wyoming Territorial Governor Francis E. Warren be regarded as a selfless hero for his role in suppressing the disturbance or was he actually motivated by political ambition, unrestrained self-interest, and the desire for personal financial gain? Did representatives of the Union Pacific Railroad behave honorably in their conduct of employee relations or did they engage in collusion with others to defraud and exploit their workers in the Rock Springs mines? **Carol Bowers'** presentation explores these questions and provides new perspectives on this unfortunate event in Wyoming History.



American Heritage Center collections.