Saddlebag Newsletter
March 2025

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A supplement to the WWHA *Journal*
Available On-Line via www.wildwesthistory.org

Welcome to the Saddlebag Newsletter. Here is the latest information from WWHA. Previously posted Saddlebag newsletters will be found by date further down this section in the list of available newsletters. All earlier information will be retained for reference.

If you have Wild West news, please contact the editor at the e-mail address shown at the top of the Saddlebag page. We reserve the right to include or not include any materials submitted to us.

Our YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos is now monetized so WWHA gets paid for views**. Please subscribe, watch and like our videos**. Our YouTube, Facebook and Instagram pages are all safe.

We have new *Gunfighter* members, Steve and Chris Bridges from Reno, NV. Josh Taylor from Conroe, TX

WWHA Board of Directors
Nominations and Election

Nominations for six seats on the WWHA Board of Directors will open on February 1, 2025, for three-year terms of office 2025 – 2028; the terms run from July to July starting and ending on the last day of each year's annual conference, the Roundup. WWHA operates with three groups of board members so that only one-third of seats are up for election each year.

The WWHA bylaws allow for up to 18 board members. At the present time, there are 16 seats filled and two vacancies (due to early retirement by two members). Both open seats are in the one-third of seats that are up for election/re-election in 2025. This makes six seats to be voted upon this year. Note: WWHA is not required to have all seats filled and may conduct business with less than 18 board members.

From the WWHA bylaws: "The number of directors will be 18. Directors will be members in good standing of the corporation. Each director will serve for a term of three years. The directors' terms will be staggered so that the terms of six directors will expire each year. Any member in good standing may nominate another member in good standing for election to the board. All such nominations shall be made to the full board, serving as the nominations committee. The nominating committee will consider all nominees and present a slate of

candidates for each election. A member in good standing who meets the qualifications for director and who has been duly nominated may be elected as a director. Directors will be elected by the vote of the members of the corporation at the annual conference (aka Roundup). A director may be elected to succeed himself or herself as director without limit."

Responsibilities of board members include attending two called meetings each year, one at the annual conference (Roundup) and one in a mid-year setting, location to be determined; this meeting is usually conducted in January or February. Additionally, board members may be requested to participate in randomly called meetings via Zoom, WWHA's chosen Internet application for non-in-person meetings. And, board members are expected to participate in e-mail discussions that relate to the business of WWHA.

In the nomination process, the WWHA board has adopted a plan that allows for any member in good standing to nominate themselves for a board seat. In this case, or in the case of another member making the nomination of a member for election to the board, the nomination must be submitted by mail, or e-mail, to the board member designated to receive nominations. The current policy is for the 2nd Vice President to receive the nominations.

The current 2nd Vice President is Roy B. Young. Nominations may be sent to Roy starting February 1, 2025, by mail to: PO Box 759, Apache, OK 73006; or by e-mail to: royyoung@pldi.net. Nominations will close on June 1, 2025.

Each nominee should submit a letter to the board stating why they wish to serve on the board and what they believe they will contribute to WWHA in the role of a board member. Once the board has approved a nomination, the nominee (as an applicant) will be contacted to meet in person with the board on the Wednesday before the opening of the annual conference (the Roundup). This meeting will allow both the board and the nominee to have a brief discussion before a final determination is made to put the applicant's name before the membership for election.

The annual business meeting of WWHA, conducted by the president, takes place on the Saturday morning of the annual conference (Roundup). Members must be present to vote. At this time, the names of the nominees will be announced and the election will proceed by the raising of hands, one nominee at a time. Or, if the number of nominees does not exceed the number of open seats, a member in good standing may make a motion for electing the slate of nominees by acclamation.

Board seats open for the 2025 election are these currently held seats that expire in July 2025: Donna Harrell, Ruth McWhirter, Elizabeth Weathers, Jean Smith and two vacant seats, for a total of six board seats to voted upon.

For questions contact the nominations chair, Roy Young: royyoung@pldi.net or the WWHA President Paul Marquez: marque64@comcast.net

U.S. Cavalry School by David Guyton

There are still places where one can go to experience what life may have been like in the Wild West. Places where you can immerse yourself in adventure that gives insight into the daily lives of our ancestors in the 19th century. Shortly after Christmas 2022 I discovered one such place while going down the YouTube algorithm rabbit hole. YouTube makes suggestions for videos you may be interested in, based on the history of your viewing habits. On this particular day YouTube suggested I watch a video on the "U.S. Cavalry School" that had been produced and posted by "Today's Wild West." The thumbnail for the video looked interesting so I took the bait and watched the 28-minute-long video. What I saw blew me away because I had no idea anything like the U.S. Cavalry School existed despite having been an "Old West" living historian and reenactor for over fifteen years. By the end of the video, I knew I had to make every effort to attend this course.

I immediately began a deep dive into the history of the battle, George Custer, northern Plains Indians culture, uniforms, equipment, Indian Wars history, horsemanship, cavalry tactics, firearms and so on. As I did my research, I began putting together the uniforms and equipment I would need in order to attend the course. Although I had owned four horses over the course of the years, I also began taking riding lessons on a weekly basis and quickly realized how little I knew about riding. It took an entire year to assemble all the uniforms and equipment needed but in June 2024, I found myself standing on the banks of the Little Bighorn River, looking out over Medicine Tail Coulee, about to embark on an adventure of a lifetime.

The U.S. Cavalry School is an immersive and eight-day, where students experience would have been learn what it cavalry trooper of like being a Cavalry, the 7th U.S. of 1876, under the in the summer LTC George command of Custer. Armstrong

The school is conducted from an encampment, on the banks of the Little Bighorn River, at Medicine Tail Coulee, on the Crow Indian Reservation. Students dress in the uniforms and carry the weapons of the 1870's Indian Wars cavalry trooper. They cross the Little Bighorn River on horseback, sometimes multiple times, daily and ride the battlefield and see it from a perspective like no other. Students receive lectures and hands-on instruction in cavalry tactics, horsemanship, western, military, and native history, and it is taught from both the military and native perspectives. Students go on an overnight patrol and camp on the banks of the Little Bighorn. The school culminates in a three-day reenactment of the battle on the banks of the Little Bighorn River.

The idea for the U.S. Cavalry School came about in 1998 at a Rendezvous get-together in Twisp, Washington and was inspired by the recently released Kevin Costner film, "The Postman". The first Cavalry School was a five-day course and was conducted in 2000. By 2003, the school was conducting Staff Rides for the U.S. Military on the Little Bighorn and Rosebud Battlefields. In 2007, the school moved the main training course, the eight day "Custer's Last Ride", to its current location on the Crow Agency to coincide in conjunction with the annual reenactment of the Battle of the Little Bighorn put on by the Real Bird family. The Real Birds have been holding the reenactment, every June, for 31 years. The U.S. Cavalry School has been participating in the reenactment for 25 years, after the US Cavalry School staff traveled to Montana to ride in the reenactment there and were directed to ride in the "native" version reenactment.

The U.S. Cavalry School is currently owned and operated by Keith Herrin, who first rode in the Little Bighorn reenactment in 2004 just days before deploying for a tour in Iraq. Keith has been a member of the Montana National Guard for 30 years. He has always been interested in military history and being a 4th generation Montanan, first heard about the famous battle in school. He has been a student of the frontier cavalry and the battle since becoming a founding member of the

Montana National Guard's Mounted Horse Honor Guard (89th Montana Cavalry) in 2002. In 2006, he became the U.S. Cavalry School's main riding instructor and supply sergeant until he took over the school in 2012.

The U.S. Cavalry School's staff is made up of instructors, assistants, interns,

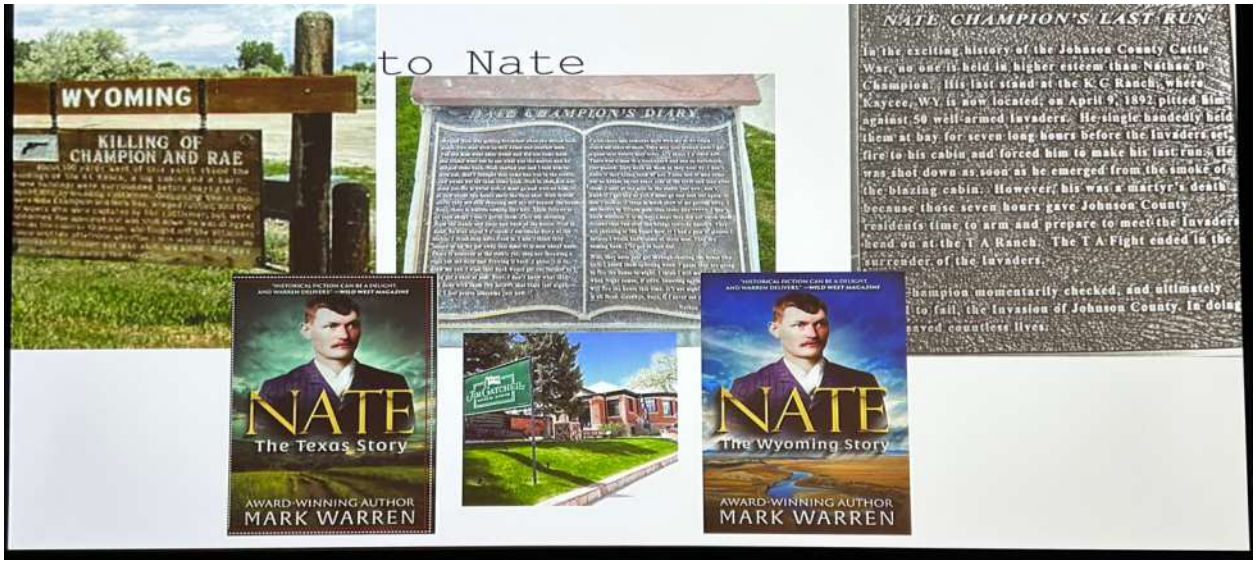
student-interns and kitchen staff. Most of the staff are volunteers. Eighty percent of the staff are current or former members of the military and ninety percent of the instructors are military veterans. Keith tries to keep the staff/student ratio at 1:1but says it never drops below 1:2. He says he and his staff work hard to add new training, activities, and places to ride every year and typically 25%-35% of the students are returnees. Most of the horses used at the school belong to the school staff or come from nearby wranglers that mainly use their horses for movies. Students can bring their own horses if they desire.

Students need not have been life-long riders in order to attend U.S. Cavalry School. They simply request that you have 4-5 recent riding lessons before attending. Once there, students are given a riding assessment and are paired with horses that match their riding abilities. Even though students are required to wear the uniform of a cavalry trooper they do not have to buy anything. All of the uniforms, equipment, firearms, and horses can be rented from the school. Riders of all ages are welcome. All you have to do is show up.

There is no other experience like riding the Little Bighorn Battlefield on horseback, dressed as an 1876 cavalry trooper, while learning about the battle from serious historians. It is the only way to gain a true perspective of what really took place there on June 25th and 26th, 1876.

If you would like more information visit their website at uscavalryschool.com

The Southeastern Regional Roundup at the Booth Western Art Museum, in Cartersville Georgia, was praised by all the attendees. We even had a member, Anna Sitnina ,all the way from the UK just for the event. She is a researcher and writer for all things Doc Holliday and meeting Dr. Gary Roberts was a highlight of her trip. The event also included our WWHA Winter Board Meeting. Here are some pictures of the event.



Your Board members.

Thank you David Guyton and Jim Dunham, for all the work you did creating this fine event.

Alton Russell, Ana Sitnina, Gary Roberts

Jim Dunham, Roy Young, Gary Roberts, Mark Warren

If you would like to give back to WWHA, here is a great way to use your talents and be a big part of the Roundup Committee.

Roundup Name Badges and Registration.

Requirements:

- Receive Roundup registration copies from Jean S. via mail, (email for late registerers).
- Knowledge of computer software
- A commitment to share shifts during event to manage Registration table

Labor:

- Artwork for badges: **2 hrs**
- Apply names, residence, sequential bid numbers: **8 hrs**
- Apply stickers: **2 hrs**
- Apply Ribbons: **2 hrs**
- Order Ribbons from supplier: **1 hr**
- Purchase materials: **1 hr**
- Sort and add meal tickets: **2 hrs**
- Extract, provide Bid Numbers per name to Auction Chair after closing of Silent Auction: **1 hr**
- Accept revenue and process Walk-ins during Registration
- Contact Paul Marquez @marque64@comcast.net

WELCOME WWHA –

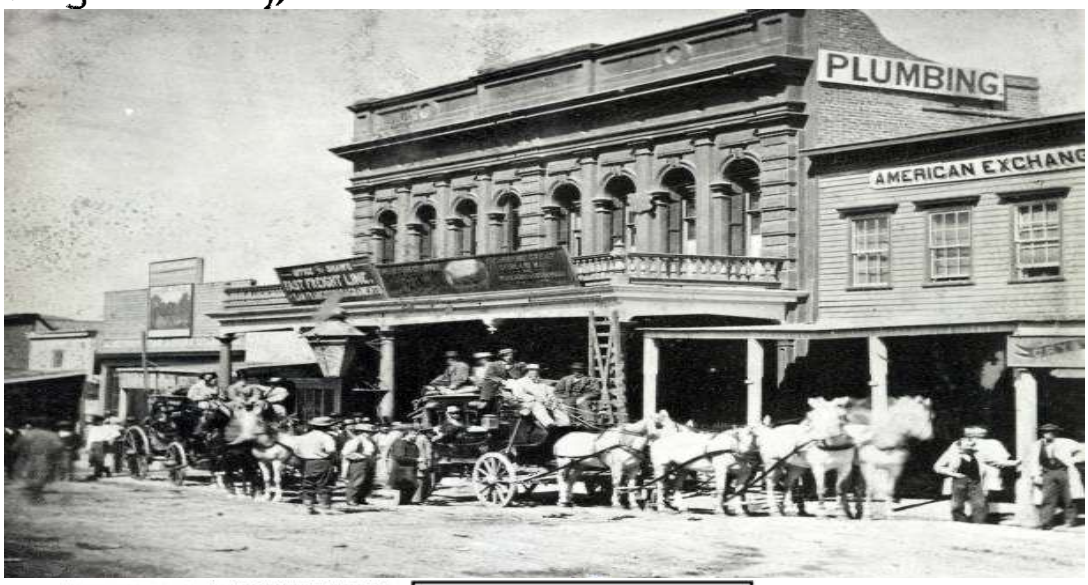
Roundup 2025

Roundup 2025 The Comstock Lode and the Mining Frontier!

Don’t miss this exciting event. Buffalo Bill, Tombstone characters, Wild Bunch, The Donner Party, Mark Twain and more will be represented. Something for everyone. There will be traditional programs such as "An evening with" and the Awards Lunch. Plan to spend a fun day in Virginia City. There will be some new action and an appearance by Mark Twain.

YOU CAN NOW REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE: WILDWESTHISTORY.ORG

Virginia City, Nevada



WWHA

18th Annual Roundup

NEVADA
RENO

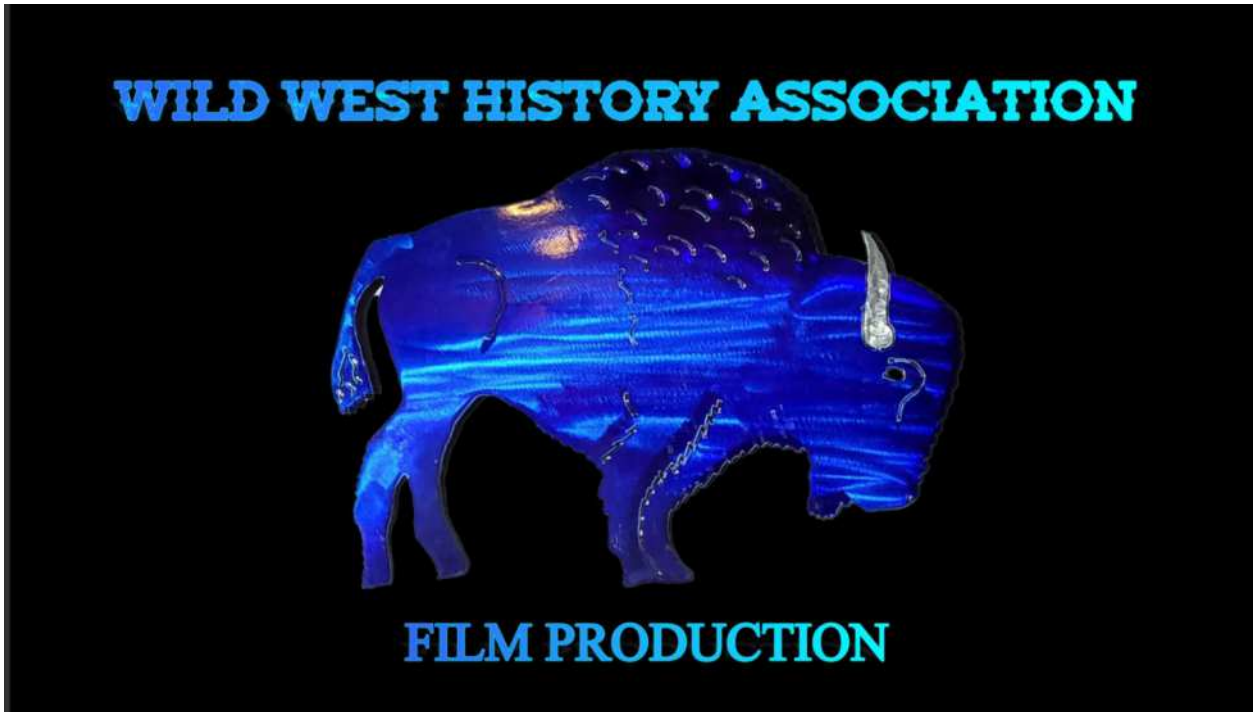
July 16-19, 2025

Circus Circus

407 N. Virginia St. Reno, Nevada

Please hit the red "BOOK" tab on our website. It will take you directly to the hotel website to reserve your room with the WWHA rate.

Please be sure to check the website for updated Roundup information.



Travel with us on a road trip to discover ordinary people doing extraordinary things to preserve our history on the back roads of special places in the West. In weekly episodes, you'll meet authors, collectors, artists, cowboys, historians, telling stories of the Wild West. For us, the journey is the destination, and the destination holds the story.
We are actively searching for people and places to video. Please contact us if you have a *suggestion.*
https://wildwesthistory.org/contact-us/

Wild West History Association
Reno, Nevada 2025
Vendor/Exhibitor Information and Application

We are soliciting vendors and exhibitors for WWHA's Reno Roundup to be held July 16-19, 2025. We are expecting a large attendance, most of whom are avid collectors. Table priority will be given to WWHA members. Tables will be reserved on a first-come basis with non-members having access to any remaining tables. Vendors/exhibitors may reserve up to three tables.

Vendor/exhibitor tables are available for $100.00 each. Only 15 tables are available. Each table will be a standard six feet in length with two chairs. If a vendor/exhibitor orders multiple tables,

they will be placed adjacent to one another. Sharing of one table by two vendors/exhibitors is allowed but must be paid in total by one person or business. Vendors/exhibitors will be responsible for their own covers for covering wares when not open; table skirts will be furnished.

Note: each table reserved allows you two name badges; additional guests or visitors must pay the daily attendance fee.

A set-up and tear-down schedule as well as a full schedule of events will be sent to each registered vendor/exhibitor. Primary table times will be Wednesday evening option, all-day Thursday, Thursday evening option, and Saturday until noon. Vendors will be in the same room as all Roundup program events.

Vendor/exhibitor fees do not include any additional Roundup activities. Vendors/exhibitors who wish to participate in meal functions, or other events will need to register to attend the Roundup.

Please fill-out the table application form (remember to keep a copy for yourself) and return it with your fee as soon as possible to Jean Smith, Treasurer, at the address shown on the application. Make your check or money order (in US funds) to WWHA and notate that it is for "Vendor/Exhibitor Table." Or, you may pay with PayPal: treasurer@wildwesthistory.org.

Additional information regarding hotel rules, set-up and tear-down times, as well as advance delivery information for packages you wish to ship to the venue will be furnished to all registered vendors/exhibitors in a follow-up letter.

Remember: only the first 15 table reservations will be accepted and priority goes to WWHA members.

Please address any questions to Vendor Chair: Donna Harrell, dmrosejyg@cox.net or Roundup chairs: Gerald Schaefer (docshores@outlook.com) and/or Alan Blanchette (alanb101@hotmail.com)

For the application go to the Roundup information on the website.

WILD WEST HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Reno Roundup

July 16th – 19th, 2025

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNTIES:

Please consider a donation to any of the below options:

Item	Amount	Total
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Board Luncheon (5 needed)	$ 100.00	$
A/V Equipment rental (5 needed)	100.00	
Outlaw Gunfight show at Virginia City (5 needed)	100.00	
Use of buses (5 needed)	200.00	

Any donation amount will help defray the cost to WWHA for the above activities and improve the financial status of WWHA.

For your generosity, WWHA will recognize your donation at the above activity. Note your choice!

Checks payable to WWHA
Mail to: Jean Smith, Treasurer
933 E. Jennings St.
Safford, AZ 85546

or Paypal:
treasurer@wildwesthistory.org

Thanks…

Layton Hooper Annual Indian Wars Symposium-Denver, CO.

When: May10,2025
Doors open at 8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: National Guard Armory
6858 South Revere Parkway
Centennial, Co.

Speakers: Deb Goodrich,Dan Aranda, Bill Cavaliere, Michael Jordan. One more speaker will be named as we had one cancellation.

Refreshments: Morning coffee, Juice, and Donuts
Full buffet lunch

*** Authors and booksellers will be attending.

Lodging: Courtyard by Marriott
Denver Tech Center
6565 South Boston ST.
Greenwood Village, CO.

Rate: $131.00 per night (good till April 11) - call (303)-721-0300 and ask for Hannah or use the link on their website.

Cost: $60.00 in advance or $65.00 at the door.

Payment: You my pay either online by going to our new American Frontier History Association website at www.frontierhistory.net or pay by check, which can be mailed to:
AFHA
PO Box 21
Emerson, NJ. 07630

Questions: please email Dennis Hagen ay deh630@aol.com or call (303) 690- 4450

Looking forward to seeing everyone in May.