



# HERITAGE TIMES

Volume 5, Issue 1

June 2023

**BIG THANKS**  
to our Summer  
2023 volunteers-  
We could not do  
this without you!!

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If you are  
interested in  
getting involved,  
please stop in to  
see us, give us a  
call or send us an  
email. We love  
growing our team.

## VAN'S KAMP POWDER HORN COMES TO CHM

For the past month, Carole Thurmond Wills has been in Cody researching the history of her Thurmond family's early Marquette ranch and the later guest ranch on Jim's Mountain up the North Fork. Known as Van's Kamp, three miles off the Yellowstone Highway, Van's Kamp guest ranch was actively operated from about 1914 to 1919. A flier for "Van's Kamp in the Rockies" lists its manager as Mrs. C.F. Thurmond, and her father, J.C. Van Everen, as the proprietor. The history of much of the Thurmond family and their land holdings in Marquette and on the North Fork is provided in the June 2015 addendum to *History of the North Fork of the Shoshone River*, by Ester Johansson Murray (2010 rev ed). *The Cody Enterprise* also has several short mentions of this family at Van's Kamp, as they periodically mailed in brief updates, apparently as a means of advertising.

The Cody Heritage Museum has added information about Van's Kamp and the Thurmond family to the family history files. The family has supported the CHM by donating a very special powder horn that had been prominently displayed in the main guest house at Van's Kamp. The horn was even de-



scribed in a 1917 typescript of a letter "My first visit at Van's Kamp, Near Cody Wyo." written by a guest relating her delightful experiences at Van's Kamp. J.C. Van Everen apparently brought the powder horn with him on his travels from Connecticut to Kansas to Wyoming, though when and where he acquired it is still undetermined at this time. However, the horn has been kept in the Thurmond family continually until this past year.

This powder horn is a piece of early Americana. Scrimshaw pictures show a man hunting with a dog, birds, a tree, Pennsylvania Dutch style tulips, and a coat of arms motif, having

intricate scrimshaw over its entire surface. The inscription reads:

*"Jedediah Nash, his horn, maid at no. 4 Ocktober the 21 1757; I poudere and brother ball  
hearro like conker all. Rote in Gorgis wor"*

What we in North America know as the French and Indian War was fought 1755-1763 between the colonial powers of Britain and France, but this conflict was not officially named until after war. So, during the fighting it was sometimes known as King George's War, as a continuation of the previous King George's War of 1744-1748. French and Indian War records show a Jedediah Nash in 1756 listed in the 5<sup>th</sup> Company under command of Capt. Nathan Whiting. In 1757 he is listed in the 6<sup>th</sup> Company, co-commanded by Col. Phineas Lyman and Capt. David Waterbury. Jedediah Nash, born 12/31/1739, was an actual soldier and this horn was likely used in the French and Indian War.

The powder horn's place of manufacture is also written on the horn, as "The fort at Number 4" was a mid-18th century fortification protecting Plantation Number 4. It was located in the present-day town of Charlestown, New Hampshire, on the Vermont border. During the last of the four French and Indian Wars, many soldiers were stationed in the Fort at Number 4. They included Colonel Nathan Whiting's Regiment of Connecticut, and Col. Phineas Lyman's 6<sup>th</sup> company, in both of which Jedediah Nash served. The horn falls within a group of known powder horns carved for the colonial army, and this horn fits the timeframe and description of those carved by Samuel Lounsbury, who is also known to have been present at the fort at No. 4 in October, 1757.

This Jedediah Nash horn is quite plausibly an authentic French and Indian War horn made at the fort at No. 4 in New Hampshire colony on October 24, 1757. The local provenance for this horn in the Thurmond family, from its noted presence at Van's Kamp, and its likely transport to Wyoming by J.C. Van Everen, all seem to fit with local historical sources. ~Nathan Bender

\*Come in today to see this amazing powder horn on display!\*



## From our President/Director

It's hard-to-believe that we are starting our 6<sup>th</sup> season! The time just seems to have flown by since we opened in May 2018. We continue to add new objects to our collection, most of which are put on display, so the drawers are filling up. We've changed our *Featured Local Artist* exhibit and are highlighting Olive Fell this year. Olive graduated from Cody High School in 1916 and is best known locally for her etchings and drawings of little bear cubs but she did so much more than bears.

While we took a bit of a hit in attendance last year, we are keeping our fingers crossed for more visitors this year, and for no surprises from Mother Nature that will hurt tourism to our entire region. Enough already!!

We have a new curator this year. Nic Linn has a great deal of museum experience and comes to us from Kentucky though he's been in our area for just over a year. He's in the Wyoming National Guard and as of right now, will deploy overseas in July 2024. Nic has worked on a collections backlog of accessioning and condition reports, so we're almost caught up.

Between Nic and all our volunteers, we are putting our best foot forward. Do come by and say "hello" and see what we've done! We continue to fund raise as we are a private 501c3 non-profit organization. If you are thinking about making a donation at some point, there's no time like the present! We'd really appreciate it.

~Lynn

➤ Look for us on the big screen at the Big Horn Cinemas Movie Theater

## Garden Updates

The Cody Heritage Museum garden has taken years of investment of money, labor, and love by the Museum garden committee and the Museum board of directors. We feel we've produced a beautiful attraction for the Cody community.

On April 29th board members met to do the annual garden clean up. [pictured right] We are so excited to have Melinda Peter's Girl Scout Troop #1250 volunteer to help us keep the garden maintained and beautiful through the summer months! THANK YOU!

Our one problem is our cast iron bathtub on the west side of the building. The tub was original to the house in 1907 and donated to us by Lyn & George Simonton. A wonderful addition to our garden! We've tried several plants but it's just too hot. So, will you walk through our beautiful garden and give us suggestions? We would love to hear your ideas: A plant that will withstand the heat, a rock garden, or ?

Come see what we've done.

Be on the look out for the final detail of our life sized monument project. The pedestal plaque by Ben Warren will be added soon. The plaque will keep with the current flower identifying signs throughout the garden.

~Geri & Garden Team



# HISTORIC CODY FAMILIES

## RICHARD FAMILY—PART 1

As we detailed in Volume 4, Issue 2 last fall, the Frost & Richard families are integral to early and modern Cody and, by virtue of two Hughes sisters from Chicago marrying two business partners, Ned Frost and Fred Richard, from Cody, have been bound for generations by close family ties. It is of note that all five sons – three Frost sons and two Richard sons – served in various branches of the Armed Forces in WWII – and all returned to Cody at some point to make their lives. Alfred J. (Fred) Richard was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 6 children born to Desire “Jeremiah” (Jerry) Richard and Lucy Bonner Richard, on 7/19/1880, in Eden, Vermont. The family moved to Troy, NY, and as adolescents, Fred and his older brother, Will, and younger brother, George, worked in the nearby forest as woodcutters to help support their family.

In 1901, Will, Fred and George had saved enough money to take a train to Red Lodge, MT, having heard of some enticing business and life opportunities in the West. They “hitch-hiked” on freight wagons to go south to Meeteetse, WY, to the Pitchfork and LU ranches where they could get work. All three went to work for Otto Franc on the Pitchfork, which is where they met Ned Frost. Fred began hunting and trapping with Ned, also skinning, stretching and preparing the pelts. While they did go on many successful big game hunts, they quickly learned that trapping for predators was highly lucrative. Individually and together, they also began guiding hunters throughout the nearby wilderness in search of big game. Newspaper reports from 1905-06 show their partnership to be a successful one.

Early in their partnership, Ned & Fred also formed the Frost & Richard Camping Company, one of the first outfits to take Burlington Railroad tourists into Yellowstone from Cody. Transportation was via surreys, wagons, and on horseback (\$1 per day extra!) took 16-18 days, covering 15 campsites. An early brochure shows the price for the 16-day trip to be \$160 - \$10/day!

In 1908, the pair guided a tour of school teachers from the Chicago area, among them Miss Margaret (Peggy) Hughes. Fred had suffered a severely broken shoulder and Peggy appointed herself his assistant driver for the wagon he drove on the trip. At Lake Hotel, the smitten Fred proposed, she accepted, and by Christmas, Fred was in Chicago, meeting the Hughes family. Ned had enough time to get there by train to be best man when the couple married on New Year's Day, 1909. The Hughes sisters were two of 12 children born to Harry and Mary Hughes, who emigrated from Glasgow, Scotland. Of the 7 who survived infancy, 5 of the siblings left Chicago for Wyoming. Their parents gave in and came out for a lengthy visit – he died toward the end of the Spanish Influenza epidemic; she died in 1933. Both of these Scottish great-grandparents are buried at Cody's Riverview Cemetery. Both couples had homes in town – Fred & Peggy's was 1401 Salisbury Avenue.

Frost & Richard reportedly guided more tourists through the Park via the East Gate than most other companies and the other gates combined. For many years, their guided trips through Yellowstone, as well as hunting trips, began and ended at the Ranch. The parties grew in number – 85, 107, etc. – so the logistics were complex. By 1913, Frost & Richard Camping Co. had incorporated with the state. As hunting guides, they guided many well-known people – C.N. Heinz, the Pittsburgh pickle king, a party from the Denver Museum seeking a full black bear family for a display, and, of course, Buffalo Bill and Prince Albert of Monaco – who Fred guided because he could speak French courtesy of his French-Canadian mother (while partner Ned got to guide the “Spend-a-Million-Gates” party – and try to keep the alcohol consumption to a minimum!).

Fred's life as a hunter and guide was adventurous, to say the least. He and his horse were once hit by lightning, killing the horse and temporarily paralyzing Fred. Grizzly attacks were not frequent, but not unknown, either – one episode of which became the subject for a painting at the Whitney Gallery in Cody by famous western artist, W.R. Leigh, [more in part 2].

Fred and Peggy's first son, Jack, 1909, became a professional photographer, reported, edited and published at three newspapers, ran a radio station, became a pilot, served as a Marine Corp air intelligence officer in WWII, was administrative assistant to Wyoming Senator E.V. Robertson in Washington DC for three years and became a portrait photographer in Cody.

Jack's legacy includes 240,000+ images housed at the McCracken Research Library. Jack and first wife, Rhea's son, Robert, who, after careers in the Air Force and with the Red Cross, returned to his beloved Cody Country to take up the family tradition of guiding tours into Yellowstone (Grubstake Expeditions) and is an active speaker and author of many local and family history books. He had three sons with his wife, June; the middle of them, Scott, owns Shoshone River Farm. Fred and Peggy's second son, Robert H., was born in 1914. After a full career as a Marine aviator starting in WWII, Robert retired as a Brigadier General, following which he worked as a Contracts Administrator for Sunstrand Aviation and Lockheed Martin. He and his family returned to Cody in the 1970's. Sons Chipley (Chip) and Chandler (Chan) have been a part of the Cody business and rodeo community for many years. They each have children who have remained and worked in Cody.

~Janet Frost Bucknell \*also author of Frost Family Part 1—Vol.4 Iss.2

The next issue will continue the Richard family story with Fred's brothers Will and George.

# JOIN THE CODY HERITAGE MUSEUM TODAY!

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Membership benefits include:  
**FREE** admission, **2 guest passes** per year [Business- 6 passes, Corporate level and above-12 passes], Bi-Annual newsletter, **10% off** in our Gift Shop, You will also receive a personalized membership card!

PayPal/credit card payment options available online or over the phone, checks payable to Cody Heritage Museum  
codyheritagemuseum.org (307) 586-4272

Looking for a great gift idea? Give the gift of history and knowledge with a membership to the museum!

Consider getting involved and become a CHM volunteer!

**If you or your family have a piece of family/Cody history, please consider donating it. Please call Lynn Houze at 586-4272**



## Cody Heritage Museum

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*Yesterday's Cody Today . . .  
a bridge from past to present*

