



# FORT CASPAR MUSEUM Newsletter

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Be a part of history and witness the largest re-enactment in the history of Fort Caspar!

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This summer, step back in time to 1865 when the landscape of Casper was quite different. Cavalrymen of the 11th Ohio and 11th Kansas guarded the telegraph line at a lonely outpost called Platte Bridge Station.

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July 26th of that year marked the bloodiest day in the station's history; it ended with the death of Lt. Caspar Collins. The fort was renamed Fort Casper to honor his bravery, and the city was later named after the fort.

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There are three days of activities planned this year, most of them **FREE**, including:

- Battle of Platte Bridge re-enactment
- Cavalry & Infantry demonstrations
- Ongoing living history areas of both civilian and soldier life
- Dutch Oven Cook-Off & Dinner
- Native American dances and programs
- History lectures
- Wagon Train Dance Saturday evening
- Wet Plate Photography demonstrations
- Period vendors
- Pancake breakfast
- Modern craft fair and food vendors
- And much, much more!

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## PLATTE BRIDGE 150TH: CASPAR COLLINS DAYS 2015 JULY 24, 25, & 26



Flag raising at the Fort during Caspar Collins Day 2014.

### Event Hours

Friday, July 24—4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Saturday, July 25—9:00 am to 10:00 pm

Sunday, July 26—11:30 am to 2:30 pm

For more information, visit [www.FortCasper.com](http://www.FortCasper.com), or follow us on [Facebook.com/PlatteBridge150](https://www.facebook.com/PlatteBridge150). Or you may call the Museum at 307-235-8462.

**FCMA Board**

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Anne Holman

Education Technician  
Jayme McGoonan

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Debra Webb \* Megan Royer

## ★ Blue Star Museum

Fort Caspar Museum is again a Blue Star Museum, offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more information or to locate other participating museums, go to: [www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).



Sgt. Fremont is a black-footed ferret and Fort Caspar Museum's mascot.

# Summer Things



## PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

The Consortium's Passport to Adventure booklets are again available for free from any of the twelve participating Casper-area museums. Visit six of the sites this summer, and answer a question to get a stamp. Turn in your answers by August 31st to be entered into a drawing to win great prize packages.

## MUSEUM ADVENTURE QUEST CAMP

WHEN: July 13-17, 8:30- 3pm  
WHO: K thru 5th graders  
WHERE: 10 Casper museums  
COST: \$110  
Call 267-1618 for more information. You may register online at [www.caspermuseums.org](http://www.caspermuseums.org) or in person at The Science Zone.

## DATE NIGHT AT THE MUSEUMS

Friday, July 31st ♥ 5:30 to 10pm

Save the date for the next Date Night! Fort Caspar Museum and three other museums are on the agenda for this summer's evening out—with a date or with a friend. The cost is \$90/couple. Look for more info as the date approaches.

## Volunteers Needed

We are always in need of volunteers to help with activities during the summer. Please consider these volunteer opportunities:

Thru September, we need **Front Desk Volunteers** to help greet visitors, sell items from the gift shop, and take admissions.

We need **Gardeners** to help tend an heirloom garden at the Fort through the summer.

We are also looking for people interested in being **Tour Guides ("Docents")** to help with school tours of the fort buildings &/or the museum galleries. Two hours a day, once or twice a week; training provided.

To learn more about helping out at the Museum, please contact Anne Holman at 235-8462 or [aholman@cityofcasperwy.com](mailto:aholman@cityofcasperwy.com)

## Upcoming Fremont Family Fundays

Fremont Family Fundays are hands-on workshops for all ages held on the fourth Saturday of the month, from January thru September. Drop in from 1:00-3:00pm; all supplies are provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free with admission.

May 23: "Heirloom Gardening with

the Fort Gardener"

June 27: "Make a 'Pleather' Belt Pouch"

July: Join Fremont at the 150th Events!

August 22: "Bow Drill Fire Starting"

September 26: "Make a Miniature Tip"

## **IMPRESSIONS ON WYOMING 2015:**

### **ANNUAL FREE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES, WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM**

*Impressions on Wyoming* is Fort Caspar Museum's annual **FREE** summer lecture series. It will be on **SEVEN Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm** in June and July. **\*NOTE: date change.**

The lectures are sponsored by the Fort Caspar Museum Association with funding provided by the Wyoming Humanities Council.

#### June 3rd

Michael Engberg: *Songs of the Cowboy*. Engberg will play his guitar and sing during his talk as he explores the origins of "Cowboy Songs" and the people who collected them.

#### June 10th

Valerie Innella Maiers: *Caspar Collins & the Artistic Climate of the 19th Century*. Maiers will place young Collins' artwork in historical context and will use the Museum's current exhibit, *The Artwork of Caspar Collins*, as a starting point.



Music Historian Bill Rossiter presented last year at Fort Caspar Museum.

June 17th\*: Topic To Be Determined

#### June 24th

Jeff Barnes: *The Buffalo Bill Mysteries*. Barnes will delve into Cody's complex biography and address such questions as: How did he earn his nickname? Why was he issued two medals of honor? And did he really ride for the Pony Express?

#### July 1st

Barbara Mueller: *John Colter: Superhero*. Mueller will critically examine the myths, the possible

routes, and the stories of this famous mountain man.

#### July 8th

Jolene Allphin: *Emigrant Stories Along the Mormon Trail*. Allphin will reveal some lesser-known aspects of the Mormon pioneers and will link the histories of the Willie & Martin Handcart Companies, the Ft.

Kearney-South Pass Survey Company, and the Utah War Expedition.

#### July 15th

Larry Woods. *Chenoweth: Gentleman Horse Thief*. Woods will look at the life of this well-educated artist who rubbed elbows with local Casper politician and dabbled in horse theft.

#### July 22\*

Terry Richards: *Battle of Walking Across Logs*. Richards will share the oral history of the Lakota Indian Wars and the "Bloody Bozeman" Trail from the Native American perspective.

## 2015 VISITING EXHIBITS

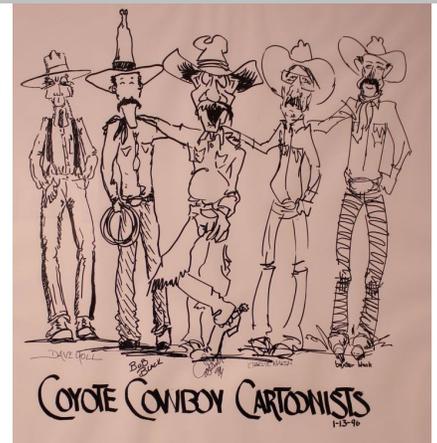
Fort Caspar Museum brings in new exhibits every few months, so there is always something new to see. Here are some of the visiting exhibits planned for the summer and fall:

Our current exhibit, *Baxter Black and the Cowboy Cartoonists*, was organized by the Aurora History Museum in Aurora, Colo-

rado, and will be on view through June 9th.

*Frontier Army Posts* will be here from the WY State Museum June 12th to September 13th.

*Wyoming's Outlaw Trail*, organized by the Sweetwater County Historical Museum, will be on view September 16th to November 14th.



**Thank you** to the Members of the Fort Caspar Museum Association! The **FCMA** supports much of our programming. Call the Museum for membership information, or download a membership brochure from our website.

**Fort Caspar Museum**  
**4001 Fort Caspar Rd**  
**Casper, WY 82604**  
**307-235-8462**



[www.fortcasparwyoming.com](http://www.fortcasparwyoming.com)

**2015 Special Exhibits for the 150th**

In honor of the 150th anniversary year, we have mounted two special exhibits: *The Artwork of Caspar Collins* and *Dressed for Battle: Soldier Uniforms from the 1860s*. Please be sure to see them before they close in early November 2015.

**Mission:**

Fort Caspar Museum collects, preserves, and exhibits materials related to the history of Fort Caspar, the City of Casper, Natrona County, and central Wyoming.

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**Hours of Operation:**

**October - April:** Tuesday thru Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm  
**May & September:** Daily, 8 am to 5 pm  
**June - August:** Daily, 8 am to 6 pm

**Fort Caspar Museum Events Calendar—Spring/Summer 2015**

May 23	Fremont Family Funday Hands-On Workshop, 1-3pm: "Heirloom Gardening with the Fort Gardener"
June 1	FCM changes to summer hours: 8am to 6pm daily
June 2	History Book Discussion, 6:30pm: Charlotte Babcock's <i>Shot Down: Capital Crimes of Casper</i> . <b>At NCPL.</b>
June 3	Free Summer Lecture #1, "Songs of the Cowboy" with Michael Engberg; 6:30pm
June 9*	Exhibit CLOSES: <i>Cowboy Cartoonist: Baxter Black</i> (*new date)
June 10	Free Summer Lecture #2, "Caspar Collins & the Artistic Climate..." with Valerie Innella Maiers; 6:30pm
June 12*	Exhibit OPENS: <i>Frontier Army Posts</i> (*new date)
June 17*	FREE Lecture: "The History of Fort Caspar and the Museum" with Rick Young (not part of series); 6:30pm
June 19	Pony Express Re-Ride: mount change at Fort Caspar; time TBD (call Museum for details)
June 24	Free Summer Lecture #3, "The Buffalo Bill Mysteries" with Jeff Barnes; 6:30pm
June 27	Fremont Family Funday Hands-On Workshop, 1-3pm: "Make a 'Pleather' Pouch"
July 1	Free Summer Lecture #4, "John Colter: Superhero" with Barbara Mueller; 6:30pm
July 8	Free Summer Lecture #5, "Emigrant Stories Along the Mormon Trail" with Jolene Allphin; 6:30pm
July 13-17	Museum Adventure Quest Camp for kids at ten area museums; register at: <a href="http://www.caspermuseums.org">www.caspermuseums.org</a>
July 15	Free Summer Lecture #6, "Chenoweth: Gentleman Horse Thief" with Larry Woods; 6:30pm
July 22*	Free Summer Lecture #7, "Battle of Walking Across Logs" with Terry Richards; 6:30pm (*new date)
July 24-26	<b>Platte Bridge 150th / Caspar Collins Days 2015 Celebration</b> —see page 1 for a list of all the fun!
July 31	Date Night at the Museums—at Ft Caspar & three other museums; ticketed event: <a href="http://www.caspermuseums.org">www.caspermuseums.org</a>
Aug 22	Fremont Family Funday Hands-On Workshop, 1-3pm: "Bow Drill Fire Starting"
Sept 26	Fremont Family Funday Hands-On Workshop, 1-3pm: "Make a Miniature Tipi"
Oct 23 & 24	<i>Ghost Tours of the Fort!</i> More details to follow. Ticketed event.

\* = indicates a schedule change

(updated 6/1/2015)

## 150th Anniversary Fundraising News

**BUY A \$10 RAFFLE TICKET FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$2,000 GUN!**

**WIN THIS REVOLVER!**



**Tickets  
only  
\$10!**

This year's gun raffle is for a **Casper Heritage Revolver**.

Please consider buying a ticket for a chance to win a piece of Casper history and to support the fundraising effort.

This special edition revolver is 24-karat gold plated and includes a French-fitted case. It

contains drawings of important events in Casper's history such as Fort Caspar, Salt Creek Oil Field, and even Caspar Collins.

**Model:** Built on a fully-functional Ruger .44 Magnum  
**Edition Number:** #20 of 100

It is valued at \$2,000, but it can be yours for as little as \$10!!

Only 400 tickets will be sold.

Buy your tickets at Fort Caspar Museum, either in person or by credit card over the phone.

The drawing will be held on July 26, 2015, during the *Platte Bridge 150th/Casper Collins Days* event.

You need not be present to win.

## Fun Fundraiser: FCMA Murder Mystery Evening

On May 11th, the FCMA put on a Murder Mystery Evening. Set in the Wild West, the interactive drama had a cast of murder suspects—as well as the murder victim—who hailed from the ranks of the FCMA membership and the Museum's staff. Thus it was a very homegrown effort. About a third of the attendee "detectives"

solved the murder. The event was held at the Ramkota, which catered the food and spirits.

Between ticket sales and a silent auction held that evening, almost \$2,000 was raised for the 150th Anniversary events. Feedback from attendees was positive, so we hope to try it again next year.



Cast of "Death in Them Thar Hills."

## One Last Plea

Recently the FCMA sent out a donation request letter to our membership. Longtime members know this is rare: we have not asked for additional support from our membership since the building expansion project ten years ago. We are taking this step because we hope to put on the best commemorative event our community has ever

seen. The 150th Committee is composed entirely of volunteers, most of whom have day jobs. Very little financial support is coming from the City, so it is up to us to raise the needed funds.

Many members have already responded generously: many thanks!

To those who have not yet decided, please consider an additional gift to the FCMA this year with a donation

at any level you feel comfortable.

Make checks payable to the "Fort Caspar Museum Association" (or "FCMA") and send to the Museum. Or call the Museum if you wish to use a credit card.

Thank you!

—The 150th Anniversary Team



**Fort Caspar Museum**  
4001 Fort Caspar Rd  
Casper, WY 82604

**We're on the Web**  
[www.fortcasparwyoming.com](http://www.fortcasparwyoming.com)

**We're on Facebook too!**  
[www.facebook.com/fortcasparmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/fortcasparmuseum)  
& [www.facebook.com/fremontferret](http://www.facebook.com/fremontferret)



### **Telegraph Supply Storeroom is Complete!**

On April 11th, FCMA Members were invited to a “Members-Only Sneak Peek” of the newly-installed telegraph supply storeroom before the May 1st public opening. Maintaining the telegraph lines was a major reason for the military’s presence on the western frontier, and interpreting that at the fort has long been a goal. With funding assistance from the FCMA, we were finally able to get it done. Visitors may now see replicas of glass insulators, wooden insulator covers, tar barrels and brushes, pole climbing gear, and more.

### **Tunnel Project at Fort Caspar**

Fort Caspar is dealing with “Construction Season” on our east side lawn by the Museum’s LED road sign. As part of an ongoing effort to make the Platte River Parkway Trail safer and more user friendly, a tunnel is being installed under Wyoming Boulevard. It will allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross the busy intersection more safely. The bypass tunnel is scheduled to be completed by July 1st, if there are no weather delays. We are just hoping it is completed by the 150th Anniversary events!

