

ATLANTIC CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TIMELINE

- October 1982: 12 people met at Philippina Halstead's house to consider creating an organization to gather history of the area.
- July 20, 1983: Received \$8000 grant from Wyoming Council for the Humanities for oral history project, "Atlantic City: Gold Town to Ghost Town and Halfway Back."
- 1983: Atlantic City Historical Society incorporated with state of Wyoming.
- 1984: applied for 501©3 exemption with IRS. Board members and officers included Amy McClure, Larry Davis, Dave Geible, Karling Abernathy, Marjane Ambler, Mike Massie, Phil Halstead, Sam Peterson, Terry Wehrman, and Mary Luzmoor.
- 1984-1985: Play entitled "That Gold Mine in the Sky" was presented in about 10 communities throughout the state. Dave Geible arranged, edited, and directed the play based on oral histories of over 30 individuals. The interviews were taped by members and transcribed by Ruth Massie. It also included historic photos researched and framed by Mike McClure. The Buffalo Chips band researched and played period music that accompanied the presentation, including the title song.
- 1984: began work on cemetery project. Toured the Lemley Mill in Atlantic City and began discussions of acquiring or leasing it from the BLM and restoring it. It would provide space for our mining and historical libraries, photo exhibit, office, and meeting room.
- June 28-30, 1985: first celebration of Emile Granier Days, including story telling by Tex Garry, folk art fair, walk through old Atlantic City by Betty Carpenter Pfaff, presentation of "That gold Mine in the Sky," 1880s costume ball, and nature walk by John Mionczynski.
- June 27-29, 1986: Emile Granier Days featured Storyteller Tex Garry, Boom and Bust film, talk by Bruce Noble on "A Frenchman in Wyoming," 1880s costume ball, and tacky party. Betty Carpenter Pfaff led a walking tour of Atlantic City
- November 1986: ACHS received the first Wyoming Humanities Award for non-profit associations from Wyoming Council for the Humanities in recognition of That Gold Mine in the Sky. With the recognition, ACHS received \$1000, which was to be used to construct a walking tour. IRS notified us that we were granted 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status (ID number 74-2323743)
- 1987: completed the walking tour, which includes 27 sites. Each is identified with a post with the number routed on the top. Philippina Halstead wrote the brochure, which provides a map, synopsis of the town's history, and descriptions of each site. Wyoming Sen. John Vinich spoke at the dedication. Betty Carpenter Pfaff led 25 people on the walking tour, which was part of the annual Granier Days. Granier Days also included Tex Garry, storyteller; and nature walk by John Mionczynski.
- March 1987: notified by Wyoming State Highway Department that ACHS's effort was successful to get signs on the highway directing people to Atlantic City.
- June 1987 meeting: Continued discussion of acquiring Lemley Mill. The local BLM office's proposal to donate it to us was turned down by higher ups. Small Business Association (?) approached ACHS about taking over the Atlantic City Mercantile and leasing it to some business to run. Wyoming Senator Frank Prevedel also expressed concern about future of Merc and asked ACHS officers if they would be interested. Discussed sponsoring a grant to help identify and preserve the stage coach and pony express routes in the area.

- 1987-1989: loaned ACHS photo collection to South Pass City State Historic Site
- 1988: walked a short section of Granier Ditch as part of the annual meeting. Also box social, old fashioned games, and cake walk.
- 1989: discussed need for resource catalog with names of people who have been in AC to get more information about the area
- 1992: meeting at Red Cloud Saloon; discussed completion of transcription of tapes of James Sherlock and Laura Marrin. At the meeting, Chris Kennedy entertained with songs of the history of the railroad through WCH Speaker's Bureau. Discussed need for more research on the AC graveyard.
- 1993: meeting at Sagebrush Café. 30 people present. Todd Guenther gave slide show on children's lives in gold mining towns. ACHS joined with St. Andrew's Church to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the consecration of the church. Carole Verostek reported that the records from the old Carter County are no longer kept at the Sweetwater County Courthouse. Phil and Carole went through the church records. The Wyoming State Journal has potters' plot records, which includes some of the miners, according to Jean Mathisen.
- 1996: Steve Gyorvary led a tour and discussed the mining history of Lewiston. After the trek and picnic, there was wine and cheese at the Two Bit Gulch Art Gallery where Jim Rutter gave a gold panning demonstration. Received memorial gifts to remember Willie Boulette.
- 1997: sponsored book group through the Wyoming Council for the Humanities. Several people met at Miner's Delight several times over the winter with book discussion led by WCH person. Real progress on cemetery project with a partial list of 40 people buried at both Atlantic City and Miner's Delight cemeteries
- 1998: 35 members and guests attended meeting at Atlantic City Mercantile. Betty Carpenter Pfaff presented a program on her new book, *Fine Gold*. On the cemetery project, about 40 names have been gathered.
- 1999: meeting at Miner's Delight Inn, presentation by WCH speakers, Chris Kennedy and Mike Hensley, "American's Romance with the Open Road."
- 2000: meeting was at the Dredge Restaurant. Following the meeting, Jim Rutter led the group on a tour of the Fisher Dredge several miles down Rock Creek. During the discussion of a possible brochure on mines in the area, Janis Knadjian said she had several photos of mines and mine buildings that have disintegrated since then. Members discussed whether the ACHS could acquire Hyde's Hall. Tony Salazar is the current owner.
- 2001: met at Dredge Restaurant. ACHS is the fiscal entity for a Wyoming Council for the Humanities planning grant for Mike McClure's artifacts photography project. Mike gave a presentation, saying he had been working with ranchers, farmers and other private businesses to document historic sites and artifacts on private lands. This will create an archive of historic landmarks. Members voted to donate \$500 for the project. Members discussed gathering the history of local mines to make available to the public.
- 2003: Mike McClure's photo exhibit opened at the State Museum in Cheyenne in September. At the meeting in August, members continued discussion of cemetery project and of booklet on local mines. Phil and Amy McClure discussed the need for new energy and ideas for the organization.

- 2005: members discussed helping Jon Lane of South Pass City Historic Site with his history of the mines in the district instead of doing our own brochure. Pam Hockett reported on her progress with stabilizing Hyde's Hall. South Pass Historic Site Superintendent Joe Ellis gave a tour of the Carissa Mine and Mill House.
- 2006: met in South Pass City. South Pass Historical Site Curator Jon Lane led a tour of the Carissa Mill House. A total of 17 people participated.
- 2007: celebrated 25th anniversary at Miner's Delight Inn with Wyoming Humanities Council speaker, Lynne Swanson, whose topic was "She's Been Workin' on the Railroad."
- 2008: toured the Big Atlantic, Caribou, Midas, Diana, Rose, and Garfield Mines. Led by Steve Gyorvary. Voted to send a letter to the BLM asking to be designated as "stakeholder" in their process of determining what to do with "abandoned" mines and shafts in the area. Voted to join the Western Mining Association. About 30 people were present.
- 2009: toured the Lewiston site, Bullion mine, and Good Hope mine led by Steve Gyorvary. About 40 people present. Voted to have annual meeting on the last Saturday in August. Bob Townsend offered to provide a website for the historical society, which can be found at minersdelightinn.com.
- 2010: toured Mary Ellen mine site and mill, led by owner and operator Steve Gyorvary and by Scott Robinson. Representatives of the state Abandoned Mined Lands program and state Senator Cale Case attended the tour. AML said that they will keep us informed on future mine reclamation projects now that we have been designated as a stakeholder. The Dunning sisters donated some ore carts to the historical society, which are now on display in front of the Miner's Delight Inn. Robert Wilson, a great nephew of Bobbi Jenks, donated some of her paintings to ACHS, which also are on loan to the Miner's Delight Inn.
- 2011: Steve Gyorvary and Jon Lane led tour of the area outside the Carissa mill above South Pass City, including the English Tunnel, mill pond, and associated mining features. About 35 people present. Received \$450 from Western Mining Association to research Denver Mint records of South Pass/ Atlantic City area gold production, and Susan Layman and Jon Lane did the research. We remembered one of our founders, Philippina Halstead, who died in August.
- 2012: toured Miner's Delight Mine area, tour led by Steve Gyorvary. During the winter, a committee completed an inventory of ACHS collection and filled out the necessary paperwork noting where each item originated. ACHS reached a historic high of 70 paid members. Susan's article on production was accepted for publication by the Mining History Journal. Created the position of curator.

Prepared by Marjane Ambler from old minutes and posters.

PLEASE GIVE ANY CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO MARJANE