



# HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2012

## AHC Tribble Named

Rachael Dreyer

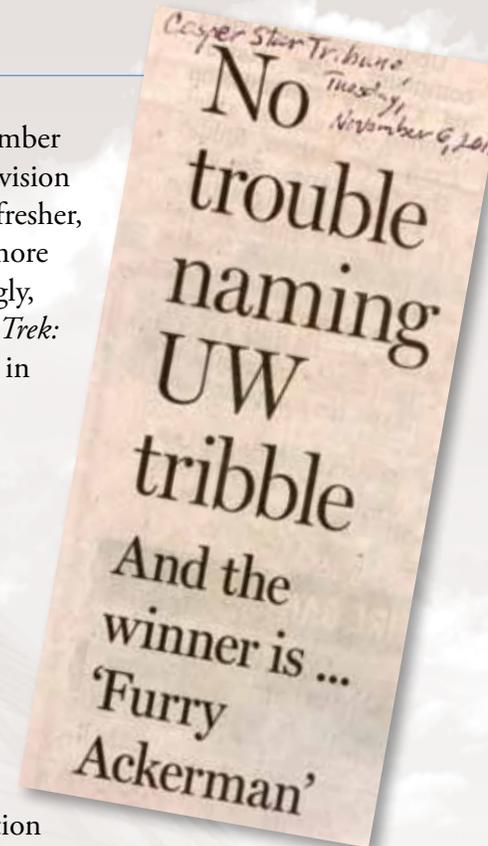
There's just something about those furballs. Even casual viewers may remember the 1967 "Trouble with Tribbles" episode from the original *Star Trek* television show. For those of you who haven't seen this episode or might need just a brief refresher, Tribbles are small furry creatures that reproduce faster than rabbits and eat even more voraciously. They coo and purr and exert a calming effect on humans and seemingly, on Vulcans—even Mr. Spock is not immune. The Tribbles reappeared in the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* series in the episode "Trials and Tribble-ations," which first aired in 1996.

The American Heritage Center learned just how central to the pop culture consciousness these famous balls of fuzz actually are when we tried a "Name the Tribble" contest for American Archives Month. Each year in October, U.S. repositories conduct tours, lectures, exhibits, and other special efforts to promote awareness of archives and their collections and to share our enthusiasm for what we as archivists do every day. In box 83 of the Forrest J. Ackerman collection, the AHC has one of these high-profile furballs that appeared in the original *Star Trek* episode. In a casual conversation with another University of Wyoming faculty member, it was jokingly suggested that the AHC advertise a contest where the prize would be "Win a Date with the Tribble." The wheels started turning, and we decided that a Name the Tribble contest would be something feasible—collection security would be maintained, and a whole new audience would be exposed to our archival collections.

Indeed, the whole aim of the contest was to demonstrate that the AHC holds primary source materials that are "fun" and relevant to many people's interests. By chance, the Associated Press office in Cheyenne got wind of our contest and sent a photographer to capture the Tribble in all its pre-named glory. Two AHC staff members were interviewed for a news story, and variations of the story ran in the *Cheyenne Tribune-Eagle*, the *Huffington Post*, and *USA Today*, among other newspapers.

We selected 5 names as our winners—Furry Ackerman, Alotta, Serena, Roddenhairry, and Wyomble. Henceforth, our Tribble shall be known as Furry Ackerman, after the collection in which it lives. But our other winners provided us with some clever nicknames—Alotta and Serena embodied different qualities of the Tribble—"Alotta" highlights the Tribbles' ability to rapidly reproduce and "Serena" emphasizes the Tribbles' soothing effects on humans. "Wyomble" cleverly combines "Tribble" with "Wyoming," this particular Tribble's home state, and "Roddenhairry" is a pun on Gene Roddenberry's name, he was the creator of the original *Star Trek* series. Once of my personal favorites was the entry "Munch Cassidy," referring not only to some frontier history, but to the Tribbles' predilection for mass consumption of grain products.

While we initiated this contest rather tentatively, it ended up being an unprecedented success for us. We attracted more than 50 new Facebook followers, our contest was featured in major news outlets, we exposed a new audience to our fascinating collections and most of all, everyone involved—the contest entrants and the judges—enjoyed this departure from the regularly scheduled workday. Yes—believe that! Fun in the archives! ■





## From the Director

Mark Greene

As I write this Wyoming is experiencing its first major snow storm of the season (the saying here is “Wyoming has two seasons: winter and August”) and also gearing up for Halloween. Which got me thinking, for some reason, what would a child do who wanted to dress up like an archivist? (We’ll leave aside for the moment the potential psychological issues that may lurk beyond this otherwise innocent question.) What does a typical archivist look like?

If you believe the common stereotype, dressing like an archivist would entail looking as nerdy as possible, topping off your clothes with a lab coat, then sprinkling dust all over yourself, and instead of carrying a bag for candy carry a bankers box. Oh, and move slowly (not unlike a zombie) and rear back in horror from people (not unlike Boris Karloff as Frankenstein’s monster). The common perception of an archivist, after all, is of a civil servant one step more introverted than a stereotyped librarian (the one with the hair bun who says “shush” all the time), someone more at home organizing papers than talking to people, and moving at a pace becoming his/her goal of preserving collections for eternity.

Bah! Humbug! (Sorry, wrong holiday.) Archivists of today (and of the past two or three decades) are a far cry removed from this hoary image. To be a good archivist one must enjoy and be good at interacting with the widest possible range of people, be comfortable giving public presentations, be connected to “the stuff” in our holdings not for its own sake but for what it will mean for others—researchers of every age, occupation, and purpose. Archivists must be experts at promoting their institution and its collections and its programs, and at encouraging and facilitating research. They perform what is called “outreach”—connecting to individuals and organizations in the wider community—and “inreach”—

making the institution as visible and appreciated as possible within its own parent administration.

How do we do this? Through a variety of means: public programs (both at the AHC and at the Lander Elks club), exhibits (both in the Centennial Complex and traveling throughout Wyoming and beyond), publications (like this one and our annual report), and more and more through the worldwide web—through providing services and information online, through Facebook pages and blogs, etc. Outreach is about making the AHC well-known and welcoming, encouraging the tens of thousands of potential users to become actual researchers or audience members.

Inreach is similar, except directed at the Center’s bosses and its bosses’ bosses. It’s about making sure our provost is as familiar as possible with the important work we do helping professors teach students, with the equally significant work we do assisting in educating members of the public, and in our success in supporting the university’s goal of being recognized as one of the nation’s finest institutions of higher learning. To achieve this goal, I meet with our provost monthly, forward some of the kudos received by our faculty and staff from researchers and teachers, provide statistics, ensure that the AHC is an integral part of the university’s strategic plan, and more. Unfortunately, many archivists around the nation complain over and over again that their resource allocators don’t understand what the archives does and why it’s important; to the extent this is so, the fault lies with the archivist, for not being proactive in his/her inreach.

In addition to outreach and inreach, other facets of archival work require individuals who are gifted with the willingness and ability to actively engage with the world around them, not solely with the boxes of papers in front of them. Some

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of them, such as Anne Marie Lane and Rick Ewig at the AHC, teach semester-long courses. Others, like Rachael Dreyer, provide enjoyable and informative posts for our blog. Leslie Waggener conducts ground-breaking oral histories, interviewing eclectic groups of up to 40 individuals, from ranchers to store owners, business executives to local officials, oil rig workers to the governor's staff. Laura Jackson, our University Archivist, calls offices to offer records management services, a process that can take years to come to fruition, a process not dissimilar to Bill Hopkins' long-term work building relationships with potential collection donors. Or take John Waggener, who can and does strike up conversations with strangers at the drop of a hat. To encourage such casual interactions the Society of American Archivists a few years ago conducted an "elevator speech" contest, challenging archivists to explain their profession to a stranger in the time it takes an elevator to move five or six floors.

In addition to inreach and outreach, modern archivist also have to be advocates both for their repositories and their profession. Advocacy is inreach or outreach focused on a specific objective and targeted to a specific audience. So while outreach can be general and have a mixed or wide audience, advocacy is more narrowly focused. A particularly good example occurred recently in Georgia, when the Secretary of State announced he was going to meet his department's entire budget reduction mandate by closing the state archives and laying off all its employees. The archivists and their friends in Georgia and throughout the nation mobilized to send very specific messages to the secretary and to the governor presenting arguments for keeping the archives open. The arguments ranged from legal ones (Georgia's public records laws mandate public access to government records) to more private ones (the archives is the most important source of genealogical sources in the state). Rallies were held, letter-writing campaigns were conducted, press releases written, interviews given to the press, blog=post and Facebook postings generated and updated...all to the effect that most funding was restored for the archives for this year with plans in place to retain its services into the future.

Here at the AHC we have not faced any crises nearly so major nor so imminent, so to date our advocacy has been quieter though also successful. For example, the director of the university's art museum and I have been advocating for many years with the university's administration for improvements to our shared building's infrastructure, efforts that have met with reassuring success at nearly every step. The AHC's archivists, already effective at outreach and inreach, were so interested in advocacy as well that we arranged to bring in a national workshop on archival advocacy in October, which we opened to others on campus and throughout the state.

Throughout this issue of *Heritage Highlights* you will be reading about a range of outreach and advocacy efforts at the AHC, from successful-beyond-our-imagination efforts to highlight national Archives Month to our newest exhibit, from our collaboration with other units on campus to sponsor a speaker who used our collections to write an acclaimed volume of historical fiction to further collaboration including two exhibits and a public presentation in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible—and more. Not featured in the newsletter is the result of earlier advocacy, the installation and implementation of a new collection management system with critical assistance from the Office of Academic Affairs; this new system allows us to serve our researchers and donors better even though it is completely transparent to our patrons and contributors.

So in honor of national Archives Month, dust off that dusty stereotype of archivists and drink a toast to archival professionals as I know them: energetic (even exuberant), creative, committed to our users and our donors, passionate advocates for the teaching and learning (even the accountability) that archives stand for. Archivists do care, zealously, about the holdings we acquire, preserve, and make accessible, but primarily because we do indeed make them accessible, to others. We do occasionally wear lab coats, to keep our nicer clothes protected from the (yes, sigh) dust that sometimes adheres to collections, but today's professionals are moving too fast for any of that dust to adhere to them. ■



## AHC Co-Sponsored Visit by Author Brian

The AHC along with the University Libraries, Multicultural Affairs, and the university's Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing sponsored a visit to campus of author Brian Leung. During the evening of October 25, Leung gave a free public reading of his latest novel, *Take Me Home*, in Coe Library.

The book is a fictionalized version of the what is known as the "Chinese Massacre," a riot in Rock Springs, Wyoming, in 1885. White coal miners killed more than twenty Chinese miners in the riot. Leung did considerable research about the event at the AHC. Leung received the Willa Award for Historical Fiction for the book.

Leung was born and raised in San Diego County, California. His mother was born in the state of Washington and his father escaped from China in 1949. As a teenager in 1980, he visited relatives in Rock Springs, the town where the "Chinese Massacre" occurred.

Leung is an associate professor at the University of Louisville. He has published another novel titled *Lost Men* and has written many works of short fiction, including "World Famous Love Acts" which won the Asian American Literary Award in 2005 and the Mary McCarthy Award for Short Fiction in 2002. His works have appeared in *Indian Review*, *The Connecticut Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and many other publications. ■



Brian Leung. Photo credit John Nation.

## AHC Co-Sponsored Exhibition About the Creation of the King James Bible



Anne Marie Lane next to the Bible exhibit she curated in Coe Library.

The AHC, UW Libraries, UW Department of Religious Studies, and the Albany County Public Library sponsored the national exhibition "Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible," which marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. The exhibition discusses the story behind the making of the book, but also explores its influence on English and American literature, and its multifaceted impact and culture and society today.

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. and the American Library Association's Public Programs Office organized the exhibition for libraries. A major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities made the traveling exhibition possible. The University of Wyoming hosted the

exhibition from October 7 to November 2.

A series of lectures by religious experts and UW faculty members and were also offered as part of the exhibition. Philip Stine, a United Bible Society translation expert began the series of talks with his presentation about the creation and early reception of the King James Bible. UW faculty members from the Religious Studies Program and the English Department gave talks as did Anne Marie Lane, the curator of rare books at the AHC, who presented the talk "Illustrated Hieroglyphic Bibles for Children in the Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century," which looked at the English and Irish "Hieroglyphick Bibles" that became popular with children in the late eighteenth century with their inclusion of "Select Passages in the Old and New Testaments, Represented with Emblematical Figures, for the Amusement of Youth." Lane also used Bibles from the Toppan Rare Books Library to create two exhibits, one at the AHC and the other at Coe Library. ■

# Women Journalists: New Digital Images Available

Keith Reynolds



Grace Robinson.

As the result of a generous gift from Toni Stabile, the AHC is pleased to announce that nearly 11,000 items (10,967, to be exact) from four different collections were digitized. Ms. Stabile's donation was directed towards scanning collections by women journalists and the AHC's Digital Programs Department recently completed this targeted digitization project.

Digitized were selections from the papers of **Betsy Talbot Blackwell, Grace Robinson, Irene Kuhn, and Toni Stabile.**

Betsy Talbot Blackwell (1905-1985) was an editor for several women's fashion magazines. She was an assistant fashion editor at *Charm* magazine from 1923-1928 before becoming fashion editor at *Mademoiselle* magazine from its inception in 1935 and then editor-in-chief from 1937-1971. As an editor at *Mademoiselle*, Blackwell led and changed the industry by altering the magazine's focus to that of the young career woman. Her collection contains materials relating to Blackwell's career as editor for *Mademoiselle* magazine.

Grace Robinson was a nationally known woman journalist. She became a staff writer at the *New York Daily News* in 1922 and became a well-known crime

writer, covering the infamous Hall-Mills murder trial in 1926 and the Snyder-Gray murder trial a year later. Starting in 1933, Robinson covered both President Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and was a member of Mrs. Roosevelt's "hen press." She later covered many of the notorious criminal cases of the 1930s, including the Charles Lindbergh, Jr. murder case, including the trial, appeal, and subsequent execution of accused murderer Bruno Hauptmann.

Irene Kuhn was a journalist with a career that spanned continents. Her career started in 1919, and throughout the 1920s she reported from locales as far-flung as Paris, Shanghai, and Hawaii. In 1926, she moved to New York City where she was a feature writer for *The Daily News*. In 1939, Kuhn wrote her memoirs, *Assigned to Adventure*. Kuhn worked for NBC from 1940 to 1949 as a war correspondent in the China-Burma-India Theater. This collection documents Irene Kuhn's work as a writer, journalist, and radio show host.

Toni Stabile is the author of three books, a free-lance writer, and an investigative journalist. She is a well-known advocate of cosmetic safety, and has been dubbed "the Ralph Nader of the cosmetics industry." Her book, *Cosmetics: Trick or Treat?* (1966) prompted the first congressional hearings on cosmetic safety in over 20 years. It and the updated editions, *Cosmetics: The Great American Skin Game* (1973, 1979), paved the way for cosmetic ingredient listing on labels and inspired regulatory and industry reforms. The Toni Stabile papers include correspondence, drafts of manuscripts, research and promotional material for her books, annotated copies of her books, published articles, documents related to a lawsuit, and audio/visual materials. The collection provides evidence of the failure of both the cosmetic industry and the government agencies charged with consumer protection to safeguard the consumer from products containing hazardous and potentially harmful substances. ■



## Matthew Pearce Presented Inaugural Carey Fellowship Talk

Matthew Pearce, a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Oklahoma and the 2012 Joseph M. Carey Research Fellow, presented a talk titled “Cowboys, Conservationists, and the Contested History of the Western Range” in the AHC’s Wyoming Stock Growers Room on October 22. The talk explored the how mid-twentieth century western stock growers and conservationists came to different interpretations about the history of livestock grazing on western rangelands.

Pearce explored how western livestock associations during this time continued to emphasize their positive role in the development of the West. Also during these years, ranchers promoted privatizing public rangelands. Conservationists, upon hearing of the privatization movement, put forth another variation of ranchers and western history; one of environmental exploitation. Pearce examined these contested narratives, but also examined the more recent instances of reconciliation between these two groups and the use and preservation of western rangelands.

The Joseph M. Carey Research Fellowship is funded by a generous donation by the Carey Family and is intended to provide research support for a recognized scholar in the area of Wyoming history and to facilitate the use of AHC’s archival collections. Joseph M. Carey was instrumental in the effort for Wyoming to gain statehood and he served as the state’s first U.S. Senator and later served as Wyoming’s governor, as did his son, Robert Carey. Pearce served as the first Carey Research Fellow. ■

## Wallop Fund Sponsored Discussions about Social Media and Elections

The Malcolm Wallop Fund for Conversations on Democracy, the AHC, and the UW College of Arts and Sciences held two dialogue events exploring how the use of social media in Wyoming

and national campaigns and politics affected the 2012 elections. The events were held at UW on November 14.

During the afternoon Assistant Professor Kristen Landreville in the UW Department of Communication and Journalism and her students discussed results from their ongoing study “Small Town, Big Election: A Look at New, Alternative, and Emerging Media Sources Used by Rural Residents in the 2012 Presidential Campaign.” They surveyed citizens from around Wyoming about their use of social media to find information about the election and they surveyed more than three hundred UW students about their reactions to the three presidential debates. The Wallop Fund provided a grant for the study.

During the evening session, a number of participants discussed “Social Media and the 2012 Election.” It focused on the successes and failures of social media during the 2012 national election. Bob

Beck, news director of Wyoming Public Media, moderated the session which included Rita Kirk, director of the Cary M. Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility at Southern Methodist University; Ann Marie Lipinski, former editor of the *Chicago Tribune* and now curator at Harvard University’s Nieman

(continued on page 7)



Panel participants during the evening session of the Malcolm Wallop Fund events.



# 'Please Give Us One More Boom': Oil and Gas in Wyoming

Leslie Waggener

*"For me, it's a bittersweet because I can sit here with this gorgeous clinic. I have every tool. My pocket is full of change. But I really cry because we don't have our sweet little quiet town."*

Nurse practitioner and Pinedale native Leslie Rozier spoke those words in a 2010 oral history interview. Her ambivalence and angst could have been echoed by other residents in booming Wyoming energy towns, although some would have disagreed with her glum estimation.

This changeable relationship with energy is the focus of an exhibit curated by AHC Associate Archivist Leslie Waggener, head of the AHC's Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership. Boom and bust in the state's oil and gas industry is the theme of the exhibit which explores that industry's early history in Wyoming, from its time as a side note to agriculture to its growing prominence as the Cowboy State's primary revenue generator. The 1920s Salt Creek oil boom begins the exhibit noting that a hard winter in 1919 caused havoc in agriculture and people flocked to Wyoming oil fields for work. The Great Depression and aging oil fields spelled an end to that first boom.

Also documented is another Wyoming boom cycle that occurred after the Arab oil embargo of 1973, an event that prompted energy companies to focus on the Rocky Mountain area in hopes of finding a rich source of oil and gas. An innovative partnership of 36 oil and gas firms is featured. The "Overthrust Industrial Association" helped local governments in southwestern Wyoming manage socioeconomic impacts from rapid oil and gas development. But, by the mid-1980s, oil prices dropped due to a glut caused in part by a renewed flow of energy from other countries. Wyoming cars began sporting bumper stickers, "Oh God, please give us one more boom. We promise not to piss the next one away."

The boom and bust cycle in the 2000s is the final phase depicted. Sublette County hosted that boom when new hydraulic fracturing technologies employed water, sand and chemicals to release natural gas from tight geologic formations.

The exhibit is on display through December 21, 2012, in the UW Art Museum. Beginning next year, the exhibit will be part of the AHC's traveling exhibit program. We invite you to take a look. If you have any comments about the exhibit, please send your comments to Leslie Waggener at [lwaggen2@uwyo.edu](mailto:lwaggen2@uwyo.edu). ■



Leslie Rozier

## Wallop Fund (continued from page 6)

Foundation for Journalism; and Jimmy Orr, *Los Angeles Times* online editor and former chief internet strategist for both President George W. Bush and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The panelists addressed questions such as which candidates have taken advantage of social media in their campaigns and are there any dangers of social media playing a major role in elections.

The Malcolm Wallop Fund for Conversations on Democracy, created by former Wallop staffers, provides opportunities to add to the body of knowledge about democracy through symposia, keynote speakers, student projects, and workshops. The fund works collaboratively with the AHC, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Political Science. Leslie Waggner, AHC's archivist for the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership, coordinated the events. ■

American Heritage Center

Department 3924, 1000 E. University Avenue

Laramie, Wyoming 82071

307-766-4114

e-mail: [ahc@uwyo.edu](mailto:ahc@uwyo.edu)

Web: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu>

Blog: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/blog>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/AHCnews>

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Eugene Vidal (right), director of the Bureau of Air Commerce, stands by the "fool proof" Hammond Monoplane in 1936. Two years earlier, the bureau began a competition for a safe and practical aircraft. This monoplane was one of the winners. The plane could carry two people and fly at 95 miles an hour with a range of 300 miles. Only 20 of the planes were produced. Eugene Vidal Papers.

