

**HISTORY, CHARTER, BY-LAWS
AND LIST OF OFFICERS, ETC.,
MEMBERS OF THE WYOMING
HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

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History, Charter, by-laws and list of officers, etc., members of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society by Various

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VARIOUS

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GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**



WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
WILKES-BARRE, PENN'A.

HISTORY,
CHARTER, BY-LAWS,

AND

LIST OF OFFICERS,

MEMBERS, ETC.,

OF THE

Wyoming Historical and Geological Society,
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



WILKES-BARRÉ, PA.

1907.

Publishing Committee,
1907.

REV. HORACE EDWIN HAYDEN.
MISS MYRA POLAND.
GEORGE FREDERICK CODDINGTON.

312661

**THE WYOMING HISTORICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,
WILKES-BARRÉ, PA.**

The Wyoming Historical and Geological Society was organized in the old Fell Tavern, Northampton street, Wilkes-Barré, February 11, 1858, to commemorate the successful experiment made by the Hon. Jesse Fell, February 11, 1808, of burning the Wyoming Anthracite Coal in a domestic grate. The Society has had a continuous existence for fifty years.

Its Fiftieth Anniversary will be celebrated February 11, 1908. The Centennial of Jesse Fell's discovery, which has brought such immense wealth to the Wyoming Valley and Northeastern Pennsylvania, will also be celebrated by this Society on the same day.

The experimental grate used by Judge Fell in his discovery has long ceased to exist, but one of his grates made and used by him in his home is preserved in the Society Rooms.

The Society was organized to cover the original limits of Luzerne County (1858), therefore extends over the entire Counties of Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the Society is divided into Honourary, Corresponding and Resident members, and the latter into Life Members and Annual Members; the annual dues being five dollars, and the Life Members' dues, which cover all financial obligations and constitute an invested "Life Membership Fund," one hundred dollars.

The Life Memberships number 150, of whom nine subscriptions are not yet due, thus the Life Membership Fund is \$14,100.

Any person who contributes to the Society at one time a sum not less than One Thousand Dollars, will be placed on the Life Membership list as a "Benefactor."

BUILDING.

The Home of the Society is a handsome edifice of brick in the rear of the "Osterhout Free Library," South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barré, facing the street. This building is provided by the will of the late Isaac S. Osterhout, a member of the Society, who, in founding the well-established "Osterhout Free Library" of this city, generously provided this Society with a permanent home, free from all charges of rent, light, heat or repairs. No financial aid was given with this fine legacy. The building itself is 40 feet wide by 60 feet long, and three stories high. Its interior furnishing of cases, desks, etc., is the work of the Society. It is supplied with a fine large fire proof safe in which the rare manuscripts of the Society are preserved.

LIBRARY.

The Library of the Society contains 18,000 books and pamphlets, very few of which are duplicated by either the "Osterhout Free Library" of 38,000 books, or the "Albright Free Library" of Scranton, Pa., of 53,000 books.

Of the Society books, 16,000 are on American History and Genealogy, and 2000 on Geology. The Library has also 1200 bound volumes of local newspapers; the only full set of United States "Statutes at Large" in Northeastern Pennsylvania; and, being also a Pennsylvania State Depository and a United States Depository, contains every title published by the State and the General Government.

The Department of Genealogy, English and American, contains nearly 1000 volumes.

While this Society is a private institution, supported solely by the dues of its members, and the income from its own endowment, it has opened its library and museum for reference and study to the public *free*, each week day from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. The annual visiting list of schools, classes and individuals numbers between 6000 and 7000 persons.

As before stated, the "Osterhout Free Library," whose building is only 25 feet distant from the Society Rooms, and also the Scranton Free Library, 20 miles to the East of Wilkes-Barré, two libraries aggregating near 100,000 volumes, buy very few books on American History and Geology, and none on Genealogy, but refer all students to the library of this Society for such subjects. It is therefore the purveyor of these three lines of study for almost the entire Northeastern portion of Pennsylvania.

Of magazines alone, pertaining to these subjects, the Society keeps on file one hundred not found in the above free libraries.

A card catalogue, covering all the books in the library (except those of the United States Depository of about 4000 volumes) facilitates research, and the Librarians gladly serve all inquirers who visit the institution. Owing to the lack of funds the work of cataloguing the Depository books and the large annual additions to the library has been necessarily suspended.

GEOLOGY.

The Geological department of the Society contains 2000 books and pamphlets on Geology, including nearly complete sets of the publications of the Geological surveys of the United States Government, Canada, and Mexico, and the surveys of the various States of the Union, Geological magazines, etc.

The Geological cabinets contain the fine collection of 5000 Paleozoic fossils presented by the late Ralph D. Lacoë; and the Christian H. Scharar collection of nearly 1000 Paleozoic fossils from the outcropping of the Carboniferous limestone at Mill Creek, Luzerne County, Pa., now covered by tons of culm; also 3000 carefully arranged mineralogical specimens, with about 3000 fine examples of the anthracite coal flora, Paleobotany, numbering 200 types arranged by the late Curator R. D. Lacoë, and classified by him and Prof. Leo Lesquereux.