

# History of Wyoming State Auditors

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*As Told by the Wyoming Blue Book Vol. I – V\*\**

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\*The biographies and information contained herein were extracted verbatim from the *Wyoming Blue Book Volumes I* through *V*. As such, some biographies contain dated information that was relevant at the time of the publication of that volume in the *Wyoming Blue Book*. Each section contains a footnote that references the source for that section and footnotes at the end of a biography from a source other than the one specified for that section. Please refer to the Bibliography for a complete listing of sources used in this document.

The Wyoming Blue Book is a publication of the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Cultural Resources Division. We thank the State Archives (Cultural Resources Division) for their permission to use this material.

†The biographies of Auditors since 2011 have been provided by the State Auditor’s Office (<http://sao.state.wy.us>).

## TERRITORIAL AUDITORS<sup>1</sup>

The office of "Auditor of the Territory" was created by the Territorial Legislative Assembly of 1869.

The Territorial Auditor was appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Council for a term of two years. He was required to give bond of five thousand dollars. His duties included keeping the public account books, vouchers, documents, and all papers relative to the accounts and contracts of the Territory; making a full and detailed report as to revenue, public debt, expenditures, etc., to the Legislative Assemblies. By the laws of 1869 he was ex-officio Superintendent of Public Instruction, and received five hundred dollars a year for this service. The 1873 Legislative Assembly relieved the Auditor of this duty. In 1888 the Auditor was made ex-officio Insurance Commissioner; his compensation for this service consisted of fees for issuing certificates of licenses, statements, etc.

By the 1869 laws the Auditor received one thousand dollars annually. His salary remained the same until 1886 when the Legislative Assembly increased his salary to one thousand two hundred dollars a year. It remained so until statehood.

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### **AUDITORS OF THE TERRITORY OF WYOMING—1869-1890<sup>2</sup>**

NAME	TERM OF OFFICE	
	DATE OF OATH OF TERM	TERM EXPIRED
Benjamin Gallagher (D)....	Dec. 11, 1869 to June. 4, 1870	
James H. Hayford (R).....	June 4, 1870 to Feb. 21, 1872	
James H. Hayford (R).....	Feb. 21, 1872 to Dec. 10, 1875	
Orlando North (R).....	Dec. 10, 1875 to Dec. 17, 1877	
Stephen W. Downey (R)...	Dec. 17, 1877 to Dec. 29, 1879	
J. S. Nason (R).....	Dec. 29, 1879 to Mar. 31, 1882	
Jesse Knight (R) .....	Mar. 31, 1882 to Mar. 31, 1884	
Perry L. Smith (R) .....	Mar. 31, 1884 to April 2, 1886	
Mortimer N. Grant (R) .....	April 2, 1886 to Nov. 8, 1890	

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<sup>1</sup> Erwin, Marie, Territorial Auditor. In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 100.

<sup>2</sup> Erwin, Marie, "Auditors of the Territory of Wyoming 1869-1890", In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 100.

## ***BIOGRAPHIES OF TERRITORIAL AUDITORS 1869-1890<sup>3</sup>***



GALLAGHER, BENJAMIN, was born in Pleasant Grove, Iowa, in 1840; appointed post trader at Fort McPherson, near Kearney, Nebraska, about 1864, when the Fort was used as an outpost of defense against the Indians; remained at the Fort a few years, then went to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he engaged in the general merchandise business with Sam Megeath, under the firm name of Megeath and Gallagher, the partnership being dissolved upon the death of Megeath, and the stock of goods sold; one of the Committee who met Governor Campbell on his arrival; one of the Grand Jurors summoned to appear Tuesday, May 25, 1869 at the sitting of the first court in the city of Cheyenne; appeared as a candidate on the People's ticket for the City Council in January 1868; later affiliated with the Democratic Party; appointed as a committeeman on the Democratic Central Committee of five to nominate a candidate to be elected as a delegate to Congress; appointed by Governor Campbell as first Territorial Auditor, taking oath of office December 10, 1869 and serving until June 4, 1870; by virtue of this position, he was the first ex-officio Superintendent of Public Instruction, serving from 11, 1869 until June 4, 1870; died in Omaha, Nebraska, March 1900.



HAYFORD, JAMES H., was born in Potsdam, New York, in 1828; educated in the public schools, graduated from the medical school of the University of Michigan; in 1855 moved to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where he studied law, and was admitted to the bar; affiliated with the Republican Party; in May, 1860 a delegate to the Republican National Convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln; in 1867 came to Cheyenne; in 1868 sent as a delegate to Washington, D. C., to urge the organization of Wyoming as a Territory; in May, 1869 moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where he began the publication of the "Laramie Sentinel;" appointed Territorial Auditor, taking oath of office June 4, 1870, his term expiring February 21, 1872; appointed to a second term, taking oath of office February 21, 1872, this term expiring December 10, 1875; postmaster at Laramie for eight years; Secretary of the first Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming; one of six first trustees appointed when the establishment of a State Historical Society was recommended by Governor W. A. Richards; March 7, 1895 named, by Governor Richards, as Judge of the Second Judicial District; serving as justice of the peace, and police judge at the time of his death, which occurred in Laramie, Wyoming, July 30 1902.



NORTH, ORLANDO, arrived in Evanston, Wyoming, February 21, 1871, to manage a store belonging to a chain financed by Chicago capital; one of the directors of the first Evanston bank, known as the Mutual Exchange, opened in 1873; a member of the Republican Party; held the position of probate judge; appointed Territorial Auditor, taking the oath of office December 10, 1875, and serving until December 17, 1877; had large ranch interests in the West, and spent most of his later years in Nevada; died in 1896.

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<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise noted, biographies and photos of the Territorial Auditors are taken verbatim from Erwin, Marie, "Biographies of Territorial Auditors 1869-1890," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 101-103.



DOWNEY, STEPHEN W., a delegate from the Territory of Wyoming; born in Western Port, Allegany County, Md., July 25, 1839; pursued an academic course; during the Civil War enlisted as a private in Company C, Third Regiment Potomac Home Brigade Maryland Infantry, October 31, 1861; promoted to first lieutenant January 1, 1861; lieutenant colonel March 1, 1862; colonel September 8, 1862 on resignation; studied law, and was admitted to the bar in Washington, D. C., in 1863; moved to the Territory of Wyoming in 1869 and practiced law in Laramie; prosecuting attorney of Albany County in 1869 and 1870; elected a member of the Territorial Council in 1871, 1875, and 1877; treasurer of the Territory 1872-1875; auditor of the Territory 1877-1879; treasurer of the Republican Delegate to the Forty-sixth Congress (March 5, 1879-March 3, 1881); declined to be a candidate for re-nomination in 1880; elected president of the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming at Laramie 1891-1897; member of the State House of Representatives in 1893 and 1895 and served as speaker in the latter year; member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1899; again prosecuting attorney of Albany County from 1899 until his death in Denver Colo., August 3, 1902; interment in Green Hill Cemetery, Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming.<sup>4</sup>

NASON, J. H., was born in Somerset County, Maine, in 1839, living in that state until 1856, When he went to California, where he resided for five years, then moved to Portland, Oregon, thence to Idaho, where he remained until 1867; came to Wyoming in 1868 living at Bryan for a while, then settling at Green River, where he engaged in the mercantile business; held important public offices was postmaster for six years; elected school superintendent in 1876, serving two years; elected county commissioner in 1878; reelected school superintendent in 1880, but resigned, accepting the appointment of Territorial Auditor, took oath of office December 29, 1879, and served until March 31, 1882; affiliated with the Republican Party; passed away- 1906, interment at Green River, Wyoming. Impossible to locate photograph.

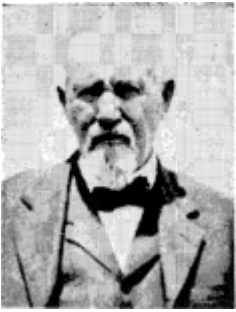


KNIGHT, JESSE, was born in Boonville, Oneida County, New York, July 5, 1850; educated in the public schools, and at Falley Seminary, Fulton, New York; came to Wyoming in 1871, locating at South Pass, where he accepted a clerical position; soon thereafter was appointed postmaster, also clerk of the district court, holding the latter position for fifteen years; admitted to the bar in 1877; appointed Territorial auditor in 1882; elected county and prosecuting attorney of Uinta County in 1888 and served until 1890; member of the Constitutional Convention; affiliated with the Republican Party; elected Judge of the Third Judicial District in 1890, reelected in 1896; appointed Justice of the Supreme Court, December 18, 1897, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge Conaway, elected to the same office at the 1898 general election, serving until his death, which occurred April 9, 1905, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Erwin, Marie, "Downey, Stephen W., Biographies of Wyoming Congressional Delegates 1869-1890," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 286.

<sup>5</sup> Erwin, Marie, "Knight, Jesse: Biographies of Justices of the State Supreme Court," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Two, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 202.



SMITH, PERRY L., was born in Vermilion County, Illinois, in 1836; his family moved to Iowa in 1839; went to Kansas in 1855; entered into various contracts with the Union Pacific Railroad Company, in 1867, and followed the building of the railroad from Nebraska west into Wyoming, and until the east and west tracks were joined in Utah; on completion of this work, in 1869, returned to Rawlins and located; postmaster there for about twenty years; affiliated with the Republican Party; appointed county commissioner in 1869, and elected for two terms, being chairman of the board each term; in 1874 elected county clerk for two years; served in the Legislatures of 1879 and 1881; appointed as Territorial Auditor, taking oath of office March 31, 1884, and serving until April 2, 1886; purchased a ranch south of Rawlins, where he spent the greater part of his time, after retiring in the early 20's; moved to San Gabriel, California, where he made his home; died September 29, 1928, in San Gabriel California.



GRANT, MORTIMER N., was born March 2, 1851 in Lexington, Missouri; educated in the public schools and at a local military academy; came to Laramie, Wyoming in the spring of 1870 and accepted employment with a surveying party; in the fall of 1870 began contracting, doing some of the most important surveying ever performed in the Territory; continued this profession until 1876, when he became interested in mining and from that date until 1885 followed this occupation, running the mill in the Centennial Mine and developing the property of the Keystone Mine on Douglas Creek, also serving as mining expert for several concerns within and without the Territory; one of the original and largest owners of the Douglas Consolidated Placer Mines, selling the property for the Company, in January, 1897; affiliated with the Republican Party; a resident of Laramie at the time of his appointment as Auditor of the Territory, taking oath of office April 2, 1886, and serving until November 8, 1890; in 1889 elected a member of the Constitutional Convention; in 1894 elected Sheriff of Albany County; upon organization of the Laramie Mining and Stock Exchange, chosen President. Died April 1, 1917.

## **STATE AUDITORS<sup>6</sup>**

By constitutional provision the State Auditor is elected by the qualified voters of the State for a term of four years. He must be a citizen of the United States, have resided within the State one year and in the county wherein residence is located for sixty days next preceding the election. He must have attained the age of twenty-five years. The Constitution outlines no specific powers or duties for the State Auditor, except by implication, leaving that to legislative action.

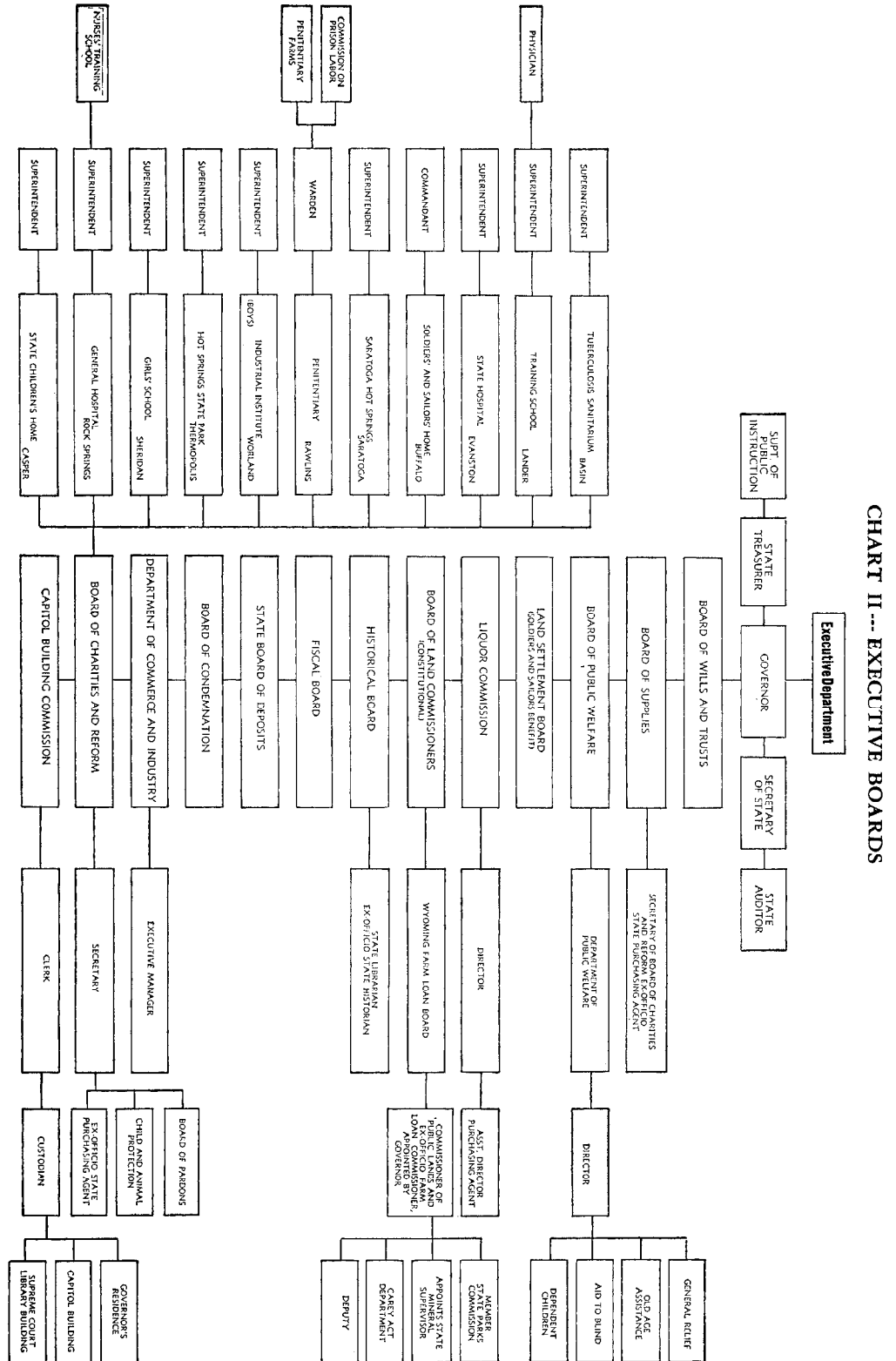
The State Auditor is the general accountant of the State, and the keeper of the public account books, accounts, vouchers, documents and all papers relating to the accounts and contracts of the State, and its several debt and fiscal affairs not required by law to be kept in some other office, or by some other person. As clerk of the State legislature he is required to keep a record of all the expenditures of each session of the legislature, and to keep an inventory of its supplies and property; is required to make a biennial report to the governor stating the condition of his department on or before the first day of November, immediately preceding the meeting of the legislature; is also required to file one copy of this report with each house of the State Legislature.

He is a member of various boards and commissions listed on Chart II Executive Board.

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<sup>6</sup> Erwin, Marie, "State Auditor," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Two, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 133.

## Chart II - Executive Boards<sup>7</sup>



<sup>7</sup> Erwin, Marie, "Chart II - Executive Boards," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 155.

## STATE AUDITORS 1869-2010<sup>8</sup>

Name	Service	Hometown	Birth	Death
Benjamin Gallagher* (D)	1869-1870	Omaha, NE	1840	March, 1900
James H. Hayford* (R)	1870-1875	Laramie	1828	July 30, 1902
Orlando North* (R)	1875-1877	Evanston		1896
Stephen W. Downey* (R)	1877-1879	Laramie	July 25, 1839	August 3, 1902
J.S. Nason* (R)	1879-1882	Green River	1839	1906
Jesse Knight* (R)	1882-1884	Cheyenne	July 5, 1950	April 9, 1905
Perry L. Smith* (R)	1884-1886	San Gabriel, CA	1836	Sept. 29, 1928
Mortimer N. Grant* (R)	1886-1890	Laramie	March 2, 1851	April 1, 1917
C. W. Burdick (R)	1890-1895	Saratoga	Aug. 15, 1860	Jan. 8, 1927
William O. Owen (R)	1895-1899	Laramie	Aug 22, 1859	1947
LeRoy Grant (R)	1899-1911	Laramie	Sept. 7, 1847	April 1, 1917
Robert B. Forsyth (R)	1911-1919	Rock Springs	May 12, 1874	March 16, 1931
Ishmael C. Jefferis (R)	1919-1923	Newcastle	Nov. 10, 1863	Jan. 2, 1942
Vincent Carter <sup>a</sup> (R)	1923-1929	Kemmerer	Nov. 6, 1891	Dec. 30, 1972
Roscoe Alcorn <sup>b</sup> (R)	1929-1935	Rawlins	Jan. 10, 1888	1952
William "Scotty" Jack <sup>c</sup> (D)	1935-1944	Casper	March 5, 1892	April 14, 1970
Carl Robinson <sup>d</sup> (D)	1944		May 3, 1895	March 1986
John J. McIntyre <sup>e</sup> (D)	1944-1947	Douglas	Dec. 17, 1904	Nov. 30, 1974
Everett T. Copenhaver (R)	1947-1955	Douglas	April 22, 1898	April 3, 1986
Minnie A. Mitchell (R)	1955-1967	Casper	April 15, 1986	Dec. 27, 1978
Everett T. Copenhaver <sup>f</sup> (R)	1967-1973	Cheyenne	April 22, 1898	April 3, 1986
Edwin J. Witzemberger <sup>g</sup> (R)	1973-1975	Cheyenne	Feb. 2, 1920	
James B. Griffith (R)	1975-1987	Lusk	Jan. 13, 1927	June 24, 2001
Jack Sidi (R)	1987-1991	Casper	Oct. 29, 1928	April 30, 2003
Dave Ferrari (R)	1991-1999	Torrington		
Max Maxfield (R)	1999-2007	Casper	Feb. 17, 1945	
Rita Meyer (R)	2007-2010	Cheyenne	April 27, 1951	
Cynthia I. Cloud (R) <sup>h</sup>	2011-	Cody		

\* Territorial Auditors

<sup>a</sup> Resigned upon election to the U. S. House of Representatives.

<sup>b</sup> Appointed to complete the first two years of Vincent Carter's second term. Elected 1930

<sup>c</sup> Appointed Secretary of State, Oct. 16, 1944, upon the death of Mart T. Christensen

<sup>d</sup> Served briefly after being appointed to fill the unexpired term of William "Scotty" Jack.

<sup>e</sup> Appointed to fill the unexpired term of William "Scotty" Jack.

<sup>f</sup> Resigned June 30, 1973 due to health reasons.

<sup>g</sup> Appointed to fill the unexpired term of Everett T. Copenhaver

<sup>h</sup> Data provided by the State Auditor's Office website <http://sao.state.wy.us>

<sup>8</sup> Compiled from the following sources:

Erwin, Marie, "Auditors of the Territory of Wyoming – 1869-1890," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 100.

Erwin, Marie, "Biographies of Territorial Auditors 1869-1890," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 101-103.

Trenholm, Virginia Cole, ed., "State Auditors 1943-1974," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Three (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 18-20.

Jost, Loren, ed., "Wyoming Auditors 1890-1990," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume IV Centennial Edition (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives, Department of Commerce, 1991), 44.

Roberts, Phillip J., ed., "State Auditors, 1890-2007," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume V, (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives, State Parks and Cultural Resources Department, 2008), 39.

"Wyoming State Auditor's Office Home Page" accessed January 4, 2011. <http://sao.state.wy.us>



## ***BIOGRAPHIES OF STATE AUDITORS-1890-2010<sup>9</sup>***



BURDICK, CHARLES W., was a Republican delegate to the Constitutional Convention from Carbon County, and a signer of the Wyoming Constitution; born in Lucas County, Ohio, August 15, 1860; educated in the public schools of Toledo, Ohio, the Friend's School of Providence, Rhode Island, the Ohio Wesleyan University, and received his law degree from the University of Michigan; came to Wyoming in 1879, first settling in the vicinity of Saratoga, Carbon County, engaging in the livestock industry; a member of the Council of Territorial Legislative Assembly of 1890; taking up residence in Cheyenne about that time; elected the first state auditor, 1890 to 1895; elected secretary of State, taking office January 7, 1895; practiced law in Cheyenne, had extensive interests in Midwest Oil Company; chairman of the Republican State Central Committee from 1906 until 1912; secretary of State board of law examiners from 1900 to 1911; member of the executive council of the American Bar Association; died January 8, 1927 in Washington, D. C., interment in Cheyenne, Wyoming.<sup>10</sup>



OWEN, WILLIAM O., was born in Pleasant Grove, Utah, August 22, 1859; educated in the common schools, studied surveying, qualifying as a civil engineer about 1878; took a course in mathematics at the Wyoming State University at Laramie in 1890; county surveyor of Albany County twelve years; city engineer of Laramie three years; United States Examiner of Surveys in the Interior Department fifteen years; surveyor of a number of military reservations after they had been abandoned, these included Forts Sanders, Laramie, Fetterman, Steele, the Deer Creek Hay Reservation, and the Box Elder Reservation; became a member of the National Geographic Society in 1893; affiliated with the Republican Party; elected State Auditor in 1894, serving from January 7, 1895 until January 2, 1899; in 1898 was at the

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<sup>9</sup> Information regarding State Auditors from 1890 to 1943 has been taken verbatim from the following source unless otherwise noted:

Erwin, Marie, "Biographies of State Auditors 1890-1943," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Two, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 101-103.

Information regarding State Auditors from 1943 to 1974 has been taken verbatim from the following source unless otherwise noted:

Trenholm, Virginia Cole, ed., "State Auditors 1943-1974," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Three (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 18-20.

Information regarding State Auditors from 1974 to 1986 has been taken verbatim from the following source unless otherwise noted:

Jost, Loren, ed., "Auditor," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume IV Centennial Edition (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives, Department of Commerce, 1991), 38-39.

Information regarding State Auditors from 1986 to 2010 has been taken verbatim from the following source unless otherwise noted:

Roberts, Phillip J., ed., "State Auditor," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume V (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives, State Parks and Cultural Resources Department, 2008), 34-35.

Information regarding State Auditors since 2011 has been taken from biographical information provided by the State Auditor's Office website (<http://sao.state.wy.us>).

<sup>10</sup> Charles Burdick's biographical information was taken verbatim from the following:

Erwin, Marie, "Burdick, Charles W.: Members of the Constitutional Convention," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume One, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 555.

head of a party who climbed the Teton Mountains, he and some of the members of the group reached the summit of the most rugged peak; the United States Geographic Board on October 5, 1927 named the second highest peak in the Teton range "Mount Owen" in recognition of this achievement; by direction of the Twentieth State Legislature, 1929, a bronze tablet, to commemorate this ascent of the Grand Teton on August 11, 1898, was affixed to the enduring rocks of the summit in connection with the dedication of the Grand Teton National Park, July 29, 1929; now resides in Tucson, Arizona.



GRANT, LeROY, was born in Herkimer County, New York, September 7, 1847; educated in the public schools, and graduated from Whitesborough College; interested in the mercantile business in Chicago for several years; came to the Northwest in 1875, and to Wyoming June 5, 1879, purchasing a ranch in Albany County and engaging in the cattle and sheep business; five years later moved to Laramie; affiliated with the Republican Party; elected from Albany County, to the house of representatives of the Territorial Legislative Assembly in 1884 and 1888; elected to the council of the Assembly in 1886; elected mayor of Laramie, 1886; appointed by President Harrison as receiver of the Federal Land Office, Cheyenne, in 1889, holding this posting for four years; served as a member of the house of the Fourth and Fifth State Legislatures, 1897 and 1899; elected State Auditor, served from January 2, 1899 until January 2, 1911; died in Florida, April 1, 1917; interment, Cheyenne, Wyoming.



FORSYTH, ROBERT B., was born in Newburg, Ontario, Canada, May 12, 1874; educated in the public schools of Newburg, and in the high school of Harrowsmith, Ontario; telegraph operator and train dispatcher for the Canadian Pacific Railroad in 1890-1891; employed by the Union Pacific Railroad at Rock Springs, Wyoming, as operator and train dispatcher 1891-1898; head bookkeeper of the Union Pacific Coal Company, Rock Springs, 1898-1904, and manager 1904-1906; secretary of the J. P. McDermott Merchandise Company, Rock Springs, 1906-1910; affiliated with the Republican Party; mayor of Rock Springs, 1905-1906; elected to the State senate, serving from 1907 until 1911; elected State Auditor for two terms, serving from January 2, 1911 until January 6, 1919; as State Auditor was ex officio Insurance Commissioner; and by virtue of this office he was ex officio Insurance Commissioner until March 1919, when he was appointed first State Insurance Commissioner upon the creation of this office as an independent department; died March 16, 1931, in Cheyenne; interment, Cheyenne, Wyoming.



JEFFERIS, ISHMAEL C., was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, November 20, 1863; educated in the public schools of Chester County, a student of Eastman National Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York; engaged in the mercantile business in the East for several years; located in the vicinity of Newcastle, Wyoming in 1902, as general manager of the Kent and Bissel Cattle Company; vice president of the Weston County Bank, Newcastle for several years; affiliated with the Republican Party; elected five times to the State Legislature, three times to the house, serving from 1905 until 1911, and twice to the senate, 1911-1919; elected mayor of Newcastle, Wyoming; elected State Auditor in 1918, serving from January 6, 1919 until January 1, 1923; died January 2, 1942 in Denver, Colorado; interment, Cheyenne Wyoming.



CARTER, VINCENT, Republican, was born in St. Clair, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1891; received his early education in the public schools of Pennsylvania; attended the United States Naval Academy Preparatory School, Annapolis, Maryland; Catholic University, Washington, D. C.; Fordham University, New York; studied law, admitted to the Wyoming bar in 1919, and began practicing law at Casper; deputy attorney general of Wyoming from 1919 until 1923; Captain of the Wyoming Cavalry, National Guard, 1919-21; a lieutenant in the Marine Corps, during World War I; twice elected State Auditor, served from 1923 until 1929, resigned as State auditor in February 1929 being elected to the House of Representatives of the Seventy-first Congress, served from March 4, 1929 until January 3, 1935, being elected for three terms; Republican nominee for the United States Senate in 1934 (defeated); member of the American Legion; practicing law in Cheyenne, Wyoming.<sup>11</sup>



ALCORN, ROSCOE H., was born January 10, 1888, in Jewell City, Kansas; received a high school and college education; came to Wyoming in 1901; elected to the house of the State Legislature in 1921, 1923 and 1925; appointed State Auditor, February 1, 1929 to finish the term of Vincent Carter; elected State Auditor in 1930, and served from January 5, 1931, until January 7, 1935; affiliated with the Republican Party; now editor of the Rawlins Republican; resides in Rawlins, Wyoming.



JACK, WILLIAM "Scotty", was born in New York City, March 5, 1892; but lived the first eighteen years of his life in his parent's native Scotland. Then he returned to the United States and came West. He arrived in Lusk in October, 1910, and worked as a ranch hand until homesteading and going into the oil business. His first try for elective office was in 1922 when he ran for Justice of the Peace in Lusk.

Jack served Wyoming as State Auditor, Secretary of State, State Representative (one term as Speaker of the House), and Public Service Commissioner. He was first elected to the House of Representatives from Niobrara County in 1924 and reelected in 1926.

Then he moved to Natrona County where he was again elected to the House in 1930 and 1932. In 1934, he was elected State Auditor and reelected in 1938 and 1942. In 1944, he was appointed Secretary of State by Governor Lester C. Hunt to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Mart Christensen. Governor Milward L. Simpson appointed him to the important PSC and Equalization Board in 1956.

"Scotty" Jack died in his home at Casper April 14, 1970.<sup>12</sup>



CARL ROBINSON (D), of Afton, was born May 3, 1895, at Richmond, Utah, and he moved to Star Valley with his parents when he was seven years old. After experience in ranching and in the mercantile business, he became manager of the bank in Afton in 1931, at a time when banks were in an unsettled condition. Since then he has served as a managing officer with this bank and has watched the assets grow from \$87,000 to \$7 million. He is past president of the Wyoming Bankers Association and past vice president for Wyoming of the American Bankers Association. He has served about

<sup>11</sup> Erwin, Marie, "Carter, Vincent: Biographical Sketches of Representatives from Wyoming in Congress, 1890-1943," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Two, ed. Virginia Cole Trenholm (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 473.

<sup>12</sup> Trenholm, Virginia Cole, ed., "William "Scotty" Jack (D), Secretaries of State 1943-1974," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Three (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 15.

forty years as officer and director of the Star Valley Swiss Cheese Company. He was an organizer of the Teton Insurance Company and has served as its director and treasurer since 1960. He was one of the leaders who initiated the organization of the Star Valley Development Corporation. He served a number of years as a member of the Civilian Advisory Committee for Bridger National Forest and has been for some time a board member for Scarborough Associates, Inc., of Chicago. He has also taken an active part in 4-H programs.

Before becoming State Auditor, 1944, he served four terms in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate as majority floor leader. He has been a member of the Columbia River Compact Commission and of the Council of State Government. A testimonial dinner was held in his honor in Afton June 11, 1966, because of his outstanding record of achievement.



JOHN J. McINTYRE, before becoming a Supreme Court Justice, was a practicing attorney in Wyoming for about 30 years, during which time he served as county attorney in Converse County and as deputy Attorney General for Wyoming. He was United States Congressman from Wyoming in the 77th Congress, when World War II began. He commanded Troop K of the Wyoming National Guard prior to the war and is a combat veteran.

In 1946, he was appointed by Governor Lester C. Hunt to fill an unexpired term as State Auditor for Wyoming. He is presently District Chairman for the Boy Scouts of America and a member of the Longs Peak Council Executive Board. Within the last year he received the Silver Beaver award for distinguished service to boyhood. He was first elected a justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court in 1960, and he has served continuously since he took office January 2, 1961.<sup>13</sup>



EVERETT COPENHAVER (R) served as State Auditor 1947-1955. He was then Secretary of State 1955-1959. He became State Treasurer in 1963. He was again Auditor in 1967 and served until retirement in 1971. He was in public office over a period of nearly three and one-half decades, having served in three of Wyoming's five elective posts.



MINNIE A. MITCHELL (R) was born near Crawford, in Western Nebraska, and she came to Lander in a covered wagon with her family in 1896. After graduating from high school, she began her teaching career, two years in Fremont County and three in Natrona. She was the first teacher in the newly established town of Arminto.

In July, 1916, she was married to, J. R. "Mitch" Mitchell, whom she assisted when he entered the mercantile and grocery business, first in Kaycee and then in Casper. Following his death in 1952, she was appointed to fill his unexpired term as State Treasurer. She was the first woman in Wyoming ever to serve in this office. She next

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<sup>13</sup> Trenholm, Virginia Cole, ed., "John J. McIntyre, Justices of the Supreme Court 1943-1974," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume Three (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1974), 35.

ran for State Auditor in 1954 and was again the first in her field. She served as State Auditor twelve years. In 1966, she was elected State Treasurer. She served in that office until the end of her term, and she retired January 3, 1971. She resides in Cheyenne.



EDWIN, J. WITZENBURGER (R) served as deputy State Treasurer two and one-half years in the office of James Griffith, State Treasurer. He was appointed by Governor Hathaway July 1, 1973, to the position of State Auditor to fill the unexpired term of Everett T. Copenhaver, who retired for medical reasons. Witzemberger spent thirty years in a variety of assignments for the U. S. Air Force. He has flown fighter planes in three wars – World War II, the Korean conflict, and the war in Vietnam. After being shot down over Hanoi in World War II he evaded the Japanese, and he worked with the French underground until he was able eventually to return to his fighter group in the interior of China.

Witzemberger's experience and knowledge of the Orient are extensive as a result of his having spent five separate tours of duty in Asia and two on the mainland in China. His foreign service includes a year and a half as Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force in Vietnam and also as Chief of Staff of the U. S. Air Force in Japan and Korea. Following his return, he served the air staff in the Pentagon and spent four years as Air Force Liaison Officer to the U. S. Senate. During the last assignment he assisted in having F. E. Warren Air Force Base retained in the active Air Force Structure and approved as ICBM Minuteman Base.



Jim Griffith Republican • Lusk Elected 1974; re-elected in 1978 and 1982

James B. Griffith, Jr. was born January 13, 1927 in Laredo, Texas but his Wyoming roots go deep. His maternal grandfather arrived in Wyoming Territory in 1879 as drover with a herd of Texas cattle. His grandmother was the first school teacher at Home Station on the Cheyenne-Black Hills stage line. His parents-Jim Griffith Sr. and Nellie Snyder Griffith were co-publishers of the Lusk Herald from 1927 until 1955. Nellie Snyder Griffith was born in territorial Wyoming east of Lusk in 1888. Jim Griffith, Sr. set an example that led his son into politics. The elder Griffith was a long-time member of the Wyoming Republican Central Committee and at one time served as the state GOP chairman. He is generally recognized as being instrumental in the political successes of former governor Nels Smith and Frank Barrett, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives, two years as governor, and in the U.S. Senate. Jim Griffith graduated from Lusk High School in 1945 and went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wyoming in 1950. He served in the Navy during the years of 1945 and 46. Following college he returned to Lusk and worked for his parents' newspaper as a reporter, photographer and editor, and eventually took over as co-publisher. He remained active in the newspaper until he was elected state Treasurer in 1970. As Auditor, Griffith's office made Wyoming the first state in the nation to audit mineral production on both state and federal lands. He also led the way in establishing a uniform accounting system for state government.

Griffith and his wife Carolyn have four children (Sally Griffith Pringle, Laura Bennett, Carol Lynn Zehnle, Michael McVay).



Jack Sidi Republican • Casper Elected 1986

Jack Sidi was born October 29, 1928 in Marseille, France the son of Albert and Irene Sidi. He attended school in Lausanne, Switzerland and eventually earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Grenoble in France (1947). In 1951 he received a master's degree from Northwestern University.

During a four-year stint with the United States Air Force (1951-55) he was stationed in Casper and when he completed his military service he returned to Casper and began a career as a teacher at Morgan Junior High School.

Sidi was first elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives in 1969 and eventually served 16 years in that body-the last two as Speaker of the House.

He chaired the special School Finance Committee which laid the groundwork for the restructuring of Wyoming's school finance system after the Wyoming Supreme Court declared the earlier system unconstitutional in 1980.

Sidi and his wife Bernadette have two children (Veronica Kasi, Michael).



Dave Ferrari 1991-1999 Republican

David Ferrari was born in Torrington, the son of Guy C. and Wauneta Ferrari. He graduated from Torrington High School in 1961. He received both his BS and MS in business administration from the University of Wyoming, completing his studies in 1971.

In 1967, Ferrari began his career in government at the Wyoming State Department of Education where he became director of Budget and Finance in 1970. He moved to the Department of Administration and Fiscal Control in 1971. In 1973, Gov. Stan Hathaway appointed Ferrari the State Budget Director. From 1975 to 1986, he served as Deputy State Auditor. In 1986, he entered the private sector as a consultant and entrepreneur. He was appointed to the Wyoming Joint Government Reorganization Council and directed a reorganization plan for state government.

In 1990, Dave Ferrari was elected to the first of two terms as Wyoming State Auditor on the Republican ticket.

Dave and his wife Kayla are parents of two sons, Brian and Justin.



Max Maxfield 2007-2010 Republican

Max Maxfield was born February 17, 1945, in Beloit, Wisconsin, the only son of Ralph Livingston Maxfield and Vera Mabson Hall Maxfield, Wisconsin natives. He graduated from Janesville, Wisconsin, High School in 1963. He enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for the 1963-64 school year. From 1964 through 1966 he attended the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. On April 1, 1967, he married Jo Maxfield-Cox in Mishicot, Wisconsin. The Maxfields became the parents of three children—Tedd M., Megan, and Greta. He lived and worked in Wisconsin and Michigan between 1968 and 1972. On November 12, 1988, Max married Gayla Jean Yester, an Ohio native, in Casper, Wyoming. This marriage brought Maxfield's family another child, step-son Christopher Tyler.

Maxfield's professional life has been in the public service sector. For two decades, he worked as a professional YMCA director. Gov. Mike Sullivan appointed him the director of the Wyoming Recreation Commission. With the reorganization of Wyoming state government in the 1990s, he became the first appointed director of the Wyoming Department of Commerce, a position he held for five years. During the late 1990s, he left state government and became the executive director of the Wyoming Make-A-Wish Foundation. He also served as a financial consultant for various non-profit agencies.

In 1998, Maxfield entered elective politics as a candidate for State Auditor on the Republican ticket. He was elected and served two terms from January 1999 to January 2007. In 2006, he was elected Secretary of State.<sup>14</sup>



Rita Meyer 2007-2010 Republican

Rita Colleen Meyer was born on April 27, 1951, in Wakefield, Nebraska, the daughter of Wayne Hadley Johnson and Marjorie Wauneta Richeson Johnson, Nebraska natives engaged in agriculture. Reared on farms and ranches in the area, Meyer graduated from Ainsworth High School in Ainsworth, Nebraska.

In 1970, she earned a certificate in dental assisting from Omaha Technical Community College in Omaha, Nebraska. From 1971 to 1973, she was an instructor of dental assisting at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. From 1973 to 1977, she was a dental public health assistant at Creighton University, Omaha.

Rita Johnson married L. Charles Meyer, a dentist and Wyoming native, on November 12, 1977, at the Vee Bar Ranch in Centennial. She became the dental practice manager of the Dental Arts Group, in Laramie that year, a position she held until 1990. In 1982, Meyer earned a BA in education from the University of Wyoming. In 1989, she received a BS in finance, with honors, also from the University of Wyoming.

From 1990 to 1992, she was a staff accountant with McGladery and Pullen in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Gov. Jim Geringer appointed her chief of staff in 1998, a position she held until 2002. While working for the governor, she completed her MBA in international business from Regis University, Denver, Colorado, graduating with honors in 1999. Rita and Charlie Meyer are parents of a son, Charles Stoddard Meyer, born on September 9, 1978, in Laramie. Meyer began a military career in 1984 when she enlisted in the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron of the Wyoming Air National Guard. Rita served in various positions within the National Guard including aeromedical operations officer, personnel programs officer, comptroller, and executive support staff officer. From 1996 to 1997, she served as strategic planning officer for the National Guard Bureau Counterdrug Directorate in Washington, DC. In 2001, she was appointed commander of the 153rd Airlift Wing Mission Support Group, Wyoming Air National Guard. In July, 2004, she was promoted to the rank of colonel. Her foreign service includes operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Provide Comfort, and as 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group Commander, Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan.

Rita retired from the Air National Guard in November 2007<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> Roberts, Phillip J., ed., "Max Maxfield, Secretary of State," In Wyoming Blue Book Volume V (Cheyenne, WY: Wyoming State Archives, State Parks and Cultural Resources Department, 2008), 27.

<sup>15</sup> This sentence was provided by the State Auditor's Office and did not appear in the biography of Rita Meyer in *Wyoming Blue Book Volume Five*.



Cynthia I. Cloud 2011 – Present Republican<sup>16</sup>

Cynthia was elected in November 2010 to serve as Wyoming's 20th State Auditor. She is the first CPA to be elected to the Office. The duties of the State Auditor include being the Chief Accountant and Payroll Officer for state agencies.

Cynthia's career includes over 16 years in public accounting and as a successful business owner. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Alabama in 1991 with a BS in Accounting. Cynthia is an active supporter of her community. She is a Park County Leadership Institute graduate, a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International and Past-Treasurer, Past-Chair of the Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale, and Past-Board member of the Park County Republican Women.

Cynthia and her husband of 16 years, Charles, have four children: Luke, Morgan, Connor and Wyatt. Their eldest son, Luke, is a fourth generation Marine who served in Iraq.

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<sup>16</sup> "Biography," accessed January 4, 2011. <http://sao.state.wy.us/Auditor/Cynthia%20Cloud%20Biography.pdf>.



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