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# e-Bugler

An Electronic Blast  
From Fort Laramie Historical Association

September 2010

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## Be a Part of History!

- Western expansion began at Fort Laramie and can only continue with your involvement. If you would like information on becoming a Fort Laramie Historical Association Member, please send us an [email](#). Being a part of history benefits everyone!

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## Sutler Finally Makes His Mark

John C. Hunton, who was Fort Laramie's last

post trader or sutler, finally has his grave accurately marked. Since his death at age 89, on September 4, 1928, Hunton's final resting place in Lakeview Cemetery, Cheyenne, Wyoming, was marked by his brother's footstone. No one is quite sure why this was but his brother James had the same initials, so it worked for all these years. The Wyoming Pioneer Association from Douglas, Wyoming, decided to finally give Hunton, their first president, a proper headstone. A dedication service was held on September 10, 2010, at the Wyoming National Guard Museum and then the new Confederate headstone was unveiled at the Lakeview Cemetery.



John C. Hunton was famous for the extensive diaries (six volumes!) he kept starting in 1875 of his time spent in Wyoming. Those diaries are now considered some of

Wyoming's earliest historical documents. Hunton was a very enterprising man and in his lifetime he accomplished much. Along with being the last sutler at Fort Laramie he also served in the Virginia Infantry for the Confederate Army, was a prisoner of war, a musician, a freighter, roadhouse host, cattleman, journalist, community leader, businessman, and weatherman (see picture above of Hunton with his weather station at Fort Laramie and article below on the current weather station). When Fort Laramie was abandoned as a military post, Hunton bought the northeast side of Officer's Row, south from the Trader's store. These buildings are some of the most prized resources at the Fort Laramie National Historic Site! John C. Hunton had a very busy life and one that many, including those who love Fort Laramie, appreciate.



## Weather At Fort Laramie

John C. Hunton was Fort Laramie's earliest weatherman and that tradition continues today. Fort Laramie National Historic Site is one of the volunteer weather observation stations in the nation which they call the Cooperative Observer Program (COOP). The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the Organic Act, which established the Weather Bureau. There are now over 11,000 volunteers taking weather observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops.

Observations are taken twice a day from "Old Fort Laramie" (this distinguishes us from the town of Fort Laramie) and transferred via computer to the National Weather Service (NWS). The observations recorded are the high, low and current temperatures, moisture level, and weather condition. You can see these figures on the original forms that Old Fort Laramie recorded back to January 1989 [here](#). Enter "Wyoming", then "Old Fort Laramie", then the publication you would like to look at.

If the study of weather interests you, you can make your own weather station fairly easily out of items you find around the house. Try your hand at making your own weather station [here](#) To find out how to become a COOP volunteer, check out the information [here](#).



## Get Involved!

The Fort Laramie Historical Association (FLHA) is gathering names of interested candidates for our upcoming Board of Directors elections. There are two seats that will be available. If you are interested, please contact us. We would love to answer any further questions you have. Here is a short description of the requirements involved with an FLHA Board position:

- Attend 6 regular meetings per year. Some meetings held at Fort, some held in Torrington.
- Attend annual meeting held at Fort
- If possible, attend activities put on by FLHA like book signings, etc.
- FLHA Board Members are required to obtain a FLHA Membership of \$20

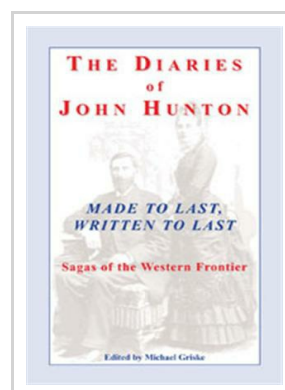
## In Our Store

The Diaries of John Hunton edited  
by Michael Griske

\$22.00

This is a paperback, condensed edition of Hunton's six volume diaries. With his homeland overrun and devastated during the Civil War, Virginian John Hunton turned his eyes westward and, in 1867, traveled to Wyoming Territory's Fort Laramie, bastion of the plains and headquarters for military operations against the Sioux

and other Indian Nations. He settled near that vast army reservation and later became one of the largest government contractors, freight haulers, and cattlemen on the booming Wyoming frontier. In 1873, Mr. Hunton began



to record the story of his life and experiences in his diaries, which ultimately spanned more than half a century. He willed these journals to his good friend Pat Flannery, who dedicated the last years of his life to preparing the historical documents for publication. Besides the daily diary entries through 1888, Mr. Flannery also included narratives by John Hunton and others in these works, and his own painstakingly researched commentaries, to clarify and expand upon significant events from that enthralling period. As a result, the publications vividly preserved day-to-day life on the frontier and presented true exploits not only of people living in that era who have been all but forgotten, but also of such memorable Old West characters as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane Canary, Buffalo Bill Cody, Generals Crook and Custer, Red Cloud, Spotted Tail, and many others, most of whom were personally known by Mr. Hunton. This book is an abridged version of Pat Flannery's monumental works. Selected excerpts from his manuscripts paint a vibrant and accurate picture of John Hunton's life, loves, and times. Its pages chronicle the existence and passing of a fascinating generation, a breed of men and women whose lives were often hard but seldom dull.

Available to purchase from our Bookstore. [Click here](#) for our store contact info.

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