

Your committee have done me the honor to assign me
a part in the interesting ceremonies of the day, and to request
from me a few remarks appropriate to the occasion. I feel that
I shall not be able to do justice to the subject or the occasion
or fulfill the expectations of this numerous assemblage. The
subject is ~~not~~ replete with reflections melancholy it is true
but upon which we can dwell with pride & exultation
while we mingle the tears of sorrow and regret with the
mouldering dust of the suffering. Who does not feel proud
and exult in the reflection that he is connected even by the
most distant ties of relationship with those who fought and
suffered on that fatal day whose disasters have been the
means of bringing us together at this distant period! Though the
struggle was unsuccessful, there is nothing for us to regret but
its issue, and its miserable consequences to the slain and to
the survivors for whose defence & protection they fought & fell
They could not command success though all was done that could
be done to deserve it and no dishonor followed defeat.

^{I wish to say a few words on the occasion of our assemblage}
The occasion of our assemblage is one of deep & abiding
interest. It is to lay the corner stone of a monument to be
erected by the descendants and others possessors of the soil ^{bloodstained} ~~soon~~
and secured by the perseverance and valour of the first brave ^{pioneers} ~~occupiers~~
- a race of men scarcely ever equaled & never surpassed in simplicity
of character - in sternness of purpose - in intelligence - in courage - in virtue
and in attachment to the true principles of freedom, by Greece or Rome in
their proudest days. - Wyoming was not peopled by the vices & follies of
the old world. Her inhabitants were not driven by their crimes or their
misfortunes from the busy haunts of men "to seek in the obscurity and
retirement of this then distant & frontier settlement, that security & forgetfulness
which was denied them in the Atlantic settlements. I am proud to say

that such were not the motives which prompted our favourite valley
No. It was that manly independence of character that relies upon its ~~own~~
~~own~~ - upon its own capacity & resources for the accumulation of wealth or the
acquisition of the ^{human or} comforts of life & which will be content with securing ^{even} its
necessities if done with its own arm, - it was ^{that} contempt of danger which regards
not any hazard in the accomplishment of a virtuous & laudable ^{enterprise} object - it
was that patient courage - & hardy perseverance which is stopped by no
obstacles however great - & which is delayed by no considerations of personal
risk - and above all it was that ardent love of ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{genuine spirit of freedom & national liberty} ~~the~~ ^{of} the
of liberty which seem to be innate in every American breast, which carried with
it the conviction a freeman every word & act ought to be free
as the air he breathes, controlled only by reason & those wholesome regulations which
render ^{of liberty} its exercise an enjoyment - ~~these~~ ^{these} ~~motives~~ ^{motives} & characteristics like these first
sent our forefathers into their remote abodes of the ^{lonely} wandering Indian
~~It was not by force that they came to possess~~
It was an honorable trait in their character too that it was not by force
& ^{paid} ~~violence~~, but by honorable purchase that our ancestors ~~possessed~~ ^{possessed}
themselves of the soil. - Planted here by principle, which rendered them unfit
to reach the air polluted by the presence of royal governors or ~~the~~ other agents
of a crowned head, they in the form of government which they established
for themselves practiced what they professed. No government could be more
truly democratic. The people acted for themselves in ^{but} primary ^{when the minority} ~~assemblies~~
& not by representation, - and as an evidence of this purity & the care
with which they guarded against the inroads of vice & corruption I would
mention the fact that I have seen a record of the proceedings of one of their
meetings of the people for the transaction of public business in which it is
stated that an individual was by a vote taken in his case banished from
the settlement, because he was in the simple but cogent language of the
record "an unwholesome member of the community." - Of such men - nurtured
in such a school, was that ^{great &} devoted band the memory of whose martyrdom
we have met to perpetuate.

It cannot be necessary for me at this time to do more than take
a rapid glance at the history of the times & the catastrophe which made so
many mothers widows, & so many children fatherless. The story of Mary's
virtues, her patriotism, her sacrifices & her sufferings has been beautifully

strengthened by the pursuit of the poet, as well as by the graven pen of
the Historian, and is now familiar to all "a household word." Besides
the faithful sketch delivered in your hearing at the last anniversary
of this day would render any attempt of mine more vain & uninteresting.
It is known to all that no just cause of enmity existed against
Wyoming in the breast of the Indians - to excite their passions in a senseless
to the terrible incursion. However much they might long to revenge themselves
of this beautiful & favorite valley they had no feelings of revenge, or gratification
in the burning of hostility to quench the blood. We must look to the
our own race for its origin in misfortune. To the eternal dishonor & disgrace
of Great Britain be it spoken she employed the charge of exciting the natural thirst for
of the savage for blood and turning the ferocious arm against her American
brethren must ever remain a foul & an affable blot upon her escutcheon.
It will claim to be like the fatal & disgusting plague spot till the
hour of her depopulation. When she burned the Patriots of Wyoming
were deeply imbued with the spirit of liberty, and fastened largely
of the spirit of the times - that they had sent forth their bravest &

their youth & strength
their best to fight the battles of Liberty in the army of their Country.
& had left few besides the patriarchy of Land to guard their homes & freedom.
then it was that her determination was resolved on. And terribly was this
determination carried into effect. Aft instruments of mischief and
devastation were at hand. The cruel & relentless Savage was let loose
and in the nameless but forcible language of General Bugeye he exhorted
to "go forth in the night of their nation & their cause. Strike at the common
enemies of Great Britain & America, disturbers of public order, peace &
happiness, patriarchy of the state." - It indicated the determination of
our foes to stamp young Liberty in her birth that they scrupled
not at means by which it was to be accomplished. True indeed is it of
transatlantic Liberty that her birth star was the light of burning plains.
Her baptism is the blood that flows
From Kinard's heart.

Had Wyoming proved true to the sacred cause, - had she pursued the
men tenor of her way - had she ^{regardless of the human struggle} taken part in the glorious contest, which
the remoteness of her location might in some measure have excused, she would

