

Volume VIII Number 2

September/October 2014

Email: palmerdividehistory.org

Museum: 719-559-0837



Palmer Lake Historical Society

Board of Directors 2014

President - Tom VanWormer
President Emeritus - Phyllis Bonser
Vice President - J. Patrick McCarthy
Secretary - R. Michael Walker
Treasurer - Barbara Arbutnot
Museum Director - Rogers Davis

Directors-at-Large

Al Walter
Georgia Follansbee
Tom Dickinson

Program Schedule for Remainder of 2014

October 16, 2014, 7:00 PM – "**Sheriff Rankin Scott Kelly, First Sheriff of El Paso County**" John Wesley Anderson

November 20, 2014, 7:00 PM – "**Mountain Man Jedediah Smith**" Dave Wallace

Note that there is no regularly scheduled program in December.

Contributing to this issue:

Jack Anthony Pat McCarthy
Rogers Davis Tom VanWormer
Tom Dickinson Al Walter
Mike & Sigi Walker



Mike Walker photo taken 8-21-2014

A Newsletter of the Palmer Lake Historical Society and the *Lucretia Vaile Museum*

David McShane: Honoring a Monument Pioneer

Among the earliest settlers of Monument were David McShane and his family, who came to the Palmer Divide from Iowa in 1861 during the Colorado gold rush period. While he never struck it rich, he established one of the first homesteads here. McShane's Fort on the property sheltered the family and neighbors from Indian raids between 1865 and 1868. A historical marker near the site can be found on the southwest corner of CO 105 and Davidson Street in Monument.



In 1869, McShane became the area's first postmaster and served as one of the first El Paso County commissioners, elected in 1869 and re-elected in 1872 and again in 1883. As a school director, he assisted in building the first schoolhouse in Monument and helped erect two others.

David McShane was born in Uniontown, PA, on October 3, 1830. Both of his parents were of Scottish descent. He was one of thirteen children and the fifth son. In Pennsylvania, David helped on the home farm and helped operate a small coal mine on the property. The family moved to near Marion, Iowa, in 1852. After moving to Iowa, David married Catherine Willard; over the years they raised seven children. In 1860, David and his brothers Francis and John C. started out for Colorado. They outfitted ox-trains at Kansas City, from which point John C. went up the Platte River to Central City, Colorado, where he became a wholesale and retail grocer, while the two other brothers continued on to Summit County. Theirs was the first ox-train to cross the range to Breckenridge. For four years they engaged in placer mining at Humbug and American Gulch. In 1860, they were with the first party that entered what is now San Juan County. Winter weather prevented them from returning to Breckenridge until the following spring.

In the fall of 1864, McShane returned to Iowa with ox-teams, and in spring of 1865 returned to Colorado via the Platte River. He was fortunate not to have been attacked by Indians during his journeys. In the spring of 1865, he homesteaded 160 acres three miles south of Palmer Lake. Two years later, he returned to Iowa and brought his family west, running a dairy business, raising horses, and operating a cattle ranch on what was now 320 acres. He built a home and installed an irrigation system. Nearby, to protect his family from Cheyenne and Arapahoe raids, he built a stone round house with port holes and an underground passage to his house.

David McShane was also a contractor of considerable note. He contracted for eight miles of the Colorado Midland from Cascade to Woodland Park and had contracts on the Union Pacific, Denver & Gulf, and other railroads. He built ten reservoirs in El Paso County. At one time, he was president of the Bison Mining and Milling Company in Cripple Creek, which he had discovered and developed. At his death in 1907, he owned valuable property in Summit County, where he had first mined.

Report on Palmer Lake "Calaboose" as of September 19, 2014

The efforts of Al Walter to restore the entire structure are making a significant difference in the appearance of exterior of the "Calaboose." The rotten wood has been replaced by authentic wood from the era in which the jail was built. The new wood is undergoing an "aging" process to recreate its original appearance. The process is slow, however, as can be seen in the photo at left. Care is being taken to not overage the wood, so that the result is the proper color for a structure built in 1891. Currently, the wood is not aging as it should, so another batch of aging chemical is being sent by the manufacturer for application before the cold weather sets in.

In the future, the jail's furnishings will be restored so that the public can view what it was like to be incarcerated around the turn of the 20th century.



President's Message to the Membership

Folks,

We've had a Great Summer, filled with entertaining programs, an enjoyable Chautauqua, and successful Powwow. Our monthly presentations provided the membership with excellent learning opportunities offered by skilled and knowledgeable presenters. This year they have excelled in diversity and depth of information.

Our special events ranged from the Ice Cream Social on the Town Green on Fathers' Day to the Chautauqua Celebration in early August co-sponsored with Humanities Colorado to the Annual Powwow which we co-sponsored with One Nation Walking. All provided for great social interface and learning opportunities for all who attended. And, this summer we were blessed with great weather for all events.

The Society remains healthy due to the efforts of a very dedicated Board, the Museum Director, and Museum Docents. The latter half of the year proved challenging due to numerous resignations because of age and job relocations, including two Board Secretaries, two docents, and two other Board members. The position of newsletter editor has been filled, but we are looking for a Publicist and Special Events Director. Why not nominate yourself or a friend to volunteer???

The Society has been asked by the Town Trustees to support the Colorado State Department of Local Affairs "Main Street" Project. This is an effort to upgrade the tourism potential of the Town of Palmer Lake. The State will assist in helping Palmer Lake with the lake, the roads through town, signage, and whatever the Trustees of Palmer Lake determine should be included in this effort.

Your Board adopted a new Strategic Plan with goals for five, ten and twenty five years out, which is available to the membership. The BOD also produced new Emergency Management Plans and updated the Standing Procedures for the Society and Museum. Any member who desires to assist or wants to review these plans should contact either Roger Davis, Museum Director, or myself. Also, the 2015 PLHS/LVM Calendar effort is underway; any and all help would be appreciated.

2015 is going to be a great year, and your Board hopes you will join us in the many events planned for coming year.

Tom VanWormer, PLHS President

A Most Successful Chautauqua August 2, 2014

The original Chautauqua Assembly came to Palmer Lake in 1887 and was an annual summer event for more than two decades. Palmer Lake hosted one of the first Chautauqua Assemblies in the Rocky Mountain West which took place in Glen Park centered around an auditorium built on what we now know as Chautauqua Avenue. Many homes in "The Glen" neighborhood began as rustic tent cottages, where Chautauqua-goers stayed for the six-week long assembly. Many Chautauqua cottages eventually evolved into permanent homes where some descendants still live today. The PLHS is proud to sponsor the return of the Chautauqua to our community for the last few years, including this year's event.



Chuck Loeffler was the master of ceremonies. Presenters included Don Moon, dapperly portraying Teddy Roosevelt; Gene Johnson as Buffalo Bill Cody, and John Stansfield as Enos Mills, Father of Estes Park. The Legendary Ladies, in full period costume, portrayed six unconventional women of the West. Throughout the day Denver's Frontier Army Band played old-time melodies on vintage instruments. And, the guided tours of Palmer Lake were very popular.



Overall, this year's Chautauqua was a great success, and we look forward to next year's festivities.



As usual, the Father's Day Ice Cream Social attracted large crowds of Tri-Lakes residents.

All photos by Tom Dickinson

Native American Intertribal Powwow July 19, 2014

The PLHS was again a sponsor of this celebration of Native American History and Culture, featuring Native drums, singers, and dancers. There were Native foods to sample, a live wolf exhibit, and birds of prey. Native art, jewelry, and crafts were available for purchase. The Aztec Dancers received an enthusiastic reception.



This year the estimated attendance was near 3,000 dancers, vendors, and public.

Community Liaison Committee

During the summer and early fall, Phyllis Bonser and Tom Dickinson, members of the PLHS Community Liaison Committee, participated in four major events: 1) Hosting the meeting of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Area Historic Museums at Palmer Lake; 2) Representing PLHS at a workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and Recovery for Museums and Libraries (of critical importance- the plan for Lucretia Vaile Museum is in progress) at the Old Colorado City Historical Society; 3) Attending the September meeting of the Coalition at Miramont Castle in Manitou; and 4) Representing PLHS at a public listening session at the Pioneers Museum, sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office, to gather issues and concerns about local historic preservation for compilation into a 5-year action plan for Colorado. Local interests and issues conveyed to State officials were: Upper and Lower Glen historic sites and buildings related to the 1881-1910 Chautauqua; Palmer Lake Town Hall and Fire Department buildings; and restoration and refilling of Palmer Lake.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

publishes this newsletter at

PO Box 662

66 Lower Glenway

Palmer Lake CO 80133-0662

Layout and Editing: Sigi Walker

Note: All submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space allocations, and become the property of the Palmer Lake Historical Society unless other arrangements have been made. Digital word submissions in .doc or .docx, photos in .jpg format please. Submit pieces and photos to Editor at mikensigi@comcast.com

Compendium of monthly PLHS Presentations August through November 2014

Social Hour at 6:30 PM, Presentations begin at 7:00 PM

Thursday, August 21, 2014 - "Finding Your Roots"



On August 21st, PLHS and Chautauqua Organizing Committee member Chuck Loeffler gave a presentation on the use of the computer to enhance your genealogical research capabilities in tracing your family ancestors. Chuck has been able to trace over 14,000 relatives in both his wife's and his families using free and for pay programs that are on-line. He used his family data base to demonstrate how to collect basic information from census reports, local historical groups, newspapers, county, state, federal and foreign records and much more. This session was very well received by many who are attempting to trace their roots and determine if great granddad was really connected to that famous figure your grandaunt claimed he was.

Thursday, September 18, 2014 - "A Palmer Lake Living History"



The September 18th presentation featured Dwight Haverkorn, official historian of the Colorado Springs Police Department, who has presented more than 50 talks on local homicides and other historical subjects. He used county and state records to clear up the tangled stories about our Museum Director Rogers Davis' great grandfather, Harry McIntire, who was involved in Colorado's early development. We learned that while in his early 20s Harry was a master of both the hospitality and banking worlds: Colorado Springs Hotel manager and an officer of the First National Bank of Colorado Springs. It is a complicated tale covered in the past by only a few newspaper articles. The truth uncovered by Dwight found that Harry was convicted only of failure to repay a \$3000 loan, was pardoned by President Hayes, subsequently relocated to Denver, changed the spelling of his name to McIntyre, became a model businessman, and built a summer home in Palmer Lake, which is now Rogers Davis' residence.

Thursday, October 16, 2014 - "Sheriff Rankin Scott Kelly, First Sheriff of El Paso County"



John Wesley Anderson has lived in the Pikes Peak region since 1956 and was the 26th sheriff of El Paso County from 1995 to 2003. He will tell the story of 19th century lawman Sheriff Rankin Scott Kelly, who caught up with the infamous "Big Tooth Jim." Kelly was born July 6th, 1826, in Aroostook County, Maine, and was raised by his father and older siblings after his mother drowned when he was three. At 14, he ran away after believing he had killed his sister's fiancé in a fight. On June 5th, 1860, at the age of 33, he arrived in Colorado City by wagon train when it was still part of the Kansas Territory. Skilled as a stonemason, a carpenter, and a teamster, he helped haul a sawmill from Johnson County to build El Paso County's first sawmill. When the Colorado Territory was established on February 28, 1861, El Paso County was one of the original 17 counties created, and Kelly served as its first sheriff from 1861-1867.

Thursday, November 20, 2014 - "Mountain Man Jedediah Smith"



Dressed as legendary pioneer Jedediah Strong Smith (January 6, 1799 – May 27, 1831), Dave Wallace will bring to life the exploits of this son of a Bainbridge, New York, general store owner, once almost forgotten by historians. A hunter, trapper, fur trader, trailblazer, author, cartographer, and explorer, Smith explored the Rocky Mountains, the American West Coast, and the Southwest during the early 19th century. He was the first white man to travel overland from the Salt Lake frontier, the Colorado River, the Mojave Desert, and finally into California. Smith was the first United States citizen to explore and eastwardly cross the Sierra Nevada and the treacherous Great Basin. Smith also was the first American to travel up the California coast to reach the Oregon Country. He was only 32 when he died, after having survived three massacres and a bear mauling.

Dave Wallace has been interested in history since childhood, is a retired high school history teacher, and continues to entertain audiences through his portrayals of historical figures and Civil and Revolutionary War soldiers.

The Palmer Lake Historical Society is now presenting two historical presentations each month. The first is on the second Tuesday while the other is the regularly-scheduled third Thursday of the month. Note that the additional second Tuesday presentations take place only in the spring and fall until further notice.

Palmer Lake Historical Society

Mailing address: PO Box 662
Palmer Lake CO 80133-0662

Offices: 66 Lower Glenway St
Palmer Lake CO 80133

The star will be lit on Wednesday, November 11th, in honor of veterans!



Photo by Bill Benson. 26 May 2014