

## Over the Fence...

*Musings from the Editor*

Cemeteries. The mere word brings to mind dreary, desolate places. Far removed from any sort of comfort or solace. And yet, most cemeteries in the West were set in the choicest locations, the tracts of lands with views to die for. These locations were surely soothing to the souls of those left behind. Giving a sense of comfort and assurance of the Great Divine from the sheer beauty and majesty of the location.

One summer my husband and I took our road trips to cemeteries located along the I-70 corridor. We saw the terraced grave sites in Idaho Springs, the incredible view while standing in the Georgetown cemetery, the abundant wildflowers found in the Glenwood Springs cemetery. Each one located in a location with awe inspiring views. Each one unique in its own special way. With its own stories to tell.

Our own Florissant Pioneer Cemetery is located among the tall pines and aspens adjacent to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. It is a peaceful place with a plethora of wildflowers to delight the eyes and songbirds that fill the ears with music. And amidst this beauty are stories. Stories of life and death. Of struggles and triumphs. A glance at the headstones can give a person only a slight insight to these stories. More often the stories remain hidden away, waiting for someone to hunt and search and dig for the buried remains of so many lingering tidbits which can be brought to Life again.

Some of the stories found in the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery are of the Veterans buried there. This issue's feature is about some of those men, Veterans of the War Between the States. And thanks to two very dedicated PPHS members, **Knut and Donna Knudten**, we are able to get a glimpse into the lives of those pioneers.

Jeanne Gripp, Editor

## Annual PPHS Auction

Don't forget about the upcoming Annual PPHS Auction! This event is a source of funding for the Pikes Peak Historical Society.

Look through that attic, root around in those closets! Those hidden away treasures have the potential to keep the lights on at the museum or to keep this newsletter coming!

Don't fret if you don't have anything to donate. Stop by the day of the auction, you might just find an item (or two) that **"needs"** to go home with you.

The auction will take place on Saturday, October 11 at 2 pm at the Florissant Library.

For more info contact: [719-748-3562](tel:719-748-3562).

## **PPHS Museum featured in Rock and Gem magazine**

The August 2014 issue of Rock & Gem Magazine featured an article by PPHS member, Andy Weinzapfel, on the Mineral Display in the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum.

See the PPHS website for a link to the article.

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## Florissant Pioneer Cemetery – Civil War Veterans

*\* Editor's Note - Knut and Donna Knudten have graciously allowed the use of the material which they compiled on the Veterans of the War Between the States who are found in the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication! Due to space limitations, their work has been condensed. \**

The allure of the West called to many as the 1800's drew to a close. The thought of adventure, the dreams of riches, and the desire to start anew drove many to leave the homes they knew and head off into an unknown territory. Among those driven by this desire were Veterans of the War Between the States – more commonly known as the American Civil War. Many of these men and their families settled in the Florissant, Colorado area and are now buried in the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery.

While these men may have survived the War, they did not come through unscathed. Lingering injuries and complications from diseases contracted during the war left many with handicaps that plagued them the remainder of their lives. Through their applications for Invalid Pensions and other records kept, a glimpse can be had into who these men were.

Frederick Smith's Family gravesite is all that can be found of the man who came from the Midwest. Smith enlisted in the Union Army Cavalry in Kansas and suffered from rheumatism as a result of experiencing adverse weather conditions during his time in the military. He spent some time living in the Trapper's Cabin at Twin Creek Ranch.

Like Frederick Smith, only the family plots of Rev. David P. Long can be seen. Long was in the 2nd Iowa Infantry. Long served two tours of duties and endured many hardships during his first enlistment because of harsh weather conditions and inadequate clothing. He married in between his two enlistments and while Long was at the siege of Atlanta, a daughter was born, who was named Atlanta Georgia or Attie for short. He and his wife relocated to Colorado hearing of the health benefits of the climate. They settled on a 320 acre farm in the "Petrified Forest" after the war.

Long later decided to spend part of the year in Utah so he left the ranch in the care of a relative who later sold it and skipped the country. Long and his family started over in the Florissant area after this ill-fated loss.

Ludlow H. Pruden was living in Leadville when the war broke out. He enlisted in Fairplay in Company B of the Colorado 2nd Cavalry. Pruden fought battles from New



Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

Mexico to the Indian Territories of Oklahoma. He crossed the Rio Grande River with Kit Carson and fought in the battle of Valverde, New Mexico. After the war, Pruden settled in Park County where he ran a ranch. Sometime after the death of his second wife Pruden left for California where he later died and was buried. Pruden has two wives and a son buried in the Florissant Cemetery.

David Portis enlisted at the tender age of 20 in the 14th Indiana Artillery Battery. He saw his first action within a month of enlisting, at the Battle of Shiloh. It was at this infamous engagement that Portis contracted a disease which left him with chronic problems that had him in and out of hospitals. While being transferred from one medical facility to another, Portis was in a train wreck which injured his hip. In 1865 Portis was discharged with chronic lung disease. He and his wife relocated to Colorado for the health rewards of the dry air. They settled in the Rocky, Colorado area where they farmed and ranched. In 1888 Portis applied for invalid pension and died in 1899.



Michael Caylor's Family Headstone & Military Headstone

*Continued on page 4*

## **PPHS Website**

Many THANKS! to **Wayne Johnston** for the great make-over of the PPHS website. The new look is very inviting and user friendly. If you haven't seen it yet, do stop by. You're in for a treat! [www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org](http://www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org)

Wayne also tends to the PPHS Facebook page. If you're on Facebook, stop by and say "Hi". And be sure to "Like" the page and recommend it to all your friends!

Thank you to the following newsletter contributors –  
Ed Held  
Celinda Kaelin  
Donna & Knut Knudten  
Kathy Perry  
George Scheaffer

Have an idea for a story?  
Got a tidbit or two you'd like to share?  
Or maybe you just want to say "Hello!"  
Email the Editor at [woodespryte@gmail.com](mailto:woodespryte@gmail.com)

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**PPHS Annual Auction**  
**Sat, Oct 11, 2:00 pm**  
**Florissant Library**

**Veteran's Day Service**  
**Tues, Nov 11, 10:00 am**  
**Florissant Pioneer Cemetery**

**"Attie Thompson"**  
**Portrayed by Donna Knudten**  
**Sun, Nov. 16, 2:00pm**  
**Florissant Library**

**PPHS Christmas Party**  
**Sat, Dec 13, 12:00pm**  
**Twin Creek Ranch, Florissant**

*Chautauquas are a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. There is no admission and refreshments are served.*

*Chautauquas are normally held at the Florissant Library unless otherwise noted.*

## **2014 Pikes Peak Historical Society Board of Directors**

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Advisory Board Members:

Andy Weinzapfel  
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Sally Maertens  
Lenore Hotchkiss  
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## **PPHS Museum Parking Lot Dedication**



The official ribbon cutting ceremony for the PPHS Museum parking lot was held on June 8, 2014. The Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce hosted the ribbon cutting. The parking lot was made possible by grants from the Colorado Dept. of Transportation, Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company, Teller County Commissioners, Park State Bank, Teller County Public Works Dept., and innumerable people who donated their talents and time. The parking lot was a true community effort and something to be proud of. The parking lot features a community bulletin board, a tipi for summer enjoyment of visitors, cement pads for historical displays, and a paved parking area.



## Florissant Pioneer Cemetery, cont.

Michael Caylor was from Lancaster, Indiana, the same town as David Portis. He served in an artillery battalion, one of the deadliest forces of the Civil War, in the Eastern Theater of the conflict. Both sides were at risk of injury and death when the cannons employed by the artillery units were in use. Caylor was injured one month prior to Lee surrendering at Appomattox. After the war, Caylor and his wife moved to Rocky, Colorado where he served as postmaster.

John M. Hensley began his military career in the Indiana Infantry in 1862. He transferred to the 59th Colored Infantry that same year. In 1864 he was promoted to Captain and two years later he was mustered out of service. In search of riches, he and his wife moved to the Florissant area in 1880, where they squatted on a homestead not far from the cemetery.

In 1862, the U.S. Government established the Federal Pensions and Survivors Benefit to provide compensation to those who did not come through the War Between the States unscathed.

It took another army of people to record the data about each soldier who served in the War - for both the North and the South. The index cards of 30 million Northern soldiers and 6 million Southern soldiers contained the soldier's name, rank, unit and fate.

These cards were stored in the Ford Theater (site of Pres. Lincoln's assassination) in Washington D.C. Eventually, the weight of the index cards caused two floors of the Theater to collapse, killing 22 employees.

## In Memoriam – Loya Arrum, Tabeguache Tribal Elder



Loya Kaye Arrum, age 67, of Hilltop, Utah passed away Aug. 27, 2014, after a year long battle with cancer. She was a “Warrior Woman” who fought to the end. She was born March 2, 1947, in Ft. Duchesne, to Wilbur and Bobilene Colorow Arrum. She married Curtis Ray Cesspooch in Ft. Duchesne 37 years ago. A few years ago, she legally changed her name back to Arrum because there were so few left.

Loya graduated in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in education and became a certified elementary school teacher. She worked as a teacher in the Uintah County School district for over 25 years. After retirement, she was the Ute Language Immersion teacher, Vice President of the Uintah & Ouray Historical Society, and was on the Education Board. She was very proud of her Native American heritage and spent many hours educating and consulting about

traditional values. She enjoyed traveling, and would often go to Pow Wows, Sundances, and Bear Dances. Her religious beliefs were tied to the Native American Church and their traditional ceremonies. To get away, she would often head to the mountains and was renewed with the time she spent there. Loya was the Ute elder who led the Tabeguache on their return trips to their sacred mountain, Tava (Pikes Peak), each year.

Her kind, friendly, and outgoing personality made it so no one was a stranger. While teaching, she became a grandma to all of her students. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren that called her “Majesty.” Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014 with burial in the Ft. Duchesne Cemetery in Utah.



## **Richard Fretterd Chautauqua**

Local “Rock Star”, Richard Fretterd, spoke to a packed house at the Florissant Public Library in June. His talk had originally been scheduled for May but had been delayed a month due to a heavy Spring snow storm. Fretterd is one of the stars of the TV show, “Prospectors” and is a successful local miner. He treated the audience to tales of the filming of the popular show – often rising early of a morning and hiking 2-3hrs to get to a dig site, exhausted out-of-state cameramen and film crew, and the exhilaration upon opening a pocket and finding hidden jewels.

Fretterd’s interest in rocks began at an early age and he is totally self-taught. After high school, he moved to Colorado and worked in construction as well as obtaining hard rock mining experience. In the early 1970’s Fretterd visited Cripple Creek to see if it was true that the streets were lined with turquoise nuggets (turquoise chips were laid down on the streets because it wouldn’t float away in the mountain thunderstorms while gravel would)

Those attending the talk were also treated to seeing first hand an exquisite collection of topaz and smoky quartz crystals found by Fretterd and his digging companion Jean Cowman. The two prospectors spent more than 3 years on finding a local vein of pink topaz. This vein was worked in the 1920’s by a man by the name of Ed Over but the exact location was lost sometime in the 1950’s. Through research and hikes, Fretterd and Cowman traversed the general area and found a ramshackle shack which they surmised to be Ed Over’s. Not far from the cabin, they discovered what would become the Agnus dei Claim. And the crystal filled “Tribute” pocket there contained the ‘long lost’ pink topaz. Fretterd also found a faceted topaz, thought to be one of the largest in the United States.

Richard Fretterd’s advice to the novice, “Know your rocks! A prospector needs to be able to identify what he seeks!”



Richard Fretterd and Brother Crystals



Brother Crystals Ribbon Cutting

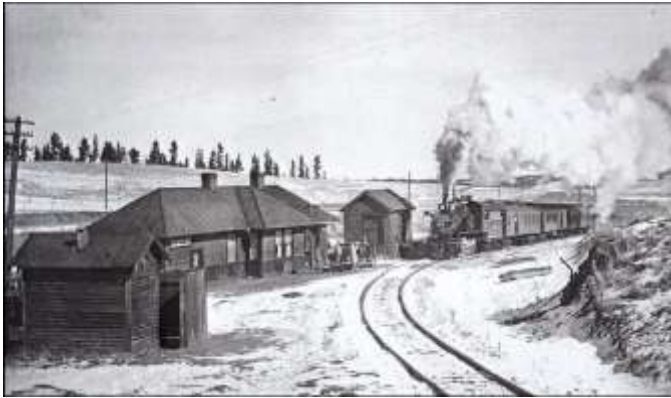
## **“Brother” Crystals Dedicated**

Two Amazing Smoky Quartz crystals, in the permanent collection of the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, were dedicated on June 8, 2014. The crystals, known as the “Brother” Crystals, were found by Richard Fretterd only 6ft apart. A combined donation by Fretterd and the Cripple Creek and Victor Mining Company made it possible for the Crystal pair to remain in the mountains where they were formed 1.2 billion years ago during the Pre-Cambrian era. It is believed that these are the largest smoky quartz crystals ever discovered in North America. The largest crystal weighs 439 lbs and is 4ft long. Its brother weighs in at 345lbs and is 4ft 3in long. The crystals are a tribute to Fretterd’s younger brother, Vincent “Scruffy”.

Fretterd explained to a large crowd of PPHS members and general public alike, how the crystals were found and later read a moving poem dedicated to his brother before the ribbon cutting took place.

## **Discussing The Midland Depot's Past and Future**

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On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Colorado realtor David Martinek spoke at a Chautauqua regarding Colorado's historic Midland Depot. During his lecture, Dave mentioned that history was the last subject that interested him in his academic years. However, that changed when he arrived in Colorado.

Much of Highway 24 used to be old railroad bed, and segments of Route 67 were directly adjacent to the Midland Railway. However, there have actually been 2 different Midland Depots. The first was built in

1887, but burned down some 11 years later supposedly due to sparks from the passing coal-burning locomotives. The second depot was built in 1904, and in a slightly different location than its predecessor. This depot was used for its intended purpose for a couple of decades before being shut down and used for coal storage in the 1930s. After that, it was abandoned in the 1950s. The depot was reclaimed later on and became the Whistle Stop biker bar through the 80s and 90s before being abandoned again.

In 2008, plans to restore the Midland Depot in some form were put into action, and as a result some of the depot was converted into office space. In 2011, the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition was given \$290,000 to begin fully remodeling and restoring the depot, and the restoration was completed on January 2, 2013. There had been some challenges in the process, such as the depot's poor foundation and rotted floors. Most depots were never meant to be permanent structures. Surprisingly, however, not one window was broken.

David Martinek stated that "history helps us interpret the present and anticipate the future," and his ultimate goal is to restore and return the depot to the community as an asset. In the Chautauqua, Martinek also explained a full 8-step plan for the depot, and restoring it was only step one. From here, he wants ownership of the depot to be given to a non-profit organization and the renovation to be expanded by adding some railroad tracks, landscaping, and outfitting the interior to accommodate a visitor's center. The depot is in Teller County's historic territory; however, so all changes must be approved first.

### **FLORISSANT PIONEER CEMETERY**

Florissant's cemetery received its first permanent "guest" in 1874. This is not surprising, since the town of Florissant was established by Judge James Castello in 1870. What is surprising, however, is that Frank, James' son, waited until 1886 to incorporate a Florissant Cemetery Association. This was probably in anticipation of the boom that would come to the area with the arrival of the Midland Railroad. The Pikes Peak Historical Society maintains this tradition of stewardship with its management of the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. If you meet the residency requirements; you may also secure a final resting place in this historic cemetery. Donations of \$300 are requested for a full burial, and only \$150 for cremains. Call Harold Kaelin at 719-748-3562 to secure your future at this historic site.



## MEMBERSHIP

The Pikes Peak Historical Society is a non-profit corporation organized under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3). The purpose of the Society is to encourage the preservation of the history of Florissant and the west slope of Pikes Peak, and to educate the public regarding this historical legacy.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS) is funded solely through memberships and donations, and supports its mission through volunteers who serve on its numerous committees.

PPHS owns and operates two museums; The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, at 18033 Teller County Road # across from the Florissant Post Office, and the Schoolhouse Museum located at Teller County Road #3 and Wildhorn.

Our Cemetery Committee manages the historic Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. Our Beautification Committee sponsors an area-wide clean-up each spring, cleans along Highway 24, and plants flowers throughout the town of Florissant. Our Chautauqua Committee sponsors free educational programs each month, and our Trails Committee support these efforts in the area. The Tree Committee records Ute Culturally Scarred trees.

The volunteers and members of the Pikes Peak Historical Society make all of these community projects possible. Your membership entitles you to our tri-annual newsletter. Life Members receive a ten percent discount on all items at the gift shop.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print):

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Type

_____ Sustaining Member	\$20/year
_____ Family Membership	\$30/year
_____ Supporting Member	\$50 or \$100/year
_____ Castello Life Member	\$200

#### Committee Interests

Museum	_____
Cemetery	_____
Beautification	_____
Chautauqua	_____
Trees	_____
Trails	_____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: PIKES PEAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 823  
FLORISSANT, CO 80816

For more information, call Celinda 719.748.3562



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