



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

From Our Prez:

Reflections on 2017

2017 was an outstanding year for PPHS. With donations from 28 members and sale proceeds of the donated lots in Victor, we were able to reduce our PPHS Museum Mortgage to just below \$34,000. This means less of our future budget will go to interest, and the final mortgage payoff is closer in sight to us.

The October Auction slightly exceeded our target revenues thanks to efforts of a group of volunteers and support of the Teller County community and businesses.

Dedicated volunteers repainted the outside of the Teahouse and are working on repainting the interior.

We had a record number of visitors to the museum, and good donations in the gift shop and donation box. We welcomed school groups and Count DePourtales descendants to the Museum, and began a more structured partnership with the Florissant Library.

Progress is being made on the Pioneer Cemetery remapping, the kiosk, and Florissant stone signs have been groomed and beautiful flowers brightened Florissant last summer.

New volunteers are taking on the newsletter, as you'll see in this issue.

We got help from "old timers" who continue to assist, but also saw some new faces pitching in to help. Thanks to the enthusiastic docents in the museum, and all the volunteers and members for your efforts and support given this past year.

We look forward to seeing you at the March 17 Potluck and Annual Meeting at the Florissant Library starting at noon.

Gee, Thanks!

We always have people and businesses to thank for their contributions to PPHS in the form of money, time, energy, materials; so:

Thanks!

Laura Pierson

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

All donors contributing to the Annual End-of-the-Year mortgage pay-down

Everyone contributing to the Annual Auction

All our wonderful docents and volunteers for all you do!

What can you do to help PPHS?

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2018 Calendar of Events

Midland Railroad Tragedies

Steve Plutt

Sunday, Feb 18, 2:00 pm

Florissant Library

Annual Meeting (potluck)

Saturday, March 17, 12:00 noon

Florissant Library

Mountain Men

Ken Valles

Sunday, April 15, 2:00 pm

Florissant Library

Traveling Medicine Show

Kathryn Herrin

Sunday, May 20, 2:00 pm

Florissant Library

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 28, 10:00 am

Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

History & Geology of Guffey

Steven Veatch

Sunday, June 24, 2:00 pm

Florissant Library

Florissant Heritage Day

Saturday, July 28, 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Florissant Library, Museum (plus events in other parts of Florissant)

Theodore Roosevelt

Don Moon

Sunday, August 12, 2:00 pm

Florissant Library

PPHS Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

Saturday, September 15, 12:00 pm

Florissant Library

2018 PPHS Board of Directors

John Rakowski, *President*

Scott Adams, *Vice President*

Barbara Hickok, *Secretary*

Carolynne Forster, *Treasurer*

Members at Large

Wayne Johnston, *Facebook & Website Chair*

Brian Stewart, *Membership Chair*

Jeanne Gripp, *Chautauqua Chair*

Diane Burton, *Board Member at Large*

Other Chairs

Andy Weinzapfel, *Culturally Modified Trees Chair*

Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*

Kathy Perry, *Geocache Chair*

Advisory Board:

AJ Hotchkiss

Lenore Hotchkiss

Celinda Kaelin

Sally Maertens

Andy Weinzapfel

Susan Weinzapfel

Newsletter Committee

Darice Zimmermann

Robyn Proper

Donna Knudten

Calendar of Events continued

PPHS Annual Auction

Saturday, October 20, 12:00 pm

Lake George Charter School Gym

Veterans Day Ceremony

Sunday, November 11, 10:00 am

Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

Birds of Florissant

Debbie Barnes-Shankster

Sunday, November 18, 2:00 pm

Florissant Library

PPHS Holiday Party

Saturday, December 15, 12:00 noon

Florissant Library

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.

Editorially Speaking:

Times They Are A Changin'

Starting with this issue, we have a brand new committee taking over production of the PPHS Newsletter. I would like to, first, thank Jeanne Gripp for her long, hard work on the newsletter and, second, introduce you to the new team. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or ideas for a newsletter article.

Donna Knudten is the "old timer" on the team. She is originally from the Chicago area, but she and her husband, Knudt, moved to Florissant in 1983. Donna has been an active member of the Friends of the Lake George Library for many years, and currently serves as president of this group. She developed the first art program at Lake George School, and taught pre-K through 8th grade. She and her husband are docents at the museum.

I am Darice Zimmermann, and I guess I'm heading up the new team. I bought myself a little cabin in Colorado Mountain Estates two years ago, and have been finding my place in the community since. I started going to events, joining a book club, and volunteering as a docent at the Museum. That led to this.

I still maintain a home in Colorado Springs and pretty much split my time between Florissant and the Springs. I was born and grew up in Colorado Springs, and weekends were always spent coming up the Pass to the mountains: this part of Colorado has always seemed like home to me, and now it actually is. My phone in Colorado Springs is 630-0595, and in Florissant is 748-3886. I can also be reached by email at daricezimmermann@gmail.com. I'll let Robyn introduce herself:

Hello! My name is Robyn Proper, and I have been a Colorado resident since 2005. I am a New Orleans native and came to Colorado with my two sons after Hurricane Katrina. I was a teacher for 27 years and have been working/volunteering in Teller County for about 10 years.

I have been a ranger at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, and I now serve the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds as a board member. You may have met me at the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum where I am a docent. I also love to dress as the school marm and hang out at the old schoolhouse on our Heritage Day. Feel free to contact me at any time if you have suggestions for our newsletter or information you wish to share. I can be reached at robynproper@gmail.com.

2017 Benefit Auction

Thank you to all of the many people who donated time, money, and items to our annual auction held in October of 2017 at the Lake George Charter School. The event ran like a well-oiled machine, and there were terrific deals for all attendees. The location was lovely, and the food was great. The donations and the bids for the amazing and varied items brought in approximately \$8,500. This fun and lively event helps our society cover mortgage and insurance payments for the year. If you missed it, please start thinking about next October, and how you can help to support our organization.



The Midland Depot at Divide

By Robyn Proper

A request for old railroad tracks and ties went out in the Ute Country News in January. The request was made because exciting things are planned for the Midland Depot building in Divide. The folks at the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition and Midland Days at Divide are planning to create a run of track along the Colorado Midland grade where the depot is located. The tracks, set to go in this summer, are a step forward in fulfilling a master plan for the old depot.

In 1887, the Colorado Midland Railway added a depot in Divide to house an agent and a telegraph office. The first depot burned, and the current building was built to replace it in 1904. Our depot building actually served two railroads at one point. There were tracks that ran on both the north and south sides of the building. Since the illustrious days of the railroad, the depot has been a family home, an antique shop, and a roadhouse and biker bar. A

local Divide developer rescued the building from demolition in 1999.

Current plans are to restore the old building and add interpretive exhibits and a visitor's center to be managed by the Divide Chamber of Commerce. A brick platform will one day surround the depot. These exciting plans also include a section of track, informational kiosks, trailhead facilities, a pavilion, and picnic grounds.

The Midland Depot at Divide has an amazing story to tell. If you would like to know more or offer support of any kind, please contact the kind gentleman who supplied the information contained in this article, David Martinek, at (719) 213-9335.

The annual Midland Days at Divide Symposium will be held this year on Saturday, May 19th at the John Wesley Ranch. You can register or get more information at midlanddays@yahoo.com.



The Chautauqua on February 18 is Midland Railroad Tragedies, presented by Steve Plutt.

Also visit our website, PikesPeakHSMuseum.org for more information on the history of our region.



In The Cemetery:

Civil War Veterans

By Donna Knudten

Several Civil War veterans or family members are buried in the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery. All applied for pensions as invalids from the United States government; copies of these applications are on file in the Museum resource room.

One such applicant was David S. Portis. Born in Lancaster, Indiana, in 1842, David joined the Union forces, enlisting in the 14th Indiana Light Artillery Battery. David's first battlefield engagement occurred at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River near a small meeting house named Shiloh. On April 6 & 7, 1862, the largest battle fought on American soil took place there. The North won the battle, but all Americans were shocked by the casualties--23,746 dead or wounded, surpassing all the casualties in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War combined.

Conditions on the battlefield were unhealthy. Over a week passed before bodies were buried. Injured soldiers were treated in makeshift hospitals, with piles of amputated limbs outside. Water supplies were contaminated. Disease was rampant. David came down with diarrhea, which plagued him the rest of his life. He was but one of many. By 1865, the sick rate for diarrhea and dysentery was 995 out of 1000.

David was in and out of hospitals, and when being transferred from one to another, he was in a train wreck and injured his leg. In spite of chronic illness and injury, David served with his unit in five more engagements: the Siege of Corinth, Battle of Brice's Crossroads, Battle of Nashville, Battle of the Spanish Fort, and Battle of Fort Blakely. Before being mustered out in 1865, David was again hospitalized for pneumonia and chronic lung disease.

Returning to Indiana, David married a local girl, Sarah A. Frame. David's lung disease worsened, so in 1880 David and his wife moved to Colorado, hoping that the dry air would improve David's health. With their four children they farmed and ranched near Rocky, Colorado.

But David was ailing. The rigors of pioneer life, combined with the chronic illnesses contracted in the Civil War, made it increasingly difficult for him to farm and ranch successfully. At age 46, David applied for an invalid pension. He received \$8.00 a month. This sum was raised to \$12.00 a month by the time of his death in 1899.

David is buried in Row 8 of the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery. A U.S. Government Civil War headstone marks his final resting place.

Bits and Pieces

A Chairperson is needed for the 2018 Benefit Auction (Saturday, October 20). Contact John Rakowski.

A Chairperson is still needed for Florissant Heritage Day (Saturday, July 28). Contact John Rakowski.

Don't forget to pay your dues!

Our Annual Meeting and Potluck is at noon on March 17 at the Florissant Library. Elections will be held at this important (and fun) meeting, so try to be there.

Our Museum will be opening for the season sooner than we think! Sheila Naviasky will begin contacting docents to arrange the work schedule. If you are interested in becoming a docent and volunteering at our museum, contact her at sheilan@mesanetworks.net

2018 PPHS Annual Dues are Due March 1st

Amazon Smile Program

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know that you can benefit the Pikes Peak Historical Society every time you shop? Amazon has a program to support your favorite charity: Amazon will donate 0.5% of most purchases to your chosen charity, and PPHS is now registered as participating charity. Just go to smile.amazon.com to get started, and select Pikes Peak Historical Society from the list of charities.

Membership Information

If you have questions or need to make changes to your contact information, members may call 719-748-8259 and leave a message for a call back; or call President John Rakowski at 719-748-3861; or contact Brian Stewart, Membership Chairman, at jbcstewart@msn.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org.

March 1st is now the expiration date for all dues paying members. Your expiration date is shown on the address information of this newsletter. Memberships may be renewed either online through the PPHS website using PayPal or via the U.S. mail (PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816).

ATTENTION! The Editor is looking for articles, old clippings, old photos for upcoming newsletters. Email the Editor with your submission. daricezimmermann@gmail.com

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 Pikes Peak Historical Society at 719-748-8259 to secure your future at this historic site.

MEMBERSHIP



The Pikes Peak Historical Society (PPHS) 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.

Pikes Peak Historical Society 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 CR1 (across from the Florissant Post Office) and the Schoolhouse Museum, located at Teller County Roads CR31 and CR3 (Wildhorn Rd.).

Our Cemetery Committee manages the 1874 Florissant Pioneer Cemetery on behalf of Teller County. Our Beautification Committee sponsors an area-wide clean-up each spring and plants flowers throughout the town of Florissant. Our Chautauqua Committee sponsors free educational programs during the year and our Tree Committee researches and records Native American Culturally Scarred Trees. In addition, we maintain a fund for returning representatives of the Ute tribe to their sacred mountain, Tava, each year. If you become a Docent (Museum Volunteer), you act as host at the Museum, and meet wonderful, exciting people from all over the world.

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 10% discount on all items at the Museum Gift Shop.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print):

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ e-mail1: _____

e-mail2: _____

I prefer Newsletter by: Email____, US Mail____, both Email and US Mail____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

___ Sustaining \$20/year

___ Family \$30/year

___ Supporting \$50/year

___ Castello Life \$200

COMMITTEE INTERESTS

___ Auction ___ Cemetery ___ Chautauqua

___ Geocaching ___ Heritage Day ___ Hwy 24 Cleanup

___ Kiosk ___ Museum ___ Trails

___ Trees

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ DATE: _____

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:
www.pikespeakhismuseum.org

For more information, call John at 719-748-3861. Thank you.

(Updated 6/8/2017)



Pikes Peak Historical Society
P.O. Box 823
Florissant, CO 80816

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