



NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022

Special Report: Teacherage

Exciting updates and improvements



I have been enjoying time outside (those wild strawberries feel so long ago now) and watching things growing around us. Summer is also when our community springs to life – neighborhood barbeques, yard sales, and of course the lovely series of Chautauquas put together by our wonderful volunteers.

Normally fall brings dormancy and rest after so much activity, but this year our historical society has an exciting endeavor. With the help of a generous donation from the Lindsey family, we are beginning the restoration on the Teacherage

Museum in Florissant. In this newsletter, you'll find stories of the past, the history of the building, and details of the restoration – and how you can help!

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Teacher Life: Anna Leone Engleking Rowe

By Robyn Proper



Children from the city are often surprised when they see their teachers out in a public place.

It is as if the students believe that their teacher lives at the school. Well, back in the day and in some places still today, teachers did live in a building right next to the school. The building was called a teacherage. In our community, one of those teachers was Leone Engelking Rowe.

Leone graduated from Colorado Springs High School in June of 1928. By June of 1932, she had earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Sociology from the State Agricultural College of Colorado at Fort Collins. She began her teaching career as a substitute teacher in Colorado Springs, and made her way to Florissant in December of 1933.

While she lived with another teacher in our little teacherage building, Leone taught first through fifth graders at the school in Florissant. She stayed in Florissant until 1935, and found time in her busy schedule to lead a Girl Scout Troop from 1934 until 1935.

The time in Florissant was only the beginning for Leone's teaching adventures. She went on to teach fifth grade at Limon Elementary the next year. She eventually became the Superintendent for the Platte County School District. She was even instrumental in establishing Platte Canyon High School in 1957.



Adele M Sweet Melfer (left) and Anna Leone Engelking Rowe (right)

An important educator in the history of Colorado began her career living in our teacherage and teaching at our small school. The town of Florissant was blessed to have Leone and other bright and adventurous people willing to become a part of the community and to help mold the minds of future citizens.

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Newsletter Committee

Eva Miranda	eva.miranda717@gmail.com
Robyn Proper	robynproper@gmail.com

About the Teacherage: An Update

By John Rakowski



The Pikes Peak Historical Society received a grant of \$5,000.00 from a local family to jump-start repairs and restorations of the Florissant School Teacherage building.

This is now the PPHS Teacherage Museum but it needs repairs to the doors and windows as well as the handicap entrance. In addition to the \$5,000.00 donation, we are seeking additional donations as the work is estimated to cost between \$7,000.00 and \$9,000.00.

We have already received an additional \$700.00 and the Open House at the Teacherage Museum will start an effort to search for additional donations of whatever size.

History of the Teacherage

This building started as a post office in Florissant but around 1900 it was moved to the present site and became a teacher's residence.

In 1950 it was converted into the Kindergarten/First Grade classroom. When the Florissant School closed in 1960 it was moved to Woodland Park to serve as a storage unit.

In 1991 the Florissant Heritage Society, which now is the Pikes Peak Historical Society, transported the building back to its Florissant location.

We will have the Teacherage open from 10 AM – 2 PM on October 15 in conjunction with the Art Show at the Grange (more details with Community Happenings) which was the original 1887 Florissant School.

We'll have volunteers at the Teacherage to explain more of its history along with some giveaway items for kids.

Let's help to preserve this interesting piece of our local history. Without repairs, it will slowly deteriorate and this historic gathering place for our community will be lost.

Florissant Pioneer Cemetery Project

Volunteers Needed

The Florissant Pioneer Cemetery is located at 634 County Road #421 (Upper Twin Rocks Road) in Florissant, Colorado. Burials are still conducted here for deceased Florissant residents.

The earliest burial in this cemetery is probably that of a child who died in 1874, but there are numerous unmarked graves with unknown dates. The oldest graves are on the hill in the vicinity of the flagpole. On August 27, 1886, Frank F. Castello, son of James and his neighbors John Wilson and Valentine Hamman applied to the county for a "Florissant Cemetery Association." Frank Castello and John Wilson were named as the Trustees. In November 1900, Frank Castello applied to have only himself named Trustee of the Florissant Cemetery Association. The record is vague after this date, and the cemetery fell into disrepair in the early to mid-1900s. The Florissant Heritage Foundation began voluntary cemetery maintenance in 1988. In March 1992, the District Court in Teller County named them as Trustee of the Cemetery. The Florissant Heritage Foundation was renamed Pikes Peak Historical Society in 2001.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Remapping of the newer part of the cemetery has been completed and PPHS needs a couple of volunteers to handle routine operations of the cemetery. This involves maintaining MS Excel spreadsheet records of burials, physical maps, records of reservations of burial plots, meet qualified families to reserve plots, coordination with placement of burials and headstones and coordination of volunteers for any necessary maintenance. The two volunteers would coordinate closely with the PPHS President and another PPHS officer in order to properly function as a Cemetery Board. Living within less than a half hour travel time from the cemetery is desirable.

Kiosk Cleanup



The lovely green background from such a great

A special thank you to Lois and Fritz for taking down a dead tree at the Florissant sign by the kiosk. Also, a thank you to the Coalition for the Upper South Platte for their generosity at the Divide Slash Pile!



Twin Creek Ranch

A geocache by Pikes Peak Historical Society
Hidden: 04/25/2016
N 38° 57.016 W 105° 18.334

Part 3

Subsequent Owners of the Ranch

In 1901, Charles Sisler sold Twin Creek Ranch to Dora M. Allen for "one Dollar and other valuable consideration." William C. and Dora Allen owned and operated the Florissant Mercantile since 1892, so it is very likely that Sisler used Twin Creek Ranch to grubstake his activities in Cripple Creek. The miner's registry in Cripple Creek lists Sisler as a miner there during this period. The Allen's also continued to operate Twin Creek Ranch as a working cattle ranch, and registered their brand as the number "12" over a crescent.

In 1892, William C. Allen bought the Florissant Mercantile and combined it with the post office. The store was called the Florissant Mercantile Company. Allen's brother, Silas, and his father, William P., owned and operated a Saw Mill near Wilson Lakes, about a mile south of Twin Creek Ranch. (Incidentally, William C. and Silas – the brothers – married sisters, Dora and Flora Dodge.) Dora's father, Jonathan E. Dodge, Jr., operated the drug department of the store.

The Florissant Mercantile Company had everything from groceries, general merchandise, and furniture in addition to drugs and the post office. In the back of the store there was farm machinery of every kind. A set of wagon scales was installed in front of the store sometime between 1919 and 1923. The Mercantile was in service for forty-four years. William C. also served as justice of the peace for Florissant. In the late 1880s, William C. had an accident with his horse, when it fell, pinning him underneath. His leg was crushed, and blood poisoning set in so that the leg had to be amputated. His neighbor, Atlanta Georgia Thompson remembered the event in her book *Daughter of a Pioneer*:

"While I was in bed [her leg had just been amputated, ca 1887] a young man by the name of Will Allen came to see me and asked me if I was taking morphine and I told him that I had taken it, that I thought it had saved my life and he said, 'Well, they could cut all my arms and legs off and I would never take it again.' He could sympathize with me perhaps more than the rest of my friends or family because about five years before a horse had fallen on him and crushed his foot. He was from a ranch about three miles west of Florissant and about twelve miles from our place [Silas Thompson ranch, Divide]. His aunt, a physician from California, happened to be visiting his people. They were on their way to Colorado Springs to have his foot taken care of and arrived at our little 'life saving station' about twelve o'clock at night. His father was driving the team, and his aunt was in the wagon taking care of him. They stopped at our house to see if we had room for them and when we assured them we would make room the aunt decided to send on to Manitou and have another doctor come up there. Silas got one of the hired men up and sent him on horseback after the doctor. The next morning when the doctor arrived, he said there was nothing to do but to take the leg off. The doctors did this at our house and the very next day they made Will a bed in the wagon and took him to Manitou. After he had been there a few days, the doctors took some more of his leg off. If he had not been well and strong, he could not have stood it."

You can still feel the indentation made by William's wooden leg in the doorway to the dining room at Twin Creek Ranch. After William's death in 1936, his sons, William E. and Clyde continued to operate the ranch for their mother. In 1946, Dora M. Allen sold the ranch to Alexander C. Kirk. She passed away in 1958.

Community Happenings

Our volunteers are the best around. However, because we want to keep everyone safe, we will not be having a Christmas get-together this year. We're hoping that next year we'll be able to hold an outdoor volunteer event.

Meet the Teacherage

October 15 10 AM-2 PM | The Grange

Instead of our usual auction, we're focusing on raising funds for the Teacherage this year!

Join us for an art show featuring local artists and an open house of the Teacherage. Board members will be there to talk about the museum's history and share details of future restoration projects. We'll have water and cookies for all, along with school supplies, coloring sheets, and other activities for kids.

There will be some never-before-seen items on display!

New Displays

Swing by the Florissant Library to see the new display cabinet. We're excited not just to have this new space, but also to be able to rotate the items displayed frequently.

As part of our excitement for the Teacherage, we've also curated new items to help people learn about this museum space. Come to the open house to learn something new from our interesting displays.

Gee, Thanks!

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

Thank you to those who have donated to the Teacherage Restoration so far – Jack & Jean Lindsey, Debbie Rakowski, and Harold & Celinda Kaelin.

Thank you to all that contributed time, energy, and attention to this year's Florissant Day event. It was great to see so many friendly faces!



John Rakowski and a museum guest

Smiling faces!



Robyn's welcoming face in the Teacherage during Florissant Days

Amazon Smile Program

Your Amazon shopping can benefit the Pikes Peak Historical Society. The Amazon Smile program donates .5% of most purchases to your chosen charity, and we're a registered participating organization.

To start donating, go to smile.amazon.com and select Pikes Peak Historical Society from the list of charities. That's it!

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 Lois Voeltz, Membership Chairman, at PPHSMembers@gmail.com; or use the 'Contact Us' form via the website:

www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org

Memberships may be renewed either online through the PPHS website using PayPal or via the U.S. mail (PO Box 823, Florissant, CO 80816).

Remember you have the option of receiving your Newsletter by email or regular mail.

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 \$400 are requested for a full burial, and only \$200 for cremains. Call Pikes Peak Historical Society at 719-748-8259 to secure your future at this historic site.

ATTENTION! The Editor is always looking for articles, old clippings, old photos, and story ideas for upcoming newsletters.

Email the Editor with your submission or to set up an interview. eva.miranda717@gmail.com

Please send us your memories of our area "back in the day."

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. 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 ___ Beautification ___ Cemetery

___ Geocaching ___ Hwy 24 Cleanup ___ Museum

___ Refreshments for Chautauqua

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ _____ DATE: _____

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

OR JOIN ONLINE AT:
www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org



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P.O. Box 823
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