

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

Into Spring

A Refreshing Return



While the winter has been a cold one and I always wish for a wet one, it has been restful! I feel like our projects around the house are getting done at a great pace and I'll have some momentum to carry me through spring. It seems like the world is coming back from a big hibernation and using the time spent resting to reflect on what to do next.

While there are so many events and projects to look forward to with our historical society, I'm most looking forward to seeing you all! I've

enjoyed learning so much by writing this newsletter and I can't wait to build fresh connections with our community members! More on our year ahead in later pages.

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Community Happenings

February

February 19, 2:00 pm

Lake George Charter School

Chautauqua: George Frost's Mansion and General Store by Craig Karlin

March

March 19, 2:00 pm

Lake George Charter School

Annual Meeting

Join us for an overdue meeting. We'll discuss a recap of 2022 and nomination and election of the board. This even will also celebrate (with cake) the Mortgage payoff, originally planned for March 2020.

April

April 16, 2:00pm

Lake George Charter School

Chautauqua: History of Mining in the Crystal Peak Area by Dr. Mark Jacobson

Late April (date TBD)

PPHS Museum

Museum Clean-Up day

Bring your feather duster and your rubber gloves to help us get ready to open the museum for the season! More information to come.

May

May 6

PPHS Museum

Museum opening for the season

Starting May 6, the museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4pm.
Memorial Day weekend Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon 1-4pm

May 29, 10:30 am

Florissant Pioneer Cemetery

Event: VFW Post 1141 Memorial Day event

Late May (Date TBD)

Florissant

Highway 24 cleanup sponsored by PPHS

June

June 18, 2:00 pm

Lake George Charter School

Chautauqua: Castello Family Stories and Historical Novel Signing with Bob Cox

2022 PPHS Board of Directors

John Rakowski, *President*

Scott Adams, *Vice President*

Carolynne Forster, *Treasurer*

Barbara Hickok, *Secretary*

Members at Large

Lois Voeltz, *Membership Chair*

Diane Burton, *Board Member at Large*

Robyn Proper, *Board Member at Large*

Jeff McCammon, *Board Member at Large*

Other Chairs

Wayne Johnston, *Facebook & Website Chair*

Marianne Mogon, *Chautauqua Chair*

Sheila Naviasky, *Museum Docent Chair*

Kathy Perry, *Geocache Chair*

Advisory Board

AJ Hotchkiss

Celinda Kaelin

Sally Maertens

Lenore Hotchkiss

Brian Stewart

Newsletter Committee

Eva Miranda

eva.miranda717@gmail.com

Robyn Proper

robynproper@gmail.com

Geocaching Update

By Kathy Perry

Since June 2022, PPHS geocaches have been found 111 times and 17 new favorite points have been awarded by geocachers. Total PPHS geocaching finds to date are 1,328.

Some interesting comments from geocachers who found the Pioneer Cemetery cache:

I have visited this peaceful place before, but had no idea all the history that is resting here. Once again, thank you for such a wonderful cache and the history that you shared with it. Awesome job PPHS.

I love history so thanks for all the research put into this one. Nicely kept cemetery.

Also, comments from the Teacherage cache:

Shamed to say, we live just a few miles from here and pass this wonderfully historical site on the way to our friends house all the time and NEVER KNEW!!! Read every word of the info under the description prior to our search. Thank you for putting a cache here so others can share in this awesome history. Can't wait to share this with our friends, that live just a few houses down, who by the way we are just introducing them to the exciting world of geocaching. What a great way to start their geocaching adventures.

Some fun facts about Geocaching -

August, 2022 was the 20th Anniversary of Geocaching.

Since March 1, 2022, over 1,000 CITO (Cache In Trash Out) Events have taken place in more than 40 countries! Over 11,000 geocachers decided to beautify and restore communities around the world through CITO Events. Each Event is a testament to care—for ourselves, our communities, and our planet.

Florissant Library Displays

Our volunteers are people that enjoy connecting people with new information – so it is no surprise that there are many former teachers making things happen within our organization.

With a new librarian, Jennie Tesch, at the Florissant Library we also have a new cabinet at the library where we're displaying items in the off-season while the museum is closed.

This has been an exciting new learning opportunity for members of our community, and a fun outlet for our volunteers. Thanks to Robyn and Lois for making this happen. They extend their gratitude to the board for sharing ideas! Some highlights from the cabinet include:

- Back to School
- Cemetery Learning
- Christmas Toys

Stop by our lovely community library to see the cases and say hello!

Teacherage Update

As of January 1, we have had \$7,483 total donations from over 15 individuals. These donations are specifically dedicated to the work we're doing at the teacherage. The two largest donations were from Jack and Jean Lindsey and from Jerry Panek.

We're excited about our progress, but still need additional funds and resources to accomplish what we need to.

Currently, our focus is on replacing the doors and windows on the building. We're trying to work to obtain historic reproductions at this time, as our efforts to find repurposed Victorian doors and windows have not been successful.

Make your donation to this project by mailing them to PO Box 823, Florissant, Colorado 80816 with a memo of TEACHERAGE.

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.

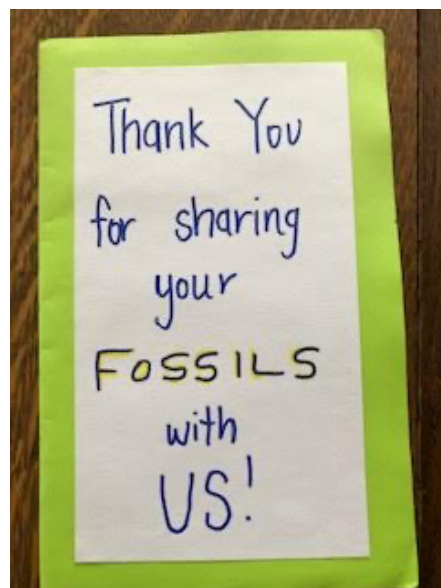
Gee, Thanks!

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

We received a special donation of \$2,500 from Park State Bank. Park State Bank & Trust was our mortgage company for 15 years and also has been a strong financial supporter during that time to the present. They believe in supporting the local community non-profits and PPHS appreciates their locally-oriented attitude.

Thanks for the Fossils

In this special edition, we have a thank you to PPHS that comes to us by way of Kathy Perry. She says *"Last fall one of our members daughter who is a teacher in Austin Texas, contacted PPHS to request some fossils for a lesson in her class."*



Amazon Smile Program Update

Unfortunately, Amazon has discontinued their Smile program, which allowed people to easily secure a donation for our organization while they were doing their shopping. While we will miss this program, we are very grateful for those that have participated over the years.

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.



February 2023

Membership Dues Renewal Time

Dear PPHS member,

March 15, 2023 is the date for your yearly membership renewal. The PPHS Board is **GRATEFUL** for your continued support of the Pikes Peak Historical Society and we're hoping that your yearly support will continue. If this is impossible for you this year, please let us know. We are looking forward to 2023 being a great year for all of us to celebrate the wonders of the Pikes Peak region!

~Lois Voeltz Membership PPHSmembers@gmail.com (719) 650-7984

Dues payment may be made on-line by choosing "Get Involved" at: www.pikespeakhsmuseum.org

Or print the form shown below; include all information and mail with your check to:

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

PLEASE PRINT:

NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PPHS NEWSLETTER: ____email ____US mail ____email and US mail

CHECK MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

____SUSTAINING \$20/YEAR

____FAMILY \$30/YEAR

____SUPPORTING \$50-\$100/YEAR

____CASTELLO LIFE \$200

I'd like to help out with other members on one of the following committees:

____AUCTION ____MUSEUM ____CEMETERY ____BEAUTIFICATION

____GEOCACHING ____HWY 24 CLEANUP ____TEACHERAGE

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$_____ **DATE**_____



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