



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

Opportunities abound

How you can be involved in supporting PPHS

The sun is out, the mud is drying, and I have spring fever in the best way. There is so much to look forward to—not just with the pastures slowly turning green.

I've so enjoyed being able to attend more events and meeting more of the awesome people involved with our organization, and I can't wait for more this year!

This newsletter talks about our upcoming events and ways to connect more with other members.

And as a special bonus, Barbara shared her cookie recipe. Her cookies were the second most talked about thing at our annual meeting, right behind our new board member Wayne Orlowski.

Since we still have a few more weeks of winter and a few more weeks inside that also means a few more weeks for research. We'd love to hear what people have been curious about so we can share what we find in the newsletter!

Community Happenings

April

April 19, 10:00 am | Museum Clean-Up Day
Florissant Heritage Museum

Spend a few hours getting the museum ready for the season. Dusting, vacuuming, and light scrubbing is usually involved. (In case of inclement weather, clean up will be April 20th)

April 21, 2:00 pm | Forgotten Female Felons
Lake George Charter School

April Chautauqua featuring Award-winning Colorado author, Sherry Skye Stuart who will be speaking on her newest book in progress, "Forgotten Female Felons".

May

May 18-19, 9:00 am | Adopt a Highway Roadside Cleanup

Spend some time outside and with other volunteers clearing up the roadside of Highway 24 through Florissant. PPHS has sponsored this stretch of road for many years. **We need at least 10 volunteers to continue sponsoring the road**, so please join us. Email Scott with questions.

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April Chautauqua

Pikes Peak Historical Society is thrilled to announce their April Chautauqua featuring Award-winning Colorado author, Sherry Skye Stuart who will be speaking on her newest book-in-progress, "Forgotten Female Felons". This Chautauqua will be April 21 at Lake George Charter School.

"Forgotten Female Felons" is a book of short fiction stories about the early women incarcerated in the Territorial, then Colorado State Prison, from 1872 to the early 1900s. The bones of the stories are based on facts, then woven with elements of history, culture, and human nature, specifically female.

"This is a unique book about an overlooked piece of the American west. These women's stories are just as valid, real, and interesting as the explorers and soldiers, outlaws, and cowboys," said Stuart.

"All of us have thoughts and acts we keep secret, and the female felons are no different. How many of them played over and over in their minds the choices they had made, wishing for a second chance? These women are part of the tapestry of life that we all are part of the darker rougher side that we learn from vicariously," she added.

"I have hope that each female felon left prison determined to put her prison experience behind her and welcomed home by her family and friends. I also believe that by explaining the social and cultural context of the times in which these women lived, that the reader will have a better understanding of their experiences. I hope I have managed, in some small way, to restore the dignity and worth of these women," she said.

Stuart has lived in the Rocky Mountains for over fifty years. Over forty of those years were spent in Fremont County Colorado raising nine children and being active in the community. She is an author, writer, artist, and yoga teacher and has authored four books on Local History: *The Early History of Penrose Colorado*, *The Forgotten*

2023 PPHS Board of Directors

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Cemeteries of Beaver Creek, Pioneer Women of Beaver Creek, and San Juan Bautista Cemetery.

She was the 3rd Place winner in the 2023 Women Writing the West LAURA Short Fiction Contest, for her story *Mayfield*, one of the female felons in her upcoming book.

Stuart has been a middle school librarian, curator of the Penrose History Exhibit, substitute teacher, and museum curator. She served on the Fremont County Heritage Board and the Florence Pioneer Museum Board. She is currently a member of the Fremont County Historical Society and the Florence Historical Preservation Committee. And she writes a Local History column for The Florence Reporter.

Stuart holds two associate degrees from Pueblo Community College, Fremont Campus, in Library Science and Fine Arts (History) and is a Registered Yoga Teacher with Yoga Alliance and a Certified YIN yoga teacher.

A Day in the Life

About docents at PPHS

As time goes on, every organization expects to see some change in volunteers. At PPHS it is a little harder because our volunteers are so wonderful, so reliable, and so crucial to the museum and community.

Our count of available docents dropped significantly for this coming 2024 summer season, and we need your help. Of course, while we would love to think that is all it takes for you to want to sign up we have more information about the role, responsibilities, and of course benefits.

As John says, Every member is important. Every docent is important. They really keep the museum open. And a museum isn't all that good if people can't get into it.

Without docents, we cannot open the Museum and much of the reason for PPHS fails. All we seek would be additional docents to volunteer a few hours once a month during the Museum's open season. Please consider contacting our Docent Coordinator Sheila Naviasky at 719-748-0102 to volunteer. She has an excellent orientation class that will teach you all you need to know for the duty in just an hour or two. In between visitors, you'll get a chance to meet and talk with some of our other interesting docents. This is a nice way to do something for our community while meeting interesting people.

This newsletter editor would also like to add that we have a wonderful person, who is an expert scheduler. I have never seen anyone schedule so many volunteers with such great communication and positivity. That is to say that she does a lot of work to make it much easier for people to be involved. Thanks Sheila!



What is a docent?

A docent is another way of saying a greeter so don't be put off by that term. Our docents are valuable assets to PPHS because they serve to greet visitors to the museum and orient them to the general categories of our collection. They are not meant to be experts on the history and background of every item in the museum, but they should try to make the visitors feel welcome and help them with very general questions. It's fun to meet people from throughout the US who come to visit as well as the occasional international visitor.

Answers to the most commonly asked questions

- No, the road alongside the museum does not go to Pikes Peak.
- The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is just a few minutes south of the museum.
- The restroom is around the corner left from the quilt and glass case.

It is important that we have at least two volunteer docents at the museum whenever it is open. We have a list of persons volunteering but we do need additional docents because it is inevitable that some will be out of town, some will have other obligations, and unexpected things happen. We try to have docents volunteer once a month but are always happy to give docents more time at the museum if they'd like.

Break and Bake Cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ tsp kosher salt
- 1 ½ tsp baking soda
- 1 ½ cups packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs
- 2 large egg yolks
- 1 Tbsp pure vanilla extract
- 4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 2 cups mix-ins (like chopped chocolate, chopped dates, toasted nuts, toasted coconut, etc.

1. Line a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with parchment paper, coat with non-stick spray.
2. Whisk flour, salt, and baking soda in a medium bowl. Whisk brown sugar, oil, granulated sugar, and melted butter in a large bowl until combined. Add eggs, egg yolks, and vanilla. Whisk until smooth. Stir in flour mixture until just combined. Stir in oats and mix ins.
3. Press dough into prepared dish. Cut into quarters (cutting all the way through to the parchment), and then make shallow cuts, creating 12 squares in each quadrant (do not cut all the way through).
4. Cover dish with plastic wrap and freeze until dough is solid, about 1 hour. Unwrap, separate dough quadrants, and place in 4 freezer bags. Stack bags in freezer until ready to use.
5. To bake, heat oven to 350°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Break dough along scored cuts; place on sheet 2 inches apart. Bake, rotating halfway through, until edges are set and golden but centers are soft – 12 to 14 minutes (cookies will crisp as they cool). Let cool on wire racks.

Special thank you to Barbara Hickock for this great recipe!

125th Anniversary Proclamation

WHEREAS, Teller County, Colorado, celebrates a significant milestone in its history, marking the 125th anniversary of its founding on March 8, 1899, drawing territory from El Paso and Fremont Counties to encompass the Gold Camp and surrounding lands and

WHEREAS, the land now known as Teller County has a rich history dating back thousands of years, inhabited by Indigenous peoples, including the Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne tribes, who revered the majestic Pikes Peak, known as “Tava”. A sacred place, and

WHEREAS, the discovery of gold in the late 19th century sparked the Cripple Creek Gold Rush, transforming the Gold Camp region, with Cripple Creek and Victor becoming synonymous with prosperity and opportunity, and

WHEREAS, the construction of several railroads to service the Gold Camp and other destinations West, namely the Midland Railroad, Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad, Colorado Springs, and Cripple Creek District Railroad, and the Colorado Midland Railway, played a pivotal role in the growth and development of Teller County, facilitating the transport of goods, people, gold ore and materials, and

WHEREAS, Teller County’s natural beauty, including the stunning vistas of Pikes Peak America’s Mountain, has captivated visitors for generations, leading to the growth of tourism as a vital component of the county’s economy, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Teller County have shown resilience, community spirit, and dedication to preserving the heritage and natural resources of the remarkable region,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed, the Teller County Board of County Commissioners hereby recognizes and celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding, honoring its Native American history, the legacy of the World's Greatest Gold Camp and subsequent Gold Rush, the importance of railroads in shaping its development, and the enduring impact of tourism on its economy and culture.

IN WITNESS of whom, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the Seal of Teller County to be affixed this 19th day of March 2024.

While the current population of Teller County is just shy of 24,000 there has been a strong presence of humans for much longer than 125 years.

From Colorado Encyclopedia, “By the time the Spanish laid claim to present-day Colorado in the mid-sixteenth century, Ute Indians had occupied Colorado’s Rocky Mountains for nearly two centuries. The Utes in the Pikes Peak area knew the iconic mountain as “Sun Mountain” and called themselves “Tabeguache,” the people of Sun Mountain. The Utes were hunters, subsisting on elk, deer, and other mountain game. They also gathered a wide assortment of wild berries and roots, including the versatile yucca root.

The Utes moved with the seasons, traveling between higher and lower elevations along a route north of Pikes Peak known as Ute Pass. In the summer, they ascended the pass at present-day Divide and followed elk, bison, and other game into South Park. Just before winter, the Utes retreated down the pass to spend the coldest months camped near present-day Colorado Springs. By the mid-seventeenth century, the Utes obtained horses from the Spanish, and some Tabeguaches began hunting buffalo on the plains.

The Arapaho began frequenting the Pikes Peak area by the early nineteenth century, calling the mountain “Heey-otoyoo,” or “Long Mountain.” They developed a fierce rivalry with the Tabeguaches and other Ute bands, competing with them for hunting territory in South Park and other areas. To keep an eye on their enemies, the Utes built small stone fortifications on hillsides overlooking well-known routes through the mountains.

Gold was not the first geologic treasure unearthed from the rocks of Teller County. In 1870 Judge James Castello, a native of Florissant, Missouri, built a cabin at the intersection of several trade routes west of present-day Divide. Castello and his wife, Catherine, established a trading post that became popular among the Tabeguache, including the famous leaders Ouray and Colorow. In addition to trading with the Utes, the Castellinos would trade for the tired oxen and mules of white travelers, acquiring a sizeable herd for their ranch. By 1876, the town of Florissant, named for the Castellinos' hometown, had a population of around 70 as well as a school, a blacksmith, and three sawmills.

Membership reminder

It's (a little past) that time of year again for your Pikes Peak Historical Society Membership Renewal. The Renewal Form with instructions is on page 7 and the Board is hoping that you'll continue your Membership with PPHS.

YOU and your Membership are vital for the continuation of our Mission:

To encourage the preservation of the historical integrity of the Florissant region and the west slope of the Pikes Peak and to educate the public regarding the rich historical heritage of Florissant and the west slope of Pikes Peak.

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.

Gee, Thanks!

Thank you to our officers, board, and essential volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Thank you (again) for all who donated to make the Teacherage Door and Window project successful. Your time and monetary donations made a difference!

Thank you to Dan Harbour, who this editor mistakenly called Dan Harper. (and those who kindly helped with the correction)

Remembering...

PPHS Life Member Alan Smith passed away on Christmas Day 2023. Alan had a distinguished career as a top-notch Accounting expert and a fascinating travelling life. After seeing many parts of the world he chose this area to live.

Mountain Memorial Funeral Home has an interesting obituary you may view at this link: <https://www.mountainmemorialfh.com/obituary/Alan-Smith>

We lost PPHS Life Member Ed Zupancic who had a lifetime of public service in addition to many hours caring for the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery. Ed is now at rest in our cemetery. His extensive and interesting background may be viewed online at: [Obituary for Edward Zupancic | Mountain Memorial Funeral Home](#) (mountainmemorialfh.com)

Monetary donations keep PPHS running and keep our museum open. Did you know that you can have part of your Required Minimum Distributions from IRA accounts sent directly to PPHS as a donation? If so that amount is not included on your AGI total which may lower your tax rate on other income. Ask your mutual fund customer service for details on how to do this. Usually it's an easy form to take to a bank for a Signature Guarantee. Also, if you are a retiree from a medium to large company have you checked to see if they match cash donations you make to qualified charities? In some cases, companies may also make a cash grant to a qualified non-profit if you volunteer a certain number of hours work for the non-profit. Therefore PPHS would benefit from your volunteer work even more!

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 2024

Membership Dues Renewal Time

Dear PPHS member,

March 20, 2024 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 2024 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) _____

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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

CHECK COMMITTEE INTERESTS:

AUCTION MUSEUM CEMETERY BEAUTIFICATION

GEOCACHING HWY 24 CLEANUP TEACHERAGE

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



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