

THE QUILL

CHERRY CREEK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

Established in 1975

Volume XLIV, No. 1

April 2018

**NEXT MEETING:
Saturday, April 28, 2018
17 Mile House
8181 S. Parker Road**

Leigh Jeremias'
The Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

Leigh Jeremias of the Colorado State Library is excited to show you the changes made to the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, a free online resource. Join us to see the new look and learn about its new and improved features. You will also learn tips and tricks so you can effectively and efficiently search historic newspapers, which are excellent sources of historical and genealogical information.

Leigh is the Digital Collections Coordinator for the Colorado State Library. She manages the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection and the Plains to Peaks Collective, the Colorado-Wyoming Service Hub of the Digital Public Library of America. She has over 17 years experience managing collections in museums and special collection libraries.

Please note that this CCVHS meeting is being held at the 17 Mile House (8181 S. Parker Road). The Arapahoe County Open Spaces staff and the 17 Mile House Volunteers look forward to hosting this meeting and being available that afternoon to discuss anything about 17 Mile House with the Society and guests. *See invitation next page.*

At our last meeting we held our elections for secretary and treasurer of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society. Paige Kastens was elected secretary, and she will be helped in this role by her sister Emily Kastens. Ruth Fountain was reelected treasurer. Congratulations to Paige, Emily, and Ruth.

Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society Quarterly Meeting
"Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection"
by Leigh Jeremias, Colorado State Library

Saturday, April 28, 2018 – 1pm to 4pm
17 Mile House Farm Park
8181 So. Parker Rd., Centennial, Co 80116

Please join the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society for their quarterly meeting with guest speaker Leigh Jeremias.



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The Colorado State Library is excited to show you the changes made to the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, a free online resource. Join us to see our new look and learn about our new and improved features. You will also learn tips and tricks so you can effectively and efficiently search historic newspapers; an excellent source of genealogical information.

Following the program there will be a short history presentation by Garry O'Hara (CCVHS president), a property tour, and a guided walk to the Cherry Creek with Casey Davenhill of the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners. 17 Mile House Volunteers in costume will present demonstrations with spinning and butter churning. Open Spaces staff will share restoration and future property plans. Event and refreshments sponsored by Arapahoe County Open Spaces.



For more information contact: Charles Kastens 720-886-8239



OUR PREVIOUS MEETING

Our Speaker A.S. "Murph" Widdowfield's program was on "The Cold War and Rocky Flats." He first spoke of the reasons the Cold War came to be and why the Rocky Flats nuclear plant was needed to counter Soviet advances in nuclear weapons. He showed an aerial view of the Rocky Flats plant and pointed out key facilities in producing the nuclear components. It was a large family there, he said, and all ex-workers he has talked with would have their jobs back if they could. He spoke at length about the employees having to change clothes before working in secure "hand boxes" to fashion the nuclear components. The plant is abandoned now and is not a hazard to those who live nearby. While the plant was in operation the entire area was monitored by sensors to detect hazardous byproducts; none of these sensors ever detected radioactive materials in the air or water around the facility. He explained the difference between Rocky Flats and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal: Rocky Flats was a civilian operation for making nuclear components under the Department of Energy; the Arsenal was a military operation under the Department of Defense for making chemical weapons.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

On Saturday April 14th the Larkspur Historical Society is hosting a presentation by Dr. Robert Malin on Civil War medicine. This program will be given from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in a meeting room of the Philip S. Miller Library, 100 S. Wilcox St., Castle Rock 80104 (303-791-7323). Dr. Malin is a retired surgeon who belongs to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, was named the Alaska State Physician of the Year for 1978, and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

12 MILE HOUSE PLAQUE DEDICATION

All members are invited to the dedication of a commemorative plaque at Cherry Creek State Park on Thursday April 19 at 1:00pm. The plaque marks the general location of the 12 Mile House, which was a stopping place for travelers headed for Denver on the Smoky Hill/Cherokee Trail; it was 12 miles from Denver. The event is being held under the auspices of the Piney Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, CCVHS, and Cherry Creek State Park.

From the intersection of Parker Road and Lehigh Ave. (near where I-25 meets I-225), drive 0.6 mile to the Cherry Creek State Park ranger station. Tell the ranger that you're with the 12MH dedication group (you'll be waved by without having to pay). Then drive 0.1 mile and take your first left; drive 0.2 mile and again take a left. Then drive for 0.9 mile to the sign that says the Twelve Mile Area is to the left; go left at this point and drive 0.2 mile to the parking area near the restrooms. Park in this area and walk south on the path to the dog off-leash area. Go through the dog gate and veer to the right, continuing to walk south until you get to the people gathered for the dedication. Total walking distance is about a half-mile (wear appropriate shoes). RSVP to Denice Dirks at CODARDENICE@gmail.com or 303-548-2230 if you plan to attend.

HIGH LINE CANAL TRAIL HIKE

We are scheduling another hike along a segment of the High Line Canal trail on April 21. This easy hike will take us over about a mile of the trail in southeast Denver. Our hike will be led by Tom Waymire, director of the High Line Canal Preservation Association.

We will meet at the baseball field parking lot of Hampton Heights Park in southeast Denver. To get there from the corner of Hampden Ave. and Yosemite St., go north on Yosemite for about a half mile to where it curves left; go right at this point and follow Yosemite for a short distance to Cornell Ave. Turn right at Cornell and go five blocks to Boston Ave. Turn right at Boston and go two blocks to Dartmouth Ave. Turn left at Dartmouth and enter the parking lot.

Because we've had a poor turnout on these hikes, please call me by SUNDAY APRIL 15th if you're interested in going on this excellent field trip (so Mr. Waymire and I know how many members to expect).

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

(more information as we get closer to these events)

May 26	Plains Conservation Center (in Aurora)
June (date TBD)	Schweiger Ranch (in Lone Tree)
July (date TBD)	Cherry Creek Watershed
July 13	Rambler Ranch (near Elizabeth)

17 MILE HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Spring at 17 Mile House Farm Park brings flowers blooming and school children visiting! Volunteers are busy cleaning flower beds and watering flowers and young trees. We are looking for many volunteers to help at a large school event on May 15-16. The West Middle School Water Festival will be held **at Cherry Creek State Park** from 9am-2pm. The 17 Mile House Volunteers and Arapahoe County Open Spaces are working with Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners, Denver Public Works, and Cherry Creek State Park for outdoor education lessons for 240 -6th grade students each day. Volunteer opportunities include helping with pre-planned lessons (water issues, local animals, and Cherry Creek Valley history) as well as greeters, pedestrian control, timekeeper, and setup/cleanup. If you are interested in joining us for a fun day outside or want more information, please contact Karen Sear at ksear@arapahoegov.com or 303-514-2094. *See poster on next page.*

Volunteers Needed to Share The History of Cherry Creek!

Join us for the West Middle School Water Festival
Tuesday, May 15 and Wednesday, May 16 2018
9am-2pm each day outdoors at *Cherry Creek State Park*
with education lessons for 240 6th-grade students each day.

Help teach the History of Cherry Creek:

Lesson facilitators needed for the history education station.
Each volunteer will share information with 10-15 students
for each 20-minutes rotation. History is 1 of 8 stations.
4 rotations 9:30-11:30am; lunch; 4 rotations 12n-1:30pm
Training and all materials will be provided.

Other education stations and general help:

Skins & Skulls, Keystone Species, Water Quality Testing,
Water Purification, Water Properties/H2Olympics, Macroinvertebrates,
greeter/guide, pedestrian/traffic control, golf cart driver,
timekeeper, lunch steward, cleanup

To sign up for a half or whole day, or if you have questions, please contact:

Karen Sear, Arapahoe County Open Spaces
17 Mile House Farm Park Volunteers
303-514-2094, ksear@arapahoegov.com

Water Festival Partners:



A BRIEF CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE MELVIN SCHOOL

1922 - The Melvin School was built in the NW1/4 of Section 13, T5S, R67W, Arapahoe County, Colorado on land donated by Hans Dransfeldt. The DeBoer brothers built the school for \$4,450. The original site was at the junction of Belleview Avenue and the old Sullivan Road (now Jordan Road) in Cherry Creek State Park. The school opened in September of 1922.

1949 - Families in the community of Melvin received condemnation papers telling them to move from the area in preparation for the building of the dam. The school was included in this area, and it closed its doors in June of 1949. The building was sold to J. Edwin Stout for \$1,500. He sold it to William Minshall who had it moved to the southwest corner of the intersection of Parker Road and Quincy Avenue (Section 12, T5S, R67W).

1953 - After extensive remodeling, the former schoolhouse opened as the Emerald Isle Tavern on Saint Patrick's Day. Glenn Barrier managed it as Glenn's Emerald Isle Tavern until 1970.

1975 - Five area residents who were interested in local history and in saving the old Melvin School incorporated and became the first Board of Directors of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, Inc. They persuaded Mr. Silverberg to donate the building to the Society in trade for their moving it elsewhere and leveling the site after the moving of the building. The Society's purpose was to restore the old Melvin School and to use it as a classroom-museum-library for the study and collection of local historical information.

1976 - Cherry Creek School District offered a site on the campus of Smoky Hill High School. It was moved on December 14, 1976.

1977-1981 - With the help of the community, the school district, and the historical society, the Melvin School was restored. The exterior was authentically restored as was one classroom. The second classroom, the one which originally had a stage, was adaptively restored into a museum and a library. A plaque which honors those who helped in the restoration has been engraved with the slogan: "Restored by the Community - For the Community."

1984 - The Melvin School was put on the National Register of Historic Places.

1988 - The City of Aurora honored the Melvin School as Aurora Historic Landmark #1.

The Quill is the quarterly newsletter of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society (CCVHS). The purposes of the Society are to study, record, preserve, and display the history of the Cherry Creek Valley and surrounding areas. Membership is open to anyone interested in this history. Quarterly general meetings are usually held at the Melvin Schoolhouse, 4950 S. Laredo St. (between Smoky Hill High School and Laredo Middle School) in Aurora, Colo. Correspondence concerning *The Quill* should be directed to Garry O'Hara, editor, at (303) 751-3140.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE HISTORY

Collect the past

Preserve the present

Plan for the future