

# The Quill

CHERRY CREEK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.  
Established in 1975

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## NEXT MEETING: TIME AND PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED

*Our next meeting will be the annual CCVHS meeting. At this meeting we will hold our elections for president, vice-president, and assistant secretary/treasurer. I will run again for president and Charles Kastens will run again for vice-president. The position of assistant secretary/treasurer is currently vacant. If you wish to run or nominate someone for any of these offices, please contact me (303-751-3140).*

Last year I was too optimistic in my field-trip expectations for 2018. As a result we weren't able to go on several of the later hikes because it was too cold outside or for other reasons. I wasn't aware that Prairie Canyon Ranch was now only open for guided tours, and by the time I got around to scheduling a tour there it was too cold. It was a similar story with the Cherry Creek watershed - the creek would have been too cold for an enjoyable field trip. I'll also have to rethink the planned hikes at Castlewood Canyon and Waterton Canyon - Castlewood may be too rocky and unstable for most of our members, and Waterton may not have enough shade; also, both these canyon hikes may be too long for us in their entirety. And the High Line Canal trail hike has been postponed to this coming spring.

So I'll have to do a better job of planning for this year. We'll discuss this at our meeting at the start of 2019. **Please come with your preferences for field trips and speakers.** It's your Society, so let's hear your ideas.

## OUR LOSS OF BERNICE WALLACE

We're sad to report the passing of long-time CCVHS member Bernice Wallace on September 13 at the age of 91. Her husband Art, who died in 2015, was one of the five persons who formed the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society in 1975. She and Art met as students at the University of Denver. Bernice was active in her church choir and other church activities. (We thank her good friend Marcia Monson for her donation to CCVHS in memory of Bernice.)

## MEMBER NEWS

We heartily thank Wynne Shaw for her generous donation to CCVHS. We also thank Wynne for drafting the e-card invitations for our meeting in September and sending out the e-card invitations for that meeting.

And thanks to Shirley Miller and Carl Sandberg for representing CCVHS at the October meeting of the Eastern Colorado Museums & Historical Societies in Burlington. Also thanks to Karen Sear for representing the 17 Mile House Farm Park volunteers and to Larry Schlupp for representing the Larkspur Historical Society and Historic Douglas County at the same meeting. The new address for Ruth Fountain is 1920 Edison St. #4, Brush CO 80723 (970-842-6429).

## **THE USS COLORADO**

In March of this year the U.S. Navy commissioned its newest ship, the USS Colorado (SSN-788). It is an attack submarine that is the 15th member of the Virginia class of submarines. Its cost of \$2.6 billion is offset somewhat by the fact that it is nuclear powered and will never need refueling in its estimated lifespan of 33 years. It can launch Tomahawk missiles and torpedoes. This vessel can travel at 25 knots (nautical miles per hour) and can engage other submarines, surface ships, and ground targets as well as deliver Special Operations Troops and conduct intelligence and surveillance operations. The USS Colorado has a galley named the Rocky Mountain Grille and a mess hall lined with Colorado photographs by John Fielder.

It's interesting to note that this new ship is the fourth American warship to be named the USS Colorado. The first was a frigate named after the Colorado River and was assigned to blockade Confederate access to southern ports during the Civil War. It may have seen action in the first naval engagement of the Civil War (according to some writers) and participated in other naval battles and the bombardment of North Carolina's Fort Fisher in January 1865.

The second USS Colorado was an armored cruiser that was commissioned in 1905. It traveled the globe before being renamed the USS Pueblo so that a large battleship (BB-45) could assume the state's name in the early 1900s.

According to the ship's website, "... the third Colorado [BB-45] served from 1923 to 1947 and saw probably more action during World War II throughout the Pacific than its predecessors combined. It supported landings on several islands, was hit 22 times by shore batteries during the Battle of Tinian, and was hit twice by two kamikazes, and still managed to keep going." Luckily, BB-45 was out at sea during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. This huge battleship was awarded seven battle stars for meritorious action in World War II.

## **THE GREAT FLU PANDEMIC OF 1918-1919**

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the great influenza pandemic of 1918-1919. The virus infected 500 million people worldwide and killed an estimated 50 to 100 million people (figures vary widely). At one point this "greatest medical holocaust in history" was killing a million people per week worldwide. And there was no vaccine or standard treatment. It occurred during World War I and caused more American deaths than all the wars of the last century combined. In Colorado it was fatal for nearly 8000 people, and it killed at least 1500 of the more than 13,000 Denverites who contracted it. Worse hit was Philadelphia, where the virus took over 12,000 lives.

It was called the "Spanish flu" because it was thought to have originated in Spain, but its actual source remains unknown. Reports of the illness among the belligerent nations of World War I were censored to maintain wartime morale, but reporters were free to describe its terrible effects in neutral Spain (further giving the impression that it started there.)

The 1918-1919 flu began as an average flu outbreak that was made much worse by the fact that it occurred during the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions of World War I. The first indications of the flu in the United States occurred at a military camp in Kansas. One theory for the source of the flu has it starting in military camps in the U.S. and spreading to troop staging areas in France. Another theory claims that it started in China, spread to the U.S. by Chinese laborers, mutated in the United States near Boston, and then spread to Europe's World War I battlefields. Regardless of where and how it started, it traveled the globe because of the close

quarters of World War I troops in military camps and hospitals and their movement throughout the world.

The 1918-1919 flu occurred in three waves from approximately the spring of 1918 to the summer of 1919. The first wave was characterized by reports of normal flu ailments: moderate cold symptoms, coughing, aching muscles, fever, and chills. As expected, healthier people recovered more quickly than weaker people. The first wave of the illness was often misdiagnosed as meningitis or other diseases. It infected a great many people but caused relatively few fatalities. The second wave took place in the late summer and autumn of 1918. The third wave was marked by fewer infections and deaths as the influenza slowly abated in mid-1919.

It was the second wave that caused the most suffering and death. In August 1918 the flu reappeared in Switzerland in an especially virulent and highly contagious form. Doctors noted that the virus was not only affecting each victim's nose and throat (as was normal for the flu), but the lower respiratory tract (lungs) as well. In early September, soldiers at Camp Devens near Boston began reporting to the Army hospital at an alarming rate. Bacterial pneumonia was becoming viral pneumonia. A doctor at the Camp Devens hospital wrote, "These men start with what appears to be an ordinary attack of LaGrippe or Influenza, and when brought to the Hosp. they very rapidly develop the most vicious type of Pneumonia that has ever been seen. Two hours after admission they have the Mahogany spots over the cheek bones, and a few hours later you can begin to see Cyanosis [turning blue] ... extending from their ears and spreading all over the face. It is only a matter of a few hours then until death comes. It is horrible.... We have been averaging about 100 deaths per day." Many died of secondary pneumonia, drowning from within as their lungs filled with blood and other fluids. The influenza spread across the United States in less than a month and shortened U.S. life expectancy by a dozen years. About 28% of the U.S. population was infected and at least 675,000 Americans died. It spread across the earth in only four months. Many flu cases were even recorded in tropical Pacific islands and above the Arctic Circle. It is estimated that about 5% of the population of India died of the disease. (October 1918 was the deadliest month of all.)

The second wave was most fatal to young adults aged 20 to 40. This was the opposite of usual flu strains, which targeted the very young and the very old. A possible reason for this is that the vibrant immune systems of young adults may have overreacted to the virus and ravaged the bodies of infected individuals (so-called "cytokine storms"). The immune systems of younger and older persons would have been weaker and therefore less likely to overreact and cause death.

The second-wave flu virus had mutated to a more lethal form in a short period of time. The usual mortality rate for the flu was 0.1%, but now it jumped to about 20%. Sickened victims were hemorrhaging from their noses and from various discolorations on their bodies. The soldiers in the trenches and field hospitals were among the most at risk, as were pregnant women. Those among the least at risk were the persons who had become immune by being infected in the first wave (or other flu epidemics) and living through it.

Even though it killed at least 3% of the world's population, some call the 1918-1919 flu outbreak "the forgotten pandemic" that has almost disappeared from our collective memory. The deadliest period of the pandemic coincided with the last days of World War I, and it was that war that stole most of the headlines. Jubilation set in when the war ended, and the United States and its allies won. The flu pandemic's miseries and deaths became associated with the war's

miseries and deaths. When the war was over, its horrors were best suppressed, forgotten, and so were the horrors of the pandemic.

This deadliest disease in history killed more people in a year than AIDS has killed in 40 years and more than the Black Death (bubonic plague) killed in the Middle Ages. (And it's estimated that two-thirds of all flu cases went unreported.) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rank "flu pandemic" as the "worst case scenario" we could face today. Throughout the pandemic public health officials and government officers tried to avert mass hysteria by telling the public that there was no cause for panic. Yet the people were greatly alarmed; they knew they weren't getting the straight word from their leaders who were more concerned with winning the war and appearing unaffected by the pandemic. This was true even as schools, churches, and theaters were closed; public meetings were banned; businesses were shuttered; mass graves were dug; once busy streets were deserted; the military draft was temporarily halted; quarantines were imposed; hospitals were overwhelmed; cities ran out of coffins; and everyone was wearing surgical masks. As historian John M. Barry wrote, "People could believe nothing they were being told, so they feared everything."

The contagion didn't kill a well-known person, although President Wilson and Mayor Speer were probably infected. It wasn't a disease that lingered in peoples' bodies for years like polio; rather, it quickly caused misery and often death and then left with hardly a trace. Students in school today know more about the Black Death of the Middle Ages than about the 1918-1919 flu. The *Rocky Mountain News* reported that, "[U]nlike AIDS, .... it produced almost no art, no theater, no literature of grief. Only one slender novella, Katherine Anne Porter's *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*, memorializes it." Ms. Porter, a *Rocky Mountain News* reporter, came down with the flu but survived. She wrote in 1918, ".... the streets have been full of funerals all day and ambulances all night." Most people cannot say when the three milder flu pandemics occurred in the last century (1957, 1968, and 2009).

In 2005 scientists exhumed the bodies of several 1918-1919 flu victims and obtained samples of their respiratory tissues in order to reconstruct and sequence the genes that caused the disease. In addition, the CDC has established several programs for identifying new and infectious viruses that spread from person-to-person and are, therefore, pandemic candidates. We now have preventive vaccines, antiviral drugs, and World Health Organization monitoring of potential outbreaks (including outbreaks among animals such as "bird flu" and "swine flu"). The only antidotes available in 1918-1919 were non-pharmaceutical measures for keeping the disease from spreading (wearing masks, washing hands, etc.). But the CDC says that today's methods will not work in every case and stresses that "flu is unpredictable, as are future pandemics."

#### SOURCES:

"Are We Prepared?," December 13, 2017, CDC bulletin; Barry, John M., "Journal of the Plague Year," *Smithsonian*, November 2017; Crosby, Alfred W., "America's Forgotten Pandemic: The Influenza of 1918," 1989; "History of 1918 Flu Pandemic," March 21, 2018, CDC bulletin; Leonard, Stephen J., "The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in Denver and Colorado," CHS Essay No. 9, 1989; "Remembering the 1918 Influenza Pandemic," May 7, 2018, CDC bulletin; Scanlon, Bill, "Recalling 1918's perilous plague," *Rocky Mountain News*, November 26, 2005; "Scientists finally may solve the 79-year-old mystery," *The Denver Post*, October 31, 1997; "The Flu Hunters," February 23, 1998, *Time*

#### NEW STATE HISTORIAN

On Colorado Day (August 1st) of this year, Tom Noel was named the new State Historian. Dr. Noel is professor of history and director of Public History, Preservation, and Colorado Studies at the University of Colorado at Denver. On the same day our state instituted a new Council of History Colorado to work under the State Historian to reach across the state to aid in interpreting the history of Colorado and the West.

## 17 MILE HOUSE NEWS

CCVHS member *Karen Sear*, who is now the Volunteer Services Specialist for Arapahoe County, writes: “Thank You, Volunteers! Arapahoe County Open Spaces greatly appreciates your generous hours of volunteer time and special talent to help share one of the County’s Heritage Properties, 17 Mile House Farm Park, with the local community. You have made it possible for the County to reach many visitors through all the interpretive programs at the Farm. A recent note from Ruth Race Dolan and Jack Race, who lived at 17 Mile House in the 1940s and 1950s, extends their heartfelt thanks for your help in 2018: To Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society and all other volunteers at the 17 Mile House: ‘You add much color to my life. I’m so thankful for the gift of friendship we share. May the Lord bless you – we do, Jack and Ruth’”

Here is the 2019 Open House schedule for 17 Mile House. All Open Houses are 9am to noon ([arapahoegov.com/openspaces](http://arapahoegov.com/openspaces)).

January 12	July 13
February 9	August 17
March 9	September 14
April 13	October 12
May 4	November 16
June 8	December 7

## FALL FEST AT 17 MILE HOUSE FARM PARK *by Paige Kastens, CCVHS secretary*

The annual Fall Fest at 17-Mile House was a huge success! Over 3500 guests visited this historic site on October 13th and had the opportunity to pick their favorite pumpkin from the patch, enjoy a scenic hayride, listen to live music, try their luck at gold panning, explore skins and skulls, experience farm life activities in the kids’ corral and say hello to their favorite barnyard friend in the petting farm, take a guided tour of the historic house, and explore Cherry Creek. Numerous volunteers, some of whom were from the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society, made all these activities possible and introduced this historical site to the members of the community who had not seen it before. Thanks to all CCVHS volunteers!

## OUR PREVIOUS PROGRAM *by Paige Kastens, CCVHS secretary*

On October 20, 2018, Larry Dorsey gave a fascinating presentation on the history of Colorado railroads to a small group of Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society members at the Melvin Schoolhouse. A retired history teacher from Boulder County, Mr. Dorsey is on the board of trustees for the Colorado Railroad Museum and has studied Colorado history for years. Mr. Dorsey started his presentation with the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1867 and went through the present, including trains that can be ridden today. The period photographs he showed, including then-and-now shoots by well-known photographer W.H. Jackson, made the

history of the railroad come alive. He explained train terminology, such as railroad grade and narrow gauge versus standard gauge. One thing I personally found fascinating were the names of some of the trains, the Galloping Goose and Pioneer Zephyr to be specific. I can definitely say that I learned some new, fascinating things about Colorado railroads.

### **NEW EXHIBIT AT HISTORY COLORADO**

The exhibit *Written on the Land: Ute Voices, Ute History* is now showing at History Colorado. This display shows the history of Colorado's longest continuous residents as told in their own voices. Featured is a collection of over 150 artifacts that includes many examples of Ute beaded clothing, tools, wooden saddles, baskets, jewelry, and contemporary crafts.

The History Colorado Center is located at 1200 Broadway, Denver 80203. It is open daily 10am-5pm and is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. General admission is \$14, seniors are \$12, students ages 16 to 22 are \$10, children ages 5 to 15 are \$8, and children ages 4 and under are free. (303-447-8679)

### **HAPPENINGS AT THE AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM**

*Drink Local: Aurora's Craft Beer Scene* is showing at the museum through April 7, 2019. Learn about the people, companies, and beverages of Aurora's dynamic craft beer industry.

Showing through March 10, 2019 is *Cultivating Community: Hoery Family Photos*. See local history through 100-year-old photos of the Hoery family, which helped shape early Aurora's community and created an enduring legacy.

The Brown Bag Lecture Series at the museum is featuring the following on the third Wednesday of the month from noon to 12:45pm (only \$4 or \$3 for Aurora residents; free for members of the Aurora Historical Society):

Jan. 16 - Beer Archeology (Travis Rupp of the Avery Brewing Co.)

Feb. 20 - Cider in Aurora (Daniel and Talia Haykin of Haykin Family Cider)

The Aurora History Museum is located at 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy. in Aurora 80012. It is open Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday-Sunday 11am-4pm, closed Monday. Admission is always free. (303-739-7000)

**The Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society  
wishes all of you a  
Happy New Year**