



THE QUILL

CHERRY CREEK VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Founded in 1975

Volume XXXVIII, No.1

February, 2012

NEXT MEETING:

Saturday February 18, 2012

1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Smoky Hill Library, meeting room B

5430 South Biscay Circle, Centennial, CO 80015

Annual Meeting and Program

John Dale and Jennifer Kuehner present

“Historic School Buildings in Cherry Creek and Aurora Public Schools”

This meeting will be the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society. At this meeting, John Dale and Jennifer Kuehner will present a very informative program on historic school buildings in the Cherry Creek and Aurora school districts. John and Jennifer are members of the Aurora Historical Society.

The Cherry Creek schools will include the Melvin Schoolhouse, with which we are all familiar. It was built in 1922 near the corner of Belleview and Jordan and was later moved to become the original Emerald Isle tavern. It was then moved to its current location near Smoky Hill High School, and its restoration became the impetus for the forming of our historical society. We will also learn about the history of the old Cunningham School at the corner of Mississippi and Dayton. The building was constructed in 1924 and was one of the first schools to join the Cherry Creek School District. John and Jennifer also will talk about the history of some of the oldest schools in Aurora Public Schools (the official name of which, they tell us, is Adams-Arapahoe Joint District #28). These schools include Sable School at 26th and Sable and Crawford School at 16th and Florence. Their presentation also will include discussions of the origins and development of these two school districts in our area.



Photo Courtesy of Aurora History Museum – Coal Creek School House.

John Dale has spent most of his life in the field of education. He taught in Aurora and was principal at several elementary schools there. He has been a member of the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission and the state Historic Preservation Review Board. He earned a degree in history at the University of Colorado and received an M.A. in Colorado history at Colorado College. He and his wife Anne are CCVHS members who reside in Aurora.

Jennifer Kuehner is the Executive Director of the Aurora History Museum and has worked in museums for over 22 years. She earned a degree in history at Colorado College and a master's in teaching and museum education at George Washington University in DC. After 20 years, she is glad to be back in her hometown of Aurora.

After John and Jennifer's presentation, CCVHS will hold its Annual Meeting which will include Officer Elections, Bylaws Amendment Vote, Treasurer's Report, 17 Mile House Book Update, and Activities/Priorities List for 2012. Details of each of these items follows.

We need everyone's input to help keep CCVHS thriving and looking towards its mission – please support us by attending this meeting or contacting the board with your thoughts and suggestions. Thank you!

OFFICER ELECTIONS

At this meeting we will hold the election of our secretary and treasurer. Our current secretary, *Karen Sear*, and our current treasurer, *Kevin Sear*, have agreed to run again for their respective offices (two-year terms). Please contact Garry O'Hara (303-751-3140) if you wish to run for either of these positions or if you want to nominate someone for an office (after getting that person's permission).

BYLAWS AMENDMENT VOTE

An amendment to the CCVHS bylaws will also be voted on at this February meeting. Currently Section 2 of Article III ("Classification, Voting Privileges, and Dues") lists the classifications of CCVHS membership (youth, adult, couple or family, life, etc.) as well as the dollar amounts of each classification's dues. Also, the current bylaws stipulate that each membership classification is accorded one vote per election (with the exception that "one vote each adult" is accorded to those who hold a "couple or family" membership).

The amendment that has been approved by the CCVHS Board of Directors and offered to the membership for a vote is as follows:

Strike the current list of membership classifications and dues under Section 2 of Article III and replace it with the statement:

Membership classifications and dues will be determined by the Board of Directors as necessary. For a classification that may include more than one adult (such as "couple or family"), the voting privilege shall be "one vote per adult."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Below are the unaudited financial statements of the Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society. These statements are prepared using not for profit accrual accounting. All material revenues and expenses have been accrued to reflect the period that they will benefit. The Inventory account is used to record books purchased for resale. As of December 31, 2011 CCVHS held a total of \$130.00 worth of inventory. \$50.00 of this was purchased from Ruth Dolan for five copies of her book "*Tales from the 17 Mile house with Prairie Chicken*". We are also hold eight copies of Lee Whiteley's book "*The Cherokee Trail*" for a total value of \$80.00. Lee provided these copies to the CCVHS with the understanding that we will reimburse him his cost per book of \$5.00 when we sell them. This \$40.00 liability has been recorded in the accounts payable account. The \$100 prepaid expense is used to record our payment to the Molly Brown House for speaker's fees for the upcoming April 2012 presentation. The accounts payable account is used to record amounts due to others. The bulk of this amount is due to the Karen Sear to reimburse her for expenses incurred on behalf of CCVHS, mostly for the printing and mailing of the Quill.

Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society
Comparative Statement of Net Assets
December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2011

	December, 31 2011	December, 31 2010
Assets		
Cash	\$ 4,838.96	\$ 5,342.92
Inventory	130.00	-
Prepaid Expense	100.00	-
Total Assets	\$ 5,068.96	\$ 5,342.92
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 104.54	\$ 558.34
Total Liabilities	104.54	558.34
Net Assets		
Clarice Crowle Fund	374.72	374.72
Unrestricted	4,589.70	4,409.86
Total Net Assets	\$ 4,964.42	\$ 4,784.58

Clarice Crowle Fund Detail

Beginning Balance	\$ 374.72	\$ -
Total Amount received - 13 donors	-	655.00
Expenses		
Memorial Plaque	-	224.96
Special edition of the Quill	-	55.32
Total Amount Expended	-	280.28
Ending Balance	\$ -	\$ 374.72

Inventory - Held for resale

5 copies of 17 Mile House Book	\$ 50.00	\$
8 copies of Cherokee Trail Book	80.00	
Ending Balance	\$ 130.00	\$ -

Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society
Comparative Statement of Activities
Years ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2011

	Year Ended December 31, 2011	Year Ended December 31, 2010	Percentage Change
Revenue			
Memberships	\$ 1,177.00	\$ 1,055.00	11.6%
Other		50.00	-100.0%
Total Revenue	1,177.00	# 1,105.00	6.52%
Expenses			
Quill - Printing	424.26	184.49	130.0%
Postage	233.82	248.96	-6.1%
Speaker Fees	100.00	-	100.0%
Safe deposit box fee	45.00	45.00	0.0%
Supplies	68.93	28.78	139.5%
Memberships	100.00	-	100.0%
Clarice Crowle Fund	-	224.96	-100.0%
Meeting expense	25.15	61.36	-59.0%
Total Expense	997.16	793.55	25.66%
Increase (decrease) in net assets	179.84	311.45	-42.3%
Net Assets - beginning of year	4,784.58	4,473.13	7.0%
Net Assets - end of year	\$ 4,964.42	\$ 4,784.58	3.8%

17 MILE HOUSE BOOK

CCVHS has been asked by Arapahoe County Open Space to assist with providing historical information to give visitors at 17 Mile House Farm Park once it is open to the public later this year. We would develop and publish a small book that would be sold and/or a flier for complimentary distribution. CCVHS is beginning with a planning session in February and will join the Open Space members probably in March to get this project going. If you would like to participate, please call Karen Sear (303) 514-2094 or Garry O'Hara (303) 751-3140 so you can be included in the first planning meeting.

ACTIVITIES/PRIORITY LIST FOR 2012

The CCVHS Board has been gathering a list of the Society's commitments and suggested activities for the coming year. The Annual Meeting in February is a good time to present this list to the membership and to prioritize the events as a group. This will allow us to keep up with future endeavors and create a timeline to accomplish our goals. The list is as follows:

PROBABLE ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

ASAP:

Plan for writing booklet/etc for 17 Mile House Farm Park
Schedule maintenance for repair of Melvin School window
Update and print CCVHS brochure

APRIL 14, 2012: Eastern Colorado Museums & Historical Societies meeting

APRIL 21, 2012: CCVHS quarterly meeting at Melvin Schoolhouse. Program: Molly Brown & 100th anniversary of the Titanic sinking

SUMMER 2012: Presentation and snack break or lunch for teacher workshop with Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners at 17 Mile House

SUMMER 2012: Field trip (see ideas below) in place of July CCVHS quarterly meeting

SEPTEMBER 2012: Fall Equinox nature-&-history walk at/near 17 Mile House with Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners

SEPTEMBER or OCTOBER 2012: Melvin-Lewis Cemetery orientation and weeding/clean-up (maybe with local church group)

OCTOBER 6, 2012: Eastern Colorado Museums & Historical Societies meeting (Burlington)

OCTOBER 2012: CCVHS quarterly meeting at Melvin Schoolhouse. Program: panel/etc for 90th anniversary of Melvin School

NOVEMBER 2012: Information table at Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners annual conference (with silent auction item donation)

POSSIBLE FIELD TRIPS FOR 2012

Guided tour of restored trolley in Aurora (in storage facility near Buckley AFB)
Another April-May trip to Sentinel Rock (inscription cave at Perry Park)
Guided tour of new state history museum (Colorado History Center)
Tour of Denver Botanic Garden's Hildebrand homestead at Chatfield Park

BEFORE GRAND OPENING OF 17 MILE HOUSE FARM PARK IN 2012

CCVHS/Arapahoe County Open Space meeting with 17 Mile House volunteer docents
Program/field trip: 17 Mile House history and open house

OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR 2012

CCVHS table at Arapahoe County Fair (July)
Archives training with Collections Research for Museums

How a Colorado Ex-Slave Affected National Politics



Since February is Black History Month, we present the following about one of the most prominent African American pioneers of Colorado.

Barney Ford was an ex-slave who escaped to Chicago and later became one of Colorado's earliest African American settlers. He and his wife Julia were successful entrepreneurs who became wealthy by opening hotels and restaurants in Denver, Cheyenne, and Breckenridge. An excellent businessman, he was called the "Black Baron of Colorado." Barney Ford was also one of the most active civil rights leaders in early Denver and was regarded by some as the leader of Denver's black community. How he influenced national politics after the Civil War is an interesting story.

In 1864 Colorado had been a US territory for only three years when its legislature barred African Americans from the right to vote. Later that year a territorial convention drafted a proposed state constitution, but it also limited voting to whites only. Colorado voters defeated this proposed state constitution, not because it denied suffrage to black people but because statehood was viewed as too expensive for the small

Colorado population at the time. Another Colorado constitutional convention met a year later and, although it went on record as opposing slavery, it again denied black suffrage. This convention's statehood bill was approved, and Colorado looked forward to becoming a state in 1866.

In Denver and in Washington, Barney Ford lobbied against statehood as long as its proposed constitution disenfranchised black voters. The statehood bill was passed by the US Senate but was vetoed by President Andrew Johnson. Ford had persuaded his friend Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner to vote against statehood, and many believe that it was Sumner who convinced Johnson to veto the statehood bill on the grounds that the proposed state constitution limited voting to whites.

In 1868 the House of Representatives impeached President Johnson for various “high crimes and misdemeanors.” According to law he was tried by the Senate, but this effort fell one vote short of the required two-thirds vote needed for a guilty verdict. Here’s where the “what ifs” come in:

1. If Colorado had become a state in 1866, its two senators (then chosen by the state legislature instead of popular vote) would probably have been John Evans and Jerome Chaffee. Both Evans and Chaffee opposed Johnson and would have given the anti-Johnson faction the votes it needed by voting in favor of conviction.
2. And if Johnson had been convicted and removed from office, Ohio’s Benjamin Wade, the Senate’s president pro tempore, would have become US president according to the law at that time. (Johnson had no vice-president; he had been Lincoln’s vice-president and assumed the presidency when Lincoln was assassinated.)
3. And since Wade was a “Radical Republican” who called for much harsher treatment of the post-war south, the course of US history would have been very different if he had taken office.

Barney Ford was credited with helping delay statehood for Colorado until it allowed African Americans to vote. (Colorado became a state in 1876.) His influence was also instrumental in keeping President Johnson in office. But Ford was also called a “president maker” for his role in the national election of 1876. As shown below, that election is reminiscent of the Bush-Dole election of 2000.

In 1876, Democrat Samuel Tilden received over 260,000 more popular votes than Republican Rutherford B. Hayes, but he was one electoral vote short of winning and becoming president. Furthermore, 22 of the electoral votes were contested because of alleged voting improprieties in several southern states. Outgoing President Grant appointed an Electoral Commission which ruled that Hayes had won the election by one vote in the Electoral College.

Barney Ford favored Hayes because the Republican Party was the “party of Lincoln, the party that freed the slaves” and because Hayes previously had been a lawyer for runaway slaves. Colorado had been a state for only a few months, but Ford worked hard to help carry Colorado for the Republican Party. Had Colorado (and its three electoral votes) gone Democratic, then Tilden would have become president. In a bit of overstatement, some Coloradans claimed that Colorado and Barney Ford had “decided” the 1876 presidential election.

But Ford’s efforts resulted in unintended consequences. Congress worked out a compromise (sometimes called the “Great Swap”) as an effort to appease both Republicans and southern Democrats: Hayes would become president in exchange for the end to Reconstruction (i.e., in exchange for the removal of federal troops that had been stationed in the post-war south). With the federal troops gone, the southern states proceeded to adopt Jim Crow laws that disenfranchised African Americans (poll taxes and literacy tests, plus other measures of segregation). Therefore, Barney Ford’s efforts backfired in the end.

Barney and Julia are buried at Riverside Cemetery in Denver. Today, Barney Ford Elementary School is in Denver’s Montbello area.

(It must be noted that the above voting controversies involved voting for only adult males. In 1870 the 15th Amendment to the US Constitution allowed black males the vote, but it was not until 1893 that women gained the vote in Colorado. The 19th Amendment, ensuring that women could vote nationally, was not ratified until 1920.)

SOURCE: Mister Barney Ford, Forbes Parkhill (1963);

MEMBER NEWS

Our newest *Lifetime Member* is Cindy Crowle; we deeply appreciate her continued support and encouragement.

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their CCVHS membership promptly this early in the year. We appreciate the additional donations from our members at the *Supporting Level* including C. Ruth Dolan, Lee and Jane Whiteley, Donald K. Goe, Dorman Lehman, and Joanie Mead.

We are pleased to report that Society Vice-President Nita McKnight is progressing well after surgery in December; the tumor in her head was benign, and the possibility of her losing the senses of smell and taste did not happen.

Joan O'Hara has finished chemotherapy treatments and has had no problems since brain-tumor surgery last year.

Former CCVHS vice-president Peter Faris is doing well after falling and suffering a concussion; he should soon have a complete recovery.

Fred Crowle, a lifetime member, says he is returning to normal after back surgery and knee replacements of the past two years.

OUR LOSSES IN 2011

The Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society lost several members last year. We regret not having noted their deaths in *Quills* during 2011.

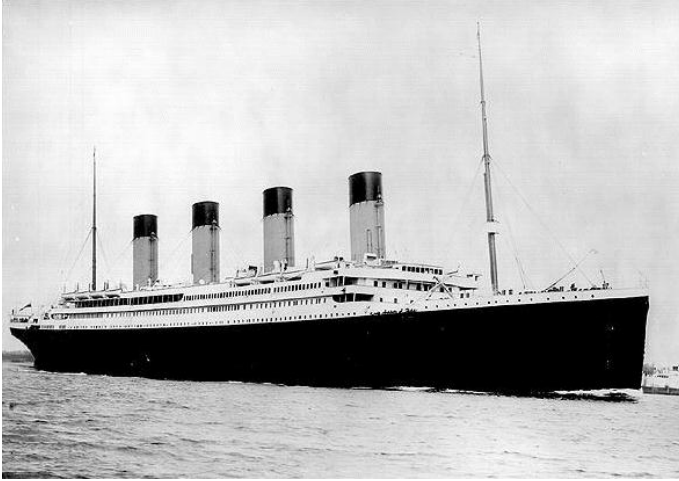
Frances Roth died in February 2011. She was a longtime CCVHS member who had also been an active member of the Cherry Creek Grange. Along with member Pat Quick, Frances and three of her children presented a program on this Grange chapter six years ago. Frances was age 86 at the time. The *Quill* article on this program will be reprinted in the next edition.

Rosemary Sandell of Sedalia died in May at age 69. She grew up near the 7 Mile House, the site of which is now in southeast Denver, and she maintained a love of the area's history all her life. She had a strong interest in the preservation of 17 Mile House. A member of the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad, she had been working on the restoration of an old Pullman sleeper car in Colorado Springs.

Donna Malsom died unexpectedly in September; she was only 54 years old. She was a long time CCVHS member and was the vice-president of the Smoky Hill Trail Association since its founding. She spent many hours volunteering in the renovation and beautification of Collyer, Kansas, where she lived with her husband.

Vivien T. Goodwin passed away in December. After her husband Carlton died in 2009, she moved to a senior living facility in Centennial. She had a love for history and was instrumental in helping to preserve the 17 Mile House. Vivien and Carlton joined CCVHS in the 1970s, not long after it was incorporated.

Next Quarterly Meeting and Presentation



“Molly Brown and 100th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Titanic”

Presented by historical speaker from Molly Brown House & Museum

Saturday, April 21, 2012

1:30pm – 3:30pm

At Melvin Schoolhouse

4950 South Laredo Street (behind Smoky Hill High School)

OTHER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES NEWS AND EVENTS

Smoky Hill Senior Trailblazers will host the following luncheons and presentations at the Smoky Hill Methodist Church at 19491 E. Smoky Hill Road, Centennial, CO 80015. The cost for lunch is \$6.00 and the public is welcome. Please call Charlotte Faris at (303) 690-8466 for reservations.

Friday, February 10, 2012 at 12 noon – Speaker from the *Prairie Conservation Center*

Friday, March 9, 2012 at 12 noon – Elizabeth Arenales will speak on the current status of *Federal and State health care programs*

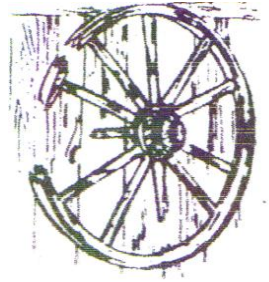
Parker Area Historical Society will host the monthly meetings at the Parker Library at 10851 Crossroads Drive, Parker Colorado. They meet at 6:30pm with the lecture beginning at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 - Town Councilman Gary Lasater speaking about *Parker Today*, including their plans for 2012.

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 - John Voehl will play the role of *President Abraham Lincoln*. He also played this role at PAHS's Civil War Living History Day last year.

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 - Bailey Phelps will present about *Tales of Tribal Nations*

**The Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society now has its own e-mail address:
ccvhsco@gmail.com**



Address Correction Requested

Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society
16100 East Smoky Hill Road
Aurora, Colorado 80015

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