

Summit Historical Society

VOICES

Message from the President

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The Summit Historical Society had another great year in 2012, much of it due to the organization and enthusiasm of our administrator, Linda Kelly.

Unfortunately, Linda is leaving after three years of tireless work. During her tenure at the Society, she has instituted new speaking programs, helped increase membership significantly each year, and brought in new volunteers to our programs. In addition, she was a great help to me in making my duties easier as she handled so many things behind the scenes.

Although Linda is leaving, she recruited her replacement, Christy Nelson. Christy has extensive experience with non-profit organizations, especially with the Senior Center in Frisco. Christy and I have met several times. She is well on her way to making 2013 another successful year.



As you all know, we are working with the county to store some of our valuable documents in the Main Branch of the Summit County Library. SHS signed an agreement to house those documents in our file cabinets in the Library. However, before we can do that, we need to paint them. Scott Vargo, Assistant County Manager, and I are searching for a place to paint the cabinets in order to move them to the library. As these fire-proof cabinets weigh over 500 pounds, we need a space large enough to accommodate them while they are painted. We are hoping to find this space in the next few months.

We are looking forward to another great summer of activities. Read the article elsewhere in the newsletter for a hint of things to come. We hope all of you will find time to attend and to volunteer in support of these events.

John E. Ebright—President, Summit Historical Society

A Personal Thank You to Linda Kelly—Sandra Mather

Your newsletter editor wants to add a personal thank you to Linda Kelly for all the time and effort she has devoted to SHS these last three years. I can't thank Linda enough for helping me on Friday mornings staff the SHS book table at the Dillon Farmer's Market. It took us several years, but I think we finally managed to learn how to put up and take down the tent without more than three other people helping us. We quickly mastered the helpless look that brought people running to rescue us. I can remember

strong wind and pelting rain hitting the tent and Linda trying to protect the books or putting rocks on flyers to prevent them from becoming airborne. She was relentless in getting new members. Thanks to Doug Pierce's offer of a free breakfast at the Arapahoe Café and some free books, Linda corralled many new members. Her "we-need-volunteers talk" brought willing offers to help. Thank you, Linda. I hope you saved Friday mornings next summer on your busy calendar—I'll need your help with the tent.

SHS Book Club Activities—Karen Musolf

With Maureen Nicholls as facilitator, eleven Book Club members met on Tuesday, February 19, at Cowboy Stuff Gallery in Breckenridge to discuss Western art and artifacts. The group viewed and asked questions about the variety of things found in the gallery including a desk that once belonged to Attorney/Judge D. Fall. Barb Swider brought refreshments—a feast fit for any gallery reception.

On Tuesday, March 19, the group met to discuss Mark Twain's "West." Sharon Smith served as facilitator.

With Larry Gilliland as facilitator, the group will meet on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 pm at the Breckenridge Police

Station Community Room. The discussion will focus on Western Law and Order: Summit County's Marshalls and Sheriffs. Theodore Roosevelt and the West will be the focus on Tuesday, May 21, when the group gathers at 7:00 pm at a location to be determined.

Operating for the past 15 years, the Summit Historical Society's Book Club is an educational outreach program of the SHS, with a focus on Western history and literature. During the fall, winter, and spring, the group meets monthly. On occasion, the members select a common book for reading, but more often, the group chooses a topic and participants select their own readings.

To join the book club or to add your name to the club's independent e-mail mailing list, please contact the coordinator, Karen Musolf, at 970-453-8874 or bdrmoose@msn.com. Although many SHS Book Club members enjoy membership in the SHS, it is not required.

SHS Archives receives \$3,000 Grant—Karen Musolf

The Summit Foundation granted the SHS Archives \$3,000 for cataloguing upgrades, making the announcement in late December, 2012. This new grant extends SHS opportunities to provide online access to the Society's large photograph, map, book, and manuscript collections via the Summit County Library, Marmot, and Prospector system catalogues.

Six years ago, The Summit Foundation awarded the Society \$18,750 to initiate online cataloguing endeavors. Archivist David Spencer spearheaded the project. He sought and received permission from Summit County Library personnel to add the Society's special collections to the Summit County Library and Marmot catalogues. He then contracted with professional cataloguers, Emily Brown and Julie Carmen, to undertake this daunting task. To date they have recorded close to 3,000 items from the SHS Archives: 665 photographs; 1,057 maps; 563 items in the Burke-Martin Collection; 523 books and manuscripts; a number of Summit County government records; and biographical references.

In the early stages of the cataloguing project, those seeking items in the Society's collections found easy access by going to the Summit County Library's web site and searching the Marmot Millennium Catalogue. However, in more recent years, those interested in SHS archival materials have faced obstacles in discovering their catalogued entries: roadblocks created by changes within the library systems and the Society itself. The Summit County Library has phased out the Marmot Millennium catalogue and replaced it with another, added the Prospector catalog, and changed its web page. In addition, Marmot has instituted coding changes. The Society has also made plans to move part of its collections to the Frisco Library, a location change that might need to be noted in catalogued entries.

The infusion of new grant monies will allow the SHS Archives to upgrade present catalogue entries, add newly donated archival materials to the catalogues, note location changes, and systemize procedures. Current SHS archivists, Karen Musolf and Deanna Speer, and cataloguer, Julie Carmen, are hopeful that those interested in the Society's collections will soon find easier access to them through the Summit County, Marmot, and Prospector catalogues. They are most grateful to The Summit Foundation for providing the funds.

To access the Society's catalogued items, follow the directions posted on the SHS web site, www.summithistorical.org. Once into the site, click "Archives" on the home page and scroll down to the directions.

A Summer Full of Special Events—Get Your Calendars

The Society has planned a summer loaded with special events that you will want to put on your calendars now. The opening event, **Night at the Museum**, is on **May 24**. The event is free; refreshments will be served. More details are coming.

On **May 25**, the **Dillon Schoolhouse Museum** opens for the season. Hours are 1:00-4:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday until Labor Day weekend. New displays will be highlighted.

On **June 21**, enjoy a **Dinner with the Ghosts**. Participants will enjoy a dinner and presentation by Preehti Burkholder, “Ghost Towns of the Rockies.” The cost is \$35 for SHS members and \$40 for non-members. Reservations are required.

On **July 2**, join SHS for a **Historical hike to Sts. John** in the morning followed by a **Montezuma walkabout with Mary Ellen Gilliland and lunch**. Participants will enjoy a “schoolhouse lunch” at the Montezuma schoolhouse. The cost is \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members. Reservations are required.

On **July 18**, the popular **Cornish Miners’ Meal** provided by Doug Pierce of the Arapahoe Café will return. This fundraiser features a very popular speaker who has entertained audiences throughout the county, Bob Schoppe. His topic will be the “Railroads of Summit County.” The cost is \$35 for SHS members and \$40 for non-members. Reservations are required.

You can’t miss the popular **Ice Cream Social** on **July 20**. Enjoy the ice cream, the antique cars, and rides on the SHS fire truck. Let’s hope for no rain this year.

The **Montezuma Schoolhouse Open House** is scheduled for **August 11**, from 1:00 to 4:00.

The Society is initiating a new speaker series on Monday evenings at 7:00 starting **July 22 and running through August 26**. Called **Pastry and the Past**, the series will include speakers such as Bill Fountain, Rick Hague, and Sandie Mather covering a variety of topics. Dessert and talks will be held at Dillon Community Church next to the Schoolhouse.

Don’t miss the **Slate Creek BBQ & Dance on September 7**. A historical talk about Slate Creek will begin the event with an Arapahoe Café BBQ picnic following. Country dancing will round out the evening with an instructor that can help some of us novices learn to dance. Fundraiser: \$35.00 for SHS Members; \$40.00 for non-members. Reservations required.

Every Friday, starting **May 31**, the Society will have a table at the **Dillon Farmer’s Market**. On display is the wide range of books offered by the Society as well as some new books that will interest members. Each Friday, there are special deals on some of the publications and on memberships. The market opens at 9:00 and closes at 2:00—rain or shine.

The **Dillon Reservoir boat tours** with an SHS guide telling lots of interesting stories run **June 11 through August 27**. Reservations are required. Call the Dillon Marina for reservations at 970-468-5100. Reserve your space early in the summer as the spots fill quickly.

Don’t forget that every **Thursday beginning July 18 and going until August 30**, Sandie Mather offers her talk, **Dillon, Denver, and the Dam**, followed by a walking tour to see some of the buildings rescued from the old town. Meet at the Dillon Schoolhouse at 10:00. The cost is a \$5 donation to SHS.

Christy Nelson—An Introduction

This winter, SHS welcomed a new office administrator, Christy Nelson. She came to Colorado from Illinois in 1969 to attend the University of Colorado in Boulder, graduating with a degree in elementary education. She first taught in Minturn, Colorado, but then took a position teaching English in Cairo, Egypt, at Ramses School for Girls for a year. From there she moved to Jerusalem, Israel, for a position as a tour guide in the Old City. She taught English in refugee camps in Hong Kong for Vietnamese children about to immigrate to English-speaking countries. Moving back to Illinois in 1992, she met her widowed husband and became an instant “mom” to two children. While there, she worked as a corporate

trainer with Motorola and an educational docent at Fermilab, giving historical as well as scientific tours of the facility. For the past ten years, Christy and her husband have made Summit County their home. They have four grandsons and a new granddaughter on the way. For the last five years, Christy worked with senior volunteers as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Community & Senior Center in Frisco. She hopes to use her education background to develop ties with Summit County schools, working especially with fourth grade teachers who include local history in their curriculum. Perhaps we will have a new “school marm” in the Dillon Schoolhouse telling visitors about school days in the 1880s.



News from our Sister Organizations

A New Book from Breckenridge Heritage Alliance

Chasing the Dream, the Search for Gold in the Upper Swan River Valley, written by Bill Fountain with Sandie Mather, tells the story of the first prospectors who found gold in the upper Swan River valley and in Illinois and Mayo gulches, east of Breckenridge, and the mining districts they organized. Included is the story of Parkville, the first county seat of Summit County and almost the first capital of Colorado Territory. It highlights Thomas H. Fuller,

the first person to consolidate many of the original claims in those districts, especially in Georgia and American gulches and on Farncomb Hill, into a “mega” company, the Fuller Placer Mining Company. The book includes extensive details about the construction of huge ditches and flumes, including “The Great Flume” in the upper Swan River valley, which brought much-needed water to the hydraulic mining operations.

Pistols and Pearls—A 30th Anniversary Celebration in Frisco

Frisco Historic Park & Museum is celebrating its 30th anniversary on Friday, May 31, 2013, with a Pistols & Pearls party. Those attending the indoor and outdoor event will enjoy wines, sample small gourmet plates, dance to live entertainment, and tour the museum and historic buildings all while raising funds for historic preservation. The event will begin at 5:00 pm and wrap-up with a champagne toast and dessert

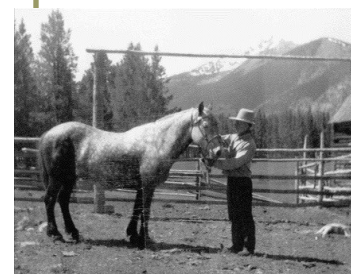
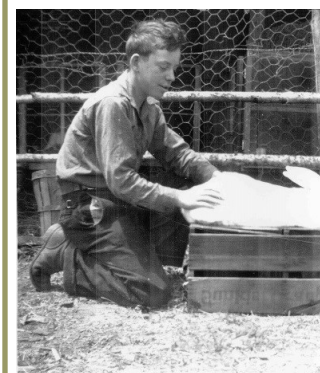
served in the Museum. Elegant vintage attire is highly encouraged! Advance tickets can be purchased until May 3 for \$40 per person or \$80 per couple. Beginning May 4, full-priced tickets will be available for \$50 per person or \$85 per couple. Tickets and more information can be obtained by contacting the Museum at 970-668-3428 or checking the Museum's website.



Dean Rutherford: A Remembrance—Deanna Speer

Young Dean Rutherford and Harold, his older brother, spent an idyllic childhood on a ranch in Frisco, Colorado. Their parents, Russell and Minnie, left the plains of eastern Colorado in the spring of 1932 at the height of the Dustbowl years and settled on the Frisco ranch, working for Frank Boggs. Dean enjoyed hunting in the hills around Frisco and fishing in the nearby streams accompanied by his favorite dog, Pal. In 1946, the young 18-year-old enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving as a corpsman. He was stationed at Elmendorf Air Base in Anchorage, Alaska. On July 4, 1950, with three weeks left on his enlistment, he volunteered along with Lt. J.G. Richard Stanwood for a mercy mission to rescue an injured man at Shemya on the western tip of the Aleutian Islands. The B-17 airplane, part of the 10th rescue squadron went down in bad weather in Kulak Bay on Adak Island. A memorial

plaque honors the seamen who gave their lives in the highest tradition of the naval service and medical profession. To honor Dean Rutherford, Anne Woods of Frisco wrote the following poem entitled "It is With Deep Regret": They say he lies deep beneath an icy sea,
And that the deep will never yield him up;
But we, who knew and loved him, feel him here
Amid the pines, and trout streams of his home,
Where silently, with rod or gun in hand,
He picks his way along a dim-marked trail,
As wild and free as any two-point buck;
The waves could not hold a mountain lad.
Harold Rutherford writes about his life on the eastern plains of Colorado and



later in Summit County in his book, *Dustbowl to Paradise*, which is available at the Dillon Schoolhouse Museum, 403 La Bonte Street in Dillon. Contact mail@summithistorical.org or call 970-468-2207.

DO YOU KNOW about the valuable collection of books in the Archives and the Schoolhouse Museum in Dillon? - Deanna Speer

Archive Collection

The extensive SHS library housed in the archives at the Dillon Schoolhouse Museum includes books about history, literature, education, mining, government, transportation, the military, religion, geology, medicine, architecture, native Americans, and the ranches of Summit County. The collection includes numerous biographies. An inventory completed by Lee Harrison, Karen Simpson, and Deanna Speer three years ago uncovered the wide-ranging topics in the collection that includes **It's easy, Edna, it's downhill all the way**, by Edna Durcum. Edna, her husband, Max, and Bill Bergman founded Keystone Ski area. Edna tells about the joys of Saturday night baths without indoor plumbing, living in "old" Dillon, and the early days of the ski area and Ski Tip Ranch. Paintings by son, Rolf, are scattered throughout the book.

Another book in the collection is **Stories of Our Naval Heroes**, written for children by Jesse Lyman Hurlbut, D.D. Last September a resident of Kremmling visited the archives looking for *Tales of a Wayside Inn* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Using the Marmot system, he learned that the book was in the SHS archives library. When he found the book, he completed his research project.

Members may borrow books from the collection by contacting the archives at

archives@summithistorical.org.

Books for Sale in the Museum

SHS includes several authors among its members. Roger Thweat, a retired university professor, wrote **Ghost Town Sites Along Boreas Pass** in 2010. Roger, who taught psychology classes at Northern Arizona University from 1963 until 1989, became intrigued by the ghost towns of Summit County and set about to share his interest with others. Roger focused on four small alpine mining camps that developed along the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railway Company's tracks in the 1880s: Argentine, Farnham, Farnham Spur, and Dwyer. **Images of America-Summit County**, written by Sandra Mather, chronicles the events of Summit County from 1850 until 1920 in photographs and maps. A caption accompanies each image and map. Chapters include The Utes, the Original Inhabitants; Mining the Precious Minerals; Mining Towns and Camps; Lifestyles in the Victorian Era; Transportation, Overcoming Isolation; Agriculture along the Lower Blue River; and Recreation, Fun, and Relaxation. The photographs came from the SHS archives as well as from several private collections.

HELP WANTED—YOUR TIME AND TALENT

Operating the Dillon Schoolhouse Museum requires many hands with a variety of talents. Volunteers preserve the past for future generations by cataloguing donated artifacts. Each item is recorded using

the computer inventory program Past Perfect. An assigned number is affixed to each artifact.

Led by Karen Musolf, volunteers are continuing

their ongoing project of cataloguing all of the newspapers in the collection. The newspapers, which cover the years 1890 to the present, are indexed and then stored in acid-free boxes. The library needs to be reorganized according to library procedures. As more people use the library, this need becomes more critical. Karen Musolf needs an assistant to help prepare an inventory of the biography collection in the archives.

A wooden chair in the collection needs some TLC in repairing a support piece. The walkways at the Schoolhouse need shoveling after snowstorms.

Although the Schoolhouse Museum is open on a

limited basis in the winter months, the need for volunteers to give tours of the schoolhouse and two log cabins in summer is critical. Guides receive training so that they are prepared to answer the questions posed by visitors. If you are interested in helping with tours, contact the new SHS administrator, Christy Nelson, at mail@summithistorical.org or call 970-468-2207.

To volunteer to help in the archives, please contact Karen Musolf or Deanna Speer at archives@summithistorical.org or call 970-468-2207. Can you spare an hour or two each week?

The Lace Cottage Dollhouse—Deanna Speer

Do you remember seeing the Lace Cottage Dollhouse at the Dillon Schoolhouse Museum? It now has a new temporary home—the Summit County Library in Frisco. Made by the late Kathy DeSerio and donated in 2006 to SHS by her husband, the dollhouse is a replica of the Gregory Mansion in Blackhawk, Colorado.

The dollhouse has two stories, a wood shake roof, electricity, and a large kitchen with an eating area

heated by a wood-burning stove. The study also has a wood-burning pot belly stove. Two hobby horses sit on the large covered porch on the front of the house. Appropriate furnishings for the time period fill each of the nine rooms.

Stop by the Frisco Library and see this beautiful dollhouse built and furnished with much love and expertise by Kathy DeSerio.

Finding Her Way in the High Country: The Story of Mary Cluskey—Jen Baldwin

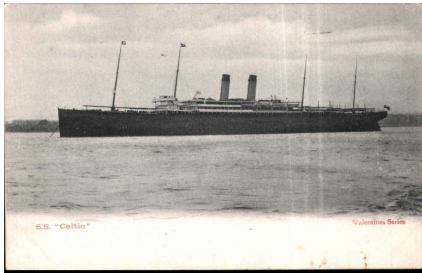


Jen Baldwin, the owner of Ancestral Journeys, a genealogical research company based in Breckenridge, wrote the following story. Jen enjoys finding and telling stories about the early residents of Summit County, where she and her family now reside. This is an edited and abridged version of the article that appeared in the October issue of the digital magazine, *Irish Lives Remembered*.

Mary Cluskey is a true Summit County, Colorado, settler. Born in Breckenridge on November 24, 1902, she lived in the area most of her life. As a first generation American citizen, her lineage is purely Irish; her

story is one of true feminine strength. Mary, her parents, and siblings all played an important role in the operation of some of the more significant mines of Summit County.

Mary is the daughter of Christopher and Mary Cluskey, both natives of Ireland, although the exact location remains a mystery. Christopher entered the United States in 1898; Mary, also called Lizzie, arrived in 1891. Christopher worked as a dairy farmer on French Street in Breckenridge, which at that time was considered the outskirts of town. Throughout their school years, Mary and her siblings moved between ranch and town to attend classes.



In 1913, the family returned to Ireland, but because of the quickly approaching war, they returned to the United States after only one year. Because Christopher was considered a potential soldier, he received preference on passage and returned before the rest of the family. Mary and the rest of her children returned via London in August. Upon reaching New York on September 11, 1914, their ship, the S.S. Celtic, and all of the Cluskey possessions sank to the bottom of the harbor.

Reunited in Colorado, the family moved to a ranch bought by Christopher at Slate Creek. Once again, the family split their time between ranch and town so that the children could attend school. At age 15, Mary worked with her father at the Tiger mine at a variety of jobs: in the commissary, waiting on tables in the dining room, and sorting ore. The rest of the family moved to Tiger in 1918 during the flu epidemic.



Two years later, Mary, her mother and sisters, and one brother returned to the ranch at Slate Creek but her father and another brother, Tom, remained at Tiger. Tom worked at the sawmill. Three years later, Mary worked at the Pennsylvania Mine for the summer, cooking for as many as 80 men. In 1922, Mary spent the summer as a cook at the Summit House, a hotel in Montezuma. Soon after, Mary and her mother went to the top of Boreas Pass, elevation 11,492 feet, where they cooked for the men building the bucket tram for the 7:30 mine. While the men lived in one boxcar, the cafeteria was in a second; Mary and her mother lived together in a third boxcar.

Mary married Wilbur "Bill" Ruth, a veteran of World War I, who worked for the Bureau of Land Reclamation, building the highway from Dillon to the summit of Fremont Pass. During the 1940s, they moved to Uneva Lake, in Ten Mile canyon, as caretakers. By 1935, they purchased a home in Frisco. During World War II, Mary served as postmistress of Frisco, which meant traveling to town every day from Uneva Lake.



Mary retired in 1974, after working since 1955 for the town of Frisco. Bill died in 1953, and Mary in 1990. Both are buried in Dillon cemetery. She is remembered as a lady with a great sense of humor, courage, faith and "a lot of gump-tion."

NAOMI, COLORADO—from the SHS Archives, submitted by Deanna Speer and edited by Ann Hill, an SHS member



Ten miles north of Dillon, at the mouth of Rock Creek in the lower Blue River valley, are the remains of the town of Naomi, once a shipping point for mines in the nearby Gore range. Weary travelers riding on the 37½-mile Dillon-Kremmling Stagecoach Line on Post Road 32 stopped at Harry and Sadie Forche's (Forsha) Naomi Hotel. More than just a stage station, many of the workers at the Boss mine, which produced some gold, but primarily silver from 1881 to 1893, called the hotel home.

The Forches ran the hotel as early as 1879. When mining boomed in 1881-82, Naomi's population swelled to 150. Besides the hotel, the town boasted a post office (Harry Forche was postmaster), saloon, livery stable, blacksmith shop, and store.

Dillon was important to all the small towns along the lower Blue River valley, including Naomi. Two toll roads – one from Kremmling and one that went over Argentine Pass – intersected at Dillon, thus giving it a perfect location as a supply town. People from miles around traveled to Dillon to whoop it up at the rodeo.

In 1879, Sadie Forche's sister, 16-year-old Esther Denecamp, from London, England, came to work at the hotel. Esther met and married another newcomer, Frederick Horatio Hill, a Biddleford, Maine, native employed at the Boss mine as a miner. Esther and Frederick married in the hotel on November 27, 1884. The Hills did not stay in Naomi; they moved several times, living in Kokomo, Cripple Creek, Denver, and Seattle.

The Naomi town site passed into the ownership of the Gould brothers, who ran a store, hotel, and mine. They also operated a sawmill for the mine that made railroad ties for the track that the Denver, Rio Grande intended to build between Dillon and Kremmling. After much anticipation, the company did not complete the project. When Joe Gould died in 1934, he willed the town site to his niece, Hazel Lott, who with her husband left the property to their two children, Marjorie and Eugene. Completing the ownership circle, Marjorie met and married Raymond Hill, Jr., grandson of Esther and Frederick Hill.

Fire partially destroyed the five-bedroom Naomi hotel while it was owned by Joe Gould. More devastating was the snow of 1995-96, which was too heavy for the roof to bear. The entire roof collapsed, giving the building a strange appearance. Only three walls remained standing. The interior stairs could not be used to reach the upper floor because of the collapsed roof.

Naomi lost its last permanent resident when Joe Gould died in 1934. The town site effectively vanished. Ann Hill, daughter of Marjorie and Ray Hill, renovated the roofless, three-sided building. After extensive improvements, she was able to move into what had been the saloon in Naomi. She has since made her home at Rock Creek Ranch.

Save the Date.... Saturday, July 20, Noon—4 p.m. Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social at the Dillon Schoolhouse Museum

This is an old-fashioned ice cream social with ice cream cones offered for the old-fashioned price of five cents. The schoolhouse guides in period dress will gladly offer visitors tours of the schoolhouse, the local history displays will be highlighted and the DVD depicting construction of Dillon Dam and the relocation of the town will be shown, as well as, and the two log cabins. Vintage autos and their owners will be on hand. Members are asked to volunteer their time and talent by contacting Deanna Speer at 970-468-7553 or archives@summithistorical.org.



Summit Historical Society

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