

# The Advocate

## Newsletter for the Aurora Historical Society

Volume 39 Number 4 July 2015



### President letter June 27, 2015

The Ice Cream Social at the Morrison Nature Center was a huge success and very well attended. We had a great time, and so many of you came out that we hadn't seen for a while, so we had some wonderful visits. Thank you all for your support.

Your terrific board and spouses offered very special assistance in the set up and take down, many thanks to Larry and Carol Wilterdink, Dolly and Ken Gray, Dexter and Julie Harding, Michael and Kathy Lockwood, Ruth Fountain, and Lynne Evans. Also special thanks to Jennifer Kuehner, Dir. of the History Museum and Joy Thompson from the Morrison Center for sharing the History of the Center, aka Star K Ranch. Thanks also to Liz Boyer from the History Museum for your help, and to Nadine Caldwell for the behind the scenes assistance.

As we continue our series of "Where Are We?" and learn more and more about the history of this area, we will be meeting at Fairmount Cemetery at 10:am on Saturday August 29 for a tour thru history and brown bag lunch. You bring your lunch, and we will provide the soft drinks and water. You might want to leave a chair in your car for your comfort and an umbrella (not so much for rain but the sun) and retrieve it after the tour as we meet for lunch. We will have two tour guides to lead us thru the metro 's early fascinating history. A notice will be e-mailed just prior to the event; we would love to see you all there.

We were so very sorry we had to cancel the meeting at the Fox Theatre due to a major power failure. We will try and reschedule at a later date, as it's a special piece of Aurora's history.

Membership chair Larry Wilterdink will be sending out notices shortly to those that have forgotten to send in your dues. We really don't want to lose you as members, you are so important to this society.

See you all in August!

Join The Aurora Historical Society  
For our Annual Summer Picnic & a  
Tour of the Historic Sites at Fairmont  
Cemetery, 430 S. Quebec St., Denver  
August 29<sup>th</sup> at  
10a.m.



We will meet at the  
Rose Garden for the  
tour. A brown bag picnic will follow. The  
Aurora Historical Society will supply  
drinks. So, pack your picnic basket and join  
us in the Rose Garden for a relaxing lunch.

### Aurora Historical Society Officers

President: Sandy Sweeney (303-854-4249)

Vice President: Nadine Caldwell

Secretary: Dolly Gray

Treasurer: Michael Lockwood

Directors: Dexter Harding, Carolyn  
Brassell

Program:

Membership: Larry Wilterdink

Hospitality: Nadine Caldwell

Historian: Lyn Eckhardt

Education:

Newsletter, Website, & Publicity:

Lynne Evans 303-671-0874

**We still need a program director and  
Education Director for our board.**

**If anyone is interested, please contact Sandy  
Sweeney @ 303-854-4249 or**

**[Livelyline@aol.com](mailto:Livelyline@aol.com)**

## **History of Toll Gate School**

In 1870, the valley of Toll Gate was the stamping grounds of the famous chief, *Colarau*, and his braves. It was the route to their trading post, which was on the site of the old D & F store.

The name Toll Gate comes from the short creek that runs through this area. Its course is probably about 10 miles in length. In the early days, it was spanned by a wooden bridge, a short distance south of East 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and about halfway between Potomac Street and Chambers Road. A toll was charged for crossing the bridge, thus the name Toll Gate.

Prior to the year 1877, the children who lived here attended the school at District 24, called the *Fahey School*. In 1877, Mr. John Gully, and Mr. P.Q. Kennedy met with the superintendent in Denver and formed District No.25. Mr. Michael O'Donnell was the first teacher and taught in a claim shack somewhere near the site of the last school. He was followed by one more schoolmaster, whose name is unknown at this time. Then came Miss Cynthia Westover, who later became a well-known writer known as Cynthia Westover Alden; Then Miss Ellen Donohue, Miss Mary Hogan, later known as Mrs. John DeLaney; Miss Elizabeth Clifford, later known as Mrs. John Gully, Miss Belle Clifford, later known as Mrs. Andrew McAloon. Miss Lucille Harward and Miss Josie Smith, later known as Mrs. Robert Moffit. These teachers taught before the turn of the century and only Mrs. McAloon and Miss Harward were still living in 1954.

The first school terms were for three months because of lack of funds and the difficulty of getting to school in bad weather.

About 1898, Mr. Gully offered the use of a small dwelling house on his place and this was used as a school until about 1902. In those days, Arapahoe County extended from Denver to the Kansas state line, and from the northern boundary of Adams County to the southern boundary of the present Arapahoe County line. The county seat was Denver.

In 1901, when the "Rush Bill" divided old Arapahoe County, our county took its present form with Littleton as the county seat. The Deputy Superintendent was Mr. J. S. Eagleton.

The district launched its building program in 1902 when need demanded a better building. According to records, a special tax of 15 mills was levied and a new school was erected at the cost of \$600.00. This building also served as a community center, until it burned in September of 1923. The district then paid tuition to District 69 for two years. In 1925, another bond was issued for \$2500 and a new

building was erected at Potomac Street and East Mississippi Avenue. The district then extended west to Havana Street. In 1947, an agreement was made with District 69, which was Cunningham School, to let them annex two sections of land. Then in 1952 the half section known as Florence Gardens was ceded to District 28J (Aurora Public Schools) on petition of the people of the area.

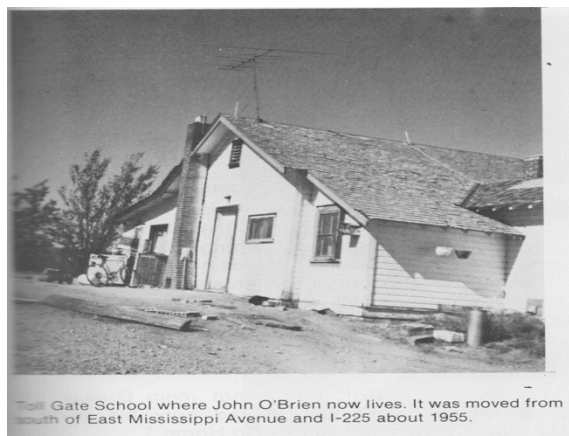
Following that time, the people of the district began thinking of a new modern school. Because of the availability of natural gas at the intersection of South Chambers Road and East Mississippi, it was decided that this would be the new location. Another bond was issued for \$19,000 in June 1953. The new building was completed in January 1954.

The school superintendents in Arapahoe County during this time were: Miss Kathryn Maloney, Miss Margaret Eddy, Mr. Louis J. Rote, Mr. D. W. Working, Mr. Clarence Eddlebutte, Mrs. Sada Wilson, Mrs. Ruth Vertrees, Mrs. Josipha Brown, Mrs. Minnie Davis, Mrs. Mary Peterson, Mrs. Thelma Hastings, and Miss Beulah Davies. (Mrs. Anderson).

After 1900, the teachers were Miss Agnes Smith, Miss Mary Kennedy, Miss Ruth Rudy, Miss Mary Gully (Mrs. John O'Brien), Miss Helen Kennedy, Mrs. Schaffer, Mrs. Caroline Braun, Mr. Beggs, Mrs. Gladys Breuklander, Mrs. Madeline Pennington, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Grace Wilson, Mrs. Dorothy Walker, and Mrs. Ruth Knittel.

The School Board members were: Mr. and Mrs. John Gully, Mr. P.G. Kennedy, Mr. J. W. Kennedy, Mr. Wm Gully, Mrs. Mary F. O'Brien, Mr. Charles McMahon, Mr. Charles Gray, Mrs. Ruth Frost, Mrs. John Kirk, Mr. Dwight Meador, Mr. Edward Ritter, Miss Helen Kennedy, Mr. A. Wm. Ritter, Mr. James P. O'Brien, Mr. Carl Moritzen, and Mr. Don Rains.

*Editor's note: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Moritzen, of La Salle Colorado, made the above document available to the Aurora Historical Society. It was among some papers belonging to Carl's mother. It is believed that it was researched and written by Miss Helen Kennedy*



***Aurora History Museum Exhibits & Events***  
Through November 2015

**EXHIBITS**

***BEHIND THE BADGE: PUBLIC SAFETY IN AURORA***

**Through Sept 13**

Tasked with keeping a growing city safe, Aurora's Fire & Police Departments strive for excellence & community service. For this exhibit, current & former department members collaborated with the Museum to provide stories that shaped the histories of these two agencies.

***GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES ART SHOW***

**Sept. 22 – Nov. 7**

View a juried exhibit of paintings, photography & miniatures. Co-sponsored by the Aurora Artists Guild, Aurora Cultural Services Division, and the Aurora History Museum. Artwork is for sale.

***Wine & Cheese Reception***

*Friday, October 2, 5:00-7:30 pm*

**Community Gallery**

***SCENES FROM "THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN PROJECT"***

**July 21 – Sept 18**

American photographer Edward Curtis devoted 30 years of his life to capturing the culture, clothing, dwellings, & ceremonies of Native Americans in the West for his "North American Indian Project." See 30 of his photographs, taken between 1900-1930, from the Curtis Collection at the Library of Congress.

***16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF WREATHS***

**Nov. 10 – Dec. 11**

Get in the holiday spirit with this colorful and decorative display of over 30 festive & imaginative wreaths decorated & donated by local businesses, organizations, & individuals. To sponsor a wreath, call 303-739-6667.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Sat., Aug 22**

**2-8 p.m.**

**GLOBAL FEST**

Visit the Museum on a day of cultural celebration and global music sounds.

Free

**FAMILY DAYS**

**Fri., July 17**

**9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**CELESTIAL TRAVELS BUS TRIP**

Enjoy a leisurely bus trip to the home of Celestial Seasonings in Boulder. Tour the factory & enjoy a delectable lunch in their on-site café. Lunch included.

\$34 (\$26 Resident)

**Sat., Aug 1**

**2-4 p.m.**

**TEA WITH NANCY RUSSELL**

*Ages 8 to adult.* Nancy Cooper Russell, wife of western artist Charles M. Russell, was the reason for his success. Who was this remarkable woman behind the man? Meet and learn about this her story while enjoying afternoon tea.

\$26 (\$20 Resident)

**Sat., Sept. 19**

**8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**FRONT RANGE GEOLOGY BUS TOUR**

*Ages 12 & older.* Join retired geology teacher Dick Jensen on a bus tour of the Front Range from Golden to Morrison. Wear comfortable clothes & walking shoes.

\$23 (\$18 Resident)

**Sat., Sept. 26**

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

### **ANTIQUUE APPRAISAL FAIR**

*Sponsored by Aurora Museum Foundation*

Have your antiques & collectibles evaluated by local appraisers. Museum Foundation members receive one free appraisal. \$5/per item; 5 item limit. No Walk-ins Accepted.

Location: Aurora Central Library

Call 303-739-6705 to reserve an event entrance time after August 1.

**Sat., Oct. 3**

**2-4 p.m.**

### **TEA WITH ROSIE THE RIVETER**

*Ages 8 & older.* Factory worker "Gail Murphy" is drawn from the records and memories of women war workers in Colorado.

\$26 (\$20 Resident)

**Sat., Oct. 17**

**10 a.m.-12N**

### **PAROL LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP**

*Ages 5 & older.* Learn how to make traditional Filipino holiday Parol Lanterns.

\$12

### **SUMMER CAMP**

#### **PIONEER CAMP**

**Mon.-Fri., July 13-17**

**9 am – noon**

*Ages 8-12.* Join us for a weeklong, half-day camp designed to engage kids with their past. Campers cook on a woodstove, hop on the historic trolley and fight for water rights as they discover Aurora through the lives of those who shaped our community. Wear sunscreen & closed-toe shoes.

**\$110 (\$90 Resident)**

Location: DeLaney Farm Historic Site, 170 S. Chambers Road

### **BROWN BAG & WHITE LINEN LECTURE SERIES**

Wed., 12-1 p.m.

Aurora History Museum

\$4 (\$3 Resident)

Bring your lunch.

**July 15**

#### **Picture Me Here**

*Picture Me Here* is a photographic, digital storytelling program for refugees in Aurora & Denver. Listen to the history & stories of this project with Brigid McAuliffe, Co-Founder & Director.

**August 19**

#### **Celebrating & Promoting Diversity**

The New American School at Lowry serves students from more than 40 countries receiving their high school education. Join Principal Amy Trujillo to learn about the school's unique community, celebrating values & promoting diversity.

**September 16**

#### **Aurora Sister Cities International**

Aurora Sister Cities International Executive Director, Karlyn K. Shorb, will talk about the organization and the recent visit to our newest sister city of Adama, Ethiopia.

**October 21**

#### **Refugee Resettlement**

The African Community Center of Denver helps refugees who come to Colorado. Director and founder, Jennifer Gueddiche, will teach about this local organization.

**November 18**

#### **Santos and Santeros**

With roots in Spanish colonial art, santos are hand-carved images of religious art native to Colorado and New Mexico. Artist Jose Raul



Esquibel will speak about the history and demonstrate traditional folk art.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAMS**

**Sat., Aug. 1, Sept. 5**

**1-4 p.m.**

### **CENTENNIAL HOUSE OPEN DAYS**

Visit the oldest home on Galena Street, built in 1890, during our summertime open house days.

Location: 1671 Galena Street

FREE

**Sat., July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12**

**1-4 p.m.**

### **DELANEY FARM OPEN DAY WITH LIVE MUSIC**

Tour DeLaney Farm historic buildings, try a craft, and enjoy music of the late 19th and early 20th century. July 11: performance by banjo player John Mumford. from **1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Location: 170 S. Chambers Road

**Sat., Sept. 5**

**2-3 p.m.**

### **GALENA STREET WALKING TOUR**

Learn about the architecture and evolution of Aurora's 'first' street on this free walking tour.

Location: Centennial House, 1671 Galena Street

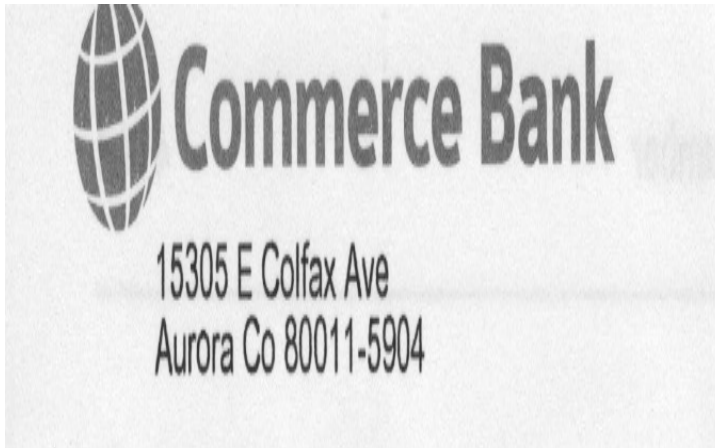
Register: 303-739-6661

## **Pictures of the Ice Cream Social at the Morrison Nature Center**





## Our Corporate Sponsors



If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by email and let the Aurora Historical Society save the postage, Please contact Lynne Evans at 303-671-0874 or [lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@comcast.net) Also-If you have questions, comments, or suggestions about the newsletter you can contact me as well.

Please check out the AHS Website:  
<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org>

If anyone would like to write an article for the newsletter, I would be happy to have it. Just contact me at the number above.

