

The Advocate

Newsletter for the Aurora Historical Society

Volume 39 Number 5 September 2015



President letter September, 2015

Can you believe Fall has almost arrived and schools are back in session! As the Society gears up for 2015-16 your board will explore avenue's to discover. If any of you have suggestions for something you would like to see or hear as a group, please let us know as soon as possible – we are always open to something that would appeal to history lovers and Society members. We explored the history at Fairmount Cemetery. I do hope many of you joined us for this special event.

Our intent is to make every general meeting one that you would not want to miss and help keep you informed.

Many thanks to Jennifer Kuehner, Director of the Aurora History Museum for helping reschedule the meeting at the Aurora Fox Theatre, 9900 E Colfax Ave. on September 29 at 7 pm. Jennifer will give a talk on the history of the Fox and Charlie Packard will speak on the current productions and plans for the future. There is free parking behind the Fox and behind the MLK library.

See you all in September!

Sandy Sweeney,
President, Aurora Historical Society

Coming in the November Newsletter

A new article titled "Remembering Aurora"
By Michael Lockwood

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

Membership: Larry Wilterdink
Hospitality: Nadine Caldwell
Historian: Michael Lockwood
Newsletter, Website, & Publicity:
Lynne Evans 303-671-0874
Program:
Education:

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

Next Meeting



**Join us at the next
Aurora Historical
Society Meeting**
Tuesday, September 29,
2015 at 7:00PM

The Aurora Fox Arts Center
9900 East Colfax Avenue
Aurora, CO

Please join us for an interesting program presented by Jennifer Kuehner, Executive Director of the Aurora History Museum. She will give us a brief history of the Aurora Fox with historic images, details about the architect, and information about the mid-1980's renovations. Special Guest Charles Packard, Executive Producer of the Aurora Fox, will welcome the group and discuss the Fox's upcoming season and current events. All are welcome.

Free Parking is available behind the Fox, to the east and west of the building, and behind the MLK Library.

The History of Duff School Which later became Clyde Miller School

I have been researching the history of schools in Aurora; while looking through the archives I came across records from the Duff School. I have read the school board minutes for the entirety of the schools history. Some of that history is what is recorded here.

The Duff School was formed when a petition was made on the **14 day of April 1888**, to A. D. Shepard, County Superintendent of public schools of Arapahoe County. The electors of the proposed new school district assembled at George A. Johnson's house at 1 P.M. Joachim Floegel was made chairman and George A. Johnson was elected. They were also elected judges of the election with William Kline to count the votes. A motion to let George A. Johnson organize a new district was made.

The ballot box remained open for the reception of votes from 1-4 pm. upon counting the votes it was found that 5 ballots were cast of which 5 were in favor of the organization and none against. The new district then elected officers:

President	William Kline
Treasurer	Joachim Floegel
Secretary	George A. Johnson

President William Kline selected the S. E. Corner sec 33 range 66 township 3 known as the Harmen Section as schoolhouse site. **Duff School was located at the NW corner of Tower Road and Colfax. It was the predecessor of Clyde Miller School, and was a one-room school. The Duff School became District #62.**

On May 8, 1888, the school board voted to levy a tax of 2 mils for a building and contingent expenses and 3 mils for teaching. August 2, 1889 a meeting was held to hire a teacher. The first teacher I could find named was Annie Underhill. Also it was decided to furnish the school with a globe, maps, and other necessary things.

On September 20, 1889, a meeting was held at the schoolhouse Mr. Farny was ordered to build a coalhouse and haul and put in two tons of coal. The secretary was instructed to purchase a teacher's Desk, two chairs and window curtains for the school.

On December 28, 1889, the decision to was made to try and get another acre of land donated by Mr. Harmen for the school site. Winter school hours were set from 9 to noon with lunch for the teacher of 30 minutes then continuing the day from 12:30 to 3.

May 4, 1891, the new school term was set for six months, commencing 1st Monday in October and continuing for three months. It was decided that there would be a one-month vacation during stormy weather; the school to reopen Feb. 1, 1892, weather permitting. On August 31, 1891, Miss Nellie Millsap was engaged at a salary of fifty-dollars per month for the school term of six months.

On March 28 1892, a meeting of the Board was held at Mr Kleme's to close the school there being only one child in the district- after discussing the matter, a motion was made by the Secretary to close the school. The school maps- globe, dictionary, bell, and keys were given into the care of Mr. Farny to be turned over to the secretary. The school was closed.

There is a gap at this point until May 1898.

On May 2, 1898, the voters of District #62 met at the Duff schoolhouse and new board members were elected:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| • President | James C. Young |
| • Secretary | Mrs. Eva Tyler |
| • Treasurer | A. H. Gray |

On May 25, 1899, the board met and hired Miss Sarah A. Eccles as the new teacher. For the next few years a new teacher was hired and paid \$50 a month. Then on August 12, 1905, the school board met and decided to paint the schoolhouse and out buildings, and put in two black boards. In December they added a stable and 9 new desks to accommodate new students.

In 1907, the board met and decided to put heavy wire screens and new shades on the windows; the pump was repaired, new doormats were bought, the fence was repaired, and the teacher's salary was raised to \$60 per month. The board also gave permission to have the Bible read in school, buy an organ, and send the teacher for music lessons at the district's expense. The final decision was to make Christmas vacation the same as the Denver Schools.

In 1913, the cost of running the school was \$1,000.00. In 1916, it was \$800.00. In 1921, it was \$1150.00. By 1926, the cost was \$1475.00 and the teacher was paid \$100.00 a month. In 1932, the budget had dropped to \$1215 and teachers were paid \$85.00 a month.

In May 1935, Clyde Miller was elected president of The Duff School Board.

On June 4, 1935, a special board meeting was held and Clyde L. Miller was authorized to apply for a federal grant to aid in financing the construction of a new school building for District #62. C. L. Miller, President, is authorized, to execute and file, an application on behalf of school district #62 in the county of Adams for a loan and grant to aid in financing the construction of a new school building 22 feet by 45 feet, one story brick building.

On October 17, 1935, the district issued bonds for \$4,000 to erect and furnish the new school. The building was accepted April 22, 1936 and insured April 23, 1936. The Duff School became Clyde Miller School.

On May 4, 1936, the board voted to dispose of the old school and furnishings and use the revenue to equip the new school. On August 6, 1936, the board voted \$1,000 to complete plumbing and buy fixtures for the new school. On June 17, 1936, two teachers were hired.

Coal Creek and First Creek students were sent to Clyde Miller for 1948-49 School year. Coal Creek paid \$1,000 and First Creek paid \$800 to district #62 and had to supply their own transportation to Clyde Miller School.

The Clyde Miller School was annexed to Aurora Public Schools. I have found more than one date for this. One says in the 1950's and another says September 22, 1960.

**List of Duff School Teachers
1888-1928**

- Annie Underhill 1889-1890
- Helen L Perrine 1890-1891
- Nellie Millsap 1891-1892
- James Moore 1892-1893
- Helen Thompson 1893-1894
- Mrs. D. J. Sprugg 1894-1895
- Maud Gwynne 1895-1898

- Miss Alma Rees 1898-1899
- Sarah A. L. Eccles 1899-1900
- Frances Fenton 1900-1902
- Maud Long 1902-1903
- Gertrude Lond 1903-1905
- Nellie M. Smith 1905-1906
- Cora Bliss 1906-1907
- Jennie A. Seeber 1907-1909
- Cora A. Young 1909-1910
- Helen Marr 1910-1912
- Isabelle Henry 1912-1916
- Helen D. Connell 1915-1916
- Blanche E. Smith 1916-1918
- Mary O' Toole 1918-1920
- Kathleen Fox 1920-1921
- Bertha Bender 1921-1924
- Helen Hoffer 1924-1925
- Pearl Kelso 1925-1927
- Elizabeth Purse 1927-1930 pay \$1045 per year 9 1/2 months

Teachers also were required to give instruction on humane treatment of animals, and the dangers of tobacco and alcohol as part of regular instruction.

**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.

**21ST ANNUAL GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES
ART SHOW**

Sept. 22 - Nov. 7, 2015

Discover a city alive with culture. View a juried exhibit of paintings, photography & miniatures by artists of local, regional & national importance. Co-sponsored by the Aurora Artists Guild. Artwork for sale.

Community Gallery

SCENES FROM "THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN PROJECT"

July 21 – Sept 13

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 reproductions of his photographs, taken between 1900-1930, from the Curtis Collection at the Library of Congress.

16TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF WREATHS

Nov. 10 – Dec. 11

Get in the holiday spirit with this colorful and decorative display of over 35 festive & imaginative wreaths decorated & donated by local businesses, organizations, & individuals. To sponsor a wreath, please call 303-739-6667 or email: jkuehner@auroragov.org.

FAMILY DAYS.

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL FAIR

Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Aurora Museum Foundation. Have your antiques & collectibles evaluated by local appraisers. Museum Foundation members receive one free appraisal. Cost: \$5/per item; 5 individual item limit. Call 303-739-6705 to request an event entrance time. No Walk-ins Accepted.

Location: Aurora Central Library

UKULELE LESSONS AND JUST TALKING STORY

Sat., Sept. 19, Nov. 17, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Ongoing program, third Saturday of every month (except Oct.)

Explore Hawaiian culture and history through music. Each month the museum will host free ukulele lessons interwoven with themes including food, music, art and more. A limited number of ukuleles are available to borrow, please call 303-739-6663 or email jlira@auroragov.org to reserve one. FREE

FRONT RANGE GEOLOGY BUS TOUR

Sat., Sept. 19, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Ages 12 & older. You've been to the mountains, now find out how they got there. Join retired geology teacher Dick Jensen on a bus tour of the Front Range from Golden to Morrison. Stops include beautiful scenery and geologic phenomenon, lunch at Red Rocks Amphitheatre, and a tour of Dinosaur Ridge and Triceratops Trail.

Be prepared for the weather. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Minimal walking is required, but guests will be getting on and off the bus to look at our beautiful landscape and discover how it was created. Order a boxed lunch through us or bring your own.

Cost: \$23 (\$18 Aurora Resident). Call 303-739-6660 to register. Advance reservations required.

Sat., Oct. 3, 2 to 4 p.m.

TEA WITH GAIL MURPHY, COLORADO'S ROSIE THE RIVETER

During World War II women throughout the United States entered the workforce to weld, make bullets, and do a variety of factory jobs for the war effort. Between 1941 and 1945, Colorado had its own "Rosies" working at the Remington Arms Factory in Denver. "Gail Murphy" is a composite character drawn from the records and memories of these women war workers. Performed by Gail Beaton, author of *Colorado Women: A History*.

Cost is \$26 (\$20 Aurora Resident). Call 303-739-6660 to register. Advance reservations required

Brown Bag & White Linen Lecture Series

Wed., 12-1 p.m.

Aurora History Museum
\$4 (\$3 Aurora Resident)
Bring your lunch.

September 16

Aurora Sister Cities International Lunch and Learn

Please join us as we welcome Aurora Sister Cities International Executive Director, Karlyn K. Shorb, for a lunch and learn session about Aurora's sister cities program. Karlyn will discuss the organization's mission, vision and goals, and visit to Aurora's newest sister city of Adama, Ethiopia.

October 21

Refugee Resettlement: Helping Refugees Rebuild Lives in Denver

The African Community Center of Denver helps over 500 refugees each year who come to Colorado from all areas of the world. Join Director and founder Jennifer Gueddiche to learn more about this local organization and the people it serves.

HISTORIC SITES PROGRAMS

DELANEY FARM (170 S. Chambers, Aurora)

Sept. 12, 1-4 p.m.

DELANEY FARM OPEN DAYS

Enjoy a performance & tour the historic buildings to learn about the people who lived 120 years ago.

1:30 - 3:30: Listen to a free concert featuring Sam Parks, playing vintage-vibe guitar, bass banjo, mandolin, and fiddle music. FREE

CENTENNIAL HOUSE (1671 Galena St., Aurora)

Sept 5, 1-4 p.m.

CENTENNIAL HOUSE OPEN DAYS

Celebrate Victorian life with a tour of Centennial House, one of Aurora's original homes. FREE

Sat., Sept. 5, 2-3 p.m.

GALENA STREET WALKING TOUR

Learn about the architecture and evolution of Aurora's 'first' street. FREE

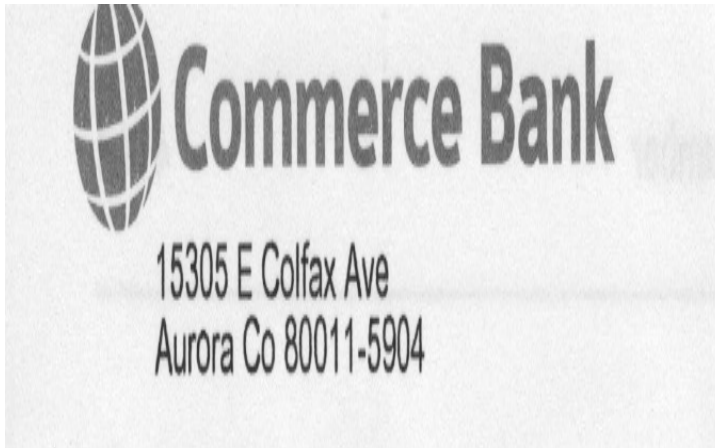
Location: Centennial House, 1671 Galena Street

Register: Call Liz Boyer, 303-739-6661

Annual AHS Picnic at Fairmount Cemetery

On August 29th, AHS members and guests had a wonderful tour of Fairmount Cemetery thanks to Gary O'Hara and Tom Morton. They both had lots of interesting and fun information. The weather was great and the company wonderful.





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 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.



1301 S. Havana Street Aurora, CO
<http://www.suss.net/showroom/buick>

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