

The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 44; Number 1;

January 2020

Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



Embrace your city, your past

President's Letter January 2020

Dear Aurora Historical Society Members,

I would like to wish everyone a very, Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed some time with family during the holiday season as well.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our November meeting because of snow. I know many of you were interested in hearing Dr. Gordon Tucker talk about archeology in Aurora. We will try to reschedule his presentation for the Fall of 2020.

We were also greatly saddened by the loss of Ruth Fountain. She will be greatly missed.

I hope to see all of you at our Annual Potluck Dinner/Meeting. We will start at 6:00 PM, at the Aurora History Museum. We have had great food, great presentations, and great attendance in the past. Let's make 2020 our best Potluck yet. As always, the historical society will furnish drinks, plates, chicken, and ham. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

Our speaker will be Dr. Rena Fowler to present a program about **"Women Homesteaders in Eastern Colorado"**– Talks about the life of Estelle Siglin, a single woman who homesteaded in Akron, Colorado, and shared her experiences through letters with her fiancé in Iowa. It promises to be an interesting program.

We can always use members on the board. If anyone is interested in serving, please let me know. If members

have ideas for tours or programs, please let us know that as well.

I hope you all have a wonderful New Year, and I am looking forward to an exciting 2020.

Lynne Evans, President

UPCOMING events

January 28, 2020 Annual Potluck Dinner 6:00 PM
Aurora History Museum /Speaker: Dr. Rena Fowler/ "Women Homesteaders in Eastern Colorado. Dr. Rena Fowler – Talks about the life of Estelle Siglin, a single woman who homesteaded in Akron, Colorado, and shared her experiences through letters with her fiancé in Iowa.
AHS will supply Chicken, Ham, plates, and drinks. Bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share!

March 24, 2020 AHS meeting/ Beth Nobles – Sand Creek Trail Aurora History Museum 6:30 PM

May TBA Melvin School house tour
Stay tuned for more information- Hope you can join us!!





IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is time to send your dues payments for year 2020 to Michael Lockwood, 1629 Galena St., Aurora, CO 80010. Our membership dues come due in January each year now and with the New Year arriving please send your dues payment.

	Memberships
Family	\$15.00
Contributing	\$30.00
Business/Corporate	\$200.00
Life	\$200.00
Newsletter mailing	\$5.00

You can now pay your dues online at the AHS website on the join today page using PayPal if you would like or you can mail them in.

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/join-today/>



Remembering Aurora

Michael Lockwood, Aurora Historical Society

An Aurora native, a graduate of the Aurora Public Schools (Vaughn Elementary, North Middle School & Aurora Central High School) and still living less than 2 miles from where I grew up, Aurora has been a big part of my life ever since I was born. Having grown up here, I have several memories that I'd love to provide for your reading pleasure via The Advocate newsletter. For those of you who have Aurora connections that go back as far as the 1950's the recollections presented may bring back waves of nostalgia. And while I have 60 years of memories to relate, if you have some stories you'd like to share, please feel free to contact us at the Aurora Historical web site:

www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org

REMEMBERING: Christmas Decorations

It's December 22, 2019 as I write this, and I asked my wife what she remembers about Christmas in Aurora. She immediately talked about all the decorations that went up along Colfax and



My Father-In-Law, Dexter Harding, arriving at Lupita's Restaurant on Colfax



Montview, Hoffman Heights and Montview Plaza. She remembers her Dad driving the kids around to look at them and how special it made the season. The decorations went up in November but basically weren't lit until December 1. Man, was Colfax festive. And who can forget Santa and his reindeer on top of the roof of Fitzsimons. Buckingham Square had the animated elves on a seesaw. And the Fox had a free movie for the kids with Santa giving out a toy and a candy cane after the movie. Simpler times.

Time waits for no man and our history eventually becomes shared memories of people and places. Preservation can help keep those memories a little more tangible so that we can share with future generations.

Festival of the Wreaths

The Festival of the Wreaths is a fundraiser for the Aurora Museum Foundation to benefit the Aurora

History Museum. This is the 20th year for the Festival and the Aurora Historical Society has been participating for many years. This year's wreath was created by AHS member Judy Keilman. The wreath sold for \$40.00.



Our continued participation has been beneficial to both groups. The money, \$3,800, raised from the festival will go towards rehabbing the original Gateway to the Rockies sign. This year there were 71 wreaths at 4 locations. Thanks for all those who bid or participated.



Spotlight on the Mayors of Aurora

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 44 Mayors since its beginnings back in 1891? With each issue of the Advocate Newsletter we'll take a quick look at each of them. Special thanks to Carolyn Brassell for her research and assistance.

MAYOR #19

Jacob Trompen

- Served from 1919 – 1920
- He was born 23 April 1863 in Vriesland, Ottawa, Michigan
- Married Gouana Lanning in November 1880 in Zeeland, Ottawa, Michigan
- They had 2 sons, Nicholas (b. 1881) and Harry Mathes (b. 20 Jun 1887)

- He worked in the electrical contracting business
- He studied at Calvin College and Princeton University
- He was a Congregational Minister possibly of Eastlake Church
- He lived at 1000 Dallas, 1095 Dayton and on Montview Blvd.
- He was the Adams County Justice of the Peace in 1928
- He would have been 56 years old when he became Mayor
- He retired in 1939 and died 3 April 1954 at the age of 81 in Michigan. Buried at Fairmount
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Oliver Shoup
- While he was in office:
 - A fire destroyed Aurora's school building at 16th and Florence
 - The Aurora-Democrat-News offices were gutted by fire
 - Helen Preston arrived in Aurora and noted the housing shortage

Trivia Question Answers:
1) b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c

TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

City of Aurora Trivia Questions

1. What year did Cherry Creek Reservoir host World Youth Day?
 - a. 1991
 - b. 1993
 - c. 1995



2. Who named Aurora "Sportstown" in 2004?

- a. USA Today newspaper
- b. Field & Stream magazine
- c. Sports Illustrated magazine



3. Where did Missy Franklin, Olympic Gold Medalist, graduate from High School
 - a. Grandview High School
 - b. Regis Jesuit High School
 - c. Cherokee Trail High School



4. Why, until 2009, was it illegal to catch rainwater for private use?
 - a. Rainwater was the property of the state
 - b. It disrupts the natural flow to streams and bodies of water
 - c. The water is undrinkable and a health hazard



5. What movie was filmed in Aurora in 1979?
 - a. City On Fire
 - b. Nightwing
 - c. Over The Edge



Aurora History Museum Exhibits and Events Winter 2019

HISTORIC SITES

Story Line is now available online!
Visit AuroraGov.org/HistoricSites to see which historic landmarks have a recorded story line.

DeLaney Farm Open House 8- noon
Open Saturday
Centennial House Open House

Lunch & Learn Lecture Series

Wed., noon-12:45 p.m.
\$4 (\$3 Resident)
Aurora Historical Society members: Free
Bring your lunch

January 15th **“Aurora’s Growth by the Numbers”**
Adam Bickford, from the State Demography Office will discuss the overall trends in population growth in Aurora and the Front Range, the age distribution of Aurora’s residents, and changes in the ethnic composition of Aurora’s population.

February 19th **“Aurora’s Recent History”**
Come and reminisce while Aurora History Museum’s Keith Outcalt talks about the past 30 years in Aurora. What’s new? What’s gone? What’s stayed the same?

EXHIBITS

Hometown Pride: Student Athletic and Extracurricular History in Aurora through April 5th
Whether an athlete or a mathlete, many students grow up involved in some sort of extracurricular activity. This exhibit explores the sports & activities that shaped Aurora’s youth throughout the years. Relive your glory days & learn about Aurora’s new generation of students as the museum celebrates Aurora’s hometown pride.

Aurora’s Historic Growth Dec 15 – May 31

From the humble roots of a farming community to the prominence of being the third largest city in the state, Aurora’s population has boomed over the last century. In this exhibit, we take a deeper look at Aurora’s growth and how it has impacted the economy, environment, and cultural landscape of our ever-changing community.

75 Years Ago

Volume 35 Number 49 December 12, 1919

Growing Home & Trolley Trailer no. 710

Growing Home is a permanent exhibit about Aurora's history featuring Trolley Trailer No. 610, a fully-restored 1913 historic trolley trailer. The exhibit highlights people, places, and events from Aurora's history. It features over 100 historic photographs and objects, and the fully restored 1913 historic Trolley Trailer No. 610 in the new Ruth Fountain gallery. Go inside the trolley and experience 100 years of history first-hand. The exhibit was designed by Dennis Meyer of Filament Design/Build with support from museum staff.

In October 2012, the Aurora City Council approved funding for the construction of a new gallery and addition at the Aurora History Museum. Council resolved to name it in honor of Ruth Fountain, a former city councilwoman, community activist and museum supporter.



Vintage Ads from the Aurora Democrat

THE AURORA DEMOCRAT

Founded 1909 by R. N. Gwynn

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Published by Aurora Publishing Company



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ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO

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Want Ads 10c per line per insertion. Display Ad Rates on Application

100 Years Ago

Volume 11 Number 10 December 12, 1919

AURORA HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Frank Griswold, Editor-in-Chief
Mary Bradford, Associate-Editor

Punctuality

The punctuality report for last week is as follows:

Miss Hunt's	99.80%
Miss Hamilton's	99.80%
Mr. Booth's	99.79%
Mrs. Eddy's	99.40%
High School	99.40%
Miss Doonan's	99.20%

Personals

Mrs. Moreland visited Miss Doonan's room Friday afternoon.
Mrs. Hoisington visited Miss Doonan's room Friday.

Literary Society Program

The High School Literary Society will give another program, consisting of dialogues, recitations, and music. The date is unsettled, but it will be before the Christmas holidays

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Local Funeral Service for Aurora

Having long felt that Aurora deserves, and is in need of, a local mortuary, we have purchased property in the city for this purpose. Though the location is ideal, there are certain regulations and restrictions which prohibit the establishment of a Funeral Home here at this time.

For the convenience of families and their friends, arrangements have been made whereby we can offer a complete, personal, and sincere funeral service. Thus making it now possible for citizens of Aurora and surrounding communities to obtain this vital service, from a locally owned, and supported organization; which shall be known as—THE BLAKESLEY FUNERAL SERVICE.

+

This has been made available through the kind cooperation of Grace D. Miller, which places at our disposal, the use of the entire facilities of the Nash-Miller Mortuary, 2205 E. Colfax. Services may be held either at your local church, or The Nash-Miller Chapel.

As soon as the above mentioned regulations and restrictions permit, our intentions are to establish a permanent Funeral Home in Aurora.

Inquiries cordially invited,

The Blakesley Funeral Service

(Frances L. & Elwood T. Blakesley)

1604 Clinton St. Phone Aurora 497

Reprinted from the January 1980 Volume 5 No. 1

AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 1980

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Susan Anderson C
- Marie A. Ashley C
- Mildred Becken C
- Hazel Bennett C
- Ruby Benoit C
- Betty Bradley
- Mrs. Charles P. Burnett
- Louise Butts (Tyone, N.M.)
- Clarice Crowle C
- Kennil Darrach
- Gene E. Dutton C
- Clarice Dymerski C
- Henry Gesselfield
- Carol C. Grimmer
- Rita Heckstall C
- Thelma Hall
- Florence Haught
- Avis Howe C
- Vernon Jones
- Thelma Jordan
- Peggy Kerns
- Nellie Kruse
- Thomas A. Lincoln
- Eva Loucks
- Joanna Lynch
- Margaret McClain
- Joseph L. Mcquire DDS
- Kenneth B. Marshall C
- Vivian Beck Marshall (Luella, Ga.)
- Kil Miller
- Lucille E. Moore C
- Bill Murray C
- Jane Murray C
- Cheri Murray C
- Coopi Murray C
- Elvis Ondris
- Lucille P. Patterson
- Marie L. Reiser
- Bernice Richards C
- Marian Richards
- Ellen W. Slettle C
- Hazel R. Sterling
- JoAnne Sterling
- Dorothy A. Taylor
- Phil Waltz
- Elizabeth Watson

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

- George & Ruth Adams
- Gayle & Sue Baker C
- Clay & Ruth Barnett C
- Olen & Mary Bell
- Carlton & Shirley Bengston
- Jack & Mary Ellen Bibby

Family Membership continued

- Bob & Ruth Broom
- D.H. & Jerry Bruggeman (Rockport, Texas)
- John G. & Ruth Campbell
- William F. & Mary Cox C
- Tom & Nina Crawley (Arcadia, Calif.)
- John & Alice Cummins
- John & Luella Deibel C
- Michael & Sue Dichter
- Don & Carol Drottinger
- Harold & Annabelle Dunning C
- James M. & Mary Duly C
- Keith & Ruth Fountain C
- Sandra & David Galpin (North Platte, Neb.)
- Spencer & Helen Garrett
- Edward & Virgil Gerhardt
- John & Lisa Giglio C
- Johnny & Adeline Goddard
- Robert & Margaret Gootby C
- Bern E. & Harriet Hall C
- Clyde & Dorothy Hampton
- William C. & Lois Henkey C
- David & Joyce Holzapfel C
- Jerry & Sharilyn Hurst
- Harold & Constance Jergenson C
- W.D. & Elizabeth Johnson C
- Joe & Betty Lamb
- Joe & Pru Lewand C
- Dave & Ray McCord C
- Vincent & Leona McFadden
- Larry & Ione Martin
- Max & Lucile Maul
- Mr. & Mrs. Hilbert Meyer C
- Ed & LuVerne Murray C
- Edwin & Harryette Nicholls
- Irvine & Virginia Purse C
- William & Helen Roberts
- Dick & Beverly Scherling C
- Carl Severion Family C
- Jim & Helen Sickenman (San Antonio, Texas)
- Allen & Mary Sloan
- Randall & Judy Smith
- Laurence & Virginia Steele C
- John & Ann Stuart C
- Tom Walker Family
- John & Betty Zack

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

- Robert L. Akeley C
- Buzz & Jane Buxselle
- Alice Chambers
- Clare, Robert & Sandy Cloon
- Author & Virginia Cook C (Mesa, Ariz.)
- William & Vinella Davis

Historical Society Officers

President, Newsletter, & Website: Lynne Evans

303-671-0874 lyeans@comcast.net

Vice President: Nadine Caldwell

Secretary: Gregg Chase

Treasurer: Michael Lockwood

Directors: Carolyn Brassell, Susan Hicks, Sandy Sweeney, & Karen Schweider

Membership: Larry Wilterdink

Hospitality: Carolyn Brassell

Historian: Michael Lockwood

Program Committee: Susan Hicks

Education- Vacant

If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne Evans 303-671-0874 lyeans@comcast.net

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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 lyeans@comcast.net

Please visit the Aurora Historical Society Website

<http://auroracohistoricalociety.org/>



Got Questions?

Ask a
Historian

Aurora Historical Society
mdlkel@aol.com

Member benefits

FOX discount

We have a discount for 20% off of tickets for just this sort of thing. The discount code is CULTURAL. Anyone can use that for our Season shows online or over the phone (not valid for special event, cabaret's or rentals).

Remember AHS members

also get in free to the "Lunchtime Lectures" at the Aurora History Museum.



AHS would like to Welcome our New Members!

Jeanette & Kristian Rome

Anne Siders

Margaret Martinez

Yvonne Dodge

Ruth Fountain

Ruth Fountain died peacefully in her sleep on November 1, 2019 after an event filled life of 91 years. I was privileged to speak at the memorial service for Ruth, on December 12th, at the Aurora Municipal Center.

RUTH FOUNTAIN

Biographical Information

Ruth McMullen was born, raised, and educated in Brush, Colorado. In her late teens, while still in high school, she worked as “a soda jerk,” bookkeeper, and several positions in the Framers State Bank in Brush. After graduating, she went to Colorado State College in Greeley.

In 1952, Ruth married a Marine Air Corps Captain Keith Fountain, who was from just down the lane – Hillrose, Colorado. Active duty took them for a short time to California and Ruth was active in the Navy Officers Wives Club. Coming back to Colorado, they bought the Fountain family farm, both continued their education, and Ruth became active in the community and politics. During these years, sons Bill and Jack were born.

Greeley was the next place they lived. While Keith finished his degree, Ruth took care of the boys, their home, and went back to school part-time. In 1961, they moved to Aurora.

Keith took a teaching position with the Aurora Public Schools, while Ruth continued as a homemaker and volunteered in the community and at their church. If that didn’t keep her busy enough, she also continued her educational ambitions, earning a Master’s degree in Education. When the children entered school, Ruth began teaching homebound students in Aurora Public Schools. This was just the start of the many wonderful hours and talents that Ruth would share with the citizens of Aurora.

Ruth claims her political career began the day she registered to vote on her 21st birthday. She has held many different political positions including the Presidency of the Aurora Republican Women’s Club and helped lead a number of political organizations including being a charter member of the Aurora Republican Forum and the Heather Gardens Republican Club. She worked on and eventually led numerous political campaigns including Councilman Brad Pierce and U.S. Senator & Representative Bill Armstrong. Many elected officials say it was Ruth who encouraged and helped them on the path to political office.

An accounting of her accomplishment is best described by listing the numerous ways she served Aurora including: the Aurora Planning Commission, the Human Relations Commission, the Citizens Advisory Budget Commission, the Golf Course Advisory Commission, and the Aurora Emergency Medical Services Commission. During her time on the Emergency Medical Services Commission, she also served as chair of the Governor’s Advisory Board on

Emergency Medical Services. Emergency services is a subject dear to Ruth’s heart, and in 1998, Ruth was given an award for her work in this field. The Aurora Fire Department continues to give this award in Ruth’s honor.

In 1971, Ruth was elected to the Aurora City Council. During her tenure, she held the position of Mayor Pro Tem, and the offices of Secretary, Vice President, and the 1st female President of the Colorado Municipal League. For 2 years, Ruth served as a director of the National League of Cities. She is well known for her work with U.S. Senator Bill Armstrong, and after leading his successful campaign, she becoming his Chief of Staff in Colorado.

Ruth was appointed by three Governors to the Private Employee Agency Advisory Board. It is not surprising that she was given the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Women of the Year award, the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Aurora Board of Realtors, and a Distinguished Service Award from the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

For seven years, Ruth took a short, but influential detour in her career. She became the State director for the Farmers Home Administration in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Because of her work as director, she received the Colorado Division of Wildlife Award for her contribution to the state’s “Protecting Wildlife Habitats.”



A Celebration Of The Life Of

Ruth Fountain

1928 – 2019

Retirement for Ruth didn't mean slowing down. The following list of organizations have benefited from Ruth's passion, drive, negotiating talents, warmth, knowledge, and common sense:

- Women's Forum of Colorado (charter member)
- Aurora Municipal Building Corporation (director)
- Aurora Chamber of Commerce (board member)
- American Association of University Women (longtime leader in Aurora and committee member both statewide and nationally)
- Aurora Citizens Advisory Utility Budget Committee (charter member)
- Metropolitan State College Foundation (Governor)
- Presbyterian Aurora Hospital (Director and Auxiliary member)
- Community College of Aurora Foundation (Vice President)
- Aurora History Museum Advisory Committee
- Aurora Symphony (Board of Directors)
- Thomas Foundation (Board of Directors)
- Pickens Technical School Advisory Board
- Aurora Historical Society (founding member and President for 10 years)
- Aurora Museum Foundation (Deputy Treasurer and Board of Directors)
- Aurora Historic Preservation Commissioner
- Arapahoe County Cultural Council – Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) (original member & chair)

Most recently Ruth has been involved in a labor of love and preservation. She and her late husband Bob Eide spearheaded the all-volunteer restoration of the 1913 Trolley Trailer No. 610, donated to the City of Aurora and the Aurora History Museum in 2006. The Aurora Museum Foundation, under the leadership of Ruth and Bob, financed and coordinated this critical project. An addition onto the Aurora History Museum to display the Trolley Trailer is underway, due in no small measure to the efforts of Ruth and the Aurora Museum Foundation Board of Directors. The Trolley Trailer project is only one recent and excellent example of how Ruth gathers leaders and organizations together to support local community initiatives and institutions.

In honor of her years of service and dedication to the Trolley project, the Aurora City Council passed Resolution R2012-58 on October 15, 2012, resolving to name the new gallery addition of the

Aurora History Museum as the "Ruth Fountain Wing."

The many professional and community accomplishments of Ruth Fountain are only a part of the story. Ruth is also a loyal and loving mother and friend. She can count her friends in Aurora in the hundreds. Everyone in Aurora knows Ruth. Her excitement for helping other, whether it means time, money, expertise, or making connections, has left a proud legacy in Aurora that is not likely to be surpassed for a long time.