

# The Advocate Newsletter

Volume 44; Number 2

March 2020

## Aurora Historical Society

Aurora, Colorado



### Embrace your city, your past

#### March 2020 President's Letter

The Aurora Historical Society is off to a great year in 2020. Our Annual January Pot-Luck dinner and meeting was a great success. I was delighted to see so many people attending. Our speaker, Dr. Rena Fowler talked 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 was a very interesting presentation. The food was great, and the door prizes were fun.

**Regular Meeting:** On March 24th, our speaker will be Beth Nobles to talk about the Sand Creek Trail. We will meet at the Aurora History Museum at 6:30 pm. You won't want to miss this one.

**Melvin School tour:** On May 16th, Garry O'Hara will talk to us about the Melvin School and the Melvin-Lewis Cemetery, (which was landmarked by the City of Aurora in 2019). We will meet at the Melvin School at 1:00 pm. For those of you not familiar with the school, it is located at 4950 S. Laredo St. on the grounds of Smoky Hill High School.

**Ice Cream Social:** On July 25<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual Ice Cream Social fundraiser at Centennial House from 1-4. More information will follow on this event. We are currently working on more tours and events for 2020 and 2021 so stay tuned.

**Special Event:** The Aurora Historical Society

has been invited to join the Aurora Museum Foundation, AIPP, Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Commission, Fox Theater and Library Boards for a tour of Rambler Ranch on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 1pm. The cost of the tour is \$20 a person. Food is available for an extra cost, or you can bring a picnic lunch with you.

Be looking for more information on tours and programs.

*Lynne Evans, President*

#### UPCOMING events

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

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rambler Ranch Tour 10-1. 36370 Forest Trail, Elizabeth, CO. \$20 a person**

**May 16, 2020 Melvin School house tour-Garry O'Hara will speak about the school and the Melvin-Lewis Cemetery. 1:00 pm at the Melvin School on the grounds of Smoky Hill High School 4950 S. Laredo Street. Hope you can join us!!**

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social Fundraiser 1-4pm Centennial House, 1671 Galena Street.**

**September 22, AHS Meeting/ Dr. Gordon Tucker / archeology in Aurora 6:30 Aurora History Museum**



## REMEMBERING: REMEMBERING: Valentine's Day in Elementary School

### 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](http://www.auroracohistoricalsociety.org)



Today is February 17, 2020 and we've just passed Valentine's Day. I remember being at Vaughn Elementary School and when Valentine's Day was approaching we were given the project of taking a Manilla folder, stapling the sides closed, and decorating it so that the other students could put

their Valentine's to us in it. I don't recall being too enthused about the decorating aspect. The folders, when done, we taped to the front of our desk and on the appropriate day we would get up from our seat, walk around the room row by row and drop our cards into the folders. Nothing romantic on the cards. Most said something like Be My Friend. And all we did was sign our names. Simpler times.

**Trivia Question Answers:**

1. b 2) c 3) b 4) a 5) c



**Spotlight on the Mayors of Aurora**

Did you know that the Town of Fletcher/City of Aurora have had 43 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 #20  
Jasper Parrish**

- Served from 1920 – 1921
- He was born 4 March 1878 in Fulton County, Illinois
- Married Kathryn Beech Watson on 1 November 1906 in Warren, Illinois
- No known children
- He worked as a farmer, speculator in the stock yards, merchant & at the Denver Ordinance Plant
- He lived at 1368 Dayton from prior to 1920 through 1940
- He would have been 42 years old when he became Mayor
- He died sometime after 1952
- Colorado Governor at the time he was Mayor was Oliver Shoup
- While he was in office:
  - Town Marshall A.G. "Pop" Stitt's Fitzsimons Bus & Taxi Company ferries

people from the trolley stop at Galena to Fitzsimons making Colfax & Peoria a small commercial center

- Col. Arthur Hart, a former patient, builds a house, 13 cottages & a small Dutch mill near the hospital
- Army Medical Corps persuaded to not close the army hospital
- U.S. Army Hospital No. 21 name changed to Fitzsimons Army Hospital
- August 1920 Denver Tramway worker went on strike for higher wages



**City of Aurora Trivia Questions**

1. Singer John Denver's funeral was held at which Aurora church?
  - a. Colorado Community Church
  - b. Faith Presbyterian Church
  - c. Eastern Hills Community Church



2. What Brewing Co. won a gold medal at the 2006 World Beer Cup for its Amber Ale?
  - a. Launch Pad Brewery
  - b. Cheluna Brewing Company
  - c. Dry Dock Brewing Company



3. Danny Jackson, a graduate from Aurora Central H.S. went on to become a professional in what sport?
  - a. Soccer
  - b. Baseball
  - c. Tennis



4. What was the original name of Havana Street (all 3 names are original names)?
  - a. Greeley Street
  - b. Newton Street
  - c. Hathaway Street



5. When was the Colorado Freedom Memorial dedicated?
  - a. July 2014
  - b. June 2012
  - c. May 2013



### History Museum Spring 2020

Partially funded by the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District & the Aurora Museum Foundation

#### HOURS

Tue.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Sat. & Sun., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Free Admission

#### EXHIBITS

##### **HOMETOWN PRIDE: STUDENT ATHLETIC & EXTRACURRICULAR HISTORY IN AURORA**

This exhibit explores the sports & activities that shaped Aurora's youth throughout the years.

- Now - April 5

##### **POWERED BY SCIENCE: TECHNOLOGIES OF THE PAST & FUTURE**

Discover how mechanical wonders of the 19th & 20th century work & learn about the new & innovative industries operating in Aurora.

- Opens April 21

##### **AURORA'S HISTORIC GROWTH**

Take a deeper look at Aurora's growth & how it has impacted the economy, environment & cultural landscape of our ever-changing community.

- Dec. 10 – May 31

##### **AURORA COLORADO WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME**

The display profiles the twelve women honored by this hall of fame. Join us in celebrating some of Aurora's influential women.

- Opens March 3

#### PROGRAMS

##### **MORNINGS AT THE MUSEUM**

*Ages 3-6*

Program includes a guided activity & a craft.

- First Tuesday of every month, 10:30 a.m.
- \$1 suggested donation

##### **HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES**

A program designed for memory care patients & their caregivers. Tour the Hometown Pride exhibit, discuss high school experiences & craft a pennant to take home. Call to reserve a spot.

- Mon., March 23
- 1:30 p.m.

##### **STEAM-POWERED HISTORY CAMP**

**27255** Ages 11-13

- July 13-17

**27256** Ages 8-10

- July 20-24

- Mon. – Fri., 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- \$75 (\$60 Resident)

### FACTS ON TAP: TOUR & TRIVIA NIGHT

Get a crash course on a current exhibit at the history museum, then test your knowledge at our onsite trivia night. Includes 2 drink tickets.

- March 12, Hometown Pride
- April 23, Powered by Science
- 6:30 p.m.
- \$10

### FREE UKULELE LESSONS

Monthly lessons. Dates are subject to change, call for details. Recommended for ages 8 & up.

- 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### LECTURE SERIES

- Wed., noon-1 p.m.
- \$4 (\$3 Resident)
- Aurora Historical Society members: Free
- Bring your lunch

### THE 2020 CENSUS

Learn why the census matters and how you can help from representatives of the US Census Bureau.

- March 18

### GROWING AURORA

To celebrate Tax Day, local historian, author and tour guide Phil Goodstein discusses growth in Aurora with a focus on the influence of federal facilities and infrastructure.

- April 15

### CHANGING AURORA

Paul Karolyi, author, producer and host of the Changing Denver podcast, speaks about the recent changes in Aurora and the Denver area.

- May 20

### HISTORIC SITES

#### GEOCACHE

Celebrate Aurora's incorporation in April of 1891 with a geocache featuring a different historic landmark every year. Collect your limited-edition coin at the Aurora History Museum during our regular business hours.

### HISTORIC SITES WALKING TOURS

Dates & times vary or schedule a private tour. Visit the museum website to learn more.

## Aurora's Historic Newspaper Digitization Project

As most of you already know, the Aurora Historical Society has supported the Aurora Historic Newspaper Digitization Project since it began in 2015. The project has been very successful. The *Aurora Democrat* has been digitized and is available online to anyone with an internet connection. In the past, it was only available on microfiche and you had to either go the History Colorado or the Aurora History Museum to access it. The cost to digitize the Aurora Democrat was **\$16,716.73**. \$4,069.45 of that amount came from Aurora Historical Society members. That covered issues from December 22, 1909 through September 15, 1955 (1887 issues).

The *Aurora Advocate* is currently being digitized. To complete the digitization of the *Aurora Advocate* from 1953 through 1972 will cost \$22,072. The Aurora Historical Society paid \$403.00 to digitize the *Aurora Advocate* from October 2, 1968 through December 25, 1968. AHS members had previously donated \$409.80 to digitizing the *Aurora Advocate*. Issues from July 21, 1949 through December 25, 1952 (116 issues) are already digitized and available online.

Visit the Colorado Historic Newspaper website and check out Aurora's history

<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/>

The cost is a \$1.00 a page to digitize these papers. Please consider donating to this project. You can mail a check to the AHS treasurer, Mike Lockwood at 1629 Galena St., Aurora, CO 80010-220 or you can go to the Aurora Historical Society website and donate there.

<http://auroracohistoricalsociety.org/>

Please see the attached flyer and donate to this project. What a great legacy to leave to our city!

### March Sand Creek Trail Speaker- Beth Nobles

Beth had her first experience with trails as a member of the Youth Conservation Corps in Illinois state parks while still in high school. Since then, she's worked in museums, cultural institutions, nonprofit organization and higher education with a common theme—building

partnerships for increased organizational stability and community investment. Following twenty years at the University of Iowa Foundation, she led the new nonprofit Texas Mountain Trail in Far West Texas for a decade under the auspices of the Texas Historical Commission; and served as Deputy Director of the statewide advocacy nonprofit, BikeTexas during the extended medical leave of their Executive Director. She served as President of the Tierra Grande Texas Master Naturalist chapter; has organized heritage bike routes and wildlife trails; and enjoys hiking, biking and trail running. She's a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where, in the late 70s she rode her bike to class using the protected bike lanes on campus. Beth's connection with history began early. She would accompany her mother—a reference librarian—to work every Saturday and was given free rein in the library's archives including pre-microfilm leather-bound volumes of Civil War era newspapers. She's currently reading Carl Sandburg's six-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln; and when she travels home to central Illinois, visits Sandburg- and Lincoln-related historic sites or rides on the Rt. 66 bike route.

Beth moved to Denver in the summer of 2017 to become Executive Director of the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership. She is a board member of Northeast Transportation Connections and is part of the be well Community Collaborative for the Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities.

### Aurora Historical Society Annual Potluck

The weather cooperated and the annual Aurora Historical Society meeting and potluck turned out absolutely fantastic. I know it's been said before, but the Society members really do a great job of making some



amazing dishes and I know that no one came away hungry. The unofficial count pegged the attendance at 45 people and was one of the best turnouts we've had in several years.

Besides the wonderful food, the meeting produced the elected officers for 2020, some nice door prizes and

an enthralling lecture from Dr. Rena Fowler on the "Women Homesteaders in Eastern Colorado" which

featured the life of Estelle Siglin and letters she wrote from Akron, Colorado to her fiancé back in Iowa. The letters certainly provoked images of what it was like to be a woman and alone in rural Colorado at the time. There was some humor, some determination, and some severe loneliness that came through her writings.

The door prizes included:

- The board game of Auroraopoly (yes, Monopoly but with an Aurora theme) that went to Gordon Davis
- A book on the history of Stapleton airport that went to Bill Gondrez
- A puzzle that featured old and new candy wrappers that went to Hugh Sweeney.



If you were there, I hope you had a good time and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings. If you were unable to attend, hopefully you'll be able to make the next meeting, and we promise that we'll do our best to make it enjoyable and

educational.



**Reprinted *Aurora Democrat* Article from  
July 7,1955**

**Aurora Is Center for Air Force Academy Opening**

The new United States Air Force Academy, which begins its career on Aurora soil, both legally and geographically, is to be dedicated next Monday with dignitaries from all points and the occasion has been suitably recognized by Mayor William H. Mansfield in an official proclamation.

The flags are to fly next Monday-(bunting is to be spread—and in every way, Aurora is to acknowledge this “new child” that has been born in its midst. Great crowds are expected for this dedication ceremony next Monday. Be ready to help, in any way requested to make the visits of the big government brass something they not soon will forget.

Many reservations have been provided for in Aurora motels for out-of-town guests who are connected with the program of dedication. So, unfurl the flag Monday, in honor of this day of days—the dedication of the new United States Air Force Academy.

Represented will be all the newspaper wire services, Associated Press, United News, etc. Provisions have been made for reporters from leading U.

S. newspapers. Included among these reporters will, of course, be sports writers from the leading newspapers. This being the slack season in their field, they’ll be present to anticipate the football and other athletic outlooks of the new West Point of the Air.

The actual formal program is to include addresses by Harold E. Talbott, Secretary of the Air Force, and the swearing in of the first class. Part of the ceremonies includes Gen. Nathan F. Twining. of air force academy men.

For at least three years, perhaps several years longer, the Air Force Academy is to be located at Lowry Field. It just, so happens that the portion of Lowry Field set aside for the new academy is within the boundaries of the incorporated city of Aurora.

It is not expected that Aurora, is to see much of the new cadets, because it is understood that a rigid program keeps these personable young men quite closely

confined to their Academy confines. However, it is reasonable to believe that these young men, with short liberties, will come to Aurora rather than Denver to mail letters home and buy any pins, needles, thread and such other accessories as they may need.

Feminine Aurora hearts may remain in a pit-a-pat situation. Recognizing the over-all situation, Mayor William H. Mansfield Tuesday night declared he was issuing a proclamation that appropriately saluted the dedication of the Air Force Academy on Aurora soil. Mayor Mansfield asks that flags be properly displayed next Monday. He requests the bunting be unfurled and that citizens of Aurora be ready to help, in any way requested to make the visits of the big government brass something they may not soon forget.

Many reservations have been provided for in Aurora motels for out-of-town guests who are connected with the program of dedication.

So, unfurl the flag Monday, in honor of this day of days—the dedication of the new United States Air Force Academy.

**Our Corporate Sponsor**



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Every Customer Our Values in Action  
Teamwork • Excellence • Accountability • Safety •  
Integrity • Communication

**If anyone would like to receive the newsletter by  
email and let the Aurora Historical Society save the  
postage.**

**Reprinted from the *Aurora Democrat* July 7,  
1955**

**Please contact Lynne Evans at 303-671-0874 or  
[lyevans@comcast.net](mailto:lyevans@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!**

**Anne Schuman**

## 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

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Aurora Regional Contest for National History Day

March 28, 2020



## What is National History Day?

National History Day is a literacy and social studies program for middle and high school students. Students research topics and produce projects in one of five categories: website, paper, documentary, exhibit or performance.

Volunteers serve as judges to rank student projects. More volunteers means more students can compete at the contest.

- Must be 18 or older.
- No experience or history background necessary.
- Online training available.
- Breakfast and lunch provided.
- Time commitment: from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and/or from noon to 3:30 p.m.
- Location: Anschutz Medical Campus, Education II South • 13121 East 17th Ave.



For more information and to sign up:  
auroranhdc.weebly.com  
Contact Jessica Lira • jlira@auroragov.org  
303.739.6663





# *The Good Ole' Summer Time*

*Hats and Parasols encouraged*



Please join us

## **Ice Cream Social Fundraiser**

July 25, 2020

1:00 to 4:00 PM

in the Centennial House Garden

1671 Galena Street

Tours of Centennial House available  
entertainment by **Capitol City Brass Band**  
*an 1870's town band*

## **Aurora Historical Society**

*Tickets \$5.00*

## Rambler Ranch Tour



**May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am to 1pm**  
**36370 Forest Trail**  
**Elizabeth, CO**

<https://www.rambleranch.com/features-attractions>

Aurora Historical Society has been invited to join the Aurora Museum Foundation, AIPP, Cultural Affairs, Historic Preservation Commission, Fox Theater and Library Boards for a tour of Rambler Ranch on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 1pm. The cost of the tour is \$20 a person. Food is available for an extra cost, or you can bring a picnic lunch with you.

Hidden in the rolling hills of the Black Forest, Colorado, sits one of Colorado's best kept secrets—Terry Gale's Rambler Ranch—the largest collection of AMC vehicles in the world.

Terry's ultimate goal is to have a complete 1917 to 1988 Nash/Rambler/AMC history showcased, and not just of the commonly known automobiles, but also of the appliances, tractors, commercial & military vehicles; a goal which is now certainly within reach.

In more recent years, The Rambler Ranch Collection has expanded to include an additional 60 other vehicle manufacturers; both the well-known and some far more obscure.

As the sayings go, The Rambler Ranch is both “well worth the price of admission” and “an absolute must-see”, as it is the single most comprehensive assemblage of Nash, Rambler, AMC, Jeep, Eagle vehicles, Kelvinator appliances and various associated products, advertising, promotional materials, toys, collectibles and ephemera anywhere in the world.

# We need your help!

For just \$1/page you can help digitize Aurora's historic newspapers!

Newspapers like the *Aurora Democrat* and *Aurora Advocate* are saved on microfilm reels which deteriorate over time and are cumbersome to use.

Digitizing this film creates an online and searchable database to find photos and articles from Aurora's past. Through Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection's website, you can already access hundreds of editions of historic Aurora newspapers from the early to mid-20th century. Learn more by visiting [ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org](http://ColoradoHistoricNewspapers.org)

## Historic Aurora Newspapers - Digitization Project

**Yes!** I want to give my support with my tax-deductible gift.

\$25    \$50    \$100    other

Please make checks payable to: *Aurora Historical Society*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send checks to:  
Aurora History Museum  
15051 E. Alameda Parkway  
Aurora, CO 80012



Aurora Historical Society  
Aurora, Colorado

