

ENDS OF THE MUSEUM and HISTORY CENTER

NEWSLETTER

Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center

Reading Room
for local history

Exhibits

Free admission

719-269-9036

612 Royal Gorge Blvd

www.royalgorgehistory.org

***In this issue: Volunteer Spotlight – Ruth Disher Page 4
Pioneer family of Barbara Galloway – COLLECTION
SPOTLIGHT: SOCOPOCO***

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

Now that we have a wonderful meeting room for an event center, we will be presenting programs in October AND November all the members will want to attend:

Date and Time: October 12, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Presenter: Dan Grenard assisted by Sue Cochran

The presentation will take place in the first floor meeting room followed by a walk to the upper floor where we will see the DeWeese fireplace and other important information about him.

William Dallas DeWeese, more commonly known as Dall DeWeese, moved to Cañon City in the 1880s. DeWeese can best be described as a “man of his time,” who aggressively promoted the benefits of living in Cañon City and played a large role in the development of its infrastructure. Today, DeWeese’s irrigation ditch and reservoir still provide water for recreational opportunities in the area, and the municipal building

DeWeese was also a hunter-naturalist who was concerned with the conservation of wildlife at the state and national level and was instrumental in the passing of the Alaskan Game Act in 1902. It was while hunting in the Morrison Formation badlands in Garden Park that DeWeese made his most exciting find: a partial skeleton of *Diplodocus longus*.



Dal DeWeese with “Mort”, the trophy elk that is part of the exhibit at the Museum and History Center.

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MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS

We invite everyone to
Join the Friends this
Year and support our
Museum staff.

The dues are as follows:

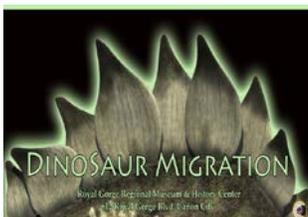
Individual . . \$10.00

Couple \$15.00

Family \$20.00

Business . . . \$25.00

You can make your
Check out to Friends
Of the Museum and
Take it in to the staff.
Otherwise, mail to:
Friends of the Museum
P.O. Box 481
Cañon City, CO 81215



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PIONEER ANCESTORS

By Barbara Galloway

Like so many people in the United States, I am quite proud of my Pioneer heritage, and believe I come by my desire to keep moving naturally. One part of my family started in England, migrated to America, settling in Massachusetts in the mid 1700s. The pioneer spirit was passed to at least one descendant who became my great-great Grandfather, Henry Burnett.

Henry was born July 15, 1815 in South Hadley, Massachusetts. I found a Biographical sketch of Henry Burnett in an 1881 "History of the Arkansas Valley, Colorado". With that, and family knowledge, this is the story of Henry Burnett that I have been able to piece together.

Henry, at the age of 15 went away to learn the mason's trade. He married Nancy Ann Moody in 1839 and his first child, Nancy Ann was born Jan. 18, 1842. His wife Nancy died Aug. 16, 1842. His second wife was Emily and their child, Edson Henry, was born Nov. 2, 1844. During all this time he worked as a mason.

His pioneering spirit seems to have surfaced in 1849 when he was one of the first to immigrate to California. He joined a group of 126 people that purchased a ship and sailed around Cape Horn, taking seven months to go from New York to California. He mined there for 18 months, then returned to Massachusetts.

In 1853 he went to Kane County, Illinois where he farmed and worked as a mason; he then went to Minnesota where he farmed until 1859. Hearing of rich gold and silver regions in Colorado he crossed the plains and located for the winter on the Hardscrabble; when spring came he went to the mountains and worked in the Tarryall placer diggings for 3 years. In the fall of 1863 he went to Montana for 3 years.

Henry returned to Colorado in 1866 and settled in Fremont County where he was a successful farmer and stockman with his son Edson Henry. Their ranch was in Upper Beaver Creek, near what today is Penrose. Henry was known to say he intended to make Colorado his home from then on. He was in Fremont County 15 years but returned to Massachusetts where he died in 1881.

His son, Edson Henry carried on in Upper Beaver Creek with his wife Delphine, a son Merrick William born in 1872, a daughter Mable D. born in 1873, a second son George born in 1875 died in 1881 at the age of six.

To the pioneers, family was very important as they built lives in a new world. When family members died they were buried nearby. This is shown in a small area of the Burnett property set aside as a cemetery.

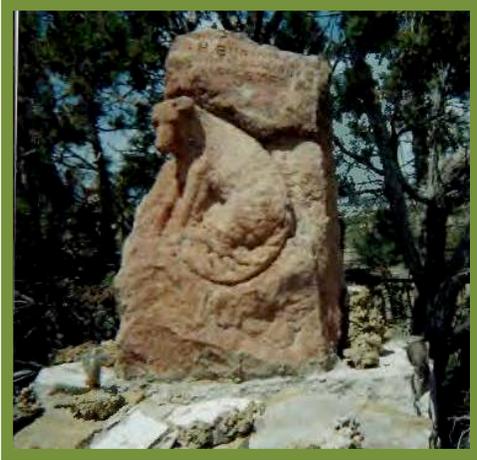
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Atop a lonely cactus covered hill in Upper Beaver Creek, there is a private cemetery with three burials. Edson died in 1898, his son George died in 1881 and Mable died in 1959. Two monuments in this cemetery were carved in blocks of red sandstone taken from a ledge in a canyon on their ranch. Each monument is mounted on a base about 5 feet high to protect them from stock and vandalism. There is so much love shown in these monuments carved by Mable daughter and sister. For her Father, she carved his favorite horse (right).

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She carved a little dog for her brother George which had been his constant companion (left). There is now a barbed wire fence around these monuments to keep out vandals.



After the children left the ranch, Delphine sold it and moved first to Canon City then to Pueblo where she died in 1932. Mable married then moved to Pueblo where she became the first lady barber in that city. After she moved back to Canon City she lived with her aunt, Ida Mae Norris, (I recently learned she was known as the "Goat Lady") next to the Hog Backs. After her aunt passed away she lived a very solitary life. When she died in 1959 she was laid to rest next to her father and little brother on the windswept hill in Upper Beaver Creek. She has a very small rock marker carved only with her name, date of birth and date of death. In case you were wondering how I am connected to this story, my grandfather was Merrick William Burnett and my Father was the second Edson Henry.

This is only one part of my pioneer family and I often wonder what they would think of the legacy they left us and what we have done with it.



The simple marker for Mable contains only her name and date of birth and death. This is a stark contrast to the ornate and beautiful markers of her brother and father which she carved.

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COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT: SOCOPOCO- Pictures on Page 6

The Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center recently received a donation from the Black Hills Energy Plant. Even though the plant has closed its doors and the building will be demolished soon, a little bit of their history will be kept at the museum for future generations. The plant recently delivered a collection of artifacts to our doorstep that we gladly accepted. The collection includes a fire hose, employee lockers, an assortment of various tools used for repairing the machinery, a piece of coal and a piece of slag. We also received some safety equipment, an intercom microphone, and tons of photos that document the long history of the power plant.

There has been a power plant at this site just south of Soda Point across Highway 50 from the prison since 1898. At that time, the plant was named Colorado Electric Power Company. They supplied the power to many mining camps, mills, and other manufacturing businesses in Cripple Creek. Over the years, the name of the power company changed from Cañon City Ice, Light and Power Company Inc. to Colorado Light and Power Company, the Arkansas Valley Railway Light and Power Company and eventually to Southern Colorado Power Company (SoCoPoCo). Along with the changes in the name, the plant itself had undergone a number of upgrades over the years. Despite all of the changes to this plant, its presence and impact on our local history will remain and be remembered through the photographs and the artifacts that Black Hills Energy donated to the museum.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RUTH DISHER

Volunteer Spotlight Questions

Name: **Ruth Disher**

How long have you been with the museum?

2 ½ years, I think.

What do you do at the museum?

Guide, misc.

What do you like most about working at the museum?

Meeting people from out of state, etc.

What is your favorite artifact at the museum?

The arrowheads in the Dall DeWeese Collection, I would like to know more about them.

What is your favorite time-period in history to study?

1800's

If you could own one historical artifact in the world, what would it be and why? (i.e. Di Vinci's Mona Lisa, the Holy Grail)

An original Monet, Cezanne, or Degas painting - I like the impressionists. They were so underappreciated in their time.

The Museum and History Center is very fortunate to have the caliber of volunteer that Ruth Disher represents.

She is knowledgeable about the exhibits, enthusiastic to impart knowledge to the visitors and best of all, always has a smile and a friendly attitude towards everyone. Thank you, Ruth, for your dedication.



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SUSAN CAMPBELL RENEAU, AUTHOR

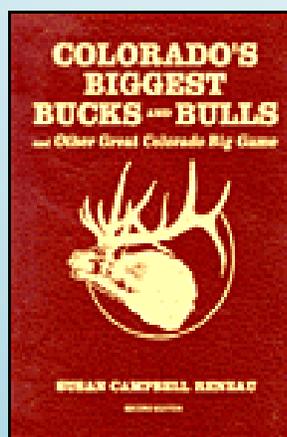
**OUR SPEAKER FOR THE NOVEMBER PROGRAM - and MORT OUR TROPHY ELK
NOVEMBER 7, 2013**

Colorado's Biggest Bucks and Bulls: And Other Great Colorado Big Game, Second Edition, is a 400-page hardcover book with 24k gold foil on the cover, containing 800 photographs and 275 true hunting stories of trophy big game taken in Colorado from 1850 to the present. More than 400 men and women are featured who live in 33 states but who hunt in Colorado each year. Other chapters discuss where to find B&C, P&Y and Longhunter trophies, how to care for big game in the field and places to go in Colorado.

Susan Campbell Reneau was raised in Colorado Springs and graduated from Wasson High School and the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). She holds a B.A. degree in education and speech communication from UNC and a M.S. degree in business marketing and public relations from American University. Susan wrote her first book in 1982 titled **COLORADO'S BIGGEST BUCKS AND BULLS**, First Edition. Since then she has written or edited 58 books. The latest edition of **COLORADO'S BIGGEST BUCKS AND BULLS** took Susan six years to research, compile and write. –

“The Colorado Hunter from Canon City William D. DeWeese's non-typical giant was taken over 120 years ago in Colorado, and many other truly outstanding but lesser-known trophies.” *Quoted from Boone & Crockett website for the book: An American Elk Retrospective*

Looking at prices from Barnes & Noble to Abe Books, prices now range from \$10.00 to \$278.02 for the first edition.;



Cañon City, Colorado 81212
September 2013 Volume 2, Issue 3

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**The Southern Colorado Power Company
plant – See Page 4 – Collection Spotlight**

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER

Carol McNew, Webmaster/Newsletter
703 Cyanide Avenue
Cañon City, CO 81212
www.museumfriends.info

Please join the Friends of the Museum and History Center. We support staff in many ways, and help to keep your museum the great place for everyone to learn something new. See Page 1 for membership dues amounts and we would love to add you to our Board of Directors. Call 275 5552 for information.

PLEASE SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK TO:
Friends of the Museum
P.O. Box 481, Cañon City, CO 81215 - 0481