

Welcome to



Wellsville

We are fortunate to have the President of the Western Fremont County Historical Society presenting a program on the most western community in the County. You will be entertained and amazed at the activities that have made this small community.

Wellsville, Colorado is easy to find on the internet. Although it has been almost a ghost town for a few decades, it is a destination for many – namely fishermen, rafting companies, hikers, and those who would like to see the other side of the river. There are a few new neighbors at Swissvale, and these people must use the bridge at Wellsville to access their property on the North side of the river.

Wellsville also has one of the last remaining limestone kilns, visible across the river just west of the bridge. It is a stone structure that creates speculation as to its use, however, this was prime limestone country and there are several of these old kilns, used to burn limestone to quick lime and lime for fertilizer. The evidence of the mining industry is everywhere in the faces of the mountains that surround the village of Wellsville. There is also a spectacular archway just West at the top of the formation that has an amazing snake like coil to it. If you drive slowly by, or even stop for a few minutes at this seemingly desolate place, you will see the evidence of years gone by and the industries that fed the economy of the valley.

The actual family that originally settled and therefore named Wellsville is lost in time. There were three different Wells families in Howard, Coaldale and Salida. The town was named for one of these families, but we are not sure which one. Wellsville was the last railroad stop in Fremont County before entering Chaffee County, and was also a recreational destination for those who were riding the train.

We take a note from the History of the Wells family available at the Western Fremont Historical Society resources: “We do know that the store and hot pools were called Wellsville by 1887. We have also located newspaper references to Capt. Pickett who apparently developed the pool area for recreation in 1889. In that same time frame, many lime kilns/limestone quarries were active in Wellsville. About 1904 a Salida investor, Vorhis Davenport, expanded and remodeled the pool area which became a busy spot for several years. During the 1930’s the quarries produced a fine quality travertine stone which was used to construct (government buildings throughout the USA). Gold placers towards Howard were also working the river. Today the pool is abandoned but some mineral is still being marketed.”

Continued on Page 2



Figure 1 1923 - Wellsville school

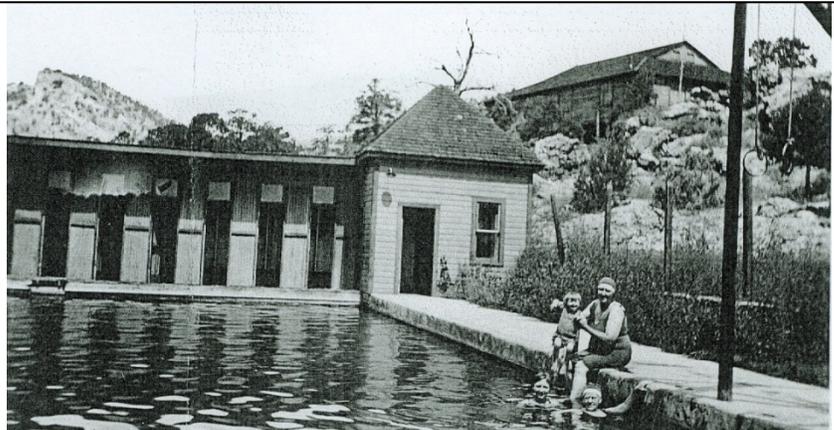


Figure 2 The pool at Wellsville - early 1900's

Continued from Page 1 - Wellsville

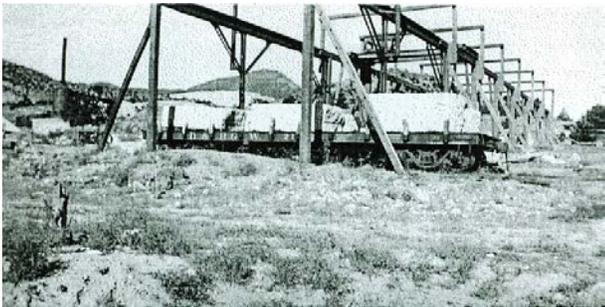
The Wellsville schoolhouse was also a brick structure, and is still standing although re-purposed as part of the storage areas for the USSoil Corp.

During the early part of the 1900's, there were many freight trains and up to eight passenger trains every day passing along the river through Howard and Wellsville. The fare was about 2 to 5 cents per mile. It's hard to imagine such traffic, but people did not have automobiles, and the roads that did exist were pretty primitive. The easiest way to get up and down the river corridor from one settlement to another, if you had the money to spare, was to hop on a train. The trains also delivered the mail.

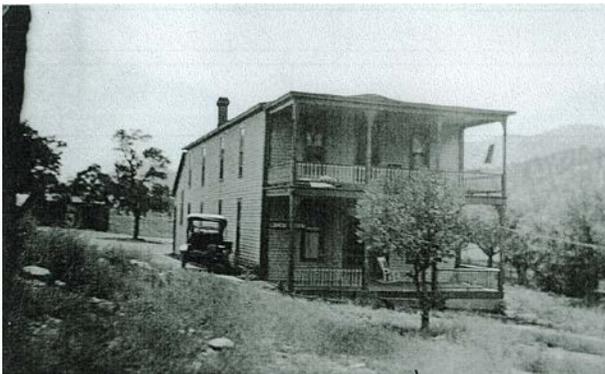
There is a railroad tunnel just east of the Swissvale/Wellsville area. If you drive this old stage road, you can access this at Point Barr.

"... There was a post office as early as 1881, although there was never a large permanent population. A pleasure resort centered around a large hot spring used as a bathing pool which attracted crowds of visitors for several decades. The old stage road passed above the pool and the tall house near it (the picture shows this large house which was a boarding house, hotel, and home for railroad section workers). Nearby, the Captain claim, located in 1881, showed an interesting mix of magnetic iron, copper, gold and silver ores." The railroad evidently named the town, because it was built through here in 1880.

*During the mining boom, V. C. Davenport developed the resort into a popular place for picnics and outings. There was a hotel, a dance hall and a baseball field. Lodges and other such organizations could rent the place for special occasions. Fourth of July might see as many as a thousand people enjoying the facilities and foot and horse races." **From Trappers to Tourists, Rosemae Wells Campbell***



1 The railroad was the mode of transportation for removing the huge blocks of Travertine. This quarry provided stone for buildings throughout the United States.



2 The Boarding house/hotel in Wellsville was a busy place during the early 1900's. The railroad workers lived here as well as tourists who came to swim.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thank you to all the new members who have joined this year - we are glad you have joined us. Dues cover Dec. 31, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2014.

If you join the Society, and pay your dues now, they are good through 2013 - over a year's worth of newsletters and tours for your enjoyment.

We always accept donations in any amount, and are very grateful for any Memorial gifts you may wish to give - this is our pledge to you - good programs, historic interest in the landmarks of the County, and scholarship awards that will help some young person attend college.

Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$20.00
Group	\$25.00
Lifetime	\$150.00

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!
SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS.**

**PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL GRANT FUNDERS:
PITCH IN - IF YOU WANT TO HELP
RENOVATE THE PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL!!!**
We are happy to tell you the Colorado Historic Fund has granted \$7500.00 to the Historic Structure Assessment of the jail. This is a preliminary step in determining the work that must be done to renovate the jail. We need it safe and secure for the Public to enjoy.

BOOSTERS FOR THE JAIL PROJECT ARE:

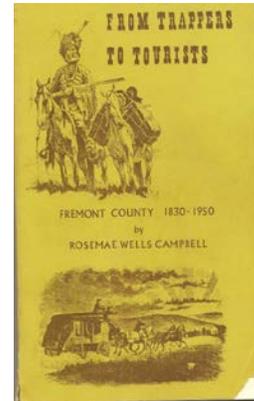


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In 1971, Charter members of the Historical Society worked with Rosemae Wells Campbell to research and produce the book *From Trappers to Tourists: Fremont County 1830-1950*. This book contains the story of the people and events of these years. It has been reprinted three times. We want to know if you would like to purchase one if we reprinted it for the fourth time. Please let your board know if you would be interested in buying a book from the Historical Society because we also need to know how many to print. You may know of others that would like to purchase them. Let us know!

August 17, 2013

**SpringCreek Park, Spring St. &
Colarelli**

Historical Mining Speakers, 9 AM-10 AM

Jim Bosse, Classical Guitar Concert

Colarelli Avenue & Scott Street

Old-time Equipment Display 9 AM - 5 PM

Tractor-driven hay rides between park, equipment display and Community Center 9 AM to Noon

Community Center, 1720 Brookside Ave.

Bocce Ball Tournament Sign-up starts at 9 AM, then lessons and tournament

Spaghetti Dinner, 11-1

Beer & Wine

Musicians

Door prizes

Water Balloon Fight

Silent Auction

"Spirits of the Past" portrayals

Children's activities

Historical photos and maps

Pizzelle Bake Sale

Bessemer Hist. Mine Program

Tours of 1920 St. Anthony's Church

BROOKSIDE BLOW-OUT

MEMORIAL MEMENTO

Memorial Donation

In loving memory of

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Elsie L. Anson

Gone Home

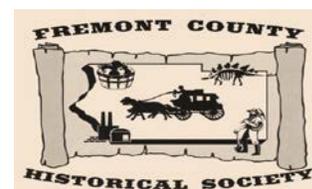
But Not Forgotten

Paid by: Sharon McIsaac

**BEQUEST from
THEODORE JAMES**

To enhance and further the mission of the
Fremont County Historical Society

We thank you.



Biographical information about William Schrader - our presenter for July 21, 2013

Having lived nearly 80 years on this planet we call Earth, history and my family's history have taught me some powerful and enlightening lessons. Now that I'm "retired" as a Nuclear Scientist, my interest in both general history and family history, and particularly local history are high priority

I started collecting stamps & other historical articles while in grade & junior high. My paternal grandparents were immigrants from Germany ca 1860's. Maternal ancestor relatives trace to the Mayflower Ship & beyond, England & French Huguenots. My step-grandfather, Joe Fuller, gave me some Civil War mementoes when I was in junior high school, also some family history items.

My late wife Carolee (Ulrich) Schrader, and I were married in 1955, at her family's historic dairy home near Salida. I was still in the army and our honeymoon was going back to Ft. Benning, GA, in our 1937 Olds 8 towing our 1952 trailer home. We crossed the Mississippi River at historic Vicksburg where we pondered the Civil War's battles there. I had maternal ancestor relatives on both sides of that war. Much later in our lives, we discovered that Sanford Amy, whom we named our property after in Howard, fought and was wounded during the Battle of Champion Hill during the Siege of Vicksburg. Carolee & I had 3 wonderful children, 2 sons, Bill & Norman and 1 daughter, Cinde (Schrader) McPhail, while I was still in college financed by Korean GI Bill & part-time work.

My first professional job was in Idaho Falls, ID, as an Experimental Reactor Physicist with Phillips Petroleum's Atomic Energy Division at the then named National Reactor Testing Station, now Idaho National Laboratory (INL). After Idaho, I went with Kerr-McGee's Management Science Dept in Oklahoma City. After my parent's deaths in 1973, we came back to Colorado and lived on Flint Creek Ranch, or Amy Homestead.

Recent History & Family History Projects

- Inventory of all things WFHS has (documents, tapes, CDs, DVDs, photos, books, etc) With the help of Carol McNew & Linda Beermann we got a grant from Sangre De Cristo Electric for computer software. We met our goal of all history documents & photos on a flash drive in a searchable database, about 5500 pages of scanned documents, 2011-2012.

Roadside signs WFHS around Howard area; Pathway Into History Project with a substantial grant from CHS, GARNA coordinated joint efforts of WFHS members and other private and government agencies for 13 roadside signs along Fremont County Rd 45, 2002-2005.

If you would like more information about Bill Schrader, there will be handouts available on this fascinating Fremont County Historian.

ENTERTAINMENT IS EXPENSIVE?

FREE: The Royal Gorge Museum and History Center - Wed. thru Sat. 10 to 4. -

FREE: The Skyline Drive - The wonderful 300 foot high view of the city and Eastern Colorado!

FREE: The Riverwalk - Stroll along the historic Arkansas River, rest on a bench, watch out for a bear!

FREE: Historic Downtown Cañon City - 81 buildings on the National Register of Historic Sites .

FREE: Churches of anyone's choice throughout the city, with services at various times.

FREE: Driving tours of Oak Creek Grade to Westcliffe, and back through Texas Creek to Cañon City.

FREE: Gold Belt Byway - Take Phantom Canyon Road to Cripple Creek, and come back Hwy 9

FREE: Stroll downtown Florence Antique Avenue (Main Street). Wonderful sights to see.

FREE; City parks throughout the Area: Centennial on Griffin and South 4th; Rudd on College and 12th

Street, Veterans at 3rd Street, Pathfinder Park between Cañon City & Florence on Hwy 115. And

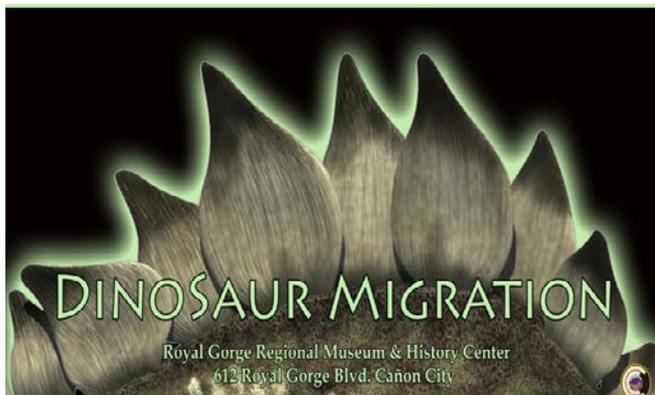
MORE.

In our own Backyard:

The Garden Park Fossil Area

The Garden Park Fossil Area is one of the most productive and historically important areas in the western United States for the understanding of Late Jurassic dinosaur faunas. The Garden Park area is one of the few places in the Western United States where dinosaur remains occur from bottom to top of the Morrison Formation. They have been collected from no fewer than 25 quarries in the Garden Park area, which is the "type locality" of many species of famous dinosaurs, including species of Allosaurus, Camarasaurus, Diplodocus, and Stegosaurus. Three almost complete skeletons of Stegosaurus stenops, Colorado's State Fossil, have been found and collected from the area. The Morrison in Garden Park also has produced the first-known Jurassic mammal fossils from the Western United States and reptile, freshwater-pelecypod, freshwater-gastropod, and land-plant fossils.

The Garden Park Fossil Area is located on Federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and has special management as part of a larger Research Natural Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Casual collecting of fossils is not permitted in the area, but collecting permits for scientific research projects are available. For more information contact the BLM office in Cañon City.



[3](#) The Dinosaur exhibit at the Museum is absolutely a "must see" in Canon City

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Do you like to interact with people? Are you a budding entertainer, and would like to practice your communication skills one day a week?

The Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center would be glad to have you come in and audition to be a tour guide for the Museum on Thursday afternoon, and Saturday from 10 to 4:00 in the afternoon.

This is a real opportunity for you to shine - and learn all about the history of Fremont County.

APPLY TODAY TO LISA AT RGRM&HC.

The City of Cañon City is pleased to print the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter as a contribution to the Society. Thanks for all you do for Fremont County History!



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