

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2015 VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

WEBSITE: fremonthisitoricalsociety.com

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON
MAY 17, 2015 @ 2:00 p.m.

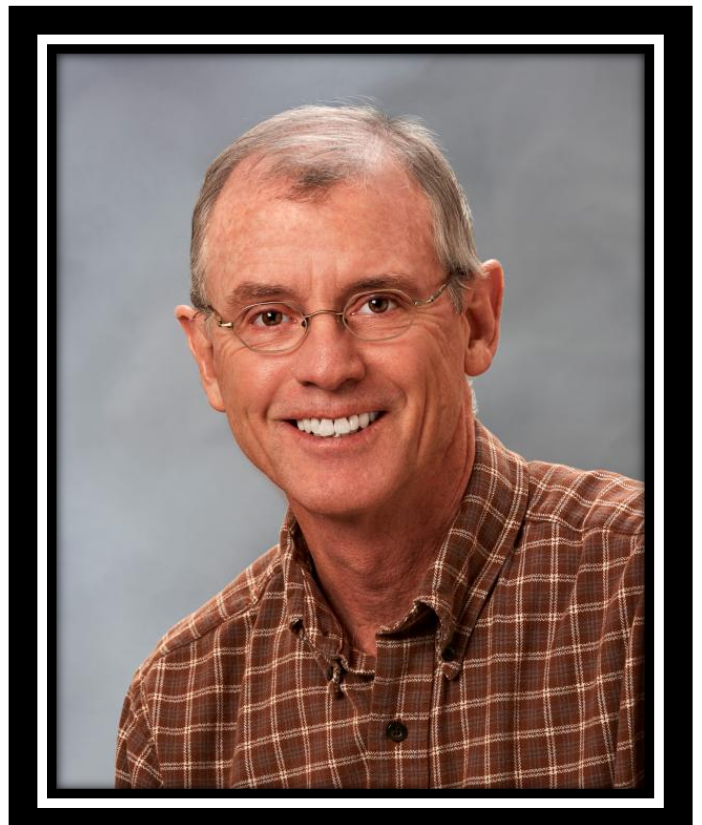
James Jefferson (Jeff) Broome

is a 5th generation Colorado native. His ancestors lived in Colorado before it was a Territory. William A. Watson arrived in Pueblo in 1859 while Mary Elisabeth Crouch came in the early 1860's; they were married March 15, 1866, in her parents' home on the Hardscrabble just north of Wetmore, Fremont County.

Broome received his BS degree at Colorado State University at Pueblo, his MA at Baylor University, and his PhD, in philosophy, at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He has taught philosophy at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, CO, for more than 25 years.

Broome has received awards for articles he has written on the Indian Wars, including the Lawrence Frost Literary Award of the Little Big Horn Associates, the Six Shooter Award of the Wild West History Association, and the Philip A. Danielson Award of Westerners International. He has also been featured in *Wild West*, *Research Review*, *Journal of the Indian Wars* and *Greasy Grass*.

Broome has published in philosophy, *Hume's "New Scene of Thought"*, and in western history - *Dog Soldier Justice: The Ordeal of Susanna Alderdice in the Kansas Indian War*, *Custer into the West*, and his current edition, *Cheyenne War - Indian Raids on the Roads to Denver, 1864 - 1869*. He is also an accomplished fingerstyle guitarist. *Book Review by Barbara Hobson, Page 3*



JEFF BROOME WILL BE THE SPEAKER AT THE MAY 17TH
2015 PROGRAM OF THE FREMONT COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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- Page 4: Geology Club info
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- Page 6: Our advertisers are important to the Society since they fund the mailing of your newsletter. Please tell them you "Saw it in the Society Newsletter"

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
801 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City
2:00 p.m. - Public Welcome
Refreshments served

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

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We are trying to save trees and money. If you would prefer to have your newsletter sent via email, we would be pleased to send it to you via the Cyberspace. Please send your email address with your membership check in the envelope, or contact Pat Nelson email: pat@econstrategy.com

Fremont County Historical Society

P.O. Box 965

Cañon City, CO 81215

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We are always open to your input. The bylaws will be updated in the next two months, as well as committee assignments. Please volunteer for program help (refreshments, set-up) if you have time.

Volunteers Needed for Fremont County Heritage Projects

The 2015 Fremont Fall Heritage Festival Steering Committee, Self-Guided Heritage Tours Workgroup and other heritage oriented groups in Fremont County are actively seeking interested volunteers to step forward and fill volunteer positions during the summer and fall of 2015. Numerous heritage-oriented projects need individuals and couples to assist fill many volunteer positions. To best match volunteers' interests and areas of experience, a list of tasks that need to be filled by volunteers has been developed that explains what is involved and the approximate time commitment. That information will be discussed at the next Historical Society meeting, May 17th.

Examples of volunteer jobs that need to be filled include:

- Help distribute the Self-Guided Heritage Tour booklets to Chambers of Commerce and Museums in the county
- Assist on committees to plan the Fremont Fall Heritage Days & Festival in September/October
- Help at the Chamber of Commerce Tourist Cabin this summer and fall

Contacts will be available at the meeting so those interested in volunteering can obtain further information. This can be a great opportunity to meet interesting people and make a lasting contribution to defining and sustaining Fremont County's heritage.

CHEYENNE WAR
INDIAN RAIDS ON THE ROADS TO DENVER 1864-1869

by
Jeff Broome

This 2013 published book gives detailed accounts of the numerous Indian raids along the travel routes between the Missouri River and Denver, Colorado, during the years 1864-1869. (See the author's bio on page 1 of this newsletter.)

Dr. Broome's main research focus was the citizen affidavits in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Those records are not available on microfilm and consist of over 13,000 individual files known as Indian Depredation Claims. Claims were filed by settlers, freighters and other white people who suffered property losses as a result of Indian raids; there was no compensation for death or personal injuries. Over a 10-year period, Dr. Broome made numerous trips to the National Archives and located hundreds of individual depredation claims, most of which contain first-hand affidavits describing the specifics of a particular Indian raid.

There were several requirements for completing the depredation claims. The claimant was required to provide dates, places, description of property lost and its value, and the specific Indian tribe accused of the attack. It was a lengthy process that included at least two sworn affidavits from witnesses not benefiting from the claim and a number of reviews by government agencies, along with an investigation by a special government agent to verify the truthfulness of the claim. Many of the claims were paid many years after the incident occurred and almost always for less than the claimed value of the property. Some were never paid. As a result of the amount of detail required for processing the claims, a wealth of information and the description of the actual event are contained in these files.

Although called the "Cheyenne War," several other tribes of Plains Indians were involved in the hostilities. Some of those tribes were Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche, and Sioux. Stories of the experiences of some of the Indian captives, either told in the first person after their release or by their survivors, are included. The book has numerous footnotes citing sources; almost every page has footnotes. It also includes a bibliography, an index and a map showing the geographic area of the Cheyenne war, marked with locations of stations, ranches, forts and other sites mentioned in the text. There is an appendix describing current efforts to locate stage stations along the Denver roads for the purpose of marking them and thus preserving their history.

The author, trained in philosophy, stated in his "Preface and Introduction" that he has always had "an appreciation for discovering and understanding truth," while acknowledging "there is an unavoidable subjective element in interpreting truth. . ." He said his purpose is "to bring a clearer focus on truth by presenting the historically factual incidents. . ." in the area and during the time period covered in this book. He noted that his perspective is the civilian perspective, while the Indian and military perspectives are understandably different.

Dr. Broome's research is thorough, meticulous and impressive. For anyone interested in this time and place in history, *Cheyenne War* is an excellent resource.

Copies of *Cheyenne War* will be available for purchase following Dr. Broome's presentation at the Historical Society meeting on May 17th. Copies can also be purchased through Amazon.com and signed copies are available by contacting Dr. Broome directly at his e-mail address: jjeffersonbroome@comcast.net. A copy is available on loan from the Cañon City Public Library.

(Reviewed by Barbara Hobson)

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Canon City Geology Club
Affiliate of the Historical Society

THE WILD BUNCH: The Wolves of Yellowstone

Dr. Sue Ware, Forensic Pathologist and Paleontologist
Research Associate, Denver Museum of Nature and Science
May 11, 2015 6:00 pm business meeting; 7:00 pm speaker
First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
on the northwest corner of 9th St and Main, Cañon City
(719-275-9781 for more information)

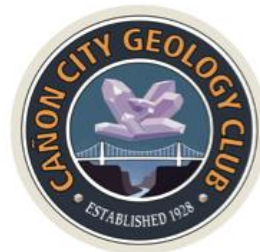
www.canoncitygeologyclub.com

Wolf skeletons tell stories, painful stories. Broken teeth, infected jawbones. Kicks by elk and buffalo resulting in broken ribs, legs, foot bones. Cougar bites. Attack by other wolves.

Dr. Sue Ware has studied the health and effect of injuries on individual and pack wolf behavior for 7 years. At the Wolf Recovery Program in Yellowstone National Park, Sue conducts the medical examinations and analyses of Yellowstone wolf remains as the principal investigator on a 10-year research project.

Sue is a research associate at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) in Earth Science and Zoology, as well as a research associate at the George C. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, where she conducts research on comparative anatomy and paleo-pathology of carnivores, primarily the dire wolves and sabertooth cats.

Sue has degrees in art, biology, psychology, anthropology and forensics. Her doctoral dissertation was on the pathologies of the dire wolves as compared to modern gray wolves.



May 11 - Sue Ware of DMNS - Sue will speak about her research on Yellowstone wolves and the La Brea tar pits, where she is a research associate.

June 8 - Amy Luther - Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge) summer geology field camp leader

July and August - no meetings - "we're out rockhounding"

September 14 - "Back From Summer Rockhounding Show & Tell", and Silent Auction

October 12 - Pete Modreski, USGS - Carbonatites and their minerals in Colorado--including the New Hope amethyst claim.

November 9 - TBD

December 14 - Pot Luck Dinner and Geology Gift Exchange

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Fremont County Hospital and Farm 1865 - 1973

The beginning of the care of those less fortunate than many of us, mainly the old, infirm, sick and homeless began in Fremont County in 1865, just four years after we were named a Territorial County of the Colorado Territory. The farmland on Four Mile Creek was purchased from Jesse Rader for \$1,925. This was a strain on the limited budget of the Fremont County taxpayers at the time, but the compassion and caring for those who could not care for themselves was as strong then as now.

The building was constructed first from frame materials, and a canvas roof. It was furnished with 30 cots and was commonly referred to as "The Pest House". People who needed to be quarantined were sent there, those who could not afford regular physician care or hospital confinement. The place was actually called a hospital, and was served by local physicians. This uncertain beginning was soon brought to an end by a fire, which burned the original building to the ground.

In 1876 Fremont County began to rebuild the "Fremont County Hospital", the replacement for The Pest House" and built in a much more permanent manner. The staff of the hospital was finally furnished with a superintendent in 1900 who also managed the farm, attached to the hospital. The new and improved building had 40 beds and was usually at capacity, since transients and others who knew of the facility were able to be cared for without charge. There were those who worked in the dairy and orchard for their room and board. It was not unusual for transients who may have entered as injured patients, to continue their stay in the hospital for years.

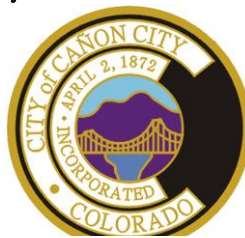
Records show that one of the first residents was a 10 year old girl, with no relation or anyone to care for her, and another young boy of 8 years old who was in the same situation. Many people ended up living at the hospital after being abused, injured or abandoned, because there was no place else to go. Even newborn babies and old folks would be abandoned at the Fremont County Hospital and Farm. The farm was updated in 1920 to become a model of cleanliness, patient care and respect for its ability to retain a respectable appearance in the community, no longer "The Pest House". Many children would be left there, and if orphaned, might be sent to Denver to an orphanage, some would simply run away, and never be found again.

The Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery Committee worked to find the Medal of Honor Winner, John Davis. He was listed as dying in Cotopaxi; however his headstone at Fort Logan simply was "In Memory of", indicating he was not buried in that place. When the detectives finally found John Davis, he was in the Greenwood Cemetery, Pauper's Section, and had previously lived at the Fremont County Hospital and Farm a few years before his death in 1901. The headstone from the Government is now erected and marks the grave of this Union Civil War Veteran in Greenwood Cemetery.

The history of the piece of land that was originally the farm of Jesse Rader has passed through three phases. The Fremont County Hospital and Poor Farm was razed and made room for the present day Creekside Mall, home of shops and restaurants on Justice Center Road.

If you drive by there in the late moonlight, you may be able to see vestiges of the old two-story brick hospital and its many occupants who had nowhere else to go. We have a lot of places in Fremont County that have changed in the last 140 years. CMC

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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