

# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 21, 2018 VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1 WEBSITE: fremontheritage.com  
WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado



Editor: Carol McNew, Readers: Margaret Storm and mailing Barbara Hobson

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON  
SUNDAY - JANUARY 21, 2018

## THE COTOPAXI JEWISH COLONY

1882 - 1884

OUR PRESENTER:  
JENNIFER MOORE LOWE



*Cotopaxi, Colorado  
a Jewish Agricultural Colony*



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

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to you

### JENNIFER MOORE LOWE

Jenny first moved to Cañon City in 1974 when her parents owned the Texaco station in Cotopaxi. She earned her Bachelor's degree from CSU in Pueblo, and her MBA from UNC in Greeley. She's been doing genealogy since 1969 and has been researching the Cotopaxi Colony for the past 10 years. She worked for the Social Security Administration and had a federal security clearance while working for the Department of the Treasury. She retired at age 50 and loves dabbling in a variety of art mediums, gardening, and research. If you ask her what she does, she will reply with, "I just play!"

*EDITOR'S NOTE: She is a recognized expert on this subject and has presented papers at very prestigious events in Israel and the USA.*

**THE COTOPAXI JEWISH COLONY  
RESEARCHED AND PRESENTED BY JENNIFER MOORE LOWE  
1882 - 1884**

**GO WEST YOUNG MAN! GO TO AMERICA!!! THERE'S FREE FARMLAND! WE WILL GIVE YOU A HOUSE, A COW, LAND, PLENTY OF SEED AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FARM!**

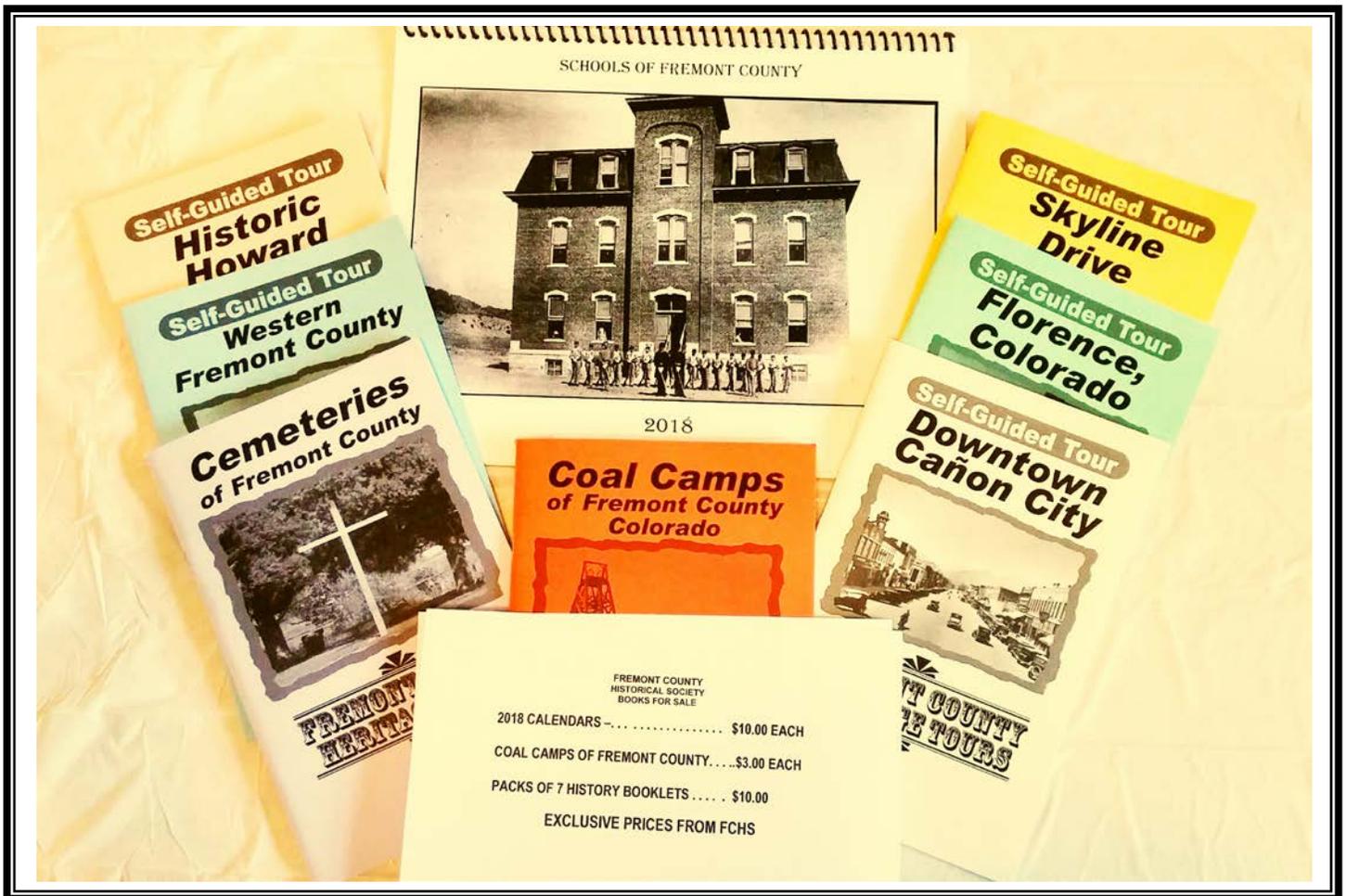
**BUT WHEN THEY GOT HERE - THERE WAS NOTHING. THE LAND HAD NOT EVEN BEEN SURVEYED. THE HOUSES HADN'T BEEN BUILT.**

**HOW WOULD THEY SURVIVE? WORK ON THE RAILROAD? WORK IN THE MINES? WERE THEY TRICKED INTO COMING HERE? WERE THEY SWINDLED OUT OF THEIR MONEY? HOW WOULD THEY COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR ENGLISH-SPEAKING NEIGHBORS WHEN ALL THEY UNDERSTOOD WAS YIDDISH? WERE THEY ABANDONED BY THE HEBREW EMIGRANT AID SOCIETY THAT SPONSORED THEIR TRIP TO THE WEST?**

**THESE AND MORE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED BY JENNIFER MOORE LOWE WHO USES GENEALOGY, HISTORY, RESEARCH AND OTHER MEANS TO DIG DEEP INTO LOCAL RECORDS TO FIND THE ANSWERS AND TELL THE STORY OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN COTOPAXI. SHE'S BEEN RESEARCHING THESE QUESTIONS FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS AND HER PRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS LIVELY, ENTERTAINING, INFORMATIVE AND EDUCATIONAL.**

**IN THE END, YOU WILL SEE HOW THE COTOPAXI STORY KEPT MANY FAMILIES FROM THE HOLOCAUST AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECORD THE ROAD-MARKS ALONG THE WAY SO THAT THE JOURNEY IS NEVER FORGOTTEN.**

# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



The Fremont County Historical Society has published seven books on the history of the County, from east to west. The 2018 calendars are almost gone, and depict many of the old schools that were used throughout the years from Beaver Park, Portland, South Cañon City, Florence, North Cañon City, Wetmore, Current Creek, and Western Fremont County. They are available in several places - Florence Pioneer Museum, Archives and Library, Royal Gorge Museum and History Center, Prison Museum, The Cellhouse, Chrysalis, Fremont County Administration Building and more. If you go to our website: [www.fremontheritage.com](http://www.fremontheritage.com) they are available for download.

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!



## FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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Address:  
P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215

# FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

fremontheritage.com

Facebook: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado

## THE "Doc" LITTLE AWARD STARTED IN 1986

### FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The "Doc" Little award is presented each year to a person who has made a significant contribution to the goals of the Fremont County Historical Society (formerly known as the Fremont/Custer Historical Society until 2006). It is named in memory of Wilbur T. Little, the long-time journalist in Cañon City. The "Doc" is because he succeeded his father as coroner in the mid 30's. His father was a medical doctor who practiced medicine in the Fremont County area for several years. "Doc" Little was instrumental in founding the Historical Society and served as its president. His son, Jim Little has carried on the journalist traditions by publishing the Wet Mountain Tribune and contributing to the Historical Society as well.

Each year a person is named from the community who has made a significant contribution to the mission of the Society - identify, educate and promote heritage sites and events throughout the County. We are awarding this prestigious designation to a gentleman from Western Fremont County who has worked throughout the county to further the goals of the Society. William (Bill) Schrader has been working for many years in the western part of the County to educate the people who are part of that area. He also contributed time, with his wife, to the Greenwood Cemetery Stone Reading Project, Roadside Interpretive Signs in 2002, and in 2004 completed the Pathway Into History Project which is informative kiosks along County Road 45 in the Howard-Wellsville area depicting the long history of that road to the silver mines in Leadville prior to highway and railroad construction.

Congratulations to a great job done in educating the public, conducting tours, supporting the Museum in Howard and resource material that is contained in it. Thank you, Bill.

## YOUR SOCIETY IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN AND BOOSTING LOCAL FOLKS MAKING OUR HISTORY MORE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO ARE SEEKING ANSWERS ABOUT THE HERITAGE OF FREMONT COUNTY: CROSSROADS THROUGH TIME AT PCC CAMPUS.

The objective of this approximately 2,000- foot People and Places Interpretive Trail is to present the story of the people, places, activities and circumstances that have touched, and been touched by, the Fremont County Region. Waysides along the trail will include informative signs, artifacts, representations and art pieces. PCC students and community members are encouraged to participate in researching and organizing displays. The Fremont Campus Colorado History courses will use the People and Places Trail for learning purposes and will be involved in classes that include development of possible future displays, activities, and K-12 curriculum.

The first section of the trail "From the Early Coloradans" will include the Paleo-Indians, the Spanish and the French. Displays will include information from the end of the last Ice Age, the first people in the region, and the Spanish who traveled through the area. One display will be designed to enlighten visitors about the Spanish battle against Greenhorn that happened just south of the campus.

The Society will be supporting the placing of signs along this trail by a donation to the Crossroads Through Time Group.



Golden Age Center

Cañon City's Senior  
Center

728 Main St.  
Cañon City, Co

Phone: 719-275-5177

Fax: 719-275-7146

E-mail: [ldirector@ccgac.com](mailto:ldirector@ccgac.com)

### TIME CAPSULE AT THE LIBRARY

The Cañon City Ladies Library Association organized in March of 1886. Their sole purpose was to start a public library. Following their first meeting, the Association began raising funds and collecting donated books. One member went door-to-door with a baby buggy, gathering donated books. In June 1886, they opened to the public. The library had a reading room and lending library of 200 donated books.

By 1901, the library contained 4,000 books. The Ladies Library Association decided a larger building was needed. The President of the Association wrote a letter to Andrew Carnegie. Carnegie, a Pittsburgh steel millionaire, had helped to establish numerous libraries around the nation. The Association purchased two lots on Macon Street for the site of a new library. The women also obtained a pledge to support the library from the City of Cañon City. Seeing the women's dedication, Carnegie donated a total of \$13,000 for the new library.

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1902, they laid the cornerstone of the Carnegie Public Library. Following speeches by various dignitaries, a box was placed in a receptacle of the cornerstone and sealed with cement.

In December of 1902, the Ladies moved into the new library building. There were approximately 4,500 volumes in the collection by that time. With the completion of the library, the work of the Cañon City Ladies Library Association was done. They turned the library over to the City of Cañon City at a dedication ceremony on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 1903. The Ladies held their last official meeting in April 1903.

On December 5, 2014, the time capsule the Cañon City Ladies Library Association had the foresight to have placed here 115 years ago was opened.

The time capsule was replaced with some modern-day items: cell phones, contemporary books, lists of people in office, etc.

## FLORENCE PIONEER MUSEUM AND RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

**FPM is kicking off our new fundraiser:**

**"Bricks for Bucks"**

**For \$25.00, a family or a business can buy a brick to place around an old furnace in the White Building. The family name or business name will be placed on the brick.**

**The donor can buy as many bricks as wanted. Your group will be represented by one brick around the furnace.**

**Donor forms can be picked up at the Florence Pioneer Museum, 100 E. Front St. anytime the museum is open.**

**Let's hear from you soon!**

**Contact for donations:**

**Marty Lamm**

**105 Mesquite Dr. Florence CO  
81226 (719) 784-3037.**

**Make your check out to the  
"Florence Pioneer Museum",  
on the reminder line:  
Building Fund.**



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 Paul and Karen Austin/Owners

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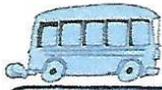
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 Dee Stubbs, owner

**276-5200**



**Fremont County** *ransit*

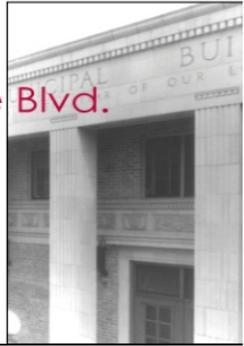
Public Transportation  
 Canon City, Florence & Penrose  
 Suggested Donations: General Public \$2  
 Over 60/Disabled: \$1  
 Volunteer Drivers Welcome 275-5177

**ROYAL GORGE  
 REGIONAL  
 MUSEUM & HISTORY  
 CENTER**

**EXHIBITS**  
**READING ROOM**  
**FREE ADMISSION**

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.  
 Cañon City, CO  
 719-269-9036

rgmhc.org



Contractors Homeowners

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**John & Sandy Howard**  
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 Canon City, CO 81212  
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