



The Record



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JCHSColorado.org

A Century of Camp Neosho

By Meghan M. Vickers

Happy Birthday, Camp Neosho! What is Camp Neosho, you may ask? Well, it's what we now know as Hiwan Museum, and it turns 100 years old this year! While the Camp Neosho property actually dates to two decades earlier, the building itself was completed in 1918.

Camp Neosho's story really begins in the 1880s when Mary Neosho Williams and her daughter Josepha moved to Denver from New York, probably to care for Mary's ailing brother-in-law. Mary, a Civil War widow, and Josepha, were quite wealthy; Mary's husband's family had significant land holdings in the Detroit area at one point. This money was passed down to Mary and Josepha (and her three brothers) upon Brigadier General Thomas Williams' death during the Battle of Baton Rouge in 1862. The two women would come to Evergreen to visit Mary's brother who had a cabin in the area. While camping and sight-seeing along Bear Creek, they discovered this wonderful property that was available for the cost of back taxes. Josepha purchased the property for the relatively small sum of \$267.87.

The property included one hay barn, so the women decided to hire a local carpenter named John "Jock" Spence



Camp Neosho early 1900s

to convert the barn into living space and build an additional two rooms which are located in the front octagonal tower. The upstairs of the tower was Mary's bedroom, the downstairs was the library/sitting room and the original barn was the "great room." A small lean-to type structure was added to the back of the great room for cooking and eating. The women decided to name their new summer getaway "Camp Neosho" after Mary's middle name. Mary had been born along the Neosho River, at Fort Gibson in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), and it was common to give

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REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

By Elaine Hayden

As Spring rapidly approaches, there is more in the air than the verdant scent of green grass and the birds returning to their summer home. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Board, Hank Fuchs specifically, we have successfully, officially and legally re-branded our historical society as the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society. In the spirit of the founding members of JCHS, the Board and membership endeavor to recapture the essence of the founder's mission of focusing on the rich and unique history of the Evergreen mountain area.

We are very pleased to have welcomed members of neighboring communities including Idledale, Morrison, Kittredge, Tiny Town, Indian Hills and Conifer at our community mixer on March 10th. The tenor of the social reflected the eagerness of our neighbors to share the history of their respective communities and residents. We are in the planning process for hosting a series of 'History Roundtables' that will feature our neighbor's stories and a glimpse into the history of our mountain area. As I often repeat, each person's story is a valuable and integral part of the mosaic that is the Evergreen mountain area history and everyone has a voice at the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society! The newly branded EMAHS's mission mirrors the vision that was established over 40 years ago of preserving, protecting and presenting history of the mountain area. We are the same organization with a new face. Our web address will remain www.jchscolorado.org where news and events are posted. Please visit often.

The EMAHS Board will be taking on a new appearance as long time member, Max Lankston will be stepping aside as Director at Large. Joining Max in his retreat

is Pat Goben, Dan Metzler and Susan and Jerry Grannell. We are forever grateful for the inspiration and hard work all these members have performed for and with us in recent years. We are pleased to welcome Rosemary Barenbrugge as our interim treasurer. I eagerly await the addition of new Board members at our Annual Membership Luncheon in June at which time we will vote on incoming Board members. Watch for notice of this event.

Events over the past few months have included a presentation on October 21st by Erika Walker that centered on Erika's great-grandfather, John Brisben Walker. J.B. Walker was an advocate for Denver Mountain Parks, Red Rocks and visionary who wanted to build the summer White House on Mt. Falcon. Our participation in the Annual Alternative Gift Fair in November resulted in a banner year with our highest recorded profits from the fair. Additional events include a very successful volunteer appreciation luncheon in December, and our Annual Holiday Tea, hosting 35 attendees in the dining room at Hiwan Museum in December.

A full slate of events is planned for coming months that will further elevate the presence and visibility of EMAHS. A Spring Tea Party will be offered at Hiwan Museum, headed by Candy Porter. The aforementioned History Roundtable will be presented monthly beginning in April. Watch for announcements of dates and times. The 2018 sessions of Medlen School Days will begin with one session in May and two sessions held in June. Thanks to JoAnn Dunn, this educational program has presented the one-room school experience to children for over 15 years. Jennee Hancock and crew will offer Discovery Days day camp adventures

with two sessions scheduled in June. June marks the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Camp Neosho log house (currently Hiwan Museum). An exhibit entitled, The Hand-Built Home: A Century of Camp Neosho, will open on June 23rd in conjunction with a Centennial Celebration to be held in Heritage Grove to include music, food, woodworking demonstrations and activities for all ages. EMAHS is planning the Cow Camp Supper in Heritage Grove on August 11th as a membership drive and fundraising event. We hope to resurrect the mood of the cow camp parties held at Camp Neosho in the days of the Douglas' residence.

As we fine-tune and become accustomed to the transition from JCHS to EMAHS I look to the membership and community to support the proposition that proclaims that history retains relevance when the conversational element is introduced. John F. Kennedy stated, "The rising tide lifts all the boats". Our rising tide is the resurgence of an interest in sharing our history, thereby benefitting the collective archive of our mountain area history and those who choose to share their story.



The Year of the Bird Celebrates 100 Years of Bird Conservation

By Mary Ann Bonnell

Hiwan shares a centennial anniversary with the most powerful and important bird protection law ever passed—the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 2018 makes it illegal for anyone to “take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations.”

Birds protected by the MBTA include all species that occur as a result of natural biological or ecological processes. Intentionally or unintentionally introduced species such as the rock pigeon, European starling and house sparrow are not protected by the MBTA.

Urgency to protect birds came on the heels of a handful of poignant extinctions including the loss of the passenger pigeon, which was once among the most common birds in the world. Passenger pigeons were hunted to extinction for food and sport. The last of her species, Martha, named for the First Lady Martha Washington, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. In addition to depredation due to sport, fashion of the time was driving more than 50 North American species of bird, including the snowy egret, to extinction. Some women wanted a stuffed owl head on their bonnets and a full hummingbird wrapped in bejeweled vegetation as a brooch. (npr 2015) Two crusading Boston socialites, Harriet Hemenway and Minna Hall, set off a tea party-based revolt that would lead to the formation of the Audubon Society and the Weeks-McLean Law of 1913, which outlawed market hunting and interstate transport of birds.

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Cedar Waxwing audubon.org

Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society 2017-2018 Officers

President	Elaine Hayden
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare
Treasurer	Rosemary Barenbrugge
Co- Treasurer	Hank Fuchs
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Director	Pat Goben
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Director	Dan Metzler
Director	Bud O'Leary
Director	Bud Weare

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Webmaster	Clarence Low
Newsletter Editor	Laurie Romberg

Camp Neosho Continued from page 1.

a family name to your estate at the time. Originally from the Orkney Islands, Scotland, Jock Spence arrived in Colorado around 1888 and began building many homes in the Evergreen community. He was known as a master craftsman, recognized especially for his wood and stone work. He followed his brother to Evergreen, emigrating first through Canada. His home was where the Centurylink building is now located.

In 1896 Josepha married Charles Winfred Douglas. Winfred, as he preferred to be called, came to Denver in 1894 from New York after a bout with double pneumonia. He had served as organist and choirmaster in several Episcopal churches dating back to his time at Syracuse University; he was eventually ordained as a priest in 1899 at the Mission of the Transfiguration in Evergreen.

Although Josepha had attended medical school at Gross Medical College in Denver (she graduated in 1889) and had started the Marquette-Williams Sanitarium and nurses training school on Pearl Street with Dr. Madeleine Marquette, she ended her medical practice after her marriage. She gave birth to their only child, Frederic Huntington Douglas, in 1897. It was at this time that the family added the "Baby House" for Eric to sleep in, along with his nanny (his father's sister Mary Seamans). At this point in Camp Neosho's story, there were only three indoor rooms and the family generally spent most of their time outdoors, including sleeping in tents outside in what is now Heritage Grove. The tents had wooden floors, double canvas walls, a stove and furniture—fancy (what we now refer to as "glamping!"), but not quite substantial enough for a newborn! The original Baby House still exists; it's the dining room portion of the Museum's offices located in Eric's House.



John 'Jock' Spence

Mary Neosho passed away in 1914 and it was at this time that Father Douglas and Josepha decided to expand the house. They had a lot of friends and family come to visit and it was time for more room. They went back to Jock Spence, who had kept himself busy building other majestic homes all around the Evergreen area. Jock built the rest of Camp Neosho between 1914 and 1918 of native pine, fir and granite. What started as a simple three-room house became an elaborate 25-room structure, with a kitchen, study, chapel, numerous bedrooms and several bathrooms, as well as seven fireplaces

and seven staircases. The entire building tools, with evidence that the ceilings and floors were made with milled lumber, most likely from one of the numerous sawmills located in Evergreen at the time. Several outbuildings were constructed during this time as well—Jock was a very busy man!

The family enjoyed their masterful summer home for many years. Eric brought his three children here for years after they were born. It wasn't until Josepha passed away in 1938 that the Douglas family relinquished their hold

on the property. After she died, Father Douglas and Eric decided to sell the property. Luckily, the second owners, the Buchanan family, decided to keep the vast majority of the house intact, with a few additions being the major changes, and we now have Jefferson County Open Space and the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society to help preserve this fascinating and integral

part of Evergreen's early history in the form of Hiwan Museum.

Come join Hiwan Museum on Saturday, June 23 from 1-4 PM to celebrate this amazing Centennial birthday. There will be a birthday party in Heritage Grove that afternoon with entertainment, food and beverage trucks, woodworking demonstrations, activities for kids and

cake and punch! The Museum will also open a special exhibit that day entitled "The Hand-Built Home: A Century of Camp Neosho" that will explore the unique features of the house and outbuildings, celebrate Jock Spence and help visitors to understand the complexities of building without power tools. We hope to see you all there!



The 'Baby House' now Eric's House at Hiwan

Camp Neosho in late 1890s



Year of the Bird Continued from page 3.

Americans literally enjoy the fruits of these bird conservation laws today, particularly fruit- and insect-eating birds. Fruit-eating birds such as waxwings and solitaires consume berries, cherries, and other fleshy delights, resulting in the eventual delivery of scarified seeds in a pile of fresh bird-feces fertilizer. Insect-eating birds such as warblers and nuthatches consume would-be fruit, seed and bark saboteurs all day, every day. Jeffco Open Space protects breeding birds annually through nest protection closures at North Table Mountain Park, Clear Creek Canyon Park, Crown Hill Park and the Black Bear Trail in Deer Creek Canyon and Hildebrand Ranch Parks. Preserving land, protecting nests and important bird habitats and providing our visitors the opportunity to enjoy the company of birds on their walk, hike, run or ride is essential to the Jeffco Open Space mission.

Whether you join us for tea at Hiwan Museum or pause for a moment of Zen in the Grove, be sure you note the birds singing and calling around you. From the short, staccatto, “bip-bip-bip” of the

pygmy nuthatch and the friendly, “fee___bee” of the black-capped chickadee to the scratchy, grumpy, “caw-caw-caw” of the crow, you can thank history for ensuring these musical songs and calls accompany us today.

Resources cited:

How Two Women Ended the Deadly Feather Trade (Smithsonian 2013)
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (fws.gov 2017)
Hats Off to Women Who Saved the Birds (npr.org 2015)



Pygmy Nuthatch by Sunny Walter, eastsideaudubon.org



*'Chanticleer' hat made of bird feathers, c. 1912
Library of Congress, npr.org.*

The Book Shelf

By Elaine Hayden

A gem of a book has found its way to our book shelf thanks to Dave Muller, former weekly columnist for *The Denver Post*. While not history related, Muller's book, *Colorado Hikes in Jefferson County for Everyone: 102 Hikes*, is an information packed guide to hiking trails in our mountain and Front Range foothill areas. Muller writes, “Getting lost on hiking trails led me to write up directions with the best specifics which I could provide”. The descriptions for the 102 hikes include the measure of difficulty,

accessibility, hiking times, elevation, distance and relevant signposts for each hike. Many descriptive hikes in this guide are accompanied by a color photo from the trail, further adding to the charm and friendliness of this book.

From Green Mountain to the 285 corridor, Muller includes trails that are often overlooked by the casual hiker. Offering a guide for a full day hike to a hike of less than an hour's duration, Muller offers this book for all levels of

hikers and admits, “As the years have passed, my focus has gradually changed from higher destinations to lower and easier trails”. Regardless of your level of hiking comfort, this book is an excellent guide to easily accessible hikes, often in our own neighborhoods and is a great gift idea.

The book is published by The Colorado Mountain Club Press and is available for purchase at the Hiwan Museum.

EMAHS Book Club

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month except for November and December. We gather at Eric's House (museum office) at 12:30 pm. We choose reading selections several months in advance and book suggestions are considered from within our membership. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Title selections from April through September are:

April: *The Last Bus to Wisdom* by Ivan Doig

May: *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn

June: *Sisters In Law* by Linda Hirshman

July: *Personal History* by Katharine Graham

August: *White Houses* by Amy Bloom

September: *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again with membership renewals due in July, 2018. We have included a renewal form and envelope with this newsletter for your convenience. Your membership in EMAHS includes a copy of the bi-annual newsletter, The Record, invitations to events and celebrations, easy access to archives, a copy of the JCHC annual publication, Historically Jeffco and volunteer opportunities to fit every interest.

We look forward to receiving your renewal form and confirmation that EMAHS is meeting the mountain area's historical interest needs.

Upcoming Events

April 28

History Round Table

Featured speaker, Katie Jesse from Indian Hills.
From 10 a.m. to noon at Hiwan Museum

May 7

Spring Tea at Hiwan Museum.

Contact Candy Porter for availability and reservation.

May 29-31

Medlen School Days

June 5-7

At Medlen School with JoAnn Dunn, director.

June 12-14

Sessions for children in grades 1-5. Registration required.

June 5-8

Discovery Days summer day camp at Hiwan Museum

For ages 7-12. Registration required.

June 12-15

Discovery Days summer day camp at Hiwan Museum

For ages 7-12. Registration required.

June 23

The Hand Built Home: A Century of Camp Neosho Exhibit Opening

At Hiwan Museum. Centennial Celebration in Heritage Grove to honor the 100th anniversary of the completion of the house known as Camp Neosho. 10 am to 4 pm.

July 17

Hiwan Kids

July 19

Sessions are from 10 to 11:30 am for children ages 5-12 at Hiwan Museum. Registration required.

July 24

July 26

July TBA

2nd History Round Table

August 4

Roll and Read at Heritage Grove.

A literary event for children co-sponsored by Mountain Resource Center.

August 11

Cow Camp Supper at Heritage Grove.

Watch for more information.

August 18

The Big Year movie in the grove sponsored by Jeffco Open Space.

Movie at dusk.

Visit our web site for more information and event registration at jchscolorado.org

For More Information

For more information about the
Evergreen Mountain Area Historical
Society or Events happening at
Hiwan Museum go to

www.jchscolorado.org



Picture provided by Laurie Romberg

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P.O. Box 703
Evergreen, CO 80437