



MYSTERY, INTRIGUE AND TWO RUSSIAN SAMOVARS

By Joan Pierron Murphy

(On October 17, 2013, Joan Pierron Murphy was honored at the Mount Vernon Country Club by the Jefferson County Historical Commission, for her award winning essay about a story she wrote for the Evergreen Canyon Courier newspaper in 1967. She is 93 years old, and is the mother of our Historical Society board member, Jan Murphy. Here is her essay).

Right here in Jefferson County, Colorado, were two famous Russian samovars.

I was a reporter for local news for the Canyon Courier, the Evergreen newspaper, in 1967. The editor gave me two leads about Russian samovars that he had heard were located in the foothills. One had belonged to Leo Tolstoy, the famous Russian author, and was located at the Cradle Gift Shop in South Turkey Creek, owned by Miro Salva. The other samovar had belonged to Nicholas II, Czar of Russia, but the editor did not know where to find it.

So, what was a samovar? I looked it up in my encyclopedia and learned it was a brass urn with a spigot, used in Russia to boil water for tea. It had a built-in fire pot at the bottom to burn charcoal. The Russians put tea leaves in a cup and poured the boiling water over them. If they wanted sweetened tea, they put a sugar cube in their mouth and drank the tea over it. Samovars were designed by artists and were used as centerpieces for entertaining by the upper class and royalty.

Fired with the information from my editor, I struck out for the closest antique shop to look for the second samovar. That was the Hanes Antique Shop in Idledale. I asked Mrs. Hanes if she knew anything about a Russian samovar being in the mountains. "Yes," she said, "It's standing



Joan Pierron Murphy, Author

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REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

by Diane Fuchs

This fall and winter brought the Society's participation in the Alternative Gift Fair. Sales. The Fair sales provided the Society with \$600 in additional funding for our programs. The December Christmas walk is always a special event in Evergreen and the Hiwan Homestead was beautifully decorated. Thanks go to Meghan and her Monday helpers. A Valentine's dinner at the Hiwan Homestead proved to be a great success and a sold out event.

The Society's membership event was a wonderful program with the "Soiled Doves" presentation by Carolyn Campbell and her troupe of fine actresses. The desserts provided by Anita Johnson were out of this world. I believe all attendees ate way too many cookies and goodies. In March, Meghan Vickers arranged for a very interesting and intriguing presentation of late 19th century costuming and dress presented at the Timbervale Barn with approximately 70 in attendance.

The educational programs at the Hiwan Homestead Museum are always in need of more enthusiastic and engaged teachers for our two programs. Andy Spencer provided the increased figures in attendance in the Pioneer program and well as the Tribal Arts Program for spring

of 2014. Last year from January-June we presented the program to 46 schools and 1,695 students and this year we are scheduled to present or have already presented programs to 53 schools and 2,085 students. Please consider volunteering, especially if you enjoy working with 3rd and 4th graders.

The Spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on April 28th with food provided by Fresh Track caterers and our program will be Rhonda Fraizer, Jefferson County Archivist. Our **Membership Brunch** and annual meeting will be held on June 22th at the Marshdale Bistro at 11:00. The

cost will be \$15 all inclusive of a choice of entrees and beverages. John Steinle will present a program on our national anthem.

PEACHES

At the time of this writing, I am not positive that we will be able to arrange for peaches from the Western Slope. I contacted the Noland Orchards and they said they will have peaches for us, so long as there are no freeze situations. I will let you know via a postcard (the one with a brightly colored peach on the front) when the peaches will need to be purchased and the price.

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Jefferson County Historical Society 2013 - 2014 Officers

President	Diane Fuchs	303-674-9639
Recording Secretary	Juanita Weare	303-679-8889
Treasurer	Hank Fuchs	303-674-9639

2013 - 2014 Board of Directors

Director, Membership	Max Lankston	303-697-8932
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Director	Bud Weare	303-679-8889
Book Sales	Randi Marcos	303-679-6797
Newsletter and Website	Michael Stills	303-921-1936

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Membership Renewal

Please renew your annual dues by the end of July by inserting a check, made out to JCHS, in the provided envelope. Kindly fill out the renewal slip and, if you have an e-mail, please include it. Our e-mails are the only means of communicating with you in a timely fashion on many issues.



Diane Fuchs

President

Jefferson County Historical
Society

303-674-9639

WELCOME TO A NEW BOARD MEMBER

Dan Metzler has joined the Jefferson County Historical Society's Board. He has been a tour guide at the Hiwan Homestead for the three years and volunteer with Jefferson County Open Space.

Dan is a "COLORADO NATIVE" went to West High School in Denver and has lived in Jefferson County for over 28 years. Dan married to his lovely wife, Nancy for over 25 years and is the proud owner of a Norwegian Elk Hound. He has a passion for nature and the outdoors, enjoys landscape and wildlife photography, loves to hike, ski, and golf.

Before retiring in 2008, Dan was employed for 32 years as a PERA Benefits Counselor. As a benefits counselor he assisted and educated members of PERA (Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association) with the provided benefits.

We welcome Dan and are delighted that he is willing to share his time and experience in serving on the board.

CELEBRATING JCHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Jefferson County Historical Society has been "Preserving the Past and Enriching the Future" for over 40 years. But have we made a difference?

Remembering 40 years of accomplishments can be difficult. But surely, our members have accumulated many favorite memories of the JCHS?

Michael Stills is working on a compilation of our accomplishments and favorites stories to help enrich our website experience. He is hoping to obtain a collection of favorites stories and pictures that can be shared with the public and help celebrate the good that we do.

So dig deep into the depths of your memories and please email him your thoughts, memories, and stories about how the JCHS has made a difference in your life, lives of others or are just plain fun or interesting.

If you have any photos to accompany your thoughts and are willing to give them to the JCHS, please send them along as well.

Share your memories by emailing **Michael** at mykellee@gmail.com.

Or give him a call at **303.921.1936** to make arrangements for Michael to collect your thoughts.

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By Joan Pierron Murphy

right behind you!" I was amazed, overjoyed, and mighty lucky.

Mrs. Hanes told me that she had purchased the Czar's samovar from a man who had been a Captain in the U. S. Army in World War II. She was asking \$500 for it. I wish I could say I bought it, but putting two children through college at the time was all I could handle. Mrs. Hanes went on to tell me that she had the samovar authenticated by a Russian History Professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder. The Czar's samovar had identifying engravings on the sides, recording where it had been displayed at



Russian samovar

World's Fairs and other international events. Oddly, sometime later, this History Professor disappeared, never to be heard from again. However, his authentication stood.

At the Cradle Gift Shop, Miro Salva told me that he had received the Tolstoy samovar from his family in Czechoslovakia, when they distributed his uncle's estate. His uncle, Dr. Dushan Makowitsky, had been with Tolstoy when he died on October 28th, 1910, in a Russian railroad station waiting room. Tolstoy was fleeing from his wife and others, to die in peace! Also, Mr. Salva said that the Tolstoy samovar had been buried during World War II to keep it from invading soldiers.

Mr. and Mrs. Salva grew elderly and moved away. I lost track of them and the Tolstoy samovar. And Mrs. Hanes later told me that she sold the Czar's samovar to a family in Denver. But for a while, Jefferson County was the resting place where some intriguing Russian history played out.

Explore the First Families of Colorado Recognition Program

Looking to recognize your Colorado Heritage? Check out this program from the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies.

The First Families of Colorado Recognition Program was started by the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies in 1983. There are three categories of certificates: First Family, Territorial Family and Centennial Family. The certificates are numbered and show the ancestor's name and the name of the applicant. The certificates are suitable for framing.

You need not currently reside in Colorado, but you must be a direct descendant of an ancestor who qualifies. Applicants must submit proof of relationship between generations, from applicant back to the earliest Colorado ancestor.

To learn more, visit the Family Recognition page of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies at <http://www.cocouncil.org/familyrecognition.html>

Medlen School is a historic property owned by the Jefferson County Historical Society. It is located on South Turkey Creek about half way between the Meyer Ranch Open Space Park and Tiny Town. It was constructed in about 1886 at the height of farming, ranching and lumbering activity in southern Jefferson County. It served as a schoolhouse until 1952 when it became a community center. Restoration, funded by JCHS and a grant from the State Historic Fund, was completed in 1999. JCHS members also contributed many hours of labor to the project.

MEDLEN SCHOOL DAYS

This year will mark the 15th year of Medlen School Days. Children who have completed at least grade 1 and up through grade 5 can have an authentic experience of school days in the past. Students read from McGuffey readers, write with pen and ink, take part in a spelling bee, perform a part in a play, make hand churned ice cream, make lemonade with real lemons and participate in other authentic activities of early Colorado rural children.



There are three three-day sessions: June 3-5, June 10-12 and June 17-19 from 9 to 12 am, and the cost is \$30. Registration forms are available at the Hiwan Homestead museum as well as the mountain elementary schools. Forms can also be downloaded on the JCHS web site (www.jchscolorado.org). For more information you may call Jo Ann Dunn, program coordinator, at 303-674-1695.

DISCOVERY DAYS 2014

PIONEERPALOOZA AT HIWAN HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

Discovery Days: Pioneerpalooza will take your child back to a simpler time as they explore the pioneer history of Colorado through activities, crafts, tours and games. Meet Buffalo Bill and other famous people from Colorado's glorious past! Enjoy pioneer food including a journey cake for your arduous trip out West!

Junior Pioneers make their homestead at eh Hiwan Homestead Museum and

learn about pioneer life on the Front Range! Pioneers visit a different Open Space park each afternoon and learn about the amazing history of Jefferson County!

Your child will discover the past through enriching and engaging activities in a nurturing summer experience to remember!

Dates: Monday, June 9th – Friday, June 14th, **ONE WEEK ONLY!**

Time: 9:30 – 3:30 PM (campers get free supervised lunch)

Fee: \$100 for the week

Location: Hiwan Homestead Museum, 4208 South Timbervale Drive Evergreen, CO 80439

Who: Junior Pioneers (6 – 8 years old) and Pioneers (9 – 13 years old)

TO REGISTER/INFORMATION

Andy Spencer, Education Coordinator
702-497-7650

Email: HiwanEd@jeffco.us

Or register online at:

WWW.JCHSCOLORADO.ORG

Discover Days at Hiwan Homestead Museum is a summer day camp program created to immerse youngsters in history. These popular programs for children who have completed Kindergarten through 3rd Grade can fill up quickly, so be sure to registry today.

HIWAN HAPPENINGS

Hiwan Happenings contributed by John Steinle, Megan McGinnes and Andrew Spencer



GHOST TOWNS OF THE ROCKIES

Saturday, May 17

Illustrated program exploring the abandoned communities of the Rocky Mountain Region and their people. Held in Timbervale barn near the museum.

MOVIES IN THE GROVE (Free Movies)

LASSIE COME HOME (1944)

Saturday, July 26 @ 8:30pm

Starring young Elizabeth Taylor and Roddy MacDowell.

STEAMBOAT BILL JR. (1928)

Saturday, August 9 @ 8:30pm

Starring Buster Keaton. Live accompaniment by Hank Troy.

CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY

Monday, July 28

Fun and Frolic at the Museum for this annual summer party featuring a festive tea party for children.

BLUEGRASS CONCERT IN THE GROVE

Saturday, August 2

Rousing selection of bluegrass tunes played by "Spurs of the Moment" Band.

EVERGREEN FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, August 23 & 24

48th Annual Evergreen fine Arts Festival sponsored by the Evergreen Artists Association. Juried show of fantastic artwork from across the country.

OUTDOOR QUILT FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 27

10th Annual Hiwan Outdoor Quilt Festival, featuring over 100 colorful quilts and coverlets displayed around the museum grounds.

HIWAN HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Thursday, October 30

Free Halloween celebration featuring tricks, treats, snacks, stories, and costumes in the spooky old mansion!

EVERGREEN HOLIDAY WALK

Friday, December 5

Community Christmas celebration with Christmas decorations, children's crafts, holiday snacks, and chestnuts roasting on an open fire. Free event.

HIWAN CHRISTMAS TEA

Monday, December 15

Festive Christmas tea with special Holiday program and museum tour. *Reservations Required.*

EXHIBITS

INDIAN BEADWORK FROM THE MOUNSEY FAMILY COLLECTION

Exhibit of magnificent American Indian beadwork and other handicrafts collected by Ernest Mounsey, missionary to the Crow Creek Reservation in South Dakota in the early 1900s. *Closes in June.*

HIWAN HOMESTEAD AND ITS PEOPLE

Exhibit exploring the fascinating background of the families that owned the Hiwan property, their friends and influences. JUNE – NOV.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Colorful, fun decorations in the style of times past in Evergreen. NOV. – JAN 2015.

**Membership Renewal**

Please use the enclosed envelope included in this newsletter to renew your membership in our historical society. Your membership provides funding for "The Record" and some of our programs at the Hiwan Homestead and Medlen School.

Donations may also be made online at www.JCHSColorado.org.

JCHS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Have you visited our new website lately? If not go to www.jchscolorado.org and check it out. We hope you will find it easier to navigate than the old website and find a few new features.

Please let us know what you think by emailing Michael Stills at mykellee@gmail.com. In keeping up with the latest technology, we moved to a WordPress platform that is easier for "non-techies" to work with. That means if you are comfortable working with computers you will have no problem helping us maintain the content. With a little orientation from Michael, you could easily become part of the team helping to update and maintain our website. And you could do it from home in your pajamas.

We love to hear from our members so if you have suggestions for improvement or additions you think would help us promote or make the site more user friendly, let us know.

For example, did you know that we are working on developing an event management system that will allow us to accept credit cards, use pay pal, and have a calendar and registration system to help you and us keep up to date on our latest happenings?

You can also help out by sharing links to our site and by sharing webpages with friends and acquaintances. The more you share the better known our site will become.

Have you visited the archives of our Newsletters? Did you know that we have an online index to the Oral histories being held at Hiwan Homestead Museum? Looking for a book on our local history, visit our Publication's page and order a book online. And do not forget, you can sign up for Discovery Days and Medlen School Days online as well.

So stop by the website, start sharing with others, and tell your friends and neighbors that they can become members by signing up online.

And please consider giving us a little time to help us grow and maintain our website, suggesting new content or new features that would make for a great online experience.

Oh... and don't forget to check out our latest postings of current happenings. There is a lot going on...online.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 17 - Ghost Towns of the Rockies
- June 3-19 - Medlen School Days
- June 9-14 - Discovery Days Pioneerpalooza
- June 22 - Membership Brunch
- July 26 - Movie: Lassie Come Home
- July 28 - Children's Tea Party
- August 2 - Grove: Bluegreass Concert
- August 9 - Movie: Steamboat Bill Jr.
- August 23&24 - Evergreen Fine Arts Festival
- September 27 - Outdoor Quilt Festival
- October 30 - Hiwan Halloween Celebration
- December 5 - Evergreen Holiday Walk
- December 15 - Hiwan Christmas Tea



The Record is published two times per year by the Jefferson County Historical Society.
The deadline for the Fall/Winter 2014 issue is October 1. Email your submissions to mykellee@gmail.com.

