



The Record



Spring/Summer 2024



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JCHSColorado.org

Membership Renewal

The membership in Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society is a one-year membership, from July 1 to July 1. The membership fee is so very important to the society. We have continuing expenses of insurance and taxes as well as supporting the society's activities and projects.

Please find the renewal slip on page 8 of this newsletter. You may make a copy of it and send in your membership dues via check made out to EMAHS and mail to Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 703, Evergreen, Colorado, 80437. You may also renew your membership online by going to the society's website emahs.org. Make online payments to <https://emahs.org/support/>

Sincerely;
Diane Fuchs, Membership Chair 303-674-9639

The Lessons of the Medlen School

By JoAnn Dunn

The Medlen School is the only property owned by the Evergreen Area Mountain Historical Society. It has been ours since March 3, 1992 when it was deeded to us by the South Turkey Creek Improvement Association. Medlen School was built in 1886 and was originally a hand hewn log building located across South Creek, the "Old Ute Trail", east of the present location. In 1900, the county and the school board moved the schoolhouse a few 100 feet to the West, where it has remained due to a risk of flooding. Once moved it was covered with white clapboard siding. A small ante room was added to the front at the same time.

As with many rural schools, any child between the ages of 6 and 21 was welcomed at the Medlen School. The number of students varied over the years depending on how many school aged children lived in the area. In 1896 there were 34 students, twelve of whom were at least 16 years of age. A young married couple were also students. Jefferson County paid its female teachers \$46 and its male teachers \$87.00 annually. The county increased the annual salary by \$1.00 the next year.

In 1912, the Jennings family homesteaded in the area and had six

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Medlen School house remodeled after move in 1900.

REFLECTIONS: President's Pen

By Stuart Collins

The EMAHS Accession Project Yields Important Discoveries

The Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society has been hard at work on our ongoing Accession Project, carefully cataloging and documenting our vast collection of historic artifacts. This important work has yielded some significant discoveries.

During the Accession process, we realized that we had 5 displayed indigenous people's artifacts that were not in compliance with NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. NAGPRA is a federal law that requires museums and other institutions to return certain Native American cultural items - including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony - to the federally-recognized Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations with whom they are culturally affiliated. In coordination with our partners at Jefferson County Open Space, we have removed these items from display so that we can make the appropriate contacts and get consent from the relevant tribes before determining their proper disposition.

The Accession Project has been a huge undertaking, but we are grateful for the tireless efforts of our Project Assistants, Laura and Soleil, who have been instrumental in ensuring its success.

Other Noteworthy Updates:

- EMAHS recently loaned a beautiful Ute basket to the Golden History Museum for their upcoming Ute cultural exhibition. We are excited to share this important artifact with the broader community.
- While going through our archives, we discovered some fascinating

McKinley-era White House stationery documents related to the Department of the Interior and Ute removal. We have reached out to both the National Archives and the Library of Congress in hopes of donating this precious historical document to one of their collections.

- EMAHS is assisting Professor Dana Driskell (Emeritus, UCSB) in his research on Peter Morrison, a local figure from our area. The Society has a partial autobiography of Mr. Morrison, and we would love to connect with any members who may have additional information or materials related to him.
- EMAHS is finalizing an exciting digitization and cataloging project that will soon allow the general public to access our extensive photo collection online. Stay tuned for more details!
- We have recently been contacted about conducting oral history interviews with some of our community's longstanding members. We would be honored to capture these invaluable stories, and we also welcome suggestions from our members about other individuals we should interview to help create a rich tapestry of Evergreen's history.
- EMAHS is also participating in the hiring process for a new Heritage Resources Specialist position with our partners at Jefferson County Open Space. This role will be focused on our Hiwan Heritage Park and Museum and serving as the JCOS liaison with our non-profit organization, among other duties external to Hiwan.

- We continue to investigate the possibility of relocating the historic Buffalo Park School, which is currently located on the campus of Wilmot Elementary School. More details to come on this exciting project.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the steadfast support of our EMAHS members. Your financial contributions, volunteer efforts, and passion for preserving Evergreen's history are what make this organization thrive. Evergreen is a truly special community, and non-profits like EMAHS, Kiwanis, and others are vital to maintaining its rich cultural legacy. Thank you for being a part of it!

Sincerely, Stuart Collins
President
EMAHS

Notes From the Treasurer

By Rosemary Barenbrugge

As we move quickly through 2024, it is a good time to take stock on how the Society's finances are shaping up. In January the Society's Board approved their Annual Budget and throughout the year are monitoring actual dollars spent and collected compared to the budget. Currently, we are on-track with our approved budget.

One of our important revenue streams is Membership dues. With the raising costs on almost everything, we sure could use your support by paying your annual dues by July 1st. Just go to: emahs.org/support. In fact, this is around the time we need to pay our annual insurance premiums. What we have seen since the Marshall Fire is the insurance coverage necessary to protect our Art Collection has gone through-the-roof. This expense is very necessary so cutting back the coverage-limits would not be prudent. We have an excellent broker that has shopped around for a fair price with a good company so we are confident that we are properly protected.

In early 2023 the Board approved, along with JeffCo Open Space, to equally share the costs for a complete inventory of the Native American and other house collections. This Accession Project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2024 thus the expenses will not carry over to 2025.

Currently, a Fall and Holiday Teas are still in the works. Candy Porter continues to facilitate the event. Without Elaine Hayden, Dianne Palaschak and many volunteers, our Teas would not be possible. The income received from the Teas are very welcomed. We have been told that our teas are better than the Brown Palace. If possible, please plan to attend and bring your family and friends.

In November the Alternative Gift Fair will be held at the Evergreen Lutheran Church. This 2-day event warms my heart because it is a gathering for the local Evergreen non-profits to raise funds and awareness for their organizations. The Society sells books and a few homemade items made by our volunteers. Each year we order specialty books just for this sale – so there is always something new to choose from. We will forward the dates as soon as they are announced.

In closing, I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting Lunch on Sunday, June 9th, at Casa Tequila's. Mark your calendars (more information to come via email) and I will see you there!

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Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society 2023-2024 Officers

President	Stuart Collins
Recording Secretary	Lorena Garrod
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Director	Larry French
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Director	Gil Gulbrandson
Director	Jennee Hancock
Director	Susan Knepley

NON-BOARD POSITIONS

Newsletter Editor	Laurie Romberg
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Medlen School article continued from page 1.

children by 1915. They lived about 1 1/2 miles from the school. The children walked or occasionally rode a horse to Medlen School. There were about 15 to 20 students at that time. In cold weather the Jennings children would wrap their feet in burlap for the long walk. By the time they reached school sometimes their lunches were frozen, and their pants would only bend at the knees.

With unpredictable weather, particularly in the winter months, the school district built a teacherage around 1900, to house a teacher nearby. It is unknown how long the teacherage was used for this original purpose. Some students recall that instead of sleeping in the cold teacherage, the teacher would sleep in an easy chair in the schoolhouse. Later the teacherage building served as the library.

During its years as a schoolhouse, Medlen School also served as a community meeting place where there were church services, funerals, and fraternal organization meetings held. There were also many community celebrations and festivities such as community Halloween parties.

Medlen School was electrified in the early 1940s along with the rest of the area. This was made possible by the Rural Electrification Administration, established in 1935 as part of president Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. The first application prepared by local citizens was denied, so they reorganized and traveled at their own expense to Washington D.C. to present their case that was then approved.

Due to statewide school consolidation Medlen School closed in 1954, and the children were transferred to the new West Jefferson School, 5.8 miles north of Medlen. Without busing established in the school district, families transported the children to school as they were able, and some of the children walked or rode horses to the new school. At that time, the school district sold the school

to the South Turkey Creek Community Center for \$1.00. For the next 38 years, it continued to be used as a Community Center. The Community Center later sold the property to the South Turkey Creek and Improvement Association who owned it until it was deeded to JCHS.

At that time we began the restoration, which was funded by the a \$20,000 State Historical Fund grant and a preservation fund of JCHS. In order to qualify for the state fund, we were placed on the Colorado's State Register of Historic Properties on March 8, 1995.

Many volunteer hours were spent in the restoration. As work was done on the blackboard, it was discovered that the original board had been covered with a modern green board. The blackboard was in fact a black rubberized cloth of the type used as ground clothes during the civil war in order to make the original visible, it was decided to leave one of the two blackboards uncovered and to paint the green board with blackboard paint to make it usable.

In 2000, JCHS received a \$5000 grant to move and restore the privies this grant was substantially increased to \$10,000 so that archaeologists could monitor ground excavation for any

archaeological findings at the 1935 - 1943 privy sites. They discovered evidence of Ute occupation when they found a mano near one of the privies. On April 4th 2015 the school was officially listed on the National Register of historic places. We obtained a 38 star American flag since that flag would have been used when the school began.

Since 1998 we have been operating Medlen School Days for elementary aged children for two weeks in the summer. Children experience first hand what it would be like to be a student in the 1920s rural mountain, one-room school. Every effort is made to make the experience authentic. Children drink out of enamel cups and their water comes from a jug. Every child has a slate, chalk, crayons, a pencil and a Big Chief tablet. They use McGuffey readers, Ray's Arithmetic books, and McGuffey's Eclectic spellers. Fresh lemonade and hand churned ice cream are made, and the students present plays. Outdoors they jump rope, play marbles and play Ante, ante over as well as other games of the period. The children also use the hand operated pump to obtain water to wash their hands.

Our goal has always to teach an appreciation and respect for American history.



Original timber hewn log school house built in 1886.

Medlen School Days



*Experience the life of Schoolchildren
in 1920's Rural Colorado*

-Two Sessions-

June 4-6 and June 11-13

9am to 12pm \$40

Registration: MedlenSchoolDays@gmail.com

Contact: JoAnn at 303-503-5978



DISCOVERY DAYS 2024

Kids ages 7-12 explore history through hands-on activities including crafts, games, and food!



Two sessions:
June 3-6
June 10-13
9:15 - noon

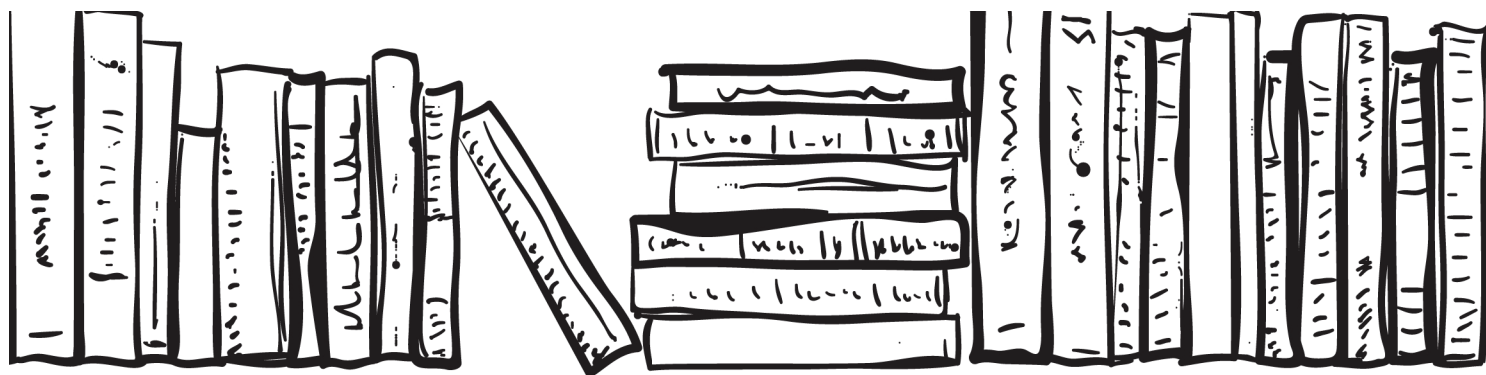


Programs will be at Hiwan Heritage Park & Museum
\$100 per child
DiscoveryDaysEMAHS@gmail.com



Preserving the Past
Enriching the Future





SUGGESTED HISTORICAL READINGS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

By Gil G. and Sue K.

I have meant to suggest a most wonderful history of Lincoln and his presidency.

Team of Rivals

Author: **Doris Kearns Goodwin**

One of the best books anyone could read on how a great leader leads. It has been a while since I have read it and can't wait to read it again as soon as I'm done with another.

I would also suggest the Pulitzer Prize winner:

Angler: The Cheney Vice Presidency

Author: **Barton Gellman**

Another author I would suggest is **Ron Chernow** who has written a number of biographies on American historic figures. Probably my favorites are:

Hamilton

Washington

Grant

There are others but these may be my favorites of his.

Gil G.

Here are my favorite authors:

Jennifer Chiaverini

She writes historical fiction about women.

Switchboard Soldiers, Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker, The Spymistress

Amamda Skenandore, grew up in Conifer.

Between Earth and Sky is her best.

Ann Hillerman

Focuses on Navajo Nation police procedurals with lots of cultural information.

Margaret Coel

Great cultural information as she writes about an Arapahoe female lawyer & Jesuit priest.

Fredrik Backman

Britt Marie Was Here

Sue K.

Upcoming Events

June 9

Annual Membership Brunch

June 4 -6 and June 11 - 13

Medlen School Days

June 3 - 6 and June 10 - 13

Discovery Days

Peach Sale (Cancelled due to costs and minimum purchase requirements.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH

JUNE 9, 2024

11:30am-2pm

\$20.00/Person (payment at the door)

Casa Tequila's (Wild Game Building)

1204 Bergen Parkway

Program: The Evergreen Audubon Society
Melissa Leasia and Ann Dodson

RSVP please at:

JCHSCOLORADO@gmail.com

The Record is published two times per year by the Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society. Deadline for the Fall/Winter 2024 issue is November 1. Email your submissions to Laurie Romberg at laurieromberg@comcast.net.

For More Information

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

www.jchscolorado.org

Join Us! Support local history with your membership in EMAHS:

Benefits Include:

- A subscription to "The Record" the EMAHS newsletter.
- Special invitations for history programs and social events.
- Field trips to museums and historical sites
- A subscription to "Historically Jeffco," the annual publication of the Jefferson County Historical Commission.

Available at the Hiwan Museum

Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Enclosed is my check for annual membership (select the category that best suits you and your family):

_____ \$25 Pioneer

_____ \$150 Mercantile (business membership)

_____ \$50 Miner

_____ \$ _____ (Donation)

_____ \$100 Rancher

Memberships are fully tax deductible, less the fair market value (fmv\$5.00) of benefits received.

Tell me more about: _____ **Volunteering opportunities** _____ **Making a memorial gift**

Detach and mail to: **Evergreen Mountain Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 703, Evergreen, CO 80437**

Or go online to EMAHSColorado.org and click on JOIN!