



OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 8

September 2003

MELANCTHON RETURNS!

One of the delights in being part of our Historical Society and its lively Center is the repeated discoveries which pop up bringing new history and biographical information of pioneers from the earliest years of the original little town of Colorado City to we who record and store it for future generations.

On August 14th, just 144 years and two days from the founding of Colorado City on August 12th, 1859, who should walk into our Center but Beverly Fuller, a great, great grand niece of Melancthon Beach, one of the most prominent founders of the original Colorado City!

Beverly, a physician from Oregon on a visit with her husband and daughter, was asked by her mother, a descendent Beach' to see if she could find any information about Melancthon. All they really knew is that he was born in New Jersey, became a lawyer, who came west, and who was one of the men who founded Colorado City, and had something to do with the naming of the Garden of the Gods. Did we ever! So for the next two hours I filled them in on his life in Colorado - from

the history stored on our rich web site, from papers we had, and by a walk into the Bancroft Cabin where there is a wooden plaque with his name on it as one of the two men - Dr. Garvin being the other one - who built and lived in it in 1859!

But we, in turn learned things we

did not know about Melancthon. And they will send us more when they get back home. For one thing, we always wondered where that unusual first name - Melancthon - came from! Well, it turns out his family was from Austria, and he was named after a close associate of Martin



Melancthon Beach

Luther, the great Reformer, Philip Melancthon, in the 1500s.

Now Melancthon Sayre Beach, born in Sparta, New Jersey in 1834 saddled with that tongue twister of a first name, never talked about where

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Old Colorado City Historical Society
 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

WEST WORD

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 THE OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE DELIVERED
 TO THE OCCHS CENTER OR MAILED TO:

WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS
 1 South 24th Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was formed to maintain the memory of Colorado City (1859-1917), to encourage research, preserve pictures, and keep alive the unique culture and spirit of West Side Colorado Springs through education of children and the community and through the establishment of a History Center.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time. Membership renewals are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the West Word newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual membership classifications are:

Individual	\$20	Business	\$ 50
Family	\$25	Lifetime	\$150
		Corporate	\$250

Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Beverley Disch	719-634-5023
Vice President	LaRue Ebersole	719-685-3265
Secretary	Jo Cervone	719-266-9096
Treasurer	David Hughes	719-636-2040
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	Nadine Gilman	719-262-6661
	Bob Heinich	719-448-9001
	Betty Magnine	719-633-8150
	Tom Hendrix	719-633-7392

MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, **except during June, July, and August.** The History Center opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. The program begins at 11 a.m. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Next Monthly Meeting
September 12, 2003
At the History Center



*Explore the **REAL** History*
 at the
OLD COLORADO CITY
HISTORY CENTER

1 South 24th Street
 (the corner of Pikes Peak & 24th Streets)
 (719) 636-1225

FREE ADMISSION

Old Colorado City History Center encourages you to attend its events, meetings, and projects. Please call 636-1225 for information

Summer Hours
(June – September)

TUES—SUN 11 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Closed Monday

Visit our web site for even more history!

<http://history.oldcolo.com>

stories documents
 manuscript photographs
 interviews biographies
 Book & Gift Shop online

e-mail us at: history@oldcolo.com

Thank You Thank You Thank You !!

It all started about 4 months ago when a Board member suggested we combine the Founders Day Celebration and Cemetery Crawl to 1) catch the tourists and 2) hopefully avoid in climate weather. Well, it turned out to be a great idea (thanks Tom) because except for a little rain we did both.

There are so many people to acknowledge and thank for getting this all together. First, the Pikes Peak Bank who graciously gave us a \$500.00 grant and Safeway and King Soopers who donated beverages. Dave wrote the press release and cleverly came up with the idea of the Laura Bell Contest. So who would be the best MC? That's right, Dave. His son, David, photographed our own Laura Bell for the poster. Don created the poster, crawl ticket design and ran through sprinklers while plotting the Crawl layout one hot morning. Merv, master of the xerox, created the discount coupons. Thanks Rebecca for suggesting we add John Bock and Louis Unser and recruiting two new actors to portray those characters. How appropriate for Mr. Bock to talk about the Red Rock Canyon property this year. She also helped plot the Crawl layout but managed to dodge the sprinklers.

Kay shopped around and purchased the banners used in the Park. Bettyanne (our Library liaison) organized the children's games, history trivia quiz, made posters, solicited door prizes from the OCC merchants and then ran out to Fairview to portray Hattie Trout. Remember that day you walked into the Museum and said you wanted to get more involved?

Joanne and Larue distributed posters around town. LaRue was also our "officer in charge" for the newly purchased PA system that had to be set up and taken down each day for the musical groups (that means he spent two long days in the Park).

Pat again solicited the complimentary drinks that were sold or offered to the volunteer workers. And don't forget Bev who made a hundred phone calls to coordinate the Crawl, cabin and Museum workers.

And then there were those who are not members of the Society but gratefully volunteered their time or took off work: Austin O'Brien, Mandy Magnini, the Mark Iverson family and Flo Hagiwara. There were actors who are not Society members but joined us anyway to relive OCC history: M. Yaslowitz, Rev. D. Clark, T. Palmedo, L. Clark, D. Spann, M. Madigar, E. Hughes and D. Rasmussen. If you know any of these folks, please tell them how much they are appreciated! Did anybody mention Academy Award nominations for best living history portrayal? And don't forget about our own Society members: Dave, Don, Doris, Jean and Martha who show up year after year in the heat or freezing cold to tell their stories.

Special thanks to the Gazette, Independent, Springs Magazine and other smaller publications in town who publish our press releases. KCME for the public service announcements, espe-

cially the ones set to music, and Ben at the Colorado Historical Society in Denver.

Remember the Red Herring Theatre Group – they're not members but graciously show up each year in period costumes to add a special ambiance. The musical groups who were willing to perform for "minimum wages" although certainly worth a lot more. Their music from the yesteryear sure added a personal touch to the Founders Day activities. How about those dulcimers? And don't forget the USAF Academy falcon handlers who brought Woody, Vector, Cody and told us everything we never knew about those beautiful birds. Thanks guys. And Jan who lined up approx 43 crafters, handled the paperwork and made it all function like a well-oiled Midland train engine.

A special thanks to the OCC merchants who *cheerfully* donated approx \$250 worth of door prizes. And yes, the poster model "Laura Bell." She asked that her name not be mentioned but I will give you a hint: Molly Brown. Betsy and her ticket taking money handling crew and all the tour guides. Don't forget all the volunteers who manned the Museum, the Cabin and those who helped set-up, takedown or baked those delicious goodies. You all played an important part. Wow! That's a lot of people. Did I cover everyone?

For all that effort this is how the numbers breakdown (approximately):

<u>Income</u>	
Grant Pikes Peak Bank	\$ 500
Craft rental space	1,370
Bake Sales	168
Cemetery Crawl	<u>967</u>
Gross Income	\$3,005
 <u>Costs</u>	
Park rental	\$220
Music	200
Prizes	175
Reimburse-comp meals	15
Reimburse-stamps	30
Banners	<u>80</u>
	\$720
<u>Net Income</u>	\$2,285

On behalf of the Board, thank you all for your enthusiasm, dedication and loyalty.

Jo Cervone

WESTSIDE MEMORIES

compiled by Jan Knox

TURNING BACK THE CLOCK ON LOCAL EVENTS June 1921

Percy Hagerman, who served in the Red Cross during the World War has been placed in charge of all funds to be spent in relief of the stricken city of Pueblo by the American Red Cross.

Rufus W. Turpin, 62, died at his home , 2815 West Pikes Peak avenue, yesterday (6/7). He is survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons. He had been a resident of Colorado Springs for 26 years. Funeral at Pilgrim Congregational church with burial in Fairview cemetery.

The West Side Commercial club has decided to finance its tourists' auto camp at Bott with subscriptions from the community. The city council decided that there would be no new municipal auto camping grounds, due to the heavy expense involved with repairing the city property damaged by the recent floods.

A tunnel was dug yesterday from the door of the Cog road summit house on Pikes Peak into the open. The snow is level with the eaves. The Cog line which had been plowed open after it was supposed the last heavy snow of the spring had fallen, will probably require a week's work to open again as there was also track damage cause by the recent flooding of Ruxton creek.

The first Rodeo ever seen in this section of Colorado will be held today on the Broadmoor golf course. Cowboys and cow-girls will bring back again something of the history of the days when pioneers of Colorado Springs, and all of Colorado, braved the hardships of the seasons and paid the toll of hunger, of wind and weather, until they had established a community of law and order where hundreds of thousands now come each year to enjoy its scenic lures.

One of the lovely weddings of the month was that of Miss Ruby Jeanette Gress and Frank Eugene Baker, which took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Gress, 3433 West Colorado avenue, on Wednesday evening, June 1. Arthur Hibbard was the best man, Miss Nola Price, the maid of honor. Miss Madalyn Tucker sang "O Promise Me" accompanied by Miss Irene Baker, sister of the groom. Mr. and Mrs. Baker are graduates of the local High school of the class of '19. They will be at home after June 10 at 1913 West Cucharras street.

President's Message

I want to give kudos to all our dedicated and faithful volunteers who keep our museum operating. Among many tasks the bookstore and membership updates couldn't be done without them. We called upon more volunteers than usual because we had two events together: the cemetery Crawl and Founders' Day. Many people baked for the bake sale. We call upon people to bake several times a year, which helps with operating expenses because there is no overhead and we are very grateful for their wonderful participation.

The Pikes Peak Computer Genealogists who meet monthly in our Center donated three six-foot folding tables to us. The society thanks them for their thoughtful donation.

I'm sorry to write our excellent archivist, Dr. Michael Olsen, is leaving to take a history position at Pikes Peak Community College. He will continue his membership in the Society and will volunteer his time to help update our collections and to help people with research. He completely organized and accessioned all of our collections and set up our archive room. He did such a great job and we are pleased he will remain our volunteer archivist.

This fall we will have a workshop training for some of our members to do walking tours. Jean Christopher will conduct the workshop.

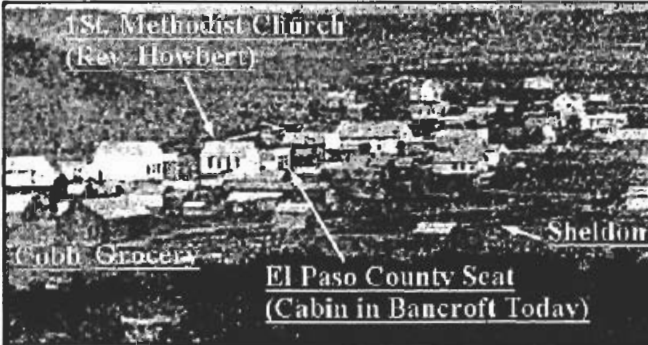
In an attempt to keep lines of communication open and information flowing in a timely & cost effective manner, I would like to remind the membership that minutes and financial reports from our most recent meetings of the Board of Directors are posted on the bulletin board in the History Center office for your review. Minutes from previous meetings are filed in a binder in the filing cabinet also in the office. Our board of Directors meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00 pm. We always welcome your attendance and input!

Let's have a good turn out for our first general meeting of the season Friday, September 12, 2003 to hear Helen Woehler talk about living up off the Cog Railroad at a Colorado Springs Utilities electric plant. Hear about her using a hand pumped railroad car to go grocery shopping. See you there.

Bev Disch, President

it came from, nor did he use it. Instead he was most known all his life in Colorado as 'MS' Beach, pioneer. He died at 83 years old at his home on Cheyenne Road, in 1917.

In the summer of 1859, after Anthony Bott, who had attempted to start a town called 'El Dorado' on Fountain Creek in 1858 had failed, he went to Denver to try and attract investors to make a bigger town. M. S. Beach, along with several other town promoters, met in Denver

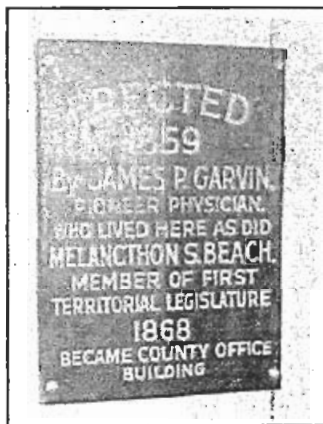


Original Location of Cabin on Colorado Ave.

City and organized the Colorado City Town Company.

One of the great stories of MS Beach came on the day of the founding of Colorado City, August 12th, 1859, Melancthon Beach, whose family roots were in Austria-Germany traveled with Rufus Cable, who some called an 'effete easterner' to stake out the new town. Melancthon drove the first stake at the north westernmost corner of the claim, on today's 'Camp Creek and 32d Street. It was to be 1280 acres, 2 miles long and 1 mile wide, with Colorado Avenue as a main street, On August 13, 1859, a day after staking the town site of Colorado City, the two men explored the area.

While wandering through the astonishing Red rock formations, Beach commented that the spot "would be a capital place for a beer garden." But, Rufus Cable became upset at Beach's conjecture and stated, "Beer Garden! Why, it is a fit place for the Gods to assemble, and we will



call it 'The Garden of the Gods.'" Melancthon set about building the first 'house' with his partner George Pear-sall - actually a cabin - in Colorado City. Cutting logs and dragging them from the closest woods near to-day's Broad-moor Hotel. He later lived in the cabin built by Dr. Garvin, which is today the one in Bancroft Park!



Where Cabin stood when it was County Seat

After the 'rear party' of wagons and the other town founders arrived from Denver City, on August 15, 1859, Beach and many of the other town promoters organized the El Paso Claim Club, a vigilante form of civil government, to record real estate claims and settle land disputes. They also hung horse thieves and kept order in the absence of any local government, for this was still Kansas Territory. Beach became the Town Company's clerk and recorder. Then, after the federal government created the Colorado Territory in February 1861, after lobbying by the Claim Club and Denver City before Congress, newly commissioned Territorial Governor William Gilpin appointed M. S. Beach and two other men County Commissioners including Henry S. Clark, and A. D. Sprague to organize a new El Paso County government and prepare the county for its first elections in November 1861. The only surviving copy of the 1861 Colorado City Journal, copies of which are in the history center, shows 'MS Beach - RECORDER OF COLORADO CITY - Agent for the sale of Claims and property of all kinds, will attend to the collection of debts and the abstracts of titles and claims of property." Beverly delightedly bought a copy of that Journal, saying that her mother did not know anything about how MS was involved with the Town Company or the Cabin. Now here is in print of a very old newspaper! Although Beach held many positions in business organizations and local

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government, What the Cabin looked like after
Beach ap- being Moved

parently found time to explore the surrounding environment. In 1859, M. S. Beach, Anthony Bott, George Bute, A. D. Richardson, Lewis Tappan, several people from Golden City, and several women hiked to the summit of Pike's Peak, taking several days. At the summit, the hikers found evidence of others having reached the summit. (Records indicate that members of the Lawrence, Kansas, prospecting party hiked to the summit in the summer of 1858) Beach at one time owned the now famous Manitou mineral springs which he disposed of at a sum of \$600, before the real value of the mineral water was discovered.

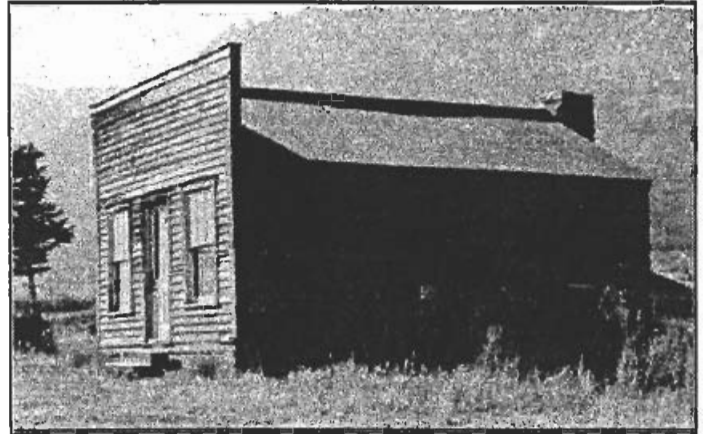
During the early days, he was frequently sought as a guide up Pikes Peak and had the honor of directing many parties composed of persons prominent in the literary



and scientific world. It was the Civil War that caused Colorado City to lose the distinction of being 'Colorado Territorial Capital' - the Treasurer of the US refused to pay on the drafts Governor Gilpin wrote to raise the 1st Colorado Volunteer Regiment, who defeated the Confederates at La Glorieta Pass. Lincoln fired Gilpin, and the second Governor, Evans, who owned land in Denver, sent his

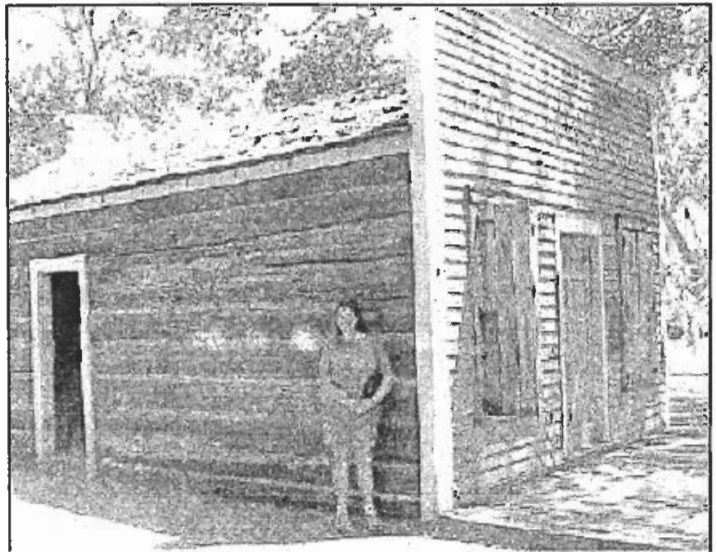
elected officials to steal the Capital for Denver. They succeeded in 1862, when Legislators met in the same Cabin - which locals have always called the '1st Capitol of Colorado.'

In the fall of 1863 Mr. Beach gave up his home life to become a lieutenant in McClain's independent battery of the Union



army and was ordered to Missouri and the southwest where he took part in several important engagements against the Confederate forces. His career as a soldier also led him into active participation under Colonel Chivington in many Indian battles during the early settlement of the country east of Colorado Springs.

After Colorado Springs was founded in 1871, and began to grow, MS Beach became



'MS' Beverly (Beach) Fuller before the 1859 Cabin in Bancroft Park.

involved with various mining deals, including silver in the San Juans. Colorado City began to grow also, and that famous cabin became a whole series of things, including Sam Wah's Laundry - and opium den during the high point of the Saloon and Gambling days of Colorado City during the Cripple Creek Gold rush days from 1891 to 1917.

During a 25 year stretch, MS Beach Mr. Beach also was interested for in the development of silver mining in the San Juan district. He was responsible in large part for some of the greatest financial deals in the district.

Melancthon Beach died, at 83 years old, in 1917 - the very year the town that he helped found - Colorado City - voted to dissolve itself and become part of greater Colorado Springs. Unfortunately he chose to be buried in Evergreen Cemetery, while his co-town founder Anthony Bott, who died just a year earlier chose what is now Fairview Cemetery. Else we would portray him in our annual Cemetery Crawl. And the Cabin? In 1929 Thayer Tutt was asked by his father to buy and save that 'important cabin' and he had it moved to the Broadmoor Golf Course, where many photos show it.

Then in 1959 it was moved to Denver and sat on the Capitol Grounds during the 1859 Rush to the Rockies Centennial. Finally it was moved back to Colorado Springs, and given to the City to be put in Bancroft Park where it has been ever since. And that is where Beverly Fuller, great, great grandniece of Melancthon Beach found it, and was able to close the chapter on what happened to her gold seeking ancestor

And welcome the newest member of the Old Colorado City Historical Society - the Fuller Family, with Beverly, descendent of Melancthon Beach, a Colorado City pioneer!

Dave Hughes
dave@oldcolo.com

A Free Walking Tour

Jean Christopher, a long time Society member and authority on west side history, has agreed to lead a walking tour for anyone who helped in any way with the Cemetery Crawl or Founders Day Celebration. It will be on either a Tuesday or Wednesday during the mid morning, probably the first or second week of September. Because we all have commitments and busy schedules, I realize that some will not be able to attend. The exact date will be determined by the number who can attend on a particular day. Register by calling Kay Atteberry, 599-3187 or email kayatteberry@aol.com

Reminder!!

The summer is almost over, the kids are going back to school, the Founders Day celebration for this year is in the past. We have had a successful Cemetery Crawl and now it is time to get back to the business at hand.

Don't forget that we will again start having our monthly meetings. The next one will be held at the History Center September 12, 2003

Watch for it! It's coming!

Your chance to have a authentic piece of Colorado History as well as a real piece of Old Colorado City History.

Don't miss the September meeting where this exciting news will be announced. As supplies are very limited they will be sold on a first come first served basis. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity!

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET
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July 2003 Treasurers Report

There is bad news and good news this Month. As previous reports have shown we were headed for an \$8,000 shortfall this year because of our high costs which included \$1,000 a month for an Archivist, together with still lower income than in previous years, and no ability to make Craft Fair money all summer.

First the bad news. We were notified, which we on the Board regret, that our superb part time archivist Mike Olson accepted a full time position with Pikes Peak Community College, and desired to start that now, at the end of his first years agreement with us. Since we had budgeted \$4500 for a new contract with him for service payments through the end of the year, this expenditure will not be necessary. We should end up the year with less than a \$2,000 overall shortfall and will not face trying to find the funds for paying him into next year. That is the good news.

We still have to set aside and expend \$6,845 when the final contractor bills for the Cabin renovation come due. Work on the cabin will start after Labor Day, and should be completed within 2 months. We must pay these last bills - representing 10% of the total state grant, from our own funds according to state rules, then apply for reimbursement from the State Historical Fund, which could take several months. If the State reimburses us by 1 January we should end the year with at least \$16,000 in our general fund. Even if they are not, we will be able to enter 2003 with at least \$10,000 that can carry us through the lowest income winter months. With these changes which just have come up, we will not have to expend any of the accumulated interest from our endowment fund going into next year. Our August 9th and 10th Founders Day combined with our Cemetery Crawl did well in spite of the economy. The Crawl brought in \$935, our bake sale in the Cabin netted \$168 and the Craft Show brought in nearly another \$1,000. Even subtracting all our costs, including prizes for the first 'Laura Belle Look Alike Contest' and musical entertainment, from the generous \$500 grant from the Pikes Peak Bank, we netted over \$2,000 for the busy weekend that kept our Volunteers hopping. Exact totals will be available at the next board meeting after all bills are paid. **Dave Hughes Treasurer**