

# WEST WOOD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

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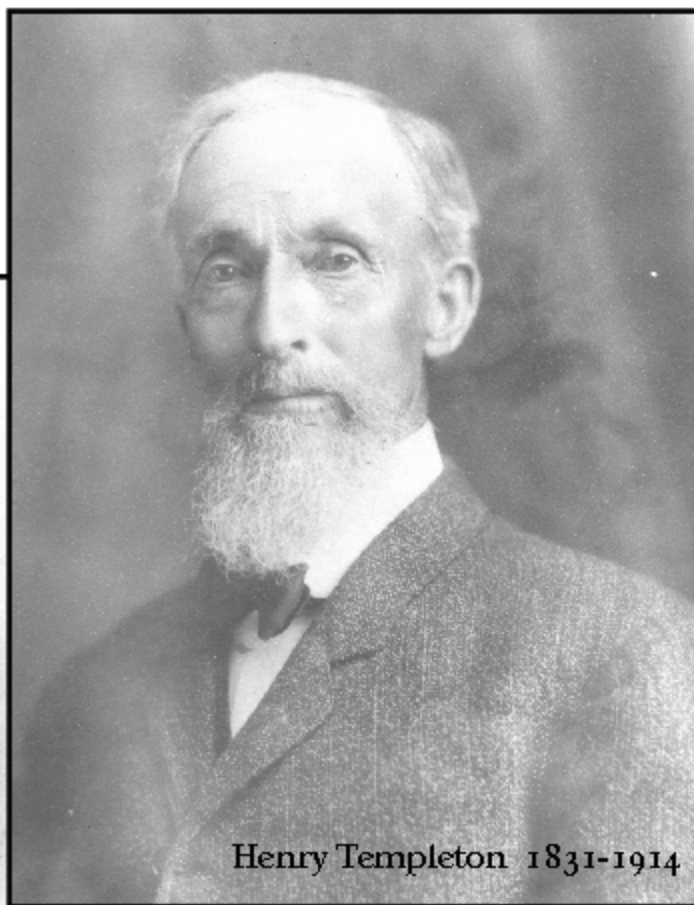
## Henry Templeton

by Dave Hughes

Henry Templeton, his wife and 8 children lived through everything we associate with pioneer life on the Colorado frontier - coming westward in a covered wagon during the Pikes Peak or Bust Gold rush, homesteading, doing whatever it took to make a living, patriotic, encountering both



Mary Templeton 1839-1892



Henry Templeton 1831-1914

friendly and hostile Indians, coping with fickle nature and grasshoppers, succeeding and failing at business then succeeding again, holding fast all his life to his religious beliefs, relying on his steadfast wife, passing onto their children his strong

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**Old Colorado City Historical Society**

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319  
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**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

or Don Ellis - splderwort@pcsys.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

**MISSION**

Revised April 2004

*The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

**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:

Student	\$15	Lifetime	\$150
Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	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	Joanne Karlson	475-2574
Vice President	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Secretary	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Treasurer	David Hughes	636-2040
	Art Crawford	578-1158
	Beverley Disch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Paul Shepard	633-8090
	Sharon Swint	630-8384

**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.

## WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Kay Atteberry  
 Charlease Bobo  
 Fred Clark  
 Norman Clark  
 Muriel Dunkley  
 Marjorie Evans  
 Barbara Ewell  
 Shirley Fallis  
 Merrell Folsom  
 Diana Francese  
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 Stephen Murtagh  
 Curtis & Angie Neeley  
 Michael Olson  
 Marjorie Phillips  
 Albert Rich  
 Paul Shepard  
 Pat & Scott Simpson  
 Valerie Stewart



Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour

Sunday, December 6  
1-5 PM

Featuring 8 inns plus the  
McAllister House museum

*Invite your friends!*

*Tickets available at the History Center*

*Templeton continued from page 1*

moral values. And finally prospering in the end while contributing greatly to the community he had faith in - Colorado City - in which he lived and worked for 52 years.

Henry was born in Scotland in 1831. In 1852 at 21 years old he immigrated into America, landing in the Rochester, New York area. He met a 16 year old lass from Ireland, Mary Coffy and married her in a Methodist Church service in 1855. They first moved further west into Illinois where he started to succeed at farming.

Henry tried to enlist in the Union Army in 1860 as the Civil War was threatening, but he had a chronic kidney ailment, and was not permitted to join. There already was a national depression. His wife, already with three small children, had objected to his efforts to join. He wrote in later life that he said "Mary, they won't have me so if I can't be in it, I wish to be out of it, so let us go to Colorado!" She reportedly replied "All right, Henry, I would rather go to Colorado than have you go to war."

While Henry had been able to stock up his covered wagon with ample supplies, had 6 good oxen to pull his prairie schooner, and drove 50 head of cattle, the long trip along the Platte River route was tough. They had to travel from Council Bluffs, Iowa, with 100 other pioneers, while Mary was pregnant. They travelled under a firm trail boss since the Cheyenne Indians already were raiding and killing settlers crossing the plains to Denver. Their party was 'corralled' by Indians several times, but no battles took place. They got through to Denver City, where the group broke up and everyone went their separate ways.

Henry decided first to head further south to the 'new'

Territorial Capitol called 'Colorado City' where they encountered the Baird family on Beaver Ranch whom they had known in Illinois. They got there on July 1st, 1862 just 7 days before the first Colorado Territorial Government convened - for only a few days - before abandoning Colorado City.

Henry looked for opportunities. He started hauling timber in their wagon pulled by their oxen to growing and building Colorado City. In 1863 Henry bought out Harvey Anway's 'Hotel.' Harvey had owned the two story building whose site today is at the 'Fort' marker at 2818 West Pikes Peak. While that once-hotel became the Templeton's home for several years, when the Indian scares of 1864 and 1868 boiled up, the town folk helped fortify their large, building with timbers. The



Templeton Block 1891

*Templeton continued from page 3*

few Colorado City women and children stayed there at night.

As agriculture began to flourish along Fountain Creek after settlers learned, from the Mexicans, how to build irrigation ditches, and good wheat was being grown, Henry built the second Flour Mill in Colorado City in 1864. It was profitable for several years, while surplus flour was carried to and sold in Denver. Then another depression hit. When he had to borrow money at high rates of interest, he lost the Mill. But he refused to resort to bankruptcy - and eventually paid off all his debts.

Henry Templeton went back to make a living with his sons as a farmer and rancher, and hauler of timber.

Along with his wife and growing children he became fully involved with the Methodist Church, first headed by Reverend William Howbert, Irving Howbert's father, who had come down from Buckskin Joe in October 1861 to establish a church. Later he and his young "Templeton Brothers" were well known to Father Dyer - later called the Snowshoe Itinerant Preacher. He became a very active member in the third Methodist Church that long stood on the Corner of today's 23d and West Pikes Peak.

According to his son James Henry, the closest he ever heard his father swear was when he exclaimed "Tarnation!"

In fact, the Templeton family was so helpful and involved in the affairs of those churches, raising funds, and becoming class leaders that Henry Templeton was later in life called the "Father of Methodism in the Pikes Peak Region"

The Templeton Children were all schooled in Colorado City, first at the 'Grout School' even when all hands were needed at home so much that they only went to school three months a year and worked on the farms and ranches the other 9 months. All the boys grew up to be successful cattlemen.

Henry was always faithful to, and believed in, the future of Colorado City, even after Colorado Springs was founded in 1871 and siphoned off everything from the County Seat to businesses. But he was perfectly willing to haul ties for Palmer's Denver and Rio Grande Railroad downtown and as it went right through Colorado City to Manitou Springs. When Leadville boomed with silver in 1879, the Templeton family became, with their own teams, part of the booming freighting business, hauling heavy supplies from the



The Templeton House - 1892

railheads in Colorado Springs to the high country.

During all those years between 1862 and 1886 while he and Colorado City were economically struggling, he had continued to buy up lots in and around Colorado City. So when, in 1885, eastern industrialist John J Hagerman, recovering from tuberculosis, decided to finance the Midland Railroad, he bought from Templeton, lots of the land needed for the roundhouse, shops, terminals, and railroad beds south of Colorado City across Fountain Creek. Records showed no less than 30 property transfers from Templeton in that decade.

That is when Henry and Mary Templeton started reaping the rewards for their years of hard work, frugality and faith. In 1891, he was able to risk building the 'Templeton Block' on the NW corner of today's at 25th and West Colorado Avenue - opposite what we call now the twin "Meadow Muffin" building. Its three brick stories with a large basement cost \$14,000 to build in 1891 (it sold for \$1.2 million in 2005)

The building had a large dry goods store on the first floor, while the second floor was advertised as 'Templeton Flats' providing 18 rental lodging units. The third floor was exclusively reserved for use by the Masons and the Knights of Pythias. The basement with an 8 foot ceiling with an outside entrance contained even more commercial space. There were full utilities.

Together with the similar building to the east that had the Waycott Opera House in it, and with street car service right outside, that Colorado Avenue intersection made the two buildings the new 'downtown' of Colorado City. It helped that at the foot of 25th Street across the Fountain Creek bridge was the Passenger Terminal for the Midland.

By 1891 Henry Templeton, was aging. At 60 he built the fine home on the corner of 25th and Pikes Peak Avenue as a gift to his wife.

Sadly, Henry's wife Mary died at 52, in 1892 soon after both the Templeton building and her house were completed. So Henry sold the

Templeton Block building in late 1893 for \$20,000. A nice profit.

He then sold the southern end of the lot on which the house sits next to the alley. The Boone Mortuary was built on that rather narrow lot. It still stands. Henry Templeton is said to have enjoyed going next door occasionally to conduct services at funerals.

He lived out his last years living with his daughters Sara and Cora in the house he had built for his wife. That still stands and houses Deb's Coffee House Restaurant today. All three other daughters, Edna, Emma, Hattie, married, lived in their own homes very close to the Templeton House.

Finally Henry Templeton, a true Colorado City pioneer died on September 11th, 1914. He was 83 years old.

## INTRODUCING "GRANDMA'S ATTIC"



A new feature has been added to the Bookstore called "Grandma's Attic". The beautiful glass display case in our Bookstore now sells consignments and donated items that remind us of days gone by.

Want to get involved? There are many ways. First, you can donate an item appropriate for sale in this display. Proceeds will go directly to help offset costs of the Historical Society. Second, you can bring in items for consignment sale. Guidelines for donations and consignment are available at the bookstore. Finally, you and a friend can come in to the bookstore and shop all you want!

It is great to try something new. Come join us in "Grandma's Attic".

# Recent Acquisitions at the History Center

By Barbara Barbaro

Within the past two months we've been fortunate to acquire some wonderful artifacts and archives through the thoughtfulness of many people. Listed below are the articles donated and the persons/organizations who donated them.

- Gilbert gramophone and dozens of 78 LP records, from Jeff Iselt, in honor of his father, Ed Iselt
- Multiple title abstracts and documents pertaining to Colorado City and Colorado Springs properties, from Jim Phillips
- A ledger book of all Short Line Railroad employees dating from around 1900 through 1947, from Tim and Shery Reid
- Several miniature photos and color slides of Colorado Springs and the local area dating from around the 1920s, from Martha Ann Kanagy
- A letter about Edward Wynkoop, a controversial figure at the 1864 Battle of Sand Creek, and extracts of an unfinished biography of Wynkoop published by the Colorado Historical Society, from Chris Wynkoop, great, great nephew of Edward Wynkoop
- Antique scoop shovel with a wooden handle, from OCCHS member Don Ellis
- Handmade oatmeal container and scoop dating from around 1890-1900, from OCCHS member Jan deChadenedes (the items belonged to her grandmother)
- Two books, "Ghost Tales of Cripple Creek", and "Myers Avenue", from Bill Loewen
- Sawyer & Garstin 1901 summary of water resources of Colorado City, Colorado Springs, and Manitou Springs, from the Manitou Springs Historical Society

## Old Colorado City Historical Society Oral History Project

The Old Colorado City Historical Society (OCCHS) started an oral history project several years ago. The purpose of the project is to interview anyone who had a connection with families living in Colorado City (now the Westside of Colorado Springs) prior to 1917 when it was an independent town. To date, a number of interviews have been conducted and recently the project team decided to broaden the scope and locate additional people to interview and record stories of Colorado City.

Members of the committee are:

Gordon Gray, Chair  
Sharon Swint, co-Chair  
Betty Baker  
Elaine Radney  
Sarah Swint-Martinez

The committee is requesting people who have personal, family, or historical stories of Colorado City to contact them. The interviews are designed to last about one hour and a pre-interview meeting or phone call is encouraged so the person being interviewed will have a general idea of what is being requested during the interview and feel more comfortable. The interviews can either be done in the person's home or at the History Center located at 1 South 24th Street in Colorado Springs.

If you have a story of interest and would like to be a part of preserving important historical events, please call the History Center at 719-636-1225 or send an email to [oldcoloradocityoralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:oldcoloradocityoralhistory@gmail.com). Provide your name, phone number, email (if one is available) and the period of time your story takes place; i.e., "Colorado City in the 1890s". A committee member will get in contact with you and obtain information about your story and make arrangements for an interview.

If you have questions, you can contact Gordon at 719-660-6307.

## From the President's Desk~

The Board of Directors has a challenge for OCCHS members!

We are asking for at least sixty responses by November 15 to this question. Please put on your thinking caps and let us know your thoughts.

What is your vision (or dream) of what the Old Colorado City History Center could be (or should be) in another ten years...2020?

This includes the Society which is the governing body.

The Vision Committee has not met for a year, and we have recommendations from that group of eight. Our Sesquicentennial Year has had varied programs and events, new exhibits, many new visitors and OCCHS members, and a budget still in the black! What can 2010...and 2020 bring? What are the expectations of our members? A vision statement goes beyond the mission statement of an organization.

Please email or mail your comments with Attention: OCCHS Board.

Yes, next year, we will report back to the membership the consensus of your opinions.

Meanwhile, we look forward to our November events as well as a new exhibit along the ramp wall. Electricians have been busy this week re-wiring the downstairs. Members are planning two fundraisers (see Calendar in this issue). January programs will be announced in the next newsletter which will be for December/January...giving our Editor a holiday break!

And last, I enjoyed meeting everyone at the annual dinner October 1. It was a good evening and good company!

*~Joanne Karlson*

Consider giving a 'gift of history' this year!

**Shop in the Bookstore**

for a variety of book topics  
and vintage consignment items.

**Happy Holidays to All!**

## Treasurer's Report October, 2009

Early October included our Annual Dinner, which was held inside the Ghost Town Museum. While not a 'fund raising' event per se, a separate Silent Auction was held. The Dinner was catered by Front Range Barbeque, with tables and chairs rented from Bruno's, and with meeting-space rental from Ghost Town. The total cost was \$1,404, with ticket sales totaling \$1,604 for the 66 attendees. A small surplus of \$200.

The Silent Auction, which included a number of interesting paintings by Jack Ekstrom was a surprise. It netted us \$875 in addition to the dinner.

Suzanne Schorsch who has gotten a firm handle on managing our Book Store was able to start providing your Treasurer an excel Spreadsheet with detailed accounting of last month's sales - \$644.07. Costs were \$413.44, leaving the Book Store Bank Account Balance at end of September at \$3,758.89.

Quiet lifetime member Shirley Bonds, who for many years owned Peerless Graphics in Old Colorado City before she retired donated a second \$5,000 grant this month to our society to support further digitization of our large photograph collection, including a donation of many pretty rare negatives from her original printing plant, one of which shows a quite rare image of the Midland Band Members before 1900 in Native American costume, rather than in their customary conductor-type uniforms.

Our archives operations center in the basement of our center with 7 volunteers has been improved by both a general electrical upgrade of all the wiring costing us \$1,661.60, the upgrading of one of our older computers, purchase of a second, new Window XP computer capable of supporting a new digital scanner, and donation of a large screen computer monitor.

So we arrive in mid October with \$5,339 in our checking account, \$3,759 in our Bookstore Account \$30,516 in our low-interest savings account, and \$76,783 (current value) of our higher interest yielding Bonds. Or a total of \$116,397 in liquid assets.

*Dave Hughes, Treasurer*

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

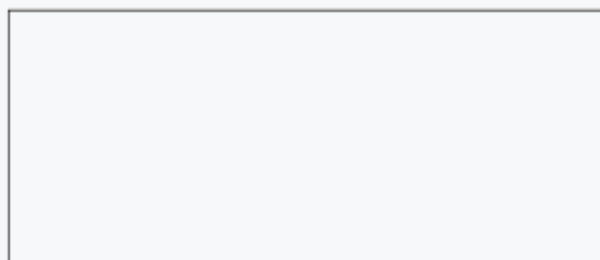
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## ***FALL 2009 - SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR PROGRAMS & EVENTS***

**Friday, Nov. 13**  
11 AM.

**Program: "History In-and-Around Fountain Creek: the Southern End of El Paso County"** Dorothy Boyd, member of the Fountain Historical Society and new museum, will present Fountain's own "character" with little known facts of early El Paso County history.

Don't miss this "first-time" program. No program in December.

**Saturday, Nov. 14**  
9 AM. til 4 P.M.

**NEW! History Center Bookstore & Boutique Sale**

Early holiday shopping with Bookstore specials plus local artisans with handcrafted items from jewelry to quilts, baked goods, and more! Free admission. Drawings every hour. Refreshments.

**Sunday, Dec. 6**  
1 to 5 P.M.

**15th Annual Bed & Breakfast & Historic Homes Tour**

Visit eight inns plus McAllister House all decorated for the holidays. Refreshments and door prizes at History Center.

Tickets in advance \$10, day of event \$15.

Military discount with ID \$8 advance, \$13 day of event.

Tickets available Nov. 1 online or at History Center.

*Most programs are free. Donations are welcome.  
Come early for refreshments and tour the museum.*