

# WESTWARD

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Volume 25, Number 9

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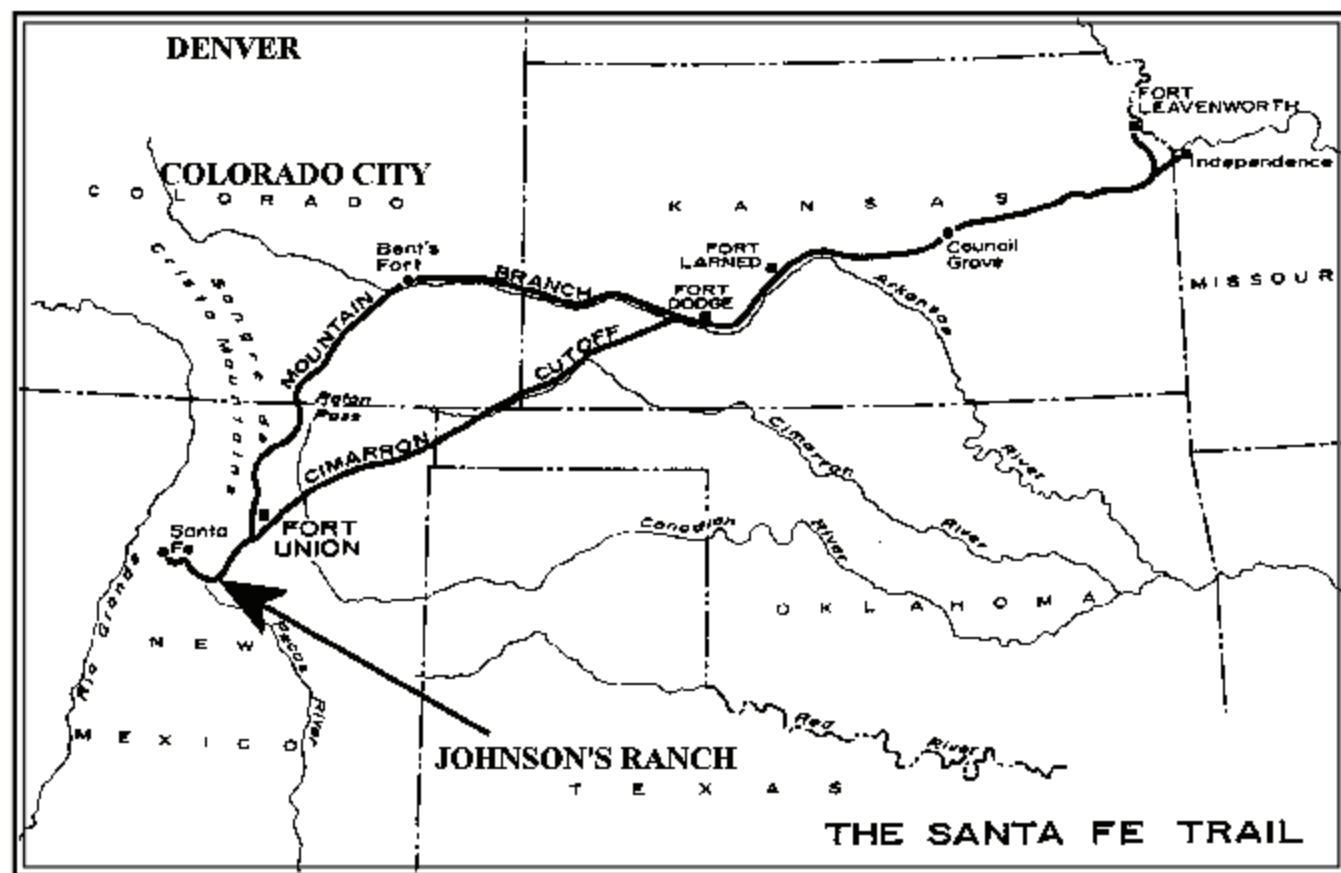
## JOHNSON'S RANCH AT GLORIETA - PART I

by Dave Hughes

It's not often that Historical Society members accidentally encounter descendants of pioneers who participated in turning points in history. So it was fortuitous when I stumbled across local direct descendants of Anthony Johnson, who owned the famous Johnson Ranch on the Santa Fe Trail during one of the most decisive western Civil War battles. The 1862 Battle of Glorieta Pass was won by the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment in part because Johnson's Ranch became the Achilles heel of the Confederate

invasion of the West.

It's even more fortunate that one of those descendants - Anthony Gabriel Johnson with his wife Aleta, who live in Colorado Springs, have researched their family history. In 1992 that research led to an 82 page 'Legacy of a Santa Fe Trail Teamster' about the whole life of Anthony D. Johnson and his many descendants in New Mexico and Colorado. Besides the story of what happened to Johnson's Ranch during the Civil War, their book gives an insight into the rugged



*Continued on page 4*

### Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319  
http://history.oldcolo.com 636-1225

#### 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:

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

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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	\$25	Business	\$50
Family	\$30	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	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Vice President	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Secretary	Sharon Swint	630-8384
Treasurer	Johnie Jackson	550-0999
	Beverly Dlsch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Dave Munay	527-6778
	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Paul Shepard	633-8090

#### 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

Norman Clark

Fred Clark

Muriel Dunkley

Marjorie Evans

Barbara Ewell

Shirley Fallis

Merrell Folsom

Joe & Marge Knorr

Helen Leonard

Mary Beth McKnight

Marjorie Foust Phillips

Paul Shepard

Jeff and Sandy Warner



# *Volunteer spotlight - meet Kay Atteberry*

by Barbara Barbaro

What an interesting and fulfilling life this lady, Kay Atteberry lives. She keeps herself busy by devoting an extraordinary amount of her time to such meaningful organizations as the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and of course, the Old Colorado City Historical Society and History Center.

At one time many years ago Kay felt a strong desire to become a veterinarian. She soon realized though, that women veterinarians were definitely in the minority; at that time, only one woman out of 100 was a vet, whereas, now, women make up about 95% of all veterinarians. So, her chosen profession became a school teacher.

About ten years ago after retiring from being a teacher for 30 years at Holmes Middle School in the west side, she channeled that love of animals to working at the zoo. Kay's docent

work at the zoo includes giving zoo tours in the spring and fall. Additionally, twice a week during the months of November through March she is a puppeteer. The puppets represent many animals found in the wild and in zoos.

Being involved with just the AAUW would keep anyone on the go, including Kay. She belongs to several interest groups within the organization, including the book club, a computer group, a hiking group, a Southwest studies group, a local history group and playing Mah Jongg twice a month. All that, and she still has time for the History Center!

Kay first heard of the Old Colorado City History Center through our long time member and past president, Bev Disch. Back in 1999 they were both involved in an AAUW study group she and Bev began chatting about the History Center. She says that up to that point, she didn't know a thing about the History Center, then Bev mentioned that the Center was looking for volunteers, and that was all it took. Since then, she has been an integral part of the Center's core volunteer group.

Kay's main focus at the Center is helping get the monthly West Word newsletter out. (For those of you who save your past copies of the West Word, the West Word Newsletter Team is featured in the April 2009 edition.) She's also actively involved with the Victorian Tea, the Cemetery Crawl, the Bed & Breakfast tours, and Territory Days. She has also done her stint as a member of the Board of Directors.

Kay's personal life includes visiting with her two grown children; a daughter Sheryl who lives in Divide with her husband and their daughter, and a son Glen, who is married and has two girls. Glen and his family live just outside of Alma.

Webster's dictionary defines the word commitment as "something pledged; the state of being obligated or emotionally impelled (to a cause)." In my book, Kay is a shining example of just what Mr. Webster must have been envisioning when defining that word. Kay's devotion and commitment to the History Center is truly remarkable and greatly appreciated. We're just glad that she's made time out of her bustling schedule to include the History Center in her world of volunteering.



**Johnson's Ranch** *continued from page 1*

life lived by mixed Anglo, Hispanic, Indian peoples in the dangerous American far southwest frontier.

For this newsletter article I only have room enough to tell the Johnson's Ranch story as it relates to the Battle of Glorieta Pass.

While the Johnson family roots have been traced back to 1793 in Marseilles, France, Anthony D. Johnson's name first appears in the west on the front page of the first edition of the 'Santa Fe New Mexican,' November, 1849.

He was, above all, and all of his life, a Teamster. He started by driving wagons along the Santa Fe Trail the 1,200 mile distance from Missouri to Santa Fe. This was during the time after the Mexican War, and before the Railroads came west when the Santa Fe Trail reached its peak of activity. Over that trail thousands of wagon loads of merchandise poured into both New Mexico and Mexico. The strong heavy wagons pulled by eight horses, mules, or oxen carried six tons of freight. Stagecoach traffic moved over both the Mountain Branch and the slightly shorter Cimarron Cutoff. One stagecoach could carry eleven passengers, nine inside and two outside, taking two weeks to get from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe for a fare of \$250.

Johnson's freighting journeys were long and dangerous, over rugged terrain, with many difficult water crossings, often enduring violent or freezing weather. No Interstate 25 then! Every traveling party and teamster risked being attacked or held up by Indians, bandits, or southern secessionist guerrillas from the time they left Missouri until they reached Santa Fe. It took about two weeks to make the trip.

While Anthony D. Johnson's own family, including his brothers and father, owned land near Portage Des Sioux, a portage used by both French voyagers and Indians on the Mississippi, young Anthony D. left them all and went west somewhere between 1846 and 1849 to start yet another branch of the Johnson Family in the American Southwest.

Teamster Anthony D. Johnson, who spoke French, English, and later Spanish, married Maria de la Cruz Lovato on July 3d, 1850 in the old parish Church of San Francisco, Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was 27 and Maria was 22. She, being slight of build was nicknamed 'Cruzita.'

Although he became a lifelong teamster, he was drawn into military service during the years

when the main threat came from Indian depredations and every settlement had to fend for itself against the threat.

By 1850, two years after the end of the war with Mexico, there were only about 1,000 regular US Army troops left in the large and sprawling Territory of New Mexico. The Jicarilla and Mescalero Apaches, Southern Utes, and Navajos raided constantly, stealing livestock and crops, and attacked unprotected wagons and stagecoaches. There were simply not enough Federal troops to police the whole territory. So, localized volunteer Militia units had to be formed to deal with the Indian threats. The Territorial government even issued rifles to citizens to deal with the threats. Since all New Mexican men between 16 and 45 had to sign up, it was probable that Anthony Johnson was part of one of those local-defense militia units.

Separate from that, he joined a seven company Volunteer battalion which was formed and mustered into 6 months US Service under the command of Lt. Colonel Ceran St. Vrain. This unit operated against the Apaches and Mohauche Utes, even making forays into Southern Colorado. In a series of actions as far north as Poncha Pass, Ceran's Battalion punished the Apaches and Utes severely enough that treaties were signed and for a time the depredations slackened off.

The best evidence that Anthony Johnson served in that Volunteer Battalion too, was that after it was mustered out on August 4th, 1854, volunteers were not only paid for their 6 months service but also were entitled to 'bounty land,' which took an Act of Congress to award and took years to actually implement. Even though the Johnson's owned no assets, and Anthony working as both a freighter and laborer in Santa Fe struggling to make a living with a growing family, by 1858 records show he had obtained his own ranch close to Canoncito, New Mexico - probably as 'bounty' for his military service.

That became the original Johnson's Ranch, whose main building had been built in 1830. It lay right next to the Santa Fe Trail, 13 miles from Santa Fe. It was where the land widened out a bit just west of the entrance to narrow and rugged Apache Canyon.

Johnson continued to transport freight over the Santa Fe Trail while his wife, Cruzita - helped out by her extended Hispanic family members who also lived at their ranch - operated Johnson Ranch as a popular stage stop, hostelry, and cantina for travelers on the Trail. It was the



*1916 photo of Johnson Ranch building with Indian Creek in background. Adobe construction with timbers above and a sod roof. Photo courtesy of Santa Fe Museum*

perfect spot for a stop over for travelers coming out of Santa Fe about to climb rugged Glorieta Pass at the southern tip of the very high - up to 14,000 feet - Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range that extended into Southern Colorado. And it was a fine place to stop for those who had just exhaustingly traversed the high pass from the east. Both man and beasts needed a rest.

An unusual bond developed between Anthony Johnson, the French and English speaking Teamster and a US Army Lieutenant - John Frances Ritter. I knew from my own study of the military officers who fought at Glorieta Pass that Ritter was a West Point graduate, Class of 1856. He was posted to the far west very early in his career. He got to know Johnson and evidently came to trust him, for Ritter made at least one large (for that time) loan of \$450.41 to Johnson which helped Anthony pay for livestock, wagons, and equipment for his ranch. Johnson duly paid back that debt. It was seed money for entrepreneurship on the remote frontier aided by a junior West Point Army officer.

This was the same John Ritter who, as a Captain three years later, commanded the key Union artillery pieces defending against the Confederate attack near Pigeon's ranch, finally stopping the Confederates at the high water mark of their invasion along the Santa Fe Trail.

The Civil War interlude which entangled Johnson's Ranch had started when Sibley's Texas Confederate Army invaded New Mexico with

3,800 men in February of 1862. After defeating Gen. Canby's Union forces and bottling them up at Fort Craig near Valverde in southern New Mexico, Sibley continued on up the Rio Grande through Albuquerque with at least 2,000 men and occupied Santa Fe. He was already short of supplies, having suffered many casualties at Valverde, and he misjudged just how much he could gather 'living on the land.' The northern New Mexicans were not friendly to his Texans.

Sibley's strategic goal was, first, to move over Glorieta Pass 100 miles

east to capture the very well stocked Fort Union, and then, resupplied, to press on through Southern Colorado. Then brush aside the presumably weak Territorial Militia forces and in the absence of any Federal troops or Forts along the Front Range, reach Denver virtually unopposed, marching right through small Colorado City, to take control of Colorado Territorial gold fields to get badly needed hard currency for Jeff Davis' Confederate States. A very ambitious goal.

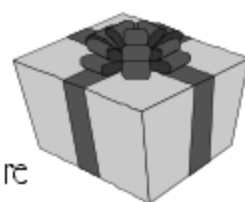
Sibley knew that Fort Union would be very well provisioned, for he knew that Secretary of War Floyd, a southern sympathizer under President Buchanan had not only appointed Southern-sympathy Union officers as fort commanders in Texas and New Mexico but had also shipped supplies surplus to the needs of the US Army to 'just' fight the Indians (a political fact which almost no scholar of the Civil War in the west picked up on).

Sibley was quite familiar with what he might find at Fort Union since he had actually commanded the fort before he joined the Confederacy. With only 1,000 Regular Federal troops in all New Mexico, Sibley thought he had a cake walk. He totally overlooked the possibility that Volunteer Union-supporting forces would be tough, determined and resourceful. The scornful Texans called the 1st Colorado regiment being formed 'Gilpin's Pet Lambs.'

*Continued next month*



## \*Holiday Greetings\*



Holidays are just around the corner  
Stop by the Old Colorado City History Museum and bookstore  
Check out our Holiday books and gifts

Let us help you get started with your holiday ideas

We now have jewelry, quilts and holiday decor made by our own OCCHS members.

Free ornament with each purchase over \$25.00

*Sixteenth Annual*

## *Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour*

*Sunday,  
December 5  
1-5 PM*

History Center  
Open House  
Noon- 5:30

Holden  
House

Old Town  
GuestHouse

Lennox  
House

Blue Skies  
Inn

Avenue  
Hotel

Red Crag

Rockledge  
Country Inn

Onaledge

Refreshments

Drawings for:

- ◆ Door Prizes donated by  
Old Colorado City merchants
- ◆ Night's stay for two at any participating inn

*All tour proceeds benefit the  
Old Colorado City Historical Society*

\$12 in advance - \$15 on the day of the tour

Tickets available at the History Center or any participating inn

## Old Colorado City Historical Society President's Report

October 2010

By Phil McDonald

Happy Halloween everyone! This edition of the OCCHS president's report will be shorter than usual. I just returned from a wonderful trip to Egypt. I was gone from October 9-17 visiting historical sites in Cairo, Luxor, Aswan and Abu Simbel. As a life-long Egyptophile, it was a dream come true. Especially impressive was the temple complex at Karnak 2000 years of Egyptian history are represented on a 200 acre plot of land. It was absolutely overwhelming. The Cairo Museum and the Valley of the Kings did not disappoint either. It was nothing short of awesome to gaze upon the mummy of King Tut, which has been returned to his tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

The Cairo Museum was somewhat of a paradox. It earns a "D" for style, but an "A+" for substance. The atmosphere is somewhat oppressive and the artifacts are not adequately or attractively identified and presented. However, the treasures housed within are nothing short of spectacular. I particularly enjoyed the Hall of Royal Mummies and the incredible array of King Tut artifacts. The beauty and splendor of the objects exhibited are simply overwhelming.

The down side to this travel experience is that the OCCHS was nowhere to be found on my radar screen for most of October. I have much catching up to do. Bev Disch is in the process of organizing yet another terrific B&B tour. Bev tells me she has rounded up some new participating B&Bs and Jo Cervone is preparing a dynamite advertising campaign to promote this fundraising event.

Joanne Karlson met recently with several Board members and others to brainstorm ideas for our 2011 program agenda. I would be more than happy to do a travelogue program on my recent trip to Egypt. I have 280 photos that I'd love to share with our members.

That's all for now.  
Phil

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT, SEPTEMBER 2010

We are approaching the end of the year and must look forward to next year. November is the month that we begin preparation for next year's budget.

I would ask that any members and especially any of our members involved with programs or events please take the time to think about what they will need or what they want for their areas in the new year.

We would also like some input for expenses as well as income. We have had a really good year and need to build on the things that have worked and to seriously look at those areas that were not so good. Our Board of Directors needs your input so that we can plan our schedule, income and expenses for next year around what will benefit most of our members. We have a good many new members that can also give us their input to make this Society even better than it is now.

As you will see from the figures below we should enter the new year in a sound financial position. Thanks to all for your help this year.

Thanks again to Shirley Bonds for her contribution of \$5,000 to our Digitalization fund.

### OCCHS LIQUID ASSETS

OCCHS Bank Account	\$ 11,786.65
Book Store Bank Account	\$ 3,869.00
Memorial Hos. Rev. Bond	\$ 52,330.00
Cal. Regents Revenue Bond	\$ 26,322.75
Edward Jones Bonds (Cash)	\$ 3,869.09
Fixed Endowment Savings	\$ 96,867.18
Earned Income Savings	\$ 11,153.07
Shirley Bonds Digital Acc't	\$ 8,658.20

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Total Liquid Assets \$ 132,334.41

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Johnie E. Jackson, Treasurer  
Old Colorado City Historical Society



**OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
ONE SOUTH TWENTY-FOURTH STREET  
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## OCCHS Calendar

**Friday, November 12**  
11 AM.

**Program: "Physiographic Provinces of Colorado"**  
presented by paleontologist, Mike Nelson, Ph.D.

Colorado is blessed with having some of the most diverse geological and geographical features in the U.S. This presentation will focus on the geological history of the state that produced our fantastic array of mountains, basins, rivers, and plains. Dr. Nelson has extensive university teaching experience, is still mentoring workshops with undergraduates, and enjoying fieldwork. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 5**  
2 - 5 P.M.  
(History Center open  
noon - 5:30)

**Sixteenth Annual Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour**

A festive holiday afternoon visiting eight local inns. Refreshments and door prizes at History Center. Tickets available online, at the History Center, or at any participating inn \$12 in advance, \$15 on the day of the tour.

*This is a major OCCHS fundraiser enjoyed by both men and women!  
Help sell tickets! Bring your friends!*

### **Old Colorado City History Center**

*1 S. 24th. Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - 636-1225 - <http://history.oldcolo.com>*

*Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat., 11 - 4 Free Admission. ~ Donations greatly appreciated*