

WEST WORD



proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

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August, 2014

Yes, Women Doctors Did Exist in Colorado Before 1880!

by Doris McCraw

If you were suffering from asthma you might be treated with skunk cabbage root, taken as a syrup or dried and smoked through a pipe. Earaches might be treated with the heart of a roasted onion placed in the ear. Toothaches, how about a pill composed of camphor and opium placed in the tooth, or if really bad, pulled by whoever was available.

If you were bitten by a rattlesnake you might drink a half a glass of olive oil, and apply some to the site of the bite.

Childbirth had either a female neighbor or if lucky a mid-wife present. Of course if neither of those were available it became an individual or at most a family affair. The common practice of laying in; that is remaining in the birth bed, no clean sheets etc.; was not always practical for the woman in the West. Usually there was too much to do to just lay around, so these hearty women were up an about more quickly than their Eastern counterparts.

The above remedies were taken from a book written in 1847 and were what most folks would use to treat their ills.

In the 1800's there were three types of doctors. Most practiced homeopathic medicine which started in the 1790's, a few practiced allopathic medicine which started or was given the name in the early 1800's and a few were

osteopaths, which came into being around 1874. In the Pikes Peak Region most early doctors practiced homeopathy. This included four women who were practicing in the area prior to 1880. They were Julie E Loomis, Esther B Holmes, Harriett Leonard, and Clara (Clarabel) Rowe.

By the 1870's Colorado was known not only for the gold and silver they were pulling out of the mountains, but also an area for invalids to come to recover. Before then the area was a place of businesses, ranching and some farming, some in remote areas. The early days didn't have the medical doctors that began arriving in the 1870's. Instead most folks did their own doctoring or called a mid-wife, using some of the above remedies.

It the mid 1800's hygiene and sanitation made their way into the medical field. Prior to and even during the War Between the States, many doctors still did not clean their instruments or hands between surgeries or seeing patients. Once it became standard practice the mortality rate fell, but it wasn't until the 1920's that antibiotics came into use.

By 1859 Colorado City came into existence as a supply stop for the miners and others heading

Continued on Page 3

A TIMELY NOTICE

STARTING THIS FALL, YOU MAY SEE ONE OR TWO OF OUR FUN FRIDAY PROGRAMS CHANGING TO A DIFFERENT TIME OR DAY. WE'D LIKE TO TRY AND ALLOW MORE MEMBERS TO ATTEND. ONE PROGRAM MAY BE AN EARLY EVENING PROGRAM OR EVEN A SATURDAY MORNING PROGRAM. SO BE SURE AND WATCH THE MONTHLY PROGRAM LISTINGS IN THE WEST WORD FOR THE EXACT TIME AND DAY EACH MONTH.

DON'T MISS OUT!!

Old Colorado City Historical Society

*'Preserving the past for the future'*1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
http://www.occhs.org (719) 636-1225**WEST WORD**

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The Old Colorado City Historical Society

A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

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SUBMISSIONS CAN BE DELIVERED OR MAILED TO:

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

or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcsys.net

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

Revised August 2012

The Old Colorado City Historical Society is a nonprofit volunteer organization established to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County which includes the present and future history of today's greater Westside neighborhood.

This organization perpetuates the preservation and display of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the Old Colorado City 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	Business	\$ 75
Individual	\$ 25		
Family	\$ 35	Lifetime	\$250

Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into an Endowment Fund to be used only for projects 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

Co-President	Betty Baker	636-1225
Co-President	Kathy McBride	636-1225
Vice President	Joanne Karlson	475-2574
Secretary	Brian Copeland	954-551-3677
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	331-1786
	Bev Disch	636-1225
	Sandy Hanzlian	636-1225

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 10:30 A.M. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. Everyone welcome.

WELCOME TO OCCHS!**~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS**

Bill Arnold

Dorothy Borst

c/o Nancy Brown

Lois Carr

John Chatfield

Art Crawford

Melanie D.Gulldman

Don Kallaus

Billie T. Kilman

Leo and Miki Knudson

Mark Leeper

Mary Donahue Miller

Sandra & Robert Patchell

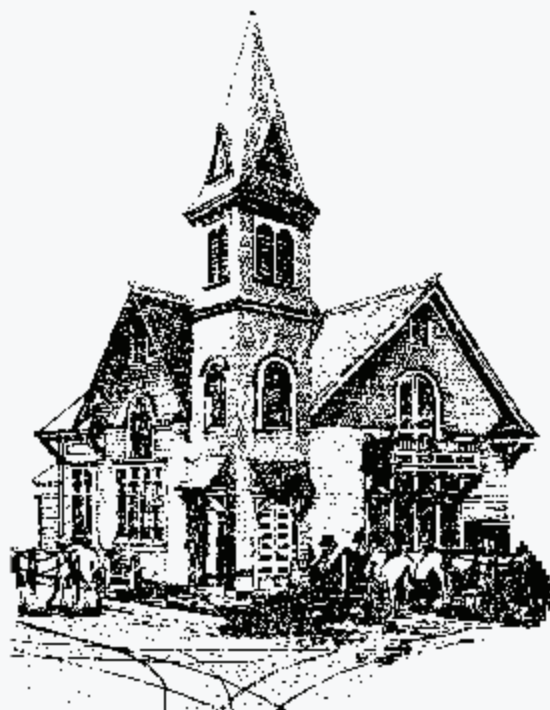
Roberta Robertson

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Doctors from Page 1

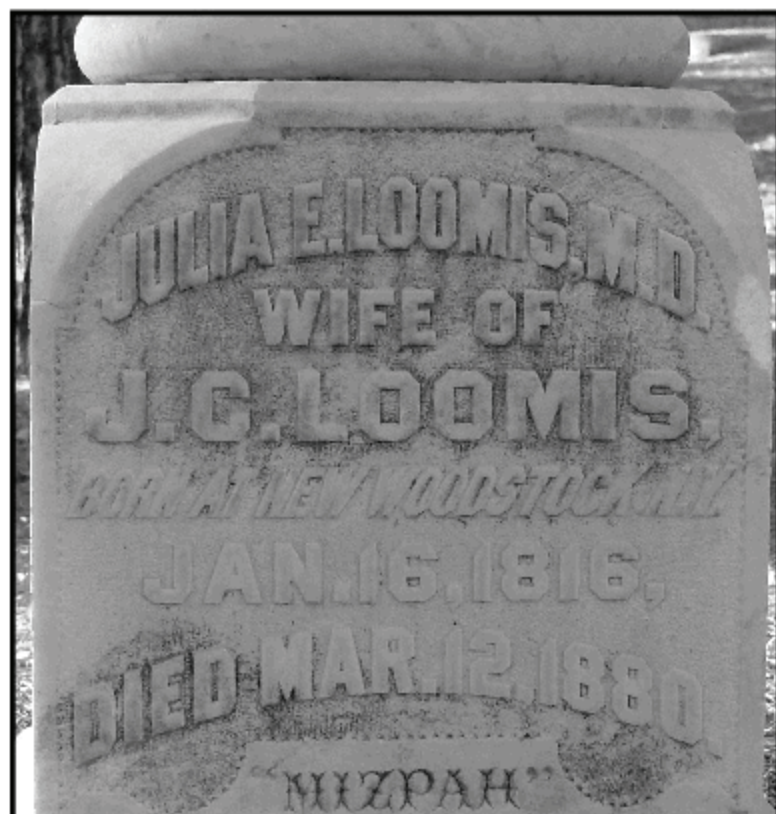
to the gold and silver mines in the South Park, Leadville, areas west of the front range. Then in 1869 William Jackson Palmer arrived in the area while on a survey for the a Kansas Pacific Railroad.

Then in 1871 Wm. Palmer returned with Dr. Wm. Bell, a doctor from England, and proceeded to develop the towns of Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs. Colorado City was bookend by the two towns. Dr. Edwin Solly moved from England to Manitou Springs shortly thereafter in the hope that the air would help cures the tuberculosis he had contracted. After Solly regained his health he sang the praises of the area far and wide. The region quickly became a mecca for health seekers. Into the mix of these migratory people came a number of doctors. The area around the base of Pikes Peak, the eastern most 14,000 foot peak in the Colorado Rocky Mountain Range, grew from a population of 3,000 in 1873 to about 10,000 by 1879. Of the twenty plus doctors who were in the area in 1879 three were the women listed above, Julia E. Loomis, Esther B. Holmes and Harriett Leonard. Clara Rowe appears to have arrived in late 1879 just prior to the 1880 census.

In the early days, most doctors either paid a practicing physician to study with him, or attended a two year school devoted to teaching doctors. Most would not allow female students, so colleges for women physicians came

into existence after the graduation of Elizabeth Blackwell in 1849 from the Geneva Medical College in New York. She became the first women to received an MD in the United States. By 1881 Colorado began licensing physicians, just a year after the death of Julia E Loomis.

Julia E. Loomis was born in New Woodstock, New York. After her marriage to John C. Loomis she and JC, as he was known, moved around a great deal. While in Iowa, her daughter died at twenty-one, about a year after her marriage. It was after her daughter's death that Julia went to medical school. Julia was around fifty four years old when she attended the Cleveland Homeopathic College for



*Close up of Headstone for Julia E. Loomis.
Note the MD*



Full view of Julia E. Loomis' headstone

Women in Cleveland, Ohio and obtained her M.D. on February 24, 1870. By 1876 she was in Colorado Springs and working to set up a clinic for the treatment of consumption (TB). She passed away in 1880 from pneumonia. Her 'death certificate' was signed by doctor E. B. Holmes. Julia Loomis is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

Esther B. Holmes was born in Rhode Island and married in her mid teens. Records seem to indicate she also attended the Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College for Women. Dr. Holmes was one of the early doctors to receive her Colorado license. The state began the licensing process in 1881 and Dr. Holmes received license, #387 in 1882. She continued to practice in Colorado Springs until her death in 1910 at the age of sixty-five and according to the family she was known as the 'baby' doctor. Esther Holmes was originally buried in Colorado Springs but her remains were moved in 1912.

The third doctor in the area was Harriet Leonard. In 1879 she was the proprietor of the Mineral Bath House in Manitou Springs. There

she advertised Hot and Cold, Russian Vapor and The Electric Baths. She was a graduate of the Keokuk College for Physicians and Surgeons in the Keokuk, Iowa. The school came to Keokuk in late 1850 as a state sponsored school and was a medical center until 1908 when it merged with Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. The school was also one of the early co-ed medical schools in the nation. Dr. Leonard is also buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Colorado Springs.

Clara Rowe, wife of F. G. Rowe, a man involved in insurance and loans was, if records are correct, also a graduate of the same Cleveland school as Holmes and Loomis. Clara Rowe also was licensed in the state of Colorado, receiving her license in 1881. After her husband's death around 1890 she moved to California and died there.

Other female doctors who came to Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, and Colorado City after 1880, for the area was one of opportunity for those who wanted to take care of and cure the sick.

There is one more person of interest in the medical field that is something of a mystery. In

the 1879 city directory there is one Alice G. Robbins. She is listed as a professional nurse and advertised herself as such. In the 1880 census she is still in the area, but listed as a physician. After that she has just disappeared. Was she a physician or did the census taker make an error? Did she marry, move away, become ill and die? I have not located a marriage or death certificate. But as with all history, it is mystery to be solved and that is where the joy is.



Headstone for Harriett Leonard

We're looking for a few museum quality donations or loans for our newly refreshed Victorian parlor area to help fill the Schmidt china cabinet. The era would be approximately 1890 - 1915. Do you have some china, crystal wine glasses or goblets, a china tea set or other serving pieces that you might loan us to finish this display?

Contact Joanne Karlson 475-2574 or Marilyn Lee 434-8205.

Founder's Day

Saturday, August 9

1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

at the **Old Colorado City History Center**

Celebrate the 155th birthday of the original Colorado City

- ◆ Cake,
- ◆ Punch,
- ◆ Historic music by the Time Travelers.

FREE

FIRST VIEW OF COLORADO CITY.

! MEMBERSHIP ALERT !

Our treasurer reported to me on July 17 that there were 44 unpaid active members between November 2013 and June 1, 2014. That represents a loss in revenue of about \$1,200! Our yearly budget is struggling, especially due to necessary flooding repairs and upgrading the basement collections storage. A smaller expense is the mailing to remind members of their dues.

When you receive your renewal notice, please renew your membership. Thank you for stepping up to renew!

The Board aims to continue our quality newsletter, keep updating museum displays, encourage research and community outreach, plan interesting programs, AND stay financially solvent.

Joanne Karlson, OCCHS VP and Membership Chair



Fountain Valley Electrical

Many thanks to Guy Jordan and his company, Fountain Valley Electrical, for his generous and large donation to the History Center. We now have good lighting in the work area in our Archives/Artifacts Department downstairs.

Fountain Valley Electrical is available for all of your Solar, Lighting and Electrical needs. You can contact them for service or any questions you may have about your electrical issues:

(719) 572-7318

guy@fvelectric.com OR jay@fvelectric.com

The Old Colorado City Historical Society
Presents the Seventeenth Annual

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY CRAWL

Saturday, September 13, 2014

10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

(Last tour begins at 2:00)



The Annual Cemetery Crawl will take you back in time to the late 1800's and early 1900's... as volunteers portray upstanding Old Colorado City citizens, madams, businessmen and other characters who lived, spent time, or found their final resting place here.

Come and meet:

Anthony Bell

Birdie Stapleton

Laura Belle McDaniel

David Moore Rev. Duncan Lament & Katherine Jacob & Bertha Schmidt

Fairview Cemetery, 1000 S. 26th Street

◆ Tickets \$10 ◆ Children 12 and under - free

URGENT NEEDS REQUEST

Currently we have a major problem with street people using the areas around our building for a bathroom, for sleeping and depositing their trash. The problem stems from the bathrooms not being open in the park and our building having dark, private areas. Although we have contacted the police department on numerous occasions, they can only provide limited surveillance.

Last year we set aside money to replace our wooden handrail with wrought iron as its condition had become shaky. Unfortunately that money was used for the flood problems we had in the basement. The iron rail will also prohibit people from sleeping and defecating behind the enclosed railing we have right now. Lighting will also provide less incentive and a more secure building. Floodlights will be mounted on the strategic areas on the outside of the building.

We love our museum and want to be sure that it is properly taken care of. We would appreciate any tax deductible donation that can be given at this time to use toward the completion of this project. Contributions can be mailed or dropped off at the Center indicating use for this project.

Thank you in advance for always being there for the History Center.

Your co-presidents,
Betty Baker and Kathy McBride

One Member Has Dreams Come True

Member Don Kallaus has long had a dream of having quality historic photographs produced to sell at the OCCHS's bookstore. Unfortunately that takes money, even though OCCHS has an extensive photography collection in our archives.

Don also had a dream of finding a way to let the public enjoy the Glen Murray Collection of historic photography that was entrusted to him for that purpose. Glen was a photographer who worked for the city from the 1930's to 1960's and photographed many Colorado Springs building projects over those years. His family asked that Don find some way for his work to be preserved for the general public's enjoyment and for historic purposes.

Thus, "CityWORKS" was born. The Regional Building Department had a beautiful new building that they were going to dedicate with a reception; and Don presented them with the idea of showing the Glen Murray Collection. The Building department donated the money for Don to produce over 50 large photographs, matted for viewing. The money was donated to OCCHS. So, we will be able to show this collection again and again. Don did not realize any personal financial gain from this project, just the knowledge that he was fulfilling a dream.

The show and dedication were held at the end of May. Around 200 people attended the event and loved walking back through time seeing Colorado Springs as it was growing. During the event, people could purchase copies of the photographs, with the proceeds going to OCCHS to fund Don's dream of making OCCHS photographs more available to the public.

In total, to date (as people keep calling in for copies of the photographs) we have received \$1,601.18 in donations and now own a beautiful set of over 50 large, mounted photographs that can be used for various showings.

We thank Don for the HUNDREDS of hours that he spent putting this event together. Don donated all of his time and allowed OCCHS all of the proceeds from this event!!!!

Respectfully,
Suzanne Schorsch, Treasurer

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 P.M. at the

Old Colorado City History Center, unless otherwise announced.

Interested visitors are always welcome at the Board meetings.



**The next Board meetings will be August 18
at 1:00 P.M. at the *Old Colorado City History Center***

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

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August / September Calendar

Saturday, August 9
12:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Founder's Day -- Celebrate the 155th birthday of the original Colorado City at the History Center with cake, punch, and historic music by the Time Travelers.
FREE

Friday, September 12
11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Program: "The East End Yard Limits" presented by Tom Van Wormer. This program focuses on the Colorado City Yards of the Colorado Midland Railroad and will describe the Colorado Midland's various activities between Shooks Run and Red Rock Canyon.

OCCHS Members FREE. Non-members \$5.00

Friday, September 13
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Seventeenth annual Fairview Cemetery Crawl -- *Go back in time to the late 1800's and early 1900's ... as volunteers portray upstanding Old Colorado City citizens, madams, businessmen and other characters at Fairview Cemetery*
\$10 at the gate -- Children 12 and under free

Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - (719) 636-1225 - <http://www.occhs.org>

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