



proud member of the Coalition of Pikes Peak Historic Museums

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December 2015

James McIntosh

1858-1933

A COLORADO CITY PIONEER

by Shirley Herd Ewing

What lured James McIntosh from his native Canada to Old Colorado City in the late 1800's? Perhaps, it was the exciting business news coming from this area that enticed him to move here and become one of the town's most respected pharmacist and businessmen.

He arrived in Colorado City with the coming of the Colorado Midland Railroad when Colorado City was a booming business center with the ore mills and Midland shops. A local newspaper noted that Colorado City was known as "The Payroll Town of El Paso County" with about a million dollars a month being paid to laboring men. "Colorado City is a live, growing town between Colorado Springs and Manitou. She has enterprising citizens and lots of push," says *An Independent Local Newspaper*, August 15, 1891.

McIntosh was born in Lanark, Ontario, Canada, 1858, had four sisters and one brother, Colin, who became a prominent citizen of

Lanark County. James McIntosh was a distinguished graduate from of the School of Pharmacy, Ontario College of Pharmacy. In 1880, he immigrated and in 1886-1887 opened James McIntosh Apothecary on the south side of Colorado Avenue in the Hoffman Building. "In addition to the line of fixtures at McIntosh drug store, is a National Cash Register of the latest design," commented a newspaper.

In 1901-1902, he built a new building across the street, originally the 500 block of Colorado Avenue and currently the 2500 block of West Colorado Avenue. This new building was outfitted with the finest appointments including steam heating. It had an attractive façade with two decorative parapets formed by brick and stone. It housed his pharmacy, other businesses, and apartments above where McIntosh and his wife Margaret moved "with new furniture used

Continued on Page 3

Closed for the Holidays
The History Center will be closed
December 20 through January 6

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

PUBLISHED TEN TIMES A YEAR

The Old Colorado City Historical Society

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WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS

1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - spiderwort@pcsls.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:

Individual	\$ 25	Business	\$ 75
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 / VP	Betty Baker	636-1225
Co-President / VP	Kathy McBride	636-1225
Secretary	Roberta Hardy	636-1225
Treasurer	Suzanne Schorsch	331-1786
	Bev Disch	636-1225
	Sandy Hanzlian	636-1225
	Marge Knorr	636-1225

MEETINGS

The OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held each month, except June, July, and August. The History Center opens half an hour before the meeting for refreshments and visitation. Everyone welcome.

WELCOME ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Rick Anderson

and Barbara Litchfield

Leslie Bergstrom

Pat Bogart

Luana Clark

Fred P. and Nancy Clark

Brian Lee Copeland

Diana Francese

Clara Lander

Kathleen McBride

Mary Beth McKnight

Curtis Neeley

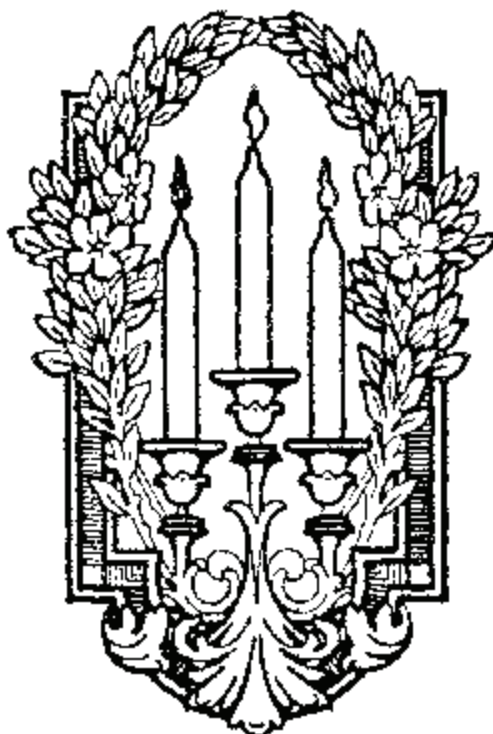
Charlie and Shirley Paterson

Bernard Schriever

Deborah Harrison

David Seeley

Thunder and Buttons



McIntosh Continued from Page 1

almost entirely." The building was soon known as the McIntosh building or McIntosh block.

New buildings are not without problems:

"J. McIntosh is cementing a portion of the yard in the rear of the new block to keep out the water which pours into the stores and cellars every time a heavy rain storm comes. This is being done at quite an expense." According to The Evening Telegraph, October 8, 1902

The Sunday Telegraph, August 24, 1902 has a detailed description of the City Drugstore, as it was now called:

"The best equipped and most representative drug store in Colorado City is the well known City Drugstore, and is conducted by Mr. James McIntosh who established it sixteen years ago. He occupies a very neatly appointed store and carries a complete stock of drugs, chemicals, medicines, herbs, roots, and etc., all pure, fresh and full of strength and from these promptly and accurately fills physicians prescriptions and family recipes. He carries also a very fine line of toilet and fancy goods, perfumery, soaps, rubber goods, brushes, combs, patent medicines and general druggists sundries, charging for cash the most reasonable prices."

Another article commented, "Mr. McIntosh has installed a new and strictly up-to-date soda fountain which is an ornament to the room. There are four modern 12-foot plate glass show cases and a cigar case of the same description. The fixtures are as fine as can be obtained."

In 1912, all the drug stores in Colorado City were located in this block. They were R. T. Godfrey's, James McIntosh's and Walter Meyer's. From the mid-1920's through at least the 50's and early 60's, according to the City Directories, the building was called the McIntosh Building and housed various businesses while the second floor contained furnished apartments.

According to the following article, commerce was thriving.

"Likely there is not a busier thoroughfare in the Pikes Peak region than Colorado Avenue, which leads to Manitou Springs, Ute Pass, Cripple Creek, mountain park regions and the west. It used to be that the road west carried mainly tourist traffic but in recent years, and especially since the Midland Terminal railroad ended, the heaviest truck traffic anywhere can be seen on West Colorado Avenue." Colorado Springs Independent

INCIDENTS:

Owning a thriving pharmacy on a busy thoroughfare can have its exciting incidents as well as its unpleasant circumstances.

October 17, 1887:

Naturally, as a pharmacist, McIntosh filled a variety of prescriptions one of which was laudanum, an opium and alcohol solution formerly used for pain relief. A young man, a stranger about 30-years-old, had unsuccessfully looked for a job in Manitou, then came to Colorado City for the night and registered at the Alamo Hotel as F. Fuller, a blacksmith by trade.

The next morning, a porter in the hotel tried to awaken Fuller, vigorously shaking him but failed to arouse him. A closer examination revealed that he was dead. It seemed that he had purchased laudanum from McIntosh, taken it for the purpose of putting himself to sleep and had no intentions of committing suicide although, the circumstances of his death were so strange that it was thought necessary to summon Coroner Davis from Manitou. After arriving in the city and consulting with County Physician Strickler, it was decided to summon a jury and investigate the circumstances of the man's death.

McIntosh testified before the jury that he had sold the deceased a ounce of laudanum, that Fuller wished to purchase two ounces but, as the druggist did not know him, he refused to sell him more than one ounce. He cautioned Fuller about using the laudanum and informed him that if he took too much the result would be fatal. Dr. Strickler testified that in his opinion the deceased died from an overdose of laudanum.

The Gazette, September 13, 1911:

"Bronco, Motives Unknown, Wrecks City Drug Store"

Pungent odors from mingling asafetida, turpentine, ammonia, alcohol and carbolic acid permeated the atmosphere of the 600 (sic) block in Colorado City last night, while a crazed bronco threshed madly about the interior of the McIntosh drug store. And through it all—odors, falling show cases and overturning prescription counter—the bronco's rider sat, unscathed and unafraid, even though his mount was being cut horribly by the crashing window panes and breaking bottles.

With the fracture of each bottle of odorous drug, the horse seemed to gain additional frenzy,

and pranced in an orgy of destruction among the debris until he had succeeded in causing about \$2,000 worth of damage. The presence of a large brass cuspidor at the end of the prescription counter checked the animal in its wild career. Its right foreleg became fastened in the vessel and the bronco stumbled and fell.

The rider, Clyde Wilbert, is employed by the Pioneer livery of Manitou. He stopped in front of a hot tamale stand across the street, when his bronco took a sudden fancy to the bright lights of McIntyre's (sic) drug store. Before Wilbert could check the animal in any way, it had dashed through the heavy plate glass of the show window and started upon its Carrie Nation-like carnage. The sound of crashing glass brought many spectators hurrying to the scene, but none dared enter the store to aid in stopping

the infuriated beast.

The proprietor of the store said last night that practically his entire stock was wrecked. He carried insurance on the plate glass window only. Wilbert was uninjured."

The final condition of the horse is questionable *because* The *Gazette* said, "The horse was so badly injured that it died," The *Herald-Telegraph* said, "The horse was taken to Horace Quintry's barn and it ate a hearty breakfast of oats and hay this morning," and The *Colorado City Argus* did not even mention the condition of the horse!

The story of James McIntosh family
will be featured in a future issue of
West Word

McIntosh Embossed Pharmaceutical Bottles

Drugstores began around the same time that settlements occurred in the West. They were considered integral parts of the communities and were highly esteemed but as more and more people moved from towns to the suburbs, individually owned drugstores began to disappear and by 1902, drugstore chains appeared.

McIntosh's earliest bottles are embossed "Apothecary" and are from 1885-1889. By 1890, the bottles were changed to James McIntosh Pharmacist with some minor variations. From 1902 on, paper labels were used instead of the more expensive embossed ones because bottles were rarely returned. Several of the McIntosh bottles are on display in the new pharmaceutical display at the Old Colorado City History Society.





Holiday Open House

Trees, Tales, and Treats



- ◆ *Costumed hosts relate stories of our history*
- ◆ *Silent Auction for Themed Trees*
- ◆ *Local authors signing their books*
- ◆ *Wassail, cookies, and sweets*

Saturday, December 5th

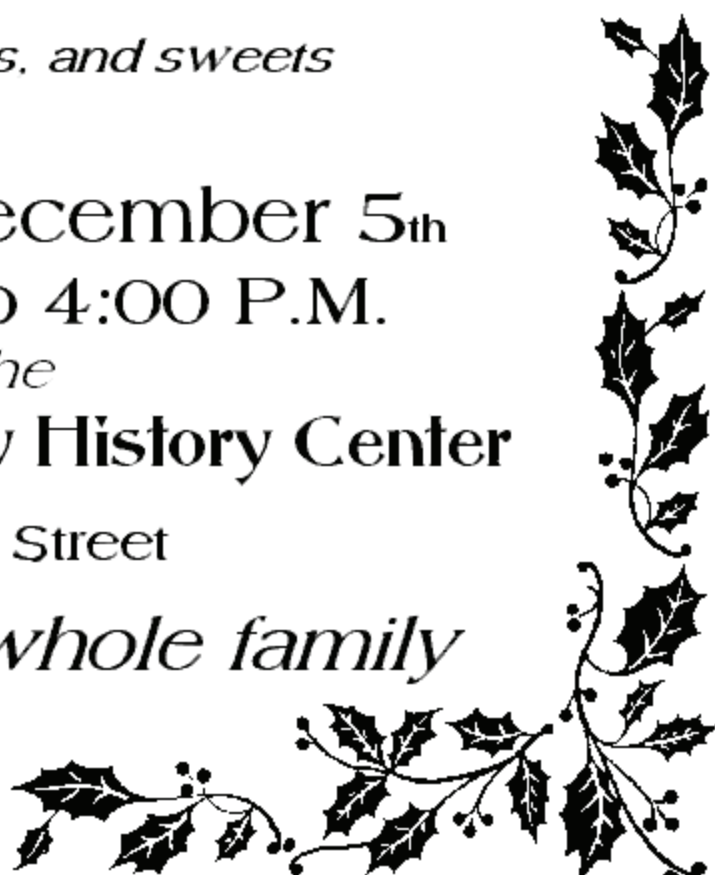
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

at the

Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th Street

Free for the whole family



Your Board of Directors Candidates



Carolyn Hatch

After my fifteen years teaching music in International schools all over the world, I was ready to move back to the United States. Since my daughter and son-in-law were living in the "Wild West" I thought it would be fun to explore Colorado. I moved here from Decatur, Georgia, with my son Olin, about a year and half ago. Recently, I have become extremely interested in the history that surrounds this part of Colorado Springs. So, I bought a home on West Platte Avenue and pursued books about our local history. As I've grown more accustomed to Old Colorado City and the history here, I've wanted to discover what really makes it so charming. Joining the Old Colorado History Museum has given me that insight to The West Side.

I was born a middle class white child, living to overcome the handicaps of having no rhythm, and not being able to jump. I earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and had a career of 38 years, culminating in being a Provider in the Disease Management Clinic at Fort Carson.

In retirement, I can have more time to indulge my avocations: photography as art and history. I am currently a member of the OCCHS, volunteering in Archives. Additionally, I belong to the Victorian Society of Colorado and the Gold Camp Victorian Society. I have been a member of Historic Denver, Rock Ledge Ranch, the Colorado Vintage Baseball Association, and the Second Vermont Artillery.

I look forward to promoting the history of our City, the West, and the culture and practices of the people of the 19th. century under the roof of the OCCHS.

Don Hansen



Sandy Hanzlian



I moved to Colorado Springs in February 2005 to be near my two daughters who left our hometown of Cheektowaga, NY (a first zone suburb directly east of Buffalo, NY). I am a retired public school teacher (31 years as middle/high school social studies and English) from New York State. I also served as a teacher union Board member, delegate and teacher union president. I was a staff development coordinator for 4 public school districts in Cheektowaga, NY.

When I purchased a town home on the West Side I joined the Old Colorado City Historical Society and began working in the Book Store. I have volunteered for many of our special events including our Victorian Tea, "Rummage - Garage Sale", Holiday Tours. I have portrayed Bertha Schmidt in Jacob Schmidt's Tavern, Cemetery Crawl, and Haunted Histories. In January 2012 I became Program Coordinator, which involves arranging the Program Presentation, which takes place at our Monthly Historical Society meeting. I have served on the Board for several years.

I have two energetic grandsons, who truly delight me.

Treasurer's Report November 2015

IT TAKES MORE THAN 20

Accounts Receivable:

\$32,354.01

Accounts Payable

\$22,078.78

Net Gain Year to Date

\$10,346.23

As shown from the numbers above, OCCHS has had a record year financially. A complete detailed report will be in the first newsletter of 2016 showing where we were successful, the hint being: *Tunnel Tours, Haunted Histories, and Publishing Pays.*

But this month, I want to talk about a resource that is more valuable than money and an area where this historical society has fallen short over the last few years AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. We have almost 350 active members and less than 20 of those members take an active part in volunteering!

Over the door of our Resource Library is a sign that states the benefits of membership which includes: 10 Copies of the West Word Newsletter; Membership only tours and events; Annual Dinner; and Free admission to membership monthly meeting programs.

With so few members willing to volunteer to run events or help on a committee with those who do, we have not had a membership tour for a few years and skipped more than one year of the Annual Dinner.

Although Don Ellis works hard on producing our newsletter, he really needs researchers who will write articles for West Word so that he doesn't have to look for articles. We also need people to work on the committee that gets that Newsletter to the post office. So many people have told us that they like having an actual copy of the Newsletter, but without volunteers, it may have to be sent out only digitally.

We have recently had multiple phone calls asking "why are we not having a Holiday Tour of Historical Homes?" Well, we did have four venues that wanted to participate, but we needed a couple more and only two people were working on that event. The event requires much more than just getting homes to participate ...so, hopefully we will have a tour again next year.

The last fundraising event we had was the Haunted Histories Cemetery Tour. The community came out and we more than doubled what we did last year. We really changed the format and our volunteer ghost did fantastic, but few of our members came to see it. In fact, the event almost did not happen because no one really wanted to head up the committee to coordinate the volunteers.

One person gets all those lovely monthly programs that people enjoy, but she would really like a couple more programs scouts to help with ideas.

We need a winter fundraising event. Did you know that we only had three fund raisers this year and we don't have anything planned for EIGHT more months! Part of our mission statement is to recognize the historical significance of Colorado City and the Westside, to encourage research and education to our community. We are a positive part of our community, but if we want to see this continue in the future, our members must work at it. It takes more than 20 volunteers.

Many thanks to the constant bookstore, archive, and maintenance volunteers and committee people who work so hard. And members, I WANT TO WORK WITH MORE OF YOU.'

Respectfully,

Suzanne Schorsch

The Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors meets regularly the second Monday of each 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 meeting will be December 14
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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December / January Calendar

Sunday, December 5
11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Holiday Open House "Trees, Tales, and Treats"

- ♦ Costumed hosts relating stories of our history
- ♦ Silent auction of themed trees
- ♦ Book signing by local authors
- ♦ Wassail, cookies, and sweets

FREE to the whole family

Friday, January 8
5:45 P.M.

Annual Meeting of the Society Membership:
Election of new members to the Old Colorado City Historical Society's Board of Directors

Friday, January 8
6:00 P.M.

Program: "Historic Preservation Alliance"

- ♦ Introduction to the Historic Preservation Alliance by John Haney
- ♦ Presentation by Tim Boddington on what's happening with historic preservation locally highlighting the Historic Preservation Alliance' programs and preservation activities
- ♦ Presentation by Gordon Anderson on the book Historic Homes of Colorado Springs and Vicinity; and book signing.

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

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 - 2 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.