

WEST WOOD



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Colorado College Park

by Don Ellis

When Colorado Springs was laid out in 1871, twenty acres west of North Cascade Avenue was set aside as the College Reserve. A little later, land set aside for a college was increased by adding an adjoining twenty acres east of North Cascade Avenue. It was not until 1874 that a college was established which would later make use of the College Reserve. Professor Thomas Haskell of the University of Wisconsin moved to Colorado Springs in 1873 for the health of his ailing daughter. After she died, Professor Haskell sought to honor her memory by establishing a college. The Congregational Association sanctioned the enterprise and appointed a committee to determine the best location for the college. After considering several towns in Colorado, the committee chose Colorado Springs as offering several advantages. The most important of these seemingly was that deeds in Colorado Springs forbade the sale of intoxicating liquors. A charter for Colorado College was filed with the County Recorder on February 21, 1874.

For the first few years after its founding, Colorado College was in a precarious position. At first, preparatory classes were held in the Wanless Block at the corner of Pikes Peak Avenue and Tejon. Professor Haskell, who had become financial agent for the college, raised money for a temporary building which was constructed on a 25 foot lot across from Acacia Park at a cost of \$1,200. This building was opened in September, 1874, and was home to Colorado College until 1880. Professor Haskell had also managed to secure

pledges totaling \$17,050. But, with the difficult financial conditions of the time he was unable to collect the promised contributions; and the temporary building soon carried a \$1,500 mortgage.

At the end of the 1874 fall term all of the instructors except Professor French resigned. Rev. James G. Dougherty of Wyandotte, Kansas was elected the first President of Colorado College. He was also unsuccessful in improving the College's financial condition, and he, too, resigned in the winter of 1875. Regular classes were suspended that winter. However, Professor Kerr, who had replaced Professor French, taught classes in assaying, chemistry, metallurgy, geology, and mining at his own expense and responsibility.

In the summer of 1876 Rev. E. N. Bartlett of Colorado Springs wrote to Rev. E. P. Tenney suggesting that he consider coming to Colorado College. In 1868, Rev. E. P. Tenney had been the pastor of the Congregational Church in Central City, Colorado and had proposed to the Ministerial Congregational Association that immediate steps be taken to establish a Christian college under Congregational auspices in Colorado Territory. Having already recognized the need for a college in Colorado, like Colorado College, Rev. E. P. Tenney returned to Colorado from Massachusetts and assumed the duties of President of Colorado College in September, 1876.

Of course, establishing a firm financial

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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

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Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

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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

President	Roberta Hardy	636-1225
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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

Dorothy Boyd
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Colorado College Park from Page 1

footing for the college was among his highest priorities. President Tenney was successful in soliciting a generous gift from Henry Cutler of Wilbraham, Mass which supported the construction of Cutler Hall, the first permanent building on the College Reserve, which then became the Colorado College campus. President Tenney envisioned a plan to develop a substantial endowment for the college. This involved developing land around the campus and profiting from the development. To accomplish this, Rev. E. P. Tenney, Judge James B. Severy, and Mr. John Campbell incorporated the Colorado College Land Company early in 1882 with a capital stock of \$50,000. The objective of the Colorado College Land Company was "to render aid to Colorado (College) by direct gifts from the shareholders out of their profits; by improving the real estate of the college; by acquiring and holding real estate in the neighborhood of the college; improving the same by irrigation, cultivation, building and disposing of the same, and by acquiring, building and maintaining irrigation ditches, and using, selling or disposing of the water." Further, the Colorado College Land Company proposed to render aid to students by furnishing cheap rentals and farm work.

President Tenney devoted his entire energy and resources into putting the college on a firm financial footing. Often he acquired property for the Colorado College Land Company in his own name and with his personal resources, possibly putting himself a financial risk.

Soon, President Tenney's interest in development to benefit Colorado College expanded beyond the campus area. In 1883 he, John Campbell, and Walter M. Hatch incorporated the Hale River Toll Road Company to build a toll road in Cheyenne Canyon. Then, the April 19, 1884 *Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette* announced:

"COLORADO COLLEGE PARK - Comprising the North Cheyenne Canon, the East Half of the South Cheyenne Canon, and the Headwaters of Bear Creek".

The Colorado College Land Company had acquired these properties and built two miles of road and two miles of trails. Admission fees

charged at the gate were to be used:

First - To improve the roads, trails and grounds, and the opening up of the property, making it more accessible to the public

Second - To paying the interest upon the cost of the property.

Third - Whatever income there may be further, will be expended for Colorado College library and natural history cabinet, both of which are open free to the public.

The announcement described various excursions in the park and set forth the fees and park rules.

Citizens were not pleased with the admission fees. And, they became all the more displeased when Colorado College Park was closed on Sundays, while Sundays were the only days working men and women had for recreation. An editorial in the July 30 *Colorado Springs Gazette* voiced strong objection to the tolls and suggested that the city or the county purchase North and South Cheyenne Canyons, stating:

"... Both North and South Cheyenne cañons are owned by private parties and their beauty can be viewed and comforts enjoyed only by the payment of tolls. Our most beautiful scenery is now no longer as free as the air. This was our boast. We had the free enjoyment of these beautiful resorts so long that we did not realize their value until they were taken from us. We now feel the need of them and see the mistake of ever allowing them to become private property."

"... Many of our people can afford to pay the toll, though it is a burden, but it should be remembered that another class of our population that perhaps most needs the use of the cañons is debarred from their use by the tolls."

"... If (the owners of these cañons) will sell, as we understand they will, some plan should be devised to buy the cañons out of public monies, as they will directly contribute to the prosperity of our city. We cannot imagine any more judicious use of the public funds."

The Colorado College Land Company had

become over extended and defaulted on its obligations. The First National Bank of Colorado Springs which held a note secured by the Cheyenne Canyon property foreclosed. President Tenney was bitterly criticized for his management of College affairs. He was forced to resign from the College and left Colorado Springs in 1884 an embittered man broken in spirit and health. Professor James Hutchison Kerr later wrote about the situation as follows:

"Two or three pessimists in the West and two or three, or less toadstool advisers in the East paralyzed the generous friends of Colorado College, in the very hour that their assistance was of vital importance. Then came the reckoning that should never have been. Random and fictitious assertions and guesses, without sufficient investigation taken as true, led many of us to say things and do things that we now know were unwarranted.

It was not until the spring of 1904 that the writer had the reason to suspect that he himself had unintentionally done Mr. Tenney a great injustice. This injustice has been privately acknowledged. He (the writer) now takes this opportunity publicly to say that a thorough investigation of supposed facts shows them worthless and, consequently, all inferences drawn from the same as to misuse of money, etc., are false and that he (the writer) sincerely regrets any harsh or unjust judgment given either publicly or privately.

Mr. Tenney's interest in Colorado College was a devotion, a consecration. His task was Herculean. His work a creation. His resources marvelous. His faith divine. To be held up, in sight of the goal, which he so distinctly saw, was to be crushed under a falling sky. To him and to the College, it has meant years of struggle and suspense; but with the growing of the generations, the name of Tenney will become richer and more and more inspiring to the students of Colorado College. Some day Colorado Springs and the mountain West, for which he practically and unselfishly gave his life, will do full justice to President Edward Payson Tenney."

The citizens of Colorado Springs voted to purchase the Cheyenne Canyon property

which had been part of Colorado College Park from the First National Bank of Colorado Springs for \$6,000; and in 1885 it became a city park.

In 1907 General Palmer deeded additional land in North Cheyenne Canyon to the City, making North Cheyenne Canyon Park more than 1,100 acres in all.

In 1916, speaking to the Chamber of Commerce, Asa T. Jones noted, "Not long ago the chairman of our parks board had occasion to show our parks to the governor of the state of Connecticut. He could not sufficiently express his envy of a city which possessed a park like North Cheyenne canon."

REFERENCES:

Buckley, Louise, *The History of Colorado College 1874-1904*. Master's Thesis, Colorado College, 1935 (reproduced on-line as Chapter 3 of "A Colorado College Reader")

Kerr, James Hutchison, "The Pioneer Days of Colorado College" *El Paso County Democrat, Pioneer Edition*, December 1908 (reproduced on-line as Chapter 2 of "A Colorado College Reader")

Howbert, Irving, *Memories of a Lifetime in the Pikes Peak Region* (1925), reprinted 2007 by the Old Colorado City Historical Society.

Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette March 11, 1882 7:2

Colorado Springs Gazette September 26, 1883 4:1

"COLORADO COLLEGE PARK, Comprising the North Cheyenne Canon, the East Half of the South Cheyenne Canon, and the Headwaters of Bear Creek" *Colorado Springs Weekly Gazette* April 19, 1884 6:5

"OUR CANONS" *Colorado Springs Gazette* July 30, 1884 2:1

Conditional Deed from William J. Palmer to the City of Colorado Springs, filed June 18, 1907 (Book 401, Pages 343-362; specifically DESCRIPTION NO. 12)

"Urges Public to Cooperate With Park Board - City's Possessions Described by Asa T. Jones" *Colorado Springs Gazette* May 15, 1916 6:1

NEW COLLECTIONS/DONATION GUIDELINES

Effective March 2016

"Collections advance the museum's mission while serving the public. Because collections are held in trust for the public and are made accessible for the public's benefit, the public expects museums to maintain the highest legal, ethical and professional standards. To demonstrate these standards, museums establish policies to support its mission and operations and to guide decision-making. Policies give the governing authority, staff and public the opportunity to learn about standards and help the museum fulfill its responsibilities as a steward of collections." -best practices from American Alliance of Museums

1-Should I just drop off my donation?

We ask that you call the museum, at 719-636-1225 or email at inf@occhs.org first to discuss your donation and to make an appointment. The Collections Department will make an initial determination of whether or not your donation is appropriate for our collections and interview you for the object's use history. The use history is a very important part of the donation. If we do not accept your donation we will inform you about other museums, which might be interested.

2-Does the Museum accept everything that is offered?

According to our mission statement, the Museum collects items relating to the history and culture of Old Colorado City and Early El Paso County. Preference is given to objects pertaining to these areas, which reflect their context of origin, use by an individual or group for the purpose for which the object was made, are of good quality and repair, and are characteristic or typical for a given period and tradition.

3-Why is my donation temporary?

The temporary receipt is for your protection as well as the Museum's. During the review period, the Museum will have time to seriously consider your donation. Although, we will take care of the item(s) during the review period, we have no insurance to cover it in the event of an accident or loss. Your items will be compared to our mission statement and the permanent collection to determine its suitability for inclusion in the permanent collection. If your donation is turned down or if you change your mind, it will be returned to you during this review period.

4-What will the Museum do with my donation once it is accepted?

The donation will be assigned to either the permanent collection or education collection. The permanent collection is designated for preservation. These items are handled and processed according to the highest museum standards and are exhibited only under secure and safe conditions. The education collection contains objects which are designated for programs. They are used for tour groups, student classes and tactile learning experiences. You will be notified as to which category your donation has been assigned.

5-When will my donation be on exhibit?

This depends on the item's appropriateness to the Museum's exhibition program. Space limitations and conservation concerns dictate that we cannot exhibit all of our artifacts at any one time. There are many objects that should not be exhibited frequently because they may be damaged by exposure to light and the environment. We cannot guarantee when or if your donation will be exhibited; however, your objects will receive the best of care, insuring that they will be available for the use of future generations. Exhibits are not the only way we use our items. The Museum is a public institution, and collections are available (by appointment) for study by scholars and the interested public.

6-If my donation is put on display, will I be credited?

It is not our policy to credit donors in print within an exhibit except under special circumstances, such as a new accession.

7-Can I take a tax deduction on my donation?

Certainly. The IRS and Museum policy prohibits us from appraising donations. For your own records and protection, we recommend that you obtain an independent appraisal. The Museum will make your donation available for inspection by the appraiser of your choice.

8-How will the Museum acknowledge my donation?

If your donation is accepted for either the permanent or the education collection, you will receive a personal letter of thanks. You will also receive a deed of gift to sign and return to us. The deed of gift makes the original temporary receipt null and void.

9-Do you take permanent or long-term loans?

No. As a public agency, the Museum does not accept long-termed or so-called "permanent" loans. We have a responsibility to direct our resources toward the general community's benefit, and not to act as caretakers for an individual's property. In order to give our collections the very best care and storage conditions, all items in the collections must be owned by the Museum and unencumbered by restrictions.

APPOINTMENTS WITH COLLECTIONS AT 719-636-1225.

"Good policies help the museum achieve its mission and demonstrate its commitment to professional standards and best practices." John E. Simmon (Things Great and Small, 2006)

APRIL PROGRAM:***Rankin Scott Kelly, 1st Sheriff of El Paso County,
Colorado Territory (1861-1867)***

Saturday April 9, 2016
11:00AM

Presented by John Anderson

Rankin Scott Kelly was born July 6, 1826 in present day Houlton, Maine. His mother drowned when he was two and his father and older sister Katherine raised him. Kelly ran away from home when he was 14, believing he had killed Katherine's fiancée during a fistfight. Kelly served in Co. B 1st Pennsylvania Infantry from December 15, 1846 to April 4, 1847 during the Mexican-American War. Kelly traveled west with a wagon train on the Santa Fe Trail and arrived in Colorado City on June 5, 1860. At that time Colorado City was still part of the Kansas Territory. Kelly assisted Robert Finley in relocating the first sawmill to the Pikes Peak Region and he delivered the first load of cut lumber to Colorado City. Colorado territory was created on February 28, 1861. Kelly was appointed the first Sheriff of El Paso County and Robert Finley served as the first Treasurer. Sheriff Kelly was involved in a number of skirmishes with hostile Indians during the Cheyenne Wars (1863-1869). After Kelly stepped down as Sheriff he sold his land north of the Garden of the Gods to General Palmer for \$1000 cash and rode west into the sunset. In 1913, at the age of 87, Kelly returned to El Paso County where he lived at the Myron Stratton Home and served as the night watchman until his death on December 30, 1913. Sheriff Kelly is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

SEATING IS LIMITED

MAY PROGRAM:***"Everybody Welcome"***

Saturday May 14, 2016
11:00 A.M.

Presented by Kathleen Esmiol

What is the likelihood that the middle child of seven youngsters born to African American tenant farmers in rural Oklahoma in 1918 would become a major figure in Colorado Springs and American history? Faced with the seemingly insurmountable challenges of her father's accidental death, the Dust Bowl, and a family move west to Colorado Springs in 1933, Fannie Mae Duncan defied the odds. She emerged as an entrepreneur, successful businesswoman, and community activist. During the volatile Civil Rights era, Colorado Springs was peacefully integrated as everyone clamored to see the great black entertainers of the day at Fannie Mae's COTTON CLUB where "everybody was welcome!"

Author, Kathleen Esmiol, gave her school class a project which led to their meeting Miss Duncan and producing a play on her life. That experience led to the author's personal friendship with Fannie Mae and finally her book. Don't miss this chance to enjoy historic photographs and hear the remarkable story of Fannie Mae Duncan which is chronicled in "African American National Biography."

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

DON'T MISS THIS SATURDAY PROGRAM. Doors open at 10:30 A.M.
SEATING IS LIMITED

A Proud Community

Many communities have a historical society, but none quite like OCCHS. We have in the thousands of people who come in to visit us each year, through activities like Territory Days, our monthly meeting Programs, community activities like Tunnel Tours and those who visit our museum and bookstore. This past month, Douglas County hosted an OCCHS author, JOHN ANDERSON, to educate their parks and recreation departments regarding Ute Culturally Modified Trees. That day we sold over thirty five books and shared with almost 100 people. OCCHS is truly fulfilling our Mission Statement, educating people on our local history, not only in our community, but throughout the state.

Our members, who come out of our community, are amazing people. This past month I have gotten to work with two of our new Board of Directors. DON HANSEN, our new Vice President, took over our data base. I only had time to work with him just a little prior to an emergency that took me away from the Center and he did membership billing and those things needed from our data base for the newsletter, without a hitch. CAROLYN HATCH will be taking over two major events this year, Territory Days and the Crafters. She has taken on these jobs running strong. If you would like to help in any of our events, please call and leave your name and number with our bookstore workers.

And, how are we financially, the volunteers of OCCHS are working hard to make sure that this Society will live on into the future. As Treasurer, I would love to sit down and go over our financial situation with anyone who wants to see numbers. But for those who don't want to see numbers, let me just say, I see a bright future for OCCHS and am proud to be part of this community.

Suzanne Schorsch
Treasurer
Questions, call 719-331-1786

Volunteer

Help Wanted

BOOKSTORE WORKERS

Donate one day a month (or more) 11a.m. to 4:00 greeting visitors, sharing a bit of OCC history and selling books.

Fun, easy job. On the job training available.
Leave message. for Susie at 636-1225

DATA ENTRY VOLUNTEER

The Collections Department needs help with data entry. Excel programming Very useful.
The Membership Chairman also needs some computer help.

Leave message. for Don or Sharon at 636-1225

RESEARCH LIBRARY HELP

Good organizational skills needed. Organize book shelves, newsletters and more. Help visitors do research. Enjoyable, quiet environment. Will train.

Leave message. for Kathy at 636-1225

REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR

Help needed setting up refreshment table at monthly meetings. Money available for supplies. If you enjoy setting a nice table, this is the job for you!
Leave message. for Roberta at 636-1225



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 April 12
at 1:00 P.M. at the Old Colorado City History Center**

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April / May Calendar

Saturday, April 9
11:00 AM.

Program: "**Rankin Scott Kelly, 1st Sheriff of El Paso County**" presented by John Anderson. Rankin Scott Kelly traveled west and arrived in Colorado City on June 5, 1860. After Colorado Territory was created Kelly was appointed the first Sheriff of El Paso County. After Kelly stepped down as Sheriff he sold his land north of the Garden of the Gods to General Palmer for \$1,000 cash and rode west into the sunset. In 1913, at the age of 87, Kelly returned to El Paso County where he lived at the Myron Stratton Home and served as the night watchman until his death on December 30, 1913. Sheriff Kelly is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

Saturday, May 14
11:00 AM.

Program: "**Everybody Welcome**" presented by Kathleen Esmiol. What is the likelihood that the middle child of seven youngsters born to African American tenant farmers in rural Oklahoma in 1918 would become a major figure in Colorado Springs and American history? Faced with the seemingly insurmountable challenges of her father's accidental death, the Dust Bowl, and a family move west to Colorado Springs in 1933, Fannie Mae Duncan defied the odds. She emerged as an entrepreneur, successful businesswoman, and community activist. During the volatile Civil Rights era, Colorado Springs was peacefully integrated as everyone clamored to see the great black entertainers of the day at Fannie Mae's COTTON CLUB where "everybody was welcome!"

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 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.