

## The Massacre That Never Happened

### Part 1 of 2 The Gathering Storm

by Fred Leich

#### *Prologue*

*"Listen my children and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of" ...Elbridge Gerry??*

- Not exactly the individual Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had in mind when his epic poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," first appeared in the January 1861 issue of Atlantic Monthly. None the less, Colorado Territory's Front Range settlers and town folks, from the Wyoming border to Pueblo, were just as much in debt to Elbridge Gerry on August 20, 1864, as the people of Middlesex, Massachusetts were to Paul Revere on April 19, 1775.

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As the year 1861 drew to a close, a major paradigm shift was revealing itself amongst the Great Plains Indian tribes and the fragile peace between white men and Indians began to unravel. Militant Indian bands, most notably the Cheyenne Dog Soldiers, were driving major events. The passive Peace Chiefs, who controlled the majority of the Indian populations, were trying desperately to find ways to coexist with the white population pouring into their lands. But, as the flood of white settlers and miners continued unencumbered, and treaties designed to protect Indian territory were not honored time and time again, the more belligerent militant bands emerged as the force to be reckoned with. While the majority of Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Sioux retreated to

government reservations, the warring militant warriors did not. They resolved to rid the Colorado Territory Frontier of all white men and reclaim all of the territory they once called their hunting grounds.

Depredations and attacks by Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Sioux warriors rose steadily following the start of the American Civil War in April 1861. They increased in both frequency and brutality. What started as a trickle before the Civil War, developed into a flood once the Civil War started. The 1861 Treaty of Fort Wise took away 93% of the Plains Indians' territory promised to them 10 years earlier by the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie. The militant Indian bands were bent on taking it back. As intensity of the Civil War increased, more and more US Army cavalry and infantry (the soldiers who enforced treaties and protected the white population), were ordered east to fight Confederate armies. This left many Colorado Territory residents having to fend for themselves. During 1862 and 1863 impassioned pleas from Colorado Territorial Governor John Evans for troops and protection were ignored. Marauding bands of Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux, exploited this weakness and stepped up attacks on settlers, miners stagecoach stations, and travelers on the Emigrant Trails. With a depleted Army presence on the Great Plains, treaties could

*Continued on Page 3*

# 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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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:

|            |       |          |       |
|------------|-------|----------|-------|
| 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 |
| Vice President | Don Hansen       | 636-1225 |
| Secretary      | Bev Disch        | 636-1225 |
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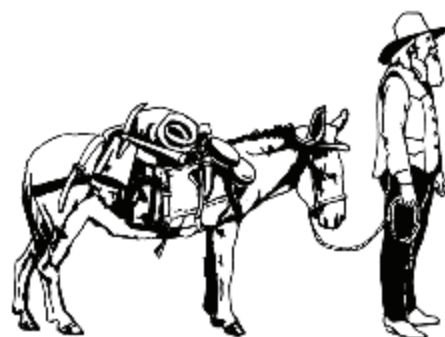
## MEETINGS

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

John Wesley Anderson

Bob Cronk



## Volunteers

## Help Wanted

### BOOKSTORE WORKERS

Donate one day a month (or more) 11 a.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

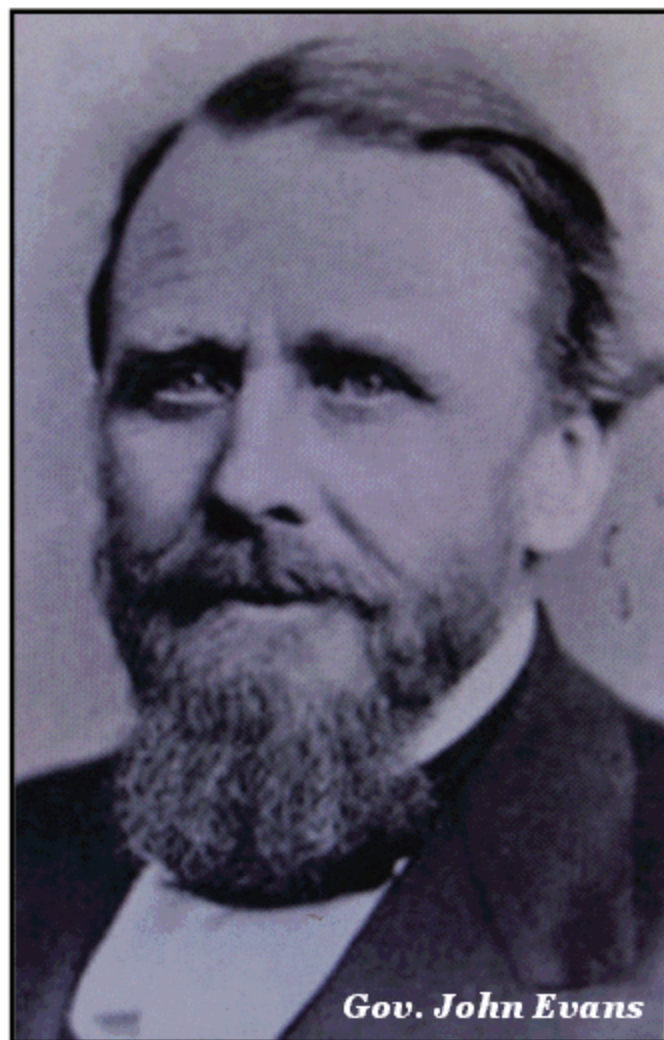
Help needed setting up refreshment table at monthly meetings. Money available for supplies. If you enjoy setting a nice table, this is the job for you!

Leave message for Roberta at 636-1225

*Massacre from Page 1*

not be enforced and depredations went "unpunished." As these depredations escalated, pleas for troops and protection, from John Evans continued to go out regularly to Washington officials and specifically to The Commissioners of Indian Affairs Alfred B. Greenwood (1861) and William P. Dole (1861-1865). But, with the Civil War raging, his pleas for help fell on deaf ears.

Throughout the tumultuous period from



*Gov. John Evans*

1862 through 1863, Evans received frequent intelligence reports on the Plains Indians' military capabilities and whereabouts. He received this intelligence from white traders like Elbridge Gerry and Robert North both of whom had married into Indian families. He also received intelligence from the soldiers and Indian agents who interfaced with Plains Indians on a regular basis. During the summer of 1863, Evans received intelligence that the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Sioux, were acquiring

guns and ammunition far in excess of their known needs. Also they were readily willing to exchange more than the usual number of buffalo robes, hides, furs etc. for guns and ammunition. It was a clear indication that Plains Indians were stockpiling weapons and ammunition for battle. Still, John Evans's pleas for protection and troops went unanswered. Then, on November 10, 1863, Evans received a shocking report from Robert North. North, from an Arapaho woman he had rescued from the Utes, was told that the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux warrior bands, in addition to stockpiling guns and ammunition, had formed alliances with the Comanche, Apache, and Kiowa. The sole purpose of the these alliances, was to assemble a mounted warrior attacking force capable of annihilating the entire white population between western Kansas and the Rocky Mountains. Simultaneously, the attacking force planned to regain control of the six tribes' ancestral Great Plains hunting grounds. The attacking warriors were planning to launch their attack as soon as they had sufficient guns and ammunition to do so. The attack could come as early as the Spring of 1864. Not only was the attacking force in the final stages of coming together, but it had a well thought out battle plan.

### *The Battle Plan*

*Phase 1. - Applying the military philosophy that "the enemy of my enemy is my friend," the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux made peace with the other large Great Plains nomadic tribes, the Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache who had all lost land due to white man's encroachment. They convinced these tribes that a combined attacking force could purge the Great Plains of white men and allow those tribes to regain their ancestral hunting grounds. It required all six tribes to cease intertribal warfare and work together for a common cause. (No easy task considering the amount of intertribal conflicts which occurred on a regular basis.) But they did come together.*

*Phase 2. - Assemble en-masse at "Point of Rocks" on Beaver Creek 125 miles east of Denver. Once assembled, allocate three major attack groups to attack four major targets, (1) Denver City and nearby settlers, (2) Colorado City and*

*nearby settlers, (3) all white inhabitants of the Platte River Basin, and (4) all isolated home sites, homesteads and settlements along the Front Range from Wyoming to Pueblo.*

*Phase 3. - Divide each large group into multiple small groups, each of the smaller groups capable of overrunning individual settlers' homesteads near the targeted population centers. Attack the homesteads at a precise pre-coordinated time. Just hours before that time, cut telegraph wires connecting Denver to the outside world, and all connectivity to and between military forts and telegraph stations. Once the homesteads were destroyed, regroup and attack the population centers.*

*Phase 4. - After completion of assigned missions, regroup en masse at the designated rendezvous point, then return to home camps eliminating isolated homesteads and white settlers en route.*

Few believed North's November 1863 report at first, mainly because few believed the six tribes would put aside their animosity toward each other in pursuit of a common cause. But they were wrong. As corroborating reports filtered in, Evans knew he had a serious problem on his hands, and he had only a few months to do something about it. On June 11, 1864 Arapahos, from the Indian attack force brutally murdered the Nathan Hungate family of four near Elizabeth, Colorado. On June 15, 1864 North reported that the six tribe coalition "was combining" and stated, "They are now doing their best to unite all the tribes against the whites." Evans responded by appealing for help from the Department of the Missouri Commander Maj Gen Curtis, The Military Commander of New Mexico B/Gen Carlton and the Military Commander of Nebraska B/Gen Mitchell. None sent help. Just a few days earlier a reconnaissance party of six Cheyenne Indians was captured on the outskirts of Colorado City. Five of the six were killed trying to escape. The six braves were reconnoitering Colorado City and the nearby settlements.

Finally, on August 11, 1864, three days after members of the growing attack force conducted a well planned coordinated attack

on multiple stage stations, Evans was given authority to raise a 100-day volunteer regiment. The regiment's main purpose was to protect the population of Colorado Territory from Indian attacks. Evans was permitted to draw from Colorado volunteers in the Union Army residing in Colorado. Immediately, Evans formed The "Rocky Mountain Military District" and put Major John Chivington in charge, promoting Chivington to Colonel at the same time (In 1864, volunteer regiments elected their commanders and this new regiment elected Chivington - much to the chagrin of Lt. Col. Samuel F. Tappan, ranking Colorado Volunteer officer before Chivington, a major at the time, was made colonel). This action had significant strategic implications. Soldiers in the regiment no longer had to wait for orders to be telegraphed from Washington D.C., now orders could be issued by Evans himself through Chivington. The Indian strike force did not know this change had occurred, and most likely assumed that once telegraph communications were cut, soldiers in Colorado would be placed in a state of disarray.

And so, by the end of the second week in August 1864, one thousand Cheyenne, Arapaho, Sioux, Comanche, Kiowa, and Apache mounted warriors assembled at Point of Rocks on Beaver Creek in Colorado Territory. From there they planned to launch the most horrendous massacre of American citizens in the history of the young nation.

The GATHERING STORM was ready to erupt.



**Col. John Chivington**

# Territory Days

May 28th through 30th

At the Garvin Cabin Bancroft Park:

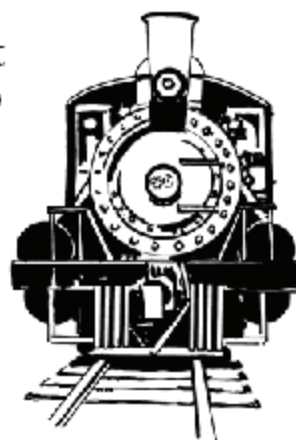


- ♦ Costumed hosts will be available for information.
- ♦ Charlease Elzenga will demonstrate old fashioned spinning and weaving all three days.
- ♦ Johnnie Jackson will be displaying his guns and telling about their various uses.



## At the History Center:

- ♦ An HO scale model railroad--the Colorado East Central---will be operating in the Old Colorado City History Center all three days. The portable layout will fill the entire room. In the spirit of early Colorado City, model Colorado Midland steam locomotives will be pulling both passenger and freight trains. There will also be freight and passenger trains of the 1920's to the 1950's pulled by Santa Fe, Rio Grande, and Union steam locomotives.



**Cabin and History Center open 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**  
**Great Family Fun---FREE EVENT**

**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**

**SPECIAL JUNE PROGRAM:*****"Kansas City Monarchs"***

Friday June 24

6:00 P.M.

Presented by: Phil Dixon

Phil Dixon from Kansas City will present a special event program on the KANSAS CITY MONARCHS--a professional African-American baseball team who played our own Colorado Springs African-American baseball team in 1934. Phil is the author of nine books on the history of Negroes in baseball.

We will also have a short pre-presentation of organ music played by one of our board members. This 1800's pump organ is a new donation from the Blakke family, Westsiders for decades.

OCCHS members free, others \$5.00

**DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENING.  
Doors open at 5:30 P.M.  
SEATING IS LIMITED.**





## President's Report

Change has been in the air this month. Our archival crew bid goodbye to Diane Karlson as she left for Little Rock to take on a new job with the National Archives at the Clinton Presidential Library. Before she left she upgraded our computer system and accession records. This led to our new acquisition policy. We'll miss Diane, but we know she'll enjoy the challenges of a new, larger historical facility.

Maintenance seems to be a constant around our Old Colorado City Historical Society. From the highest steeple to the lowest basement corner, something always needs repaired, mended, or refurbished. For any of you who happened to drop by the Museum during the week of April 11-16 and found it closed, we were refinishing floors. Now that you can get in again, you'll appreciate the work done in the Bookstore and Library. The slight rise between the Bookstore and the Museum was leveled, the floors cleaned, sanded, and finished with at least two coats of stain. As you might imagine, moving the counters, bookcases, and display items was a Herculean task, handled smoothly by our Maintenance crew of Leo Knudson, Terry Lee, Dave Swint, and Werner Karlson with additional assistance from Board VP Don Hansen. Terry and his wife Marilyn, our display genius, saw to the covering of the Museum's cases and the additional pieces moved from the Bookstore and Library. Leo's son helped with the prep work. Carolyn's son, Olin Hatch, helped out moving the furniture back into the museum. Be sure to compliment these hard working folks: their diligence keeps your building in good shape.

Another Maintenance project is the north sign. Leo finished building and painting it just before the floor refinishing, and the frame will hold a metal sign identifying OCCHS, our summer and winter hours, and additional information about special events. On-hold projects waiting for funding are the roof, the outside balcony, and drainage work to eliminate the water problems downstairs in the archives. Our Eagle Scout project, the tables and benches on the patio, will be sanded and refinished by the scout before craft season begins. Landscaping around the building is currently being planned.

We always welcome help from any of you who have carpentry, plumbing, or electrical skills or who possess a green thumb. Your assistance would be appreciated.

We'll also be looking for members to help us make Territory Days memorable. The Museum will once again have the popular trains running, and Bookstore volunteers can use extra eyes and hands there. And, there are other opportunities. If you whittle, do handiwork, or just like to spin tales of the Good Old Days in Colorado City, we'd like for you to sign up to help us man the Cabin. Johnny Jackson will be there with his rifle exhibit, and Charlease Elzenga will have her spinning wheel whirring. Plan to sign up for an hour or two and sit in the cabin or on the porch and spread the good word about our town's past. Dressing up is fine but not required. Your help will make this event special.

Roberta Hardy

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 May 9  
at 1:00 P.M. at the Old Colorado City History Center**

**OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80904-3319

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## May / June Calendar

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

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

**May 28, 29, 30**

**Territory Days** - Old Colorado City's annual celebration of its historic roots featuring a street fair. OCCHS will have demonstrations in the cabin in Bancroft Park and model trains in the History Center.

**Friday, June 24**  
6:00 P.M.

Program: **"Kansas City Monarchs"** presented by Phil Dixon. This will be a special event program on the Kansas City Monarchs—a professional African-American baseball team who played our own Colorado Springs African-American baseball team in 1934. Phil is the author of nine books on the history of Negroes in baseball.

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.*