

SMOKY HILL EXPRESS

Elbert County Historical Society & Museum Newsletter

SPRING 2017

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**THE MUSEUM IS OPEN
THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY
1:00 TO 4:00 PM EVERY
WEEK DURING THE
SUMMER!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Meeting and Program Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Assembly Room

Elbert County Museum 2017 Opening Day

Sunday, May 28, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Pioneer Fourth Celebration

Tuesday, July 4, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Elbert County Museum Grounds

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Assembly Room

Eastern Colorado Museums & Historical Societies Meeting

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 am
Location to be announced



BAILEY SADDLELAND EXHIBIT

This year the Elbert County Historical Society and Museum is pleased to partner with the **Bailey Saddleland Museum** in Simla to present an incredible assortment of their American West collection. The exhibit opens Sunday, May 28 and gives visitors a glimpse into **Don and Janet Bailey's** extraordinary collection of bridles, bits, tack supply and tools, collectibles and more.

Don Bailey grew up with a love for horses and saddles in Karval, Colorado. After marrying Janet in 1977, he began to buy a few saddles to add to ones he had kept since his childhood. While a teacher in Limon, he moved a small building to their place south of Limon where his collection grew to over 90 saddles. When they moved to their current home north of Simla, Don was excited to actually have room for his saddles in a large Morton Building. This building had been built by Coors Brewery for their Belgian draft horse team who lived there in the 1980's. Coors had hoped to compete with the Anheuser- Busch Clydesdales, but Jim Hilgendorf and the draft horses moved away from Simla in the late 1980's. This building was quickly transformed into a museum that now houses over 400 saddles, several buggies and wagons, antique cars, a replica of a gas station, and numerous items of the Old West.

The museum's main focus is their display of about 400 saddles. Some are ones he purchased at farm auctions, some were donated by friends and local ranchers, and a few are on loan. To begin with, the majority were made by Colorado saddlemakers, the topic of the book he wrote entitled Saddle Strings; however, he now has ones from many states and countries. In the last few years, Don has added several new displays to the antique cars and buggies in the south building: a replica of an old gas station, a chuckwagon exhibit, and an old saloon. Throughout the museum, one can view bits, spurs, bridles, a saddlemaker's shop, a homesteader's cabin, and an old post office. Outside the museum, one can enjoy old playground equipment and farm machinery.

To see the entire collection, **Bailey's Saddleland Museum** is located one mile north of Simla on County Road 125 and is open by appointment from Memorial Day until Labor Day (call 719.541.2736 or 719.740.0658).





ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Joe Martell
President

Lucy Hoffhines
Secretary

John Metli
Board Member at Large

Carla Martell
Past President

Hank Smith
Vice President

Donna Smith
Treasurer

Monty Ashliman
Board Member at Large

Elbert County Historical Society
515 Comanche Street ▪ PO Box 43
Kiowa, Colorado 80117

ElbertCountyMuseum.org

The Elbert County Museum is owned and operated by the Elbert County Historical Society, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

MISSION STATEMENT

To record and maintain the history of Elbert County, Colorado from the earliest settlement.

To work for the establishment of appropriate vaults and archives for the preservation of original manuscripts, documents, photographs and artifacts which may come into the possession of the Society.

To maintain, preserve and house the above stated articles in the Elbert County Museum.

WHO AM I?

- Where was I born?
 - Edinburgh
 - Gairloch
 - Perth
- When did I arrive in the Rocky Mountain region?
 - 1871
 - 1874
 - 1877
- What was my profession?
 - Rancher
 - Goat Herder
 - Sheepman



Answers on page 5

GIFT SHOP

Be sure to visit the museum gift shop. We have T-Shirts, a variety of books and gift items for all ages. Please remember we are able to accept cash or check only.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual - \$15

Student/Senior - \$8

Family - \$20

Volunteer - Donation of six (6) hours of volunteer time or participate in two (2) functions and/or events.



SEASON SPONSORSHIPS

Museum Season Sponsorships are collected annually and expire at the end of each calendar year. Sponsorships support the general operating fund, new and permanent exhibits, development of educational initiatives and public programs, and the historic museum building and its infrastructure.

Season sponsorships are available at four different levels and are identified by icons of early Elbert County industry

Locomotive -

Contributions of \$200 cash/merchandise or more will receive:

- acknowledgment as a Season Sponsor on all exhibit and event flyers (including Pioneer Fourth)
- recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

Ponderosa Pine -

Contributions of \$100 cash/merchandise or more will receive:

- recognition on signage inside the museum
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

Windmill -

Contributions over \$25 cash/merchandise will receive:

- recognition on signage inside the museum
- inclusion in the newsletter(s)

Cultivator -

Contributions of \$250 cash or more through the **East Central Enterprise Zone**** will receive:

- acknowledgment as a Season Sponsor on all exhibit and event flyers (including Pioneer Fourth)
- recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- inclusion in the newsletter(s) and
- on our website

****East Central Enterprise Zone**

By making a \$250 or more cash donation, contributors receive **25% of that amount as a credit against their state tax liability (i.e.: \$250 donation = \$62.50 credit)**. The contribution also may be itemized on their federal tax return.

For additional details on the different levels of [membership](#) or [sponsorship](#), forms can be picked up at the museum's visitors desk or printed off our website at ElbertCountyMuseum.org.

SPRING MEETING AND PROGRAM, VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am
Elbert County Museum Assembly Room

This ECHS meeting will include an update on the upcoming 2017 season and give a sneak peak at this year's Bailey Saddleland Museum exhibit. Following the meeting, **Don and Janet Bailey** will present a program on their collection.

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, become informed about the changes that have taken place since last year and learn about the 2017 exhibits and Pioneer Fourth celebration. Everyone is welcome to attend so please feel free to invite family and friends!

TOM WATT'S WAGON MUSEUM TOUR

Saturday, May 27, 10:00 am
Cost- \$5.00 per person

The **Cherry Creek Valley Historical Society** and friends will make one final visit to Tom Watt's outstanding wagon museum in Elbert County. Tom has collected over 50 old wagons which were used in the late 1800s and early 1900s (real items, no replicas). These include stagecoaches, a cowboy chuck wagon, several carriages and surreys, many heavy- and medium duty utility wagons, two hearses, milk and oil-delivery wagons, a few wintertime sleighs, and

other horse-drawn vehicles (including carriages once used by Teddy Roosevelt and William Jackson Palmer). This will be a once-in-a-lifetime tour as the entire inventory of historic wagons is destined to be auctioned off on June 17.

A carpool to the wagon museum will leave in front of the Elbert County Museum at 9:30 am. The cost for the tour is \$5.00. RSVP to **Garry O'Hara**, CCVHS president at gohara46@aol.com.

RECURRING DONATIONS: GIFTS WE CAN COUNT ON!

Your recurring donation to **Elbert County Historical Society and Museum** is support we can count on! When you use this option, you are making a commitment to donate a particular amount over a specific period of time. You can give as little as \$10 per week, month, quarter or year. Simply set up your donation schedule and your deductions will happen automatically, straight from your credit card, debit card or bank account. To learn more about recurring donations, contact ECHS Treasurer Donna Smith, or visit www.ColoradoGives.org FAQs.



PIONEER FOURTH CELEBRATION

Tuesday, July 4 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Elbert County Museum Grounds

Mark your calendars so you can plan on spending a fun-filled time celebrating Independence Day with new and old acquaintances, neighbors, and visitors. Enjoy live music, games and viewing the exhibits inside the Museum and various crafts inside and outside. Don't miss out on the traditional BBQ lunch prepared fresh during mid day. The cakewalk and a pie auction will enable attendees the opportunity to take a delicious homemade pie or cake with them. At the end of the afternoon, following a watermelon eating contest, winning bidders will gather up their treasures at the silent auction, leaving with great memories.

RAMBLER RANCH TOUR

Friday, September 22, 1:00 pm
Cost- \$15.00 per person

Hidden away just four miles from Elizabeth, Colorado is one of Elbert County's best kept secrets. The **Rambler Ranch** is the largest collection of AMC vehicles in the world. The ranch is home to over 700 collectible autos, antique kitchens, and tons of gas and oil memorabilia, and lots of car memorabilia.

Join the ECHS as we tour this one of a kind collection. We'll meet at the Elizabeth Safeway parking lot at 12:30 pm and carpool to the Ranch. The cost for the tour is \$15.00. RSVP to info@elbertcountymuseum.org



A BRIEF HISTORY OF SEWING

When people first began to wear clothing sewing had not been invented, so they simply wrapped leather or fur around their bodies, probably tying their clothes on with leather cords.

Then as people began migrating to Central Asia, where the weather was colder, they wanted warmer, stronger clothing and shelters, so they began to use sharp, pointed needles made of bone, ivory or antlers, with holes poked in the blunt end and "thread" made of various animal body parts, including sinew, catgut and veins. Much later, when people discovered and began using bronze, they fashioned stronger, lighter needles.

Later people in West Asia began to spin thread out of wool and linen, and then wove these threads into cloth. People discovered that sewing with cloth was much easier than sewing animal hides but it took so long to spin and weave a piece of cloth that usually people didn't want to cut it up, so they wrapped the whole piece around their bodies, as a sari or a shawl or cloak. Egyptians and Greeks wove a rectangular piece of cloth and just sewed the sides together. In Central Asia, cloth was sewed into pants and jackets.

During the Middle Ages in Europe, wealthy people employed seamstresses and tailors, usually women. Starting in the 1860s, merchants employed tailors and had clothing made in their shops. Demand for ready-made clothing increased and manufacturers sent work out to contractors, who often had tiny shops in poor districts. They usually hired immigrants and often even children, who worked long hours for little pay, sewing garments by hand, in what were known as sweat shops. Urban reformers objected to this practice and soon manufacturers were producing clothing in larger facilities, using assembly line methods.

A revolution in sewing came with the invention of the sewing machine. Thomas Saint, an Englishman, is credited with devising the first real sewing machine in 1790, but although he patented his idea, there is no evidence that he ever really built it.

In 1830, Frenchman Berthelemy Thimonnier invented an embroidery machine. This was the first step towards the modern working sewing machine. Four years later in England, Walter Hunt devised a crude sewing machine which used two strands of thread.

After this, several people in Europe and the U.S. made attempts at perfecting a sewing machine, but the first really successful one was invented by Elias Howe in 1846. Howe did his best to interest the public in his invention, even arranging a competition between his machine and some of the finest hand sewers in America. The machine won, but evidently the world was not yet ready for mechanized sewing,

and despite months of demonstrations, Howe did not make a single sale. He went to England, hoping to generate more interest there, but he could only find one backer. When he eventually returned to the US, he found that the sewing machine had finally caught on and several people, including Isaac Merritt Singer, had infringed on his patent, and there were dozens of companies, including Singer, manufacturing them. Howe sued Singer for patent violation and was awarded the right to claim royalties from Singer and others who had used his ideas. Eventually Howe and Singer settled their differences and both became wealthy.

The invention of a practical and effective sewing machine accelerated the pace of industrialization and led eventually to the building of large textile mills. The use of sewing machines completely changed the way clothing was manufactured.

VISIT THE HABERDASHERY SHOP -the latest business to move into the Main Street exhibit! View items used by seamstresses of the past.

Decorated Case, Drop-Head Machine
Our Goldsmith Seven Drawer \$ **17.95**

The Head of This Machine Is Extra Large, Having as Much Room Under the Arm as the Ordinary Large Family Sewing Machine.

All the raw material used in the construction of this machine is positively the finest that can be obtained.

THE FINISH The head is highly finished with best enamel, three coats being applied, and each coat thoroughly baked and hardened. It is carefully rubbed down, highly polished, and a coat of anti-rust applied, which prevents the finish from cracking or checking.

THE RIM of the balance wheel, face plate, shuttle slides, tension plates, needle bar, presser bar, stitch regulating plate, lifter and screw heads are all heavily nickel plated.

THE MACHINE is fitted with double action feed, which extends on both sides of the needle. Has our automatic bobbin winder which winds the thread very evenly and requires no care on the part of the operator.

THE PARTS on this machine are very few, simple and strong, which insures ease of work and great durability. The more small parts there are on a machine the more complication and the greater liability of the machine getting out of order. The head and base of this machine are constructed with a view of simplicity, durability and greatest amount of work.

THE CASE of this machine is of thoroughly seasoned oak, highly finished in a rich shade of golden. The design is one of the newest on the market. Has full swelled skeleton drawers. The center drawer is of sliding pattern, full length, and is lined with velvet to receive the various attachments.

DECORATIONS are imitations of inlaid marquetry work. They are of handsome special flower design, handsomely colored and highly varnished. The stand is made and finished in a thoroughly substantial manner throughout, and is fitted with means for adjustment to take up the wear.

ATTACHMENTS we furnish free a complete set of solid steel polished and nickel-plated attachments which includes everything mentioned on our No. H-7776 machine. Accessories—We also furnish with this machine absolutely free of charge a full set of accessories, as described on our No. H-7774.

WHEN THE MACHINE is in use the head is in the same position as on the ordinary covered style. When the machine is open the head is folded over to one side, forming an extension table. When the machine is closed it requires one motion of the hand to drop the head down completely out of sight. The top leaf then folds over, forming a handsome table with a highly polished top. While in this position the machine is securely resting in the dust-proof box which thoroughly protects it. Furthermore, the box is so arranged that no oil can run out on either the cabinet or floor on which the machine stands.

GUARANTEE This machine is sold under our binding guarantee of quality and low price. A written guarantee for ten years is furnished with it, and we accept your offer for it with a distinct understanding that if it does not come up to your highest expectations, after you have used it, you are to return it to us, and we will pay the freight charges both ways and refund your first payment.

No. H-7780, Drop-Head, 7-Drawer, Hand-Decorated Case Goldsmith Machine. Shipped direct from our factory near Chicago. Shipping weight, 120 lbs. Price complete, with full set of attachments and accessories **\$17.95**

No. H-7780 OPEN

No. H-7780 CLOSED

Universal Home Furnishers catalogue published by Spiegel May Stern Co., 1908

WHO AM I?

Continued from page 2

Answers: b) Gairloch, b) 1874, c) Sheepman

Duncan Matheson was born in Gairloch, Scotland on November 15, 1849, to Donald and Isabella (Mackenze) Matheson. He was the oldest son of six children, who at the age of 21, came to America and originally settled in Chicago. When he left that city he made his way directly to Colorado, where he arrived in May 1874 and his experience in sheep raising was at once put to practical use on the bottom lands of Elbert County. He worked for Colonel Holt, of the Holt Live Stock Company, and later formed a partnership with **John Cameron** in a business venture that was maintained for a few years. Seven years after Mr. Matheson arrived in America, his brother Hector joined him and they formed a partnership in the sheep industry.



In 1876, Duncan Matheson located a homestead that included the site of the present town of Matheson in the southern part of Elbert County. With hard work and knowledge of the business he developed his flocks and added to his land until the Matheson Sheep Ranch was one of the

largest in the county. He and his brother operated their joint holdings together until 1886, when Duncan became sole owner and Hector later purchased a large ranch in Lincoln County in 1896.

Mr. Matheson was united in marriage to Miss **Jessie Morgan**, a Scotch lassie who had moved to Kansas with her parents in 1881. Six children were born of this marriage: Donald, Robert, John, William, Norman and Janet.

Duncan Matheson passed away May 20, 1915 at St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs. During his lifetime he was credited as being one of the leading sheep men in Colorado, and Elbert County became one of the most prominent sheep feeding sections of the west. He was laid to rest by his fellow members of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

Resources: The History of Colorado- Volume 4, The Rise and Fall of a Town, and Western Pioneer Days

DID YOU KNOW?

The town of Matheson was erroneously spelled Mattison by the Rock Island Railroad Company when rails were laid through the townsite. It wasn't until 1915 when the Post Office finally corrected the spelling to recognize the town's founder.

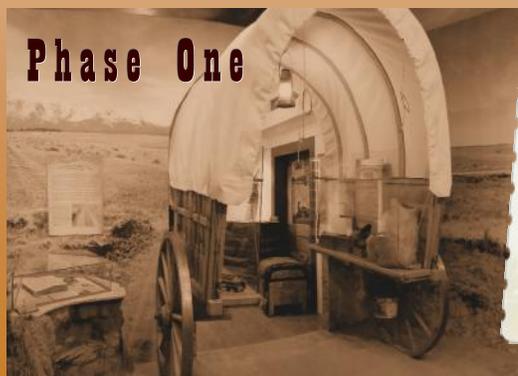
SMOKY HILL TRAIL EXHIBIT

Three years ago the Elbert County Historical Society and Museum embarked on its most exciting project to date -to tell the story of the **Smoky Hill Trail** and the history of transportation in Elbert County through a new, fun and interactive exhibit.

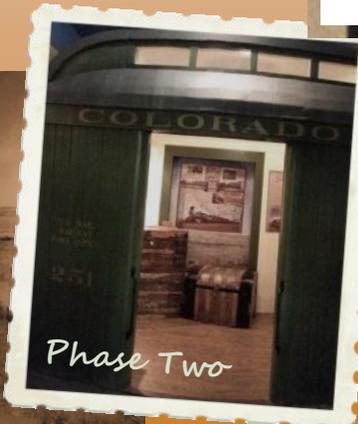
- Phases One (2014) and Two (2015) detail the trail's origin, and subsequent conversion from trail to rail as railroads began making their way West.
- The first two phases were funded largely in part through grants, anonymous donors and the generous support of museum season sponsors.
- Phase Three will showcase the advent of automobile travel and how today's Highway 86 shadows segments of the original trail.



Phase Three (designer's rendition)



Phase One



Phase Two

We've been able to complete the first two phases; however we need your support to complete this project!

Go to www.ColoradoGives.org and enter **Elbert County Historical Society and Museum** in the search field. Or, simply click on the Donate Now link from our website.

From all of us at **Elbert County Historical Society and Museum**, thank you for your support!

ELBERT COUNTY MUSEUM SPONSORS

While the museum receives funds through monetary donations given at the museum and with annual historical society memberships; Season Sponsorships and the Pioneer Fourth celebration are the main areas of income which allow the Elbert County Historical Society to develop exhibits and educational opportunities and to improve and maintain the museum building.

Thank you for your commitment to the educational and historical importance of the Elbert County Museum!



Locomotive

Anonymous Donor
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Windmill

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(Windmill continued)

Napa -Elizabeth
Parker Port-A-Potty
Safeway -Elizabeth
True Value -Elizabeth
Wal-mart -Elizabeth
Gary Wolf



Cultivator

Laurel Brown
Glaser Gas &
Equipment Co. -Kiowa
Harold Heckman
JC Martell
John & Sherry Metli
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ELBERT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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