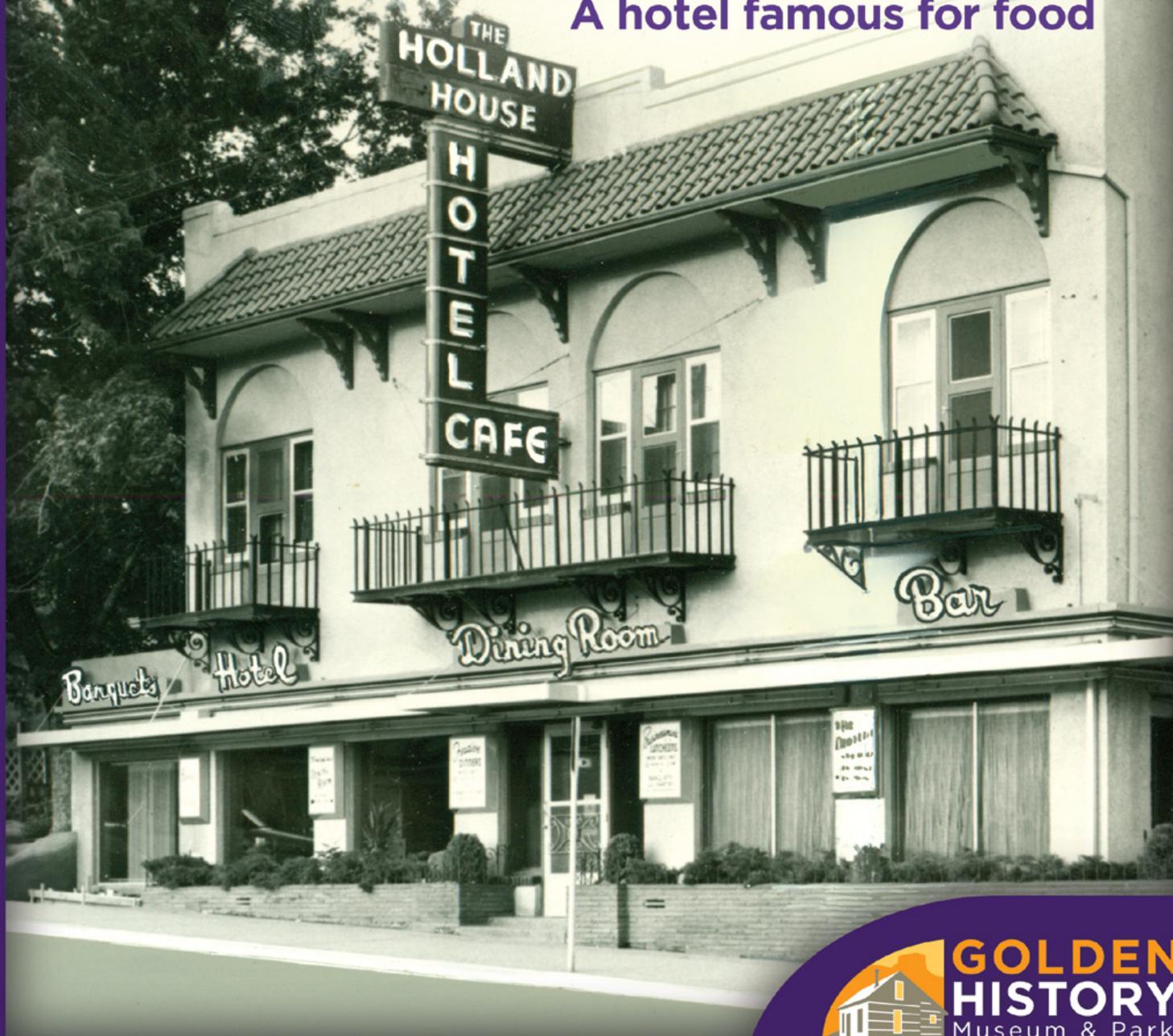


# DISCOVER

FALL 2019

## Holland House:

A hotel famous for food





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### Director's Welcome



**W**hether gathered around the dining room table, seated at a booth in our favorite restaurant, or taking a space at the bar of a favorite watering hole, sharing food and drink forms incredible bonds between people. Not only is gathering for a meal memorable, but taste and smell are some of the most powerful memory triggers. Golden History Museum & Park is in the midst of a two-year project called "Food For Thought: Golden's Culinary History." This spring, we debuted two food-themed exhibits—*Craft Beer & Pizza* and *Milking an Opportunity: Coors Malted Milk*. This fall, *Confection Perfection: The Jolly Rancher Candy Company* will explore the sweet history of one of Golden's most iconic inventions. Also, the Touch Gallery will

be transformed into the Holland House—one of Golden's oldest hotels and restaurants famed for its food. Families can learn about the rich history of this meeting site while children can take orders, "make food," and play host in our recreated restaurant and kitchen, complete with the original service counter from the hotel! Throughout the year, join us for fantastic culinary programming in addition to our regular lineup of engaging and thought-provoking lectures and events. There's always so many reasons to visit—I look forward to seeing you here soon.

Nathan Richie, Director

## DISCOVER | FALL 2019

### IN THIS ISSUE

Cover Image: Holland House. Photo © Golden History Museum & Park, City of Golden Collection.

- 3** Everything Has a History, Museums Included
- 4** Museum Admission
- 5** Gone but not forgotten
- 6** Holland House: a hotel famous for food
- 8** Programs
- 10** Family Programs
- 11** Museum Collection Inventory Project
- 12** Staff Profile  
Volunteer Profile
- 13** Membership
- 14** Golden's Own Chicken Whisperer
- 15** Friends of the Flock Donors
- 16** Hand-on History

# Everything Has a History, Museums Included

By **Mark Dodge**

**T**his year marks the 80th anniversary of the museum's official opening in 1939. The Golden History Museum has a complicated history with various fits and starts, and honestly, we don't have it all nailed down, yet. I summarized this history from an old museum business plan dating from August 1999.

The origin of the Golden History Museum dates back to a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in August 1938. Prominent pioneers and ladies' groups organized a museum committee with the help of the Jefferson County American Red Cross chapter, the local PTA and the American Legion to collect items for a new museum. The museum was originally housed in what was the North School in Golden. After the WPA disbanded in 1941, the museum ceased to operate, and artifacts not reclaimed by owners were boxed and stored in the basement of the old Jefferson County Courthouse. They remained there until 1953 when the Mount Lookout Chapter of the National Society Daughters of American Revolution (NSDAR) adopted the museum and persuaded Jefferson County to reopen the museum with the Chapter as managers. Jefferson County agreed to house the museum in the recently vacated courthouse and allowed funding for heat, light and some building redecorating. With the help of a local Boy Scout troop, students from the State Industrial School and donations from

the local Kiwanis Club, the museum officially opened its doors on February 22, 1954.

In 1958 Jefferson County decided to abandon the old courthouse (because a new one was built) and offered the museum, its collection, and current funds to the City of Golden. Golden citizens voted overwhelmingly to build the west wing of the newly planned municipal center specifically for the museum. The city agreed to accept the museum and the Mount Lookout Chapter of the NSDAR pledged their ongoing management with some financial support from the city. The new Civic Center for Golden was dedicated on May 6, 1961.

In addition to the museum, the center also contained a fire station, police station, city offices, chamber of commerce office, and the Golden branch of the Jefferson County Library.

In October 1996, the museum moved out of Golden City Hall to the recently vacated Golden Library building at 923 10th Street (our current location). The city spent about \$100,000 on renovations, greatly expanding the existing floor space to make room for more displays and better storage.

As some readers will no doubt recognize, there have been even more renovations inside the 923 10th St. building in the last year. We're looking forward to seeing what the next 80 years holds for the museum and its collection. I'm sure there will be some surprises in store!



Pioneer Museum  
weapon display



Pioneer Museum  
research library

Pioneer Museum  
exhibit gallery



All Photos © Golden History Museum  
& Park, City of Golden Collection



Photos © Scott Dressel-Martin

# Museum Admission

By **Nathan Richie**

**A**t Golden History Museum & Park, our mission is to engage and inspire visitors about Golden's history.

We believe it's important to break barriers to participation and make accessible the experiences and resources we provide the community. But, what happens when those barriers are caused by our own revenue policies?

Visitation to Golden History Museum has been on a gradual rise over the past decade with an overall average of 4,400 attendees annually. While there is no standard museum attendance average, GHM&P has always felt it could serve far more people. Several years ago we began counting the number of people who came through the museum doors intending to visit, and then left after learning about the \$5 admission fee. That "walkout rate" reached as high as 50%. We experimented with varied fee structures and discounts, but no matter the price, the walkout rate was unmovable.

The museum had contemplated going to free admission for several years. The idea of increasing our impact was always desired, but the negative impacts of going free were enough to give us considerable

pause. Would we devalue the museum experience? Would members cease to support us? Would the museum lose needed revenue without replacing it? We could only speculate and worry about the outcomes.

But, in late 2018, the museum got a shining opportunity. A very generous donor made an unrestricted gift to the museum in celebration of the museum's 80th anniversary. The museum decided to leverage that gift to underwrite free admission in 2019. We would gather a year of data, examine the impacts, and decide whether the risk was worth it.

While the year is not over yet, the early results are in—and they are astounding. When compared to 2017 numbers (the last full year of attendance before closing for renovation), attendance to date is up 467%! Average daily attendance has risen from 13 visitors per day to 73. By early May, the museum had already beaten every prior year's total *annual* attendance. Every other measure has increased significantly too. Membership is up 30% and the highest it has ever been. Gift shop sales have increased 236% over 2017. And donations are up 272% over the same period of time in 2017! To say we are elated would be an understatement.

At the same time, staff seized the opportunity to do some evaluation and gather audience feedback about their experiences and the role free admission played in their decision to visit. Seventy percent of survey respondents said that free admission played a role in their decision to visit the museum. Seventy-five percent of respondents said that knowing the museum is free will make it more likely they return the following year. Ninety-six percent of respondents said that the museum was a valuable part of the community. People also expressed their love of the exhibits, appreciation that the museum was family-friendly, and their desire to see even more displays and content.

GHM&P staff and supporters have been inspired by the positive effects of this change of policy and we wish to continue into the future. In May, a new donor stepped forward with a challenge for the museum: raise \$10,000 before December 1, 2019 and they will match with a \$10,000 gift. We need your help to unlock the match. We invite you to make a gift in support of the Golden History Museum & Park 2020 Free Admission Campaign. This is an outstanding opportunity to make an impactful and meaningful gift to the community. With your help, we can make sure that Golden's history is preserved and accessible for all!

To contribute toward free admission next year, please send a check or visit [GoldenHistory.org/donate](https://www.GoldenHistory.org/donate).



*Colorado's Largest Super Drug Store*



Foss Drug postcard with the Carriage Room visible upstairs on the second floor, 1974

Inside the Foss Carriage Room, about 1974



Dorothy Foss

All Photos © Golden History Museum & Park, City of Golden Collection

# Gone but not forgotten

## Remembering a favorite Golden restaurant

By **Mark Dodge**

**R**estaurants come and go on a regular basis, but some survive and become local favorites. While the redesigned Touch Gallery pays homage to the Holland House, the Foss Carriage Room (later renamed the Golden Ram) is worth remembering too.

When the Foss Carriage Room opened in 1961, the *Colorado Transcript* had lots to say about the grand opening of the expanded Foss Drug General Store that included this new second floor restaurant with its own entrance at 822 13th Street.

*Golden's newest restaurant, the Carriage Room, was the first section to open in the new Foss Drug General Store. This dining area was designed to present two distinct advantages.*

*Major meals, such as those you would expect to receive in famous restaurants, are available at moderate prices. Then too, the friendly atmosphere makes the Carriage Room a natural place for meeting friends for coffee, snacks or conversation.*

*The location, decor and design was considered for a long time before the semi-*

*secluded second story area was chosen.*

*The adjoining food preparation stations—which are open for customer inspection—are outfitted with the newest in stainless steel equipment. A sparkling presentation is achieved through the use of ceramic wall tile.*

*There are actually three food preparation areas. The interior kitchen has a spacious walk-in refrigerator to accommodate the many large meat orders. Wall shelving and pantry space is provided for canned foods. An elevator services the area.*

*Grills, ovens, fryers and dishwashers are located just off the seating area so that customers are able to see meals being prepared. A curtain wall and a bank of powerful exhaust fans protect the eating area from odors. A new thermostatically controlled grid and charcoal have been added, along with many smaller pieces of equipment, all designed to provide faster and more efficient service.*

*The third food preparation location is the 12-seat split fountain. It serves beverages from an automatic solenoid panel.*

*The Carriage Room is appointed with furniture of fine Woodward wrought iron, and a picture window wall gives patrons a*

*panorama of the foothills, especially Mount Zion and Lookout Mountain. The same scene is reflected by the wall mirrors of the fountain's back bar.*

*Since customers have many seating preferences, Foss has installed table, booth and fountain seating. Versatile in arrangement, the Carriage Room has a single-serving capacity of approximately 112.*

The museum has several menus in the collection. One dinner special during the 1970s was a dish called the Baron of Beef, which was only available Wednesday-Friday nights. It came in several options, including the "Golden" plate, described as a jumbo ranch portion of beef served with choice of soup or salad, choice of potato, hot roll & butter or Texas toast.

This local favorite closed in 2000 after 39 years in operation. A press release from the time noted a general decline in business. It also didn't help that costly repairs and expensive equipment replacement were needed to address code issues.

The building's owner, Mesa Meadows Land Co., renovated the space for offices. Today, it is home to Miner's Alley Playhouse.



# Holland House: A hotel famous for food

By **Mark Dodge**

*Famous for*  
**Steaks, Chicken,  
Trout, Banquets**  
*and Parties*

**H**otel, dining rooms, coffee shop, and lounge—the Holland House had it all. It was the sixth hotel to occupy 1310 Washington Street in Golden since 1925, when the Hotel Berrimoor opened up shop. Then followed the Cody Hotel, Wright Hotel, Golden Hotel, LaRay Hotel and finally the Holland House. Today, it's home to the Table Mountain Inn.

Marion Luther (Lu) Holland and his wife, Ethel, arrived in Golden from Billings, Montana, in 1944. Lu was already working as the chef and assistant manager at the LaRay Hotel when he and Ethel bought the place in May of 1946. They renamed it the Holland House and remodeled two rooms and a bath into their own residential suite. It was their home for the next 40 years.

In its heyday the Holland House drew patrons from all over the region and was considered one of the finest restaurants anywhere near Denver—renowned for homemade pies and biscuits and the wonderful artwork adorning its walls.

## Three dining rooms with art

The couple remodeled the Holland House four times. In 1957, they completed the first extensive construction and remodeling project with the addition of a coffee shop on the north side of the building. An ad in the Boulder *Daily Camera* announced an increased diner capacity of 120, and newly commissioned photomurals and artworks.

The Colorado Room was home to large photographic murals of Echo Lake and Red Rocks by Denver's Hopwood Studios. In the Empire and Pioneer Rooms hung *The Founding of Golden in 1858* and *Colorado Today*, both by Golden cartographer and painter, Hal Shelton. The Hollands paid \$5,000 per mural and, fortunately, both safely survive in private collections today. One belongs to the Golden Civic Foundation and hangs at the Golden Community Center, while the other resides at Stevinson Toyota in Lakewood.

In 1960, the Hollands bought the vacated First Methodist Church and education buildings just south of their property. They converted the education building into employee housing and razed the church for

more parking. Because Lu routinely hired African American men from outside of Golden as dishwashers and cooks, housing proved crucial. Robert (Bob) Wilkens signed on in the 1950s and worked his way up to chef, remaining an integral part of the Holland House for over 20 years.

Completed by 1965, this remodel added 25 rooms and a new dining room for 150 diners in addition to the expanded parking. It also heralded a new name: the Holland House Motor Hotel.

It was around this time that Holland installed a life-size bull made of fiberglass next to the new parking lot. The bull quickly became the target of pranks from Colorado School of Mines students who made it a tradition, especially during homecoming week, to paint the white bull's testicles bright red. Members of the Holland family were always prepared with some white paint as a remedy.

### “Holland House Happenings”—Golden’s social center

*Let us serve your next banquet, special party, business social, birthday, anniversary, fraternal, family get-together, wedding, or luncheon card party.*  
— Holland House menu, about 1959

The Holland House was *the* gathering place for meetings of every kind. Beginning in the 1950s, the local paper’s regular “Holland House Happenings” section outlined the venue’s major weekly social events. Whether the Golden Lions Club, Jaycees, Women’s Business and Professional, Chamber, or Colorado School of Mines, the Hollands hosted them all.

Until the high-profile kidnapping and murder of Adolph Coors III in 1960, the Coors

family were regular customers for Sunday dinners. After the tragedy, they stopped dining out in the interest of safety and privacy. Meanwhile, other famous guests included:

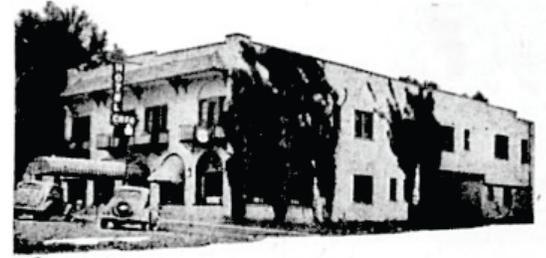
- Child actor Jay North, from the “Dennis the Menace” TV sitcom
- John Wayne
- Sheriff Scotty—late 1950s TV personality
- The Queen of Iran (wife of the Shah), who traveled with two bodyguards
- World heavyweight boxing champion, Max Baer
- Numerous industry leaders who came to do business with Coors and the Colorado School of Mines

### Tasty food

Duncan Hines included the Holland House in his 1958 travel guidebook, *Adventures in Good Eating*. This recognition put Golden on the food map and the Holland House into a select group of highly regarded restaurants nationwide. At the time, the Holland House was the only Golden restaurant to earn that honor—the equivalent of a top TripAdvisor or Yelp review today.

### The end of an era

Following Lu’s death in 1981, the family sold the business in 1982. Bought by a group of local investors, the Holland House lived on under the same name until 1986, when the property reverted to the Colorado National Bank and then closed. The Golden Civic Foundation bought the property for \$290,000 in 1989. After an extensive remodel under new ownership, the old Holland House was reborn as the Table Mountain Inn in 1992.



A Hearty— **WELCOME**  
Awaits You At  
**THE HOLLAND HOUSE**  
**HOTEL CAFE COCKTAIL LOUNGE**  
You'll Like the Food, Service and Atmosphere  
Luxuriously Furnished Hotel Rooms  
“A Great Place To Go” Right Here at Home Where  
Drunkenness and Rowdyism Are Not Tolerated.  
Where You Can Take Your Sweetheart, Family and  
Friends with Pride!  
We Endeavor to maintain a Standard in Every Detail  
That is Within Your Class  
**WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS**  
**THANK YOU**



**Holland House**  
advert 1949



**In 1968** Lu and Ethel Holland celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary inside the Holland House. This view shows the lobby.



**Inside Holland House**  
Coffee Shop about 1970



# Programs

**T**here are so many exciting programs scheduled for upcoming months that we can't fit all the descriptions in this newsletter.

For full details and to register, please go to [GoldenHistory.org/events](http://GoldenHistory.org/events). All programs will be held at Golden History Museum, 923 10th St., unless otherwise noted.

Remember that advance registration is required for most programs, even when free. Programs will be canceled if minimum attendance number is not reached 24 hours prior to start time. Help us provide even more programming by signing up and attending!

**free** Free for everyone

**November 6, 2019, 6 pm**  
**More than a Headstone: The Lives and Legacies of Veterans buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

The Veterans Legacy Program (VLP) is part of the National Cemetery Administration's educational outreach initiative. Partnering with universities, VLP seeks to memorialize our nation's Veterans through sharing their stories of service and sacrifice. Come hear the stories behind a few of our local heroes resting at Fort Logan Cemetery.

**1** Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, Colorado  
Photo © Photo: Carol Helstosky.

**November 21, 2019, 6 pm**  
**A Ragged Rabble of Opportunists**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

In the spring of 1857, the *SS Central America* was shipping a special load of gold from San Francisco to New York when it sank in a hurricane 160 miles east of Cape Hatteras. News of the disaster reached the east coast and ignited the financial panic of 1857. In response, seven members of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association of Boston took advantage of the crisis to establish a frontier town in Colorado Territory.

Dennis Potter, retired Captain of the Jefferson County Colorado Sheriff's Department, criminal justice professor, and previous presenter of the popular "Operation Hideout: The Investigation into the Kidnapping and Murder of Adolph Coors III" returns for this exciting program.

**free** **December 6, 2019, 7 pm**  
**Candlelight Walk 2019**  
*Free for all; no registration*

**December 10, 2019, 6 pm**  
**The Maps that Made America**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

Join Susan Schulten to explore the myriad ways that maps have both reflected and shaped American history, narrating our past from the voyages of discovery to the digital age.

**December 12, 2019, 6 pm**  
**An Empire of the Mind: Science and American Foreign Relations since World War II**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

Learn about the complexities of international relations and how they relate to science and technology.

**January 9, 2020, 6 pm**  
**Make Waves: Water in Contemporary Literature and Film**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

Hear author and Colorado School of Mines Professor Paula Farca discuss current water issues in the era of climate change using a wide variety of recent literature and film.

**2**  
**January 27, 2020, 6 pm**  
**A Golden Crusade: How Colorado Launched a CIA Propaganda Campaign and Helped Eisenhower Win the White House**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

Based on a decade of research, Kenneth Osgood takes you on a tour of the interlocking web that linked Eisenhower, the CIA, and the Centennial State.

**EISENHOWER OPENS WAR ON 'THE BIG LIE'**

**Asks All to Help Build Radio Net to Get Truth About U. S. to People Russia Rules**

**2**



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**February 6, 2020, 6 pm**  
**A Campers' Republic: How Camping Became a National Ritual**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

At first glance, camping out seems like a simple proposition: a chance to get back to nature and get away from it all. A closer look at how this recreational habit got built into American culture and federal infrastructure reveals a more complex story of dying Sequoia trees, the Great Depression, and hopes for democracy.

**February 12, 2020, 6 pm**  
**Unconventional Women of the West**  
*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

In first-person living history, meet five historic characters who share their struggles and triumphs as they visited and lived in the West.

**February 24, 2020, 6 pm**  
**Suing for Freedom: Slavery and the Law in Early America**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

This presentation by Dr. Honor Sachs follows the story of one extended slave family in Virginia who initiated dozens of freedom suits over multiple generations between the American Revolution and the 1820s, claiming freedom by reason of Native American descent.



**March 4, 2020, 6 pm**  
**Pikes Peak: On Common Ground**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

On July 14, 1820 Edwin James performed the first documented climb to the summit of Pikes Peak. In this program you will relive the adventure of Edwin James and the Major Long Expedition through story and photographs from ancestor Mark James.

**3** Pikes Peak, Colorado. Photo © Mark James

**4**  
**March 12, 2020, 6 pm**  
**From Beets to Bayonets: Colorado's War on Migrant Labor**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

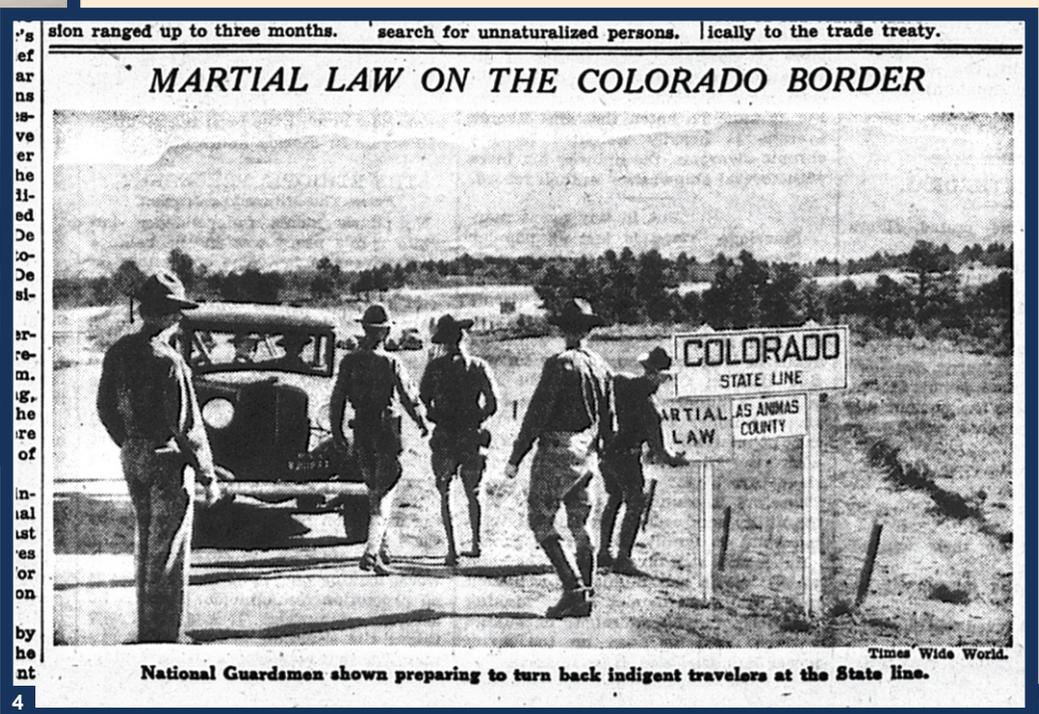
In the early twentieth century, Colorado led the nation in sugar production, thanks to beets harvested by migrant workers across the state. Join Dr. Derek R. Everett of MSU-Denver and Colorado State University to explore the Depression-era war against ethnic migrant labor in Colorado, why it failed, and what lessons it offers for today and tomorrow.

**March 23, 2020, 6 pm**  
**The Dairy Route Through Golden: A Look at How Ten Dollar Milk Cows Gave us Sugar Bowls, Cream Caps, Soda Fountains and Mozzarella Cheese**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

Ever wonder what makes cheese so Gouda? Have you ever wanted a shred of knowledge about utterly interesting dairy facts? Learn about Golden's dairy history from our local historian, Dennis Potter. Partnering with Cheese Ranch owner Rich Nichols, Rich will bring a current day look at how cheese is made and used in a host of foods including Italian. Yes, cheese samples will be provided. How can you be blue when there's cheese around?

**5** Photo © Rich Nichols.



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**April 9, 2020, 6 pm**  
**Wharf Rats from New Orleans**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

On May 3, 1855, three mercenaries boarded a ship in San Francisco and sailed to Nicaragua. The hired guns gave battle to the Nicaraguan troops at Rivas and for a short time opened the South American country to slavery. Rumors abounded in California that these three swam back to the States. Other rumors circulated that they rode stolen horses from California to their destination of Golden City, Colorado Territory. Presented by Dennis Potter.

**April 20, 2020, 6 pm**  
**What are we really arguing about? Environmentalism in the 21st Century**

*Free for members; \$10 for non-members*

Climate change has emerged as the central environmental problem facing humanity in the 21st century. According to NASA, 97% of climate scientists agree that climate change is occurring. There are daily news items featuring truly stunning facts about hurricanes, melting glaciers, and increased turbulence during trans-Atlantic flights. This lecture uses philosophical tools to unpack the competing claims that surround environmental issues, and to provide new ways of looking at the arguments that continue to pit us against each other.



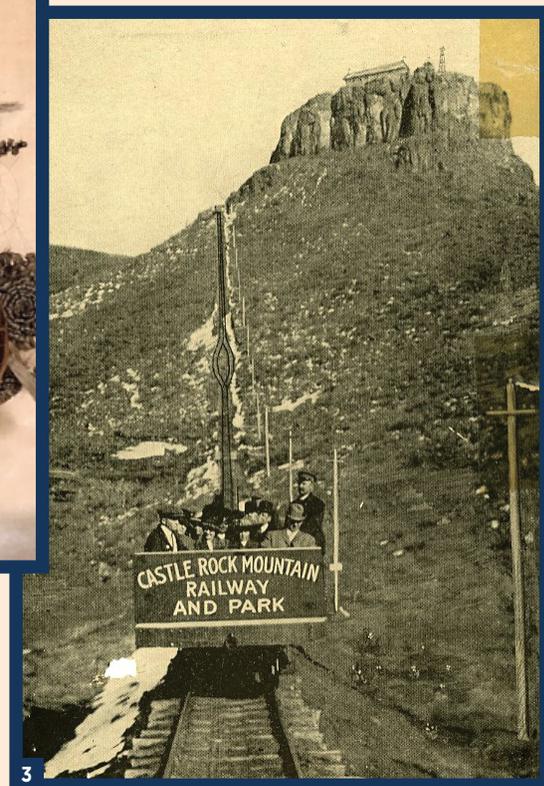
**5**



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# Family Programs

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**1** Storytime.  
Photo © Scott Dressel-Martin

**Saturday, November 16, 2019, 10:30 am  
Golden Past-port Series: Funicular**

Golden History Museum  
Registration required

Free for members, \$5 + fee for non-members (per child)

Earn a stamp for your "past-port!" Join us for funicular fun as we visit the burros in Epic Events and learn about the hikes they used to take up to South Table Mountain. If visitors didn't ride up the mountain on a burro's back, they might climb into a funicular that would pull them up the mountain. We'll try to make our own indoor funicular and imagine what it might be like to see historic Golden from the top of the mountain.

**3** Funicular. Photo © Golden History Museum & Park, City of Golden Collection

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**Saturday, January 25, 2020, 10:30 am  
Golden Past-port Series: Mining**

Golden History Museum  
Registration required  
Free for members; \$5 + fee for non-members (per child)

Think you have what it takes to be a miner? Learn about various mining techniques, see if you can extract chocolate chip "coal" out of cookies, and earn a stamp in your "past-port."

**Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10:30 am  
Golden Past-port Series: Dolls**

Golden History Museum  
Registration required  
Free for members, \$5 + fee for non-members (per child)

Focus on different forms of dolls inspired by the apple-head dolls in *Legendary People*. You'll have a chance to make a clothespin doll before receiving your final "past-port" stamp of the series!

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 10 am  
Storytime**

Golden History Museum  
Free for all, drop-in format

**Golden Past-port Series**  
Attention kids of all ages! Join us at the Golden History Museum for our brand-new "Golden Past-port" series. Each event will take an in-depth look at a museum artifact. Attendees will try new skills, make some art, and take home your own version of the artifact. Earn a stamp for each event you attend and collect as many as you can!

**Saturday, October 19, 2019, 10:30 am  
Golden Past-port Series: Hair Art**

Golden History Museum  
Registration required  
Free for members; \$5 + fee for non-members (per child)

During the Victorian era, family members would remember each other by keeping and displaying their hair. Join us as we discover the hair art at the museum and attempt to make an ornament of our own.

**2** Hair art.

# Museum Collection Inventory Project

**E**ighty years ago, Golden History Museum & Park began collecting artifacts, photographs, and archives to document and preserve Golden's past. Today, the museum houses over 16,000 objects and is the largest, richest collection of Golden history. However, eight decades of management shifts, location moves, evolving collecting and record-keeping practices, institutional mergers, and technological advancements have resulted in a fractured, incomplete, and difficult-to-search collections database. Today, Museum staff are undertaking a major collections inventory to improve, refine and make publically accessible the City's amazing heritage. Mark Dodge, GHM&P Curator, explains more about this important project.

## **Why do a collections inventory?**

Inventories are important for verifying what we actually have in the collection. We can have the greatest artifacts, but if we don't have documentation about what they are or why they are important, what is the point of even having them? Inventories are excellent for security—they help us to check in on the collection. We can determine if location information is accurate, if the condition of an object has changed, and if the description matches the actual item. An inventory also helps us determine if collections are still relevant to the collection scope.

## **What are the goals of the inventory project?**

GHM&P's overall goal is to build the highest quality, most accessible collection possible for the Golden community. By undertaking an inventory we want to understand the breadth of the material in our possession, make sure each record is complete and of the highest quality, and review and understand each object's condition. Ultimately, the museum wants to develop a long-term preservation plan that prioritizes conservation needs and prepares the museum for a hopefully near-future relocation of the collection to a more suitable long-term collection storage facility.

## **What does the inventory process include?**

In sum, our goal is to put our eyes and hands on every single object in the collection and

to update each record accordingly. To do so, we have a work plan to open and unpack every box in storage. Staff will make sure each artifact has an object ID number. We will verify each object number with its corresponding record. If a number cannot be found, a "Found in Collections" number is assigned. Staff will add detail to the record including measurements, an objective description, and photo documentation. Location information with specific room, rack, shelf, and box numbers will be recorded. Each object will be assessed and graded based upon its condition, relevance, and provenance (history). While we anticipate most of the artifacts will remain in the collection, those that are deemed irrelevant or in poor condition could be slated for deaccession—an important tool used for identifying objects for removal and disposal. Last, each object will be rehoused in new archival materials for safe storage.

## **What are some of the challenges of the inventory?**

One of the biggest challenges is that the process is slow and laborious. We estimate it will take 2-3 years to complete the inventory. Opening each box, verifying the records and rehousing requires meticulous attention to detail. Because our collection storage site is not adjacent to the museum, it requires working remotely on laptops with limited connectivity, which slows the process.

Frustratingly, the collections records pertaining to the museum's "legacy collection" (objects collected by different groups prior to the City's administration) are in spotty condition. Approximately 2,500 of 16,000 artifacts have no ID number. To make matters worse, the Museum is still recovering from an ownership dispute in 2008 which led to the destruction of database records by the previous museum administration and loss of legacy information.

This is the first inventory conducted under the city's management. Recovering all of the information lost during the dispute is the ultimate, if unlikely, goal. But, we feel it's not only worth the effort, but our duty to try. And, it's very rewarding when you do. For instance, we recently rediscovered a Civil War sword and scabbard with an



▲ Fine art conservator examines Loveland portrait prior to a treatment.

Photo © Golden History Museum & Park, City of Golden Collection

incomplete record. Through the inventory process, we were able to not only confirm its location, but rebuild some provenance by simply recording the personal detail that was engraved on both the sword and scabbard. Through this process, we were able to confirm a Golden connection that was previously unrecorded. The items belonged to Lt. John T. Larkin who settled here after the war.

## **How will the community benefit from this project?**

The Museum's collection is a public record. It contains a trove of information for citizens, historians, researchers, and posterity. Having a robust historical record, properly archived and tracked artifacts, and an accurate, searchable database will make the objects and information as useful as possible to all people. A prioritized understanding of conservation needs will help guide future actions while removing materials that are irrelevant or in poor condition. It also opens up precious space for future collections. Getting the museum's house in order now will help prepare for a much needed, although yet unplanned move, to a new, more appropriate collections support center. Lastly, we hope this continues to instill trust and confidence in the community that the museum is caring for the City's collection according to the highest professional standards and practices.

Follow the Museum Collection Inventory Project at [GoldenHistory.org/collection](https://www.goldenhistory.org/collection)

# Staff Profile

## Doug Skiba



**I** was raised on a small Wisconsin farm, tending goats, rabbits, chickens, and the like; but for as long as I can remember I couldn't wait to get to the mountains.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 1994, I immediately moved to Colorado and pieced together odd jobs. I pounded nails as a house framer, delivered the Denver Post to coin-op boxes in the middle of the night, and sold fish, birds, and lizards at a pet store. These put bread on the table while I served as an unpaid intern for the American Alpine Club, which had just relocated to Golden from New York City.

Soon after, I spent four years managing national programs and publications for the American Mountain Guides Association—a training and accreditation organization for climbing instructors—also based in Golden. I then detoured north to Missoula, Montana, to work in historic preservation. There I managed a project to preserve an endangered Lewis and Clark campsite called Travelers' Rest. This resulted in a 15-acre state park using a brand new model: public land managed by a nonprofit organization. Swinging south, I landed a dream job as

the Assistant Manager of the Yosemite Mountaineering School. I lived inside the national park for about four years, spending free time climbing thousand-foot cliffs, skiing through ancient forests, or backpacking to spectacular Sierra Nevada lakes.

Following a magnetic attraction back to Colorado, where the air was thinner and the snow was delightfully dry, I managed fundraising for the Colorado Mountain Club for about four years and served as the Assistant Editor of their Trail & Timberline magazine. I also helped a huge team wrap up a decade-long effort to create the long-awaited American Mountaineering Museum. In 2009 I moved two whole blocks west on Golden's 10th Street to coordinate marketing, publications, membership, and development for Golden History Museum & Park. When I'm not looking at a computer screen, collaborating with my fantastic co-workers, or occasionally using my boyhood chicken-rearing skills, I'm either running a mountain trail or doing something outdoorsy with my wife, Heidi. Together, we love to explore high wilderness areas for days or weeks at a time, preferring to sleep on the ground and slowly travel as far from automobiles as possible.

# Volunteer Profile

## GG Donaldson

**G**olden History Museum & Park welcomed nearly a dozen teen volunteers to its ranks this summer to assist Hands-On History camp instructors with daily duties. With ages ranging from 13-16, this year's group was an exceptional cohort of young people that have made it their mission to teach other kids about history.

For GG Donaldson, who started as a camper in 2013, giving back to other kids is a main motivator. "This camp has made me so happy and has been the best part of my summers," said GG, "so I wanted to create that for other kids." GG gave up three weeks of her vacation this year to assist camp instructors, and she demonstrated her value.

"GG is one of those teens that you can really count on," said Grace Brown, Education Assistant at GHM&P. "I knew that she would be willing to support our staff in any way we needed because she is a true team player."

GG especially liked working with the Silent Stars camp, a full-day experience that lets campers become the writers, directors, editors and stars of their very own silent film. She explained, "Because it's entirely camper-led you never know what they are going to come up with, and it's a different experience every time." GG, who is starting eighth grade in the fall, said she would definitely be back next year. The GHM&P staff can't wait.



# Membership

Be a part of Golden history. Become a member today!



## Levels & Benefits

	FREE RANGE (Pay what you wish)	INDIVIDUAL (\$40)	DUAL (\$60)	HOUSEHOLD (\$75)	PATRON (\$125)	BENEFACTOR (\$250)	FOUNDER (\$500)	DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$1,000+)
Free admission for cardholder to almost all programs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
10% merchandise discount	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Special pricing on premium programs and events	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Insider's Discovery</i> events, other special programs	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hands-on History camp discount				●	●	●	●	●
Exclusive early registration for Hands-on History				●	●	●	●	●
Guest passes to almost all programs when accompanied by member				2	3	4	4	4
Recognition on website and donor wall					●	●	●	●
Reciprocal admission and benefits at over 1,000 museums					●	●	●	●
Lunch with the Director								●
<b>SPECIAL FRIENDS OF THE FLOCK BENEFITS</b>								
<i>News From The Coop</i> , featuring updates, games, and puzzles, mailed twice yearly	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Friends of the Flock</i> sticker	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Friends-only programs like <i>Story Time with the Hens</i> , <i>Crafts at the Coop</i> , and <i>Birdy Bedtime</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Name on <i>Friends of the Flock</i> donor panel				●	●	●	●	●
Invitation to Chicken Coop Tours				●	●	●	●	●
Special volunteer opportunities at the coop				●	●	●	●	●
Exclusive tickets to <i>Meet the Chicks</i> event and other special programs				●	●	●	●	●
Personal tour of the coop and hives					●	●	●	●
Exclusive jar of History Park Honey (seasonal availability)					●	●	●	●

## Join or Renew Today

**YES**, I want to support Golden History.

- Director's Circle (\$1,000)     Founder (\$500)  
 Benefactor (\$250)     Patron (\$125)  
 Household (\$75)     Dual (\$60)  
 Individual (\$40)     Free Range (Pay what you wish)

*Seniors (65+) may deduct 10%.*

Please accept my extra, tax-deductible donation of

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other)

**Total enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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*(opt-in for monthly e-newsletter, opt out anytime)*

**Call, mail, or stop in.**

923 10th St., Golden, Colorado 80401 | 303.278.3557

**GoldenHistory.org/member**

Thank you for supporting Golden History Museum & Park

# Golden's Own Chicken Whisperer



*Kennedy holds a White Sultan chick near the newly installed "grazing box" at Golden History Park. The box holds lettuce and other greens which provides the chickens with healthy treats without destroying the live plants.*

By **Andi Pearson**

**W**hen Golden History Museum & Park decided to add to the chicken population, they knew they'd need some help - expert help.

"We are experts on history and education and museums," said Director Nathan Richie, "but chickens... well, let's just say that poultry husbandry is not high on our resumes."

So they called on a local expert, Kennady Schneider, to educate them and to help keep an eye on the chickens who at the time, were just chicks.

"I got interested in chickens when I was nine," says Kennady, who is now 13. "And I signed up with 4-H so I could learn more about them. Chickens are a good beginner project, small and easy to handle, not big like a goat or cow. We have six chickens in our backyard."

Kennady has won blue ribbons for her chickens and last year, Buffy, an Orpington,

and Kennady were the Grand Champions. Her experience and knowledge makes Kennady the perfect person to help look after the Golden History Park brood.

"I walk around the coop regularly and provide triage. Recently, we were checking on the new feathers coming in and discovered that one chicken had a broken toe. We put it in a splint using a Popsicle stick and within a week, it was healed. Chickens have a high pain tolerance so we need to keep an eye on things and make sure we know what's going on with them. That way, we catch things early and we can help them."

What's the most interesting part of raising chickens for Kennady? "It's the social interaction," she says. "Chickens can be bullied if they show vulnerability so they need to stick together. They can also set up an alarm in case of a threat to the coop. They like being social."

And what does this middle schooler's future look like; does it include chickens? "I'm interested in the medical aspect so I may

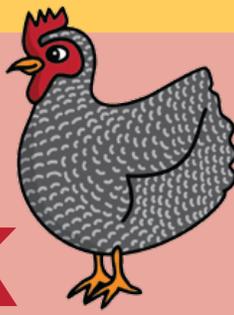
think about being a vet or being a doctor and helping humans. I've learned a lot from these chickens and the hands-on aspect of helping appeals to me."

Any advice for someone thinking of getting a flock? "Do your homework," she says emphatically. "Remember that chickens, or any animals, make a mess so you'll need to be willing to clean up. They need to be fed and cared for and they make noise. Know what you are getting into before you adopt a pet, any pet."

"We're so grateful for her involvement and expertise," says Richie. "She knows what to look for and how to manage these birds so they stay healthy and happy. That way, we can all enjoy them."

Drop by the Golden History Park on 11th Street and watch the chickens, give them a little food from the dispenser or just listen to their clucking, knowing they receive tender attention and constant observation from the staff and from Golden's own Chicken Whisperer, Kennady Schneider.

# Friends of the Flock



## Hello Friends!

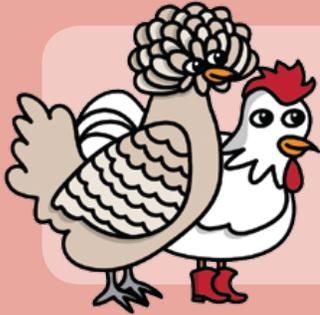
Greetings from the coop. Wow, what a busy year it has been so far! This spring we welcomed new chicks to our home. Did you get a chance to see them at the History Museum when they were just hatched? They were adorable! By June they had grown large enough to join the rest of us hens in the coop. It's been a bit of an adjustment, but we just love our new friends!

This spring we also went on an exciting vacation! We spent one week at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds while new concrete floors were poured in the coop and barn. It

was a lovely trip, but it's always nice to come home—and it's so clean and safe now!

Last but not least, we welcomed YOU as our new Friend of the Flock! So far we've made fun crafts, read hilarious stories, and played silly games. We even dyed Easter eggs and threw a birthday bash for the new chicks! If you haven't made it down yet for a program, check out the listing in this newsletter and visit soon. See you at the coop!

—The Hens



## Chicken Crack-Ups

**Q:** Why did the chicken cross the basketball court?

**A:** He heard the referee calling fowls

**Q:** What do chickens serve at birthday parties?

**A:** Coop-cakes!

## Golden History Museum & Park Donors

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Golden Civic Foundation  
John and Andi Pearson  
Scientific and Cultural  
Facilities District  
Pat Spieles and Carol McMurry

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# Hands-on History

**H**ands-on History summer camp is a fun-filled weeklong day camp for kids aged 6 to 12 in the beautiful Golden History Park. Campers will use their hands as much as their brains, whether in Dirty Jobs, Pioneer Kids, or History Mystery. In our full-day Silent Stars, exclusively for kids aged 9 to 12, campers will write, direct, and star in their own silent movie.

Half and full-day options are available for all age groups; Silent Stars is ONLY available as a full day.

Exclusive members-only (Household level and up) registration runs from January 1-14.

Non-member registration will open January 15, 2020. Register before February 29, 2020 to receive an early-bird discount. Some camps fill very quickly, so keep an eye on the calendar!

Learn more at [GoldenHistory.org/HOH](https://GoldenHistory.org/HOH) or by calling 303.278.3557.

