



P. L. Historical Society

Serving The Palmer Divide Area Since 1956



In case you wanted to know:

- **Museum hours:** 10-2 PM Sat. and 1-4 PM Wed., June to Aug.
- PLHS President: Phyllis Bonser
- Vice-President: Al Walter
- Secretary: Judith Harrington
- Treasurer: Victor Vaile
- Museum Director: Rogers Davis
- Board Members at Large:
 - Kim Braun
 - Pat McCarthy
 - Hans Post
- Editor: Dee Kirby
- Managing Editor: Rogers Davis
- Mountain Lion: "Old Disappearance"

Inside this issue:

What's New at the Museum	2
A Message from the President	2
January 20, 2011 Annual Historical Society Pot-Luck Dinner	2
Monthly Program Recap for Sept. through November	3
Getting Acquainted with the Vaile Museum	4

Remembering Evalena Macy

By: Dee Kirby

Pastor of the Little Log Church from 1930 to 1959, Evalena Macy was born near Emporia, Kansas of Quaker parentage. A member of the Society of Friends, she received her B. A. degree from Friends University in Wichita and her Masters degree from Columbia University, New York. She served as a missionary and teacher in Banos, Ote., Cuba from 1920 to 1923. Ill health brought her to the drier climate of Colorado. For two years she lay in a bed. She wrote that to be without friends and family in a far away place, perhaps waiting to die, tested her faith in a "God of love and mercy."

During her convalescence, Macy realized that she "no longer wanted to die." She wrote that her attitudes, mind and heart began to change. She prayed to God to restore her faith and pledged to serve him again. Upon her release from the sanatorium, Macy boarded with college friends of hers who taught school in Palmer Lake. She attributed her restored health to the air, beauty of God's world, good food, Christian friends, and a power greater than herself.

In 1930, she became pastor of the Little Log Church.

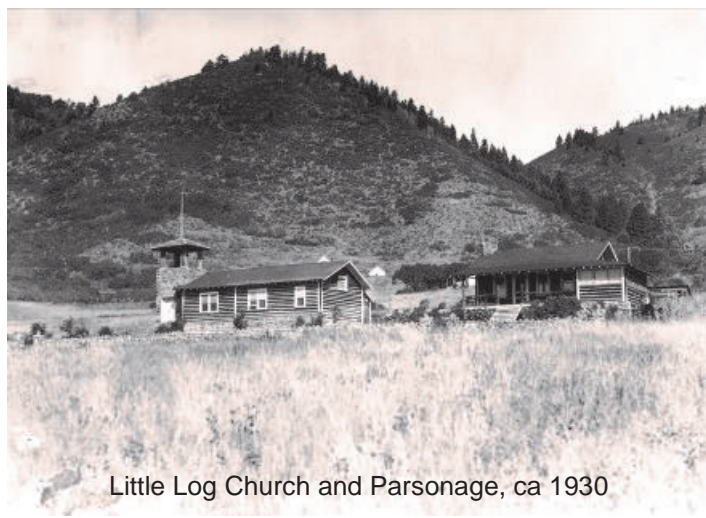
Her parish extended beyond Palmer Lake to the "mountains and rolling hills" or wherever people had a spiritual or physical need. The community of Palmer Lake bestowed the title, "Beloved Shepherdess of the Hills" to Macy. During her 29 years of ministrations, she knew "neither race, nor color, nor creed."

Macy was encouraged by Lucretia Vaile to begin a Yule Log tradition similar to the one held at Lake Placid Club in New York. It took Macy three years to gather courage to present the plan to the Youth Group. In 1933, Macy and the Youth Group started the old English custom which is observed still. Macy considered the "festivity" as a community gift to the Pikes Peak Region.

Affectionately called 'Miss Macy,' she was described as having serene composure and an innate goodness that emanated from her. Fern Britt wrote, "She was a central figure in the affairs of the whole town and exerted her influence for good in the most reprehensible people. Everyone trusted her implicitly."



Evalena Macy ca 1958



Little Log Church and Parsonage, ca 1930

What's New at the Museum?

By: Roger Davis

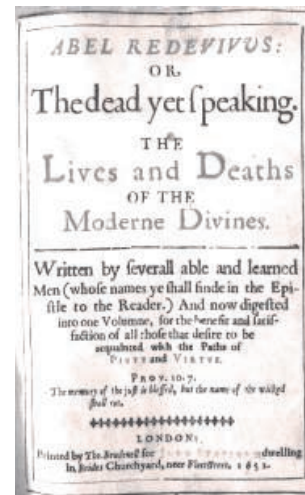
In the spirit of the season we have a new exhibit of religious books and artifacts on display. The exhibit items have been loaned by Judy Harrington and Pastor John Snyder.

"Some of the older religious books date back to the 1600's. There are also musical scores and a Bible with illustrations of the type found in early bibles."

The Hexapla, a commentary on Paul's letter to the Romans, was written by Andrew Willet, an English pastor and theologian and published in 1620.

The Dead Yet Speaking (r) 1651, contains short biographies and appreciative comments about a number of Protestant leaders, including, Martin Luther and John Calvin.

Both are on display at the museum.



“Without faith nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.”

Mary McLeod
Bethune (1875 - 1955)

A Message from the President

Greetings and Happy New Year!

It was a very busy 2010, I must say. The Historical Calendars have been mailed to out-of-towners. The photo book, *Communities of the Palmer Divide*, has been proofed for the last time and is awaiting release in March. The book was the result of many volunteer-hours. We look forward to its release in March. I think it will help with the fact that we have three local history booklets out of print. We still plan to reprint those, but it will be nice to have this new book that covers our whole area from Table Rock on the east, Palmer Lake on the west, Greenland on the north and

the Air Force Academy on the south.

We will have a number of book-signing type events throughout the community where-in we will have a short power-point presentation sampling the book and have the books on sale. Watch for their announced dates, and I hope to see you at one of the events.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual potluck and membership renewal meeting on January 20th when we will get a peek at the new book through a short power point presentation. The new board will also be elected.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the four years as president

and two years as vice president of the Society. I thank you all for your help in our various activities. We have done much to preserve the local history of the Palmer Divide, a unique place to live, and with all your help will continue to do so in the future.

A non-profit organization like ours needs many volunteers. Please consider how you can use your talents to help.

VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU
ALL FOR HELPING IN OUR
VARIOUS PROJECTS!

Happy New Year to you all.

Phyllis V. Bonser



PLHS Upcoming Events and Programs

All upcoming events held at the Palmer Lake Town Hall on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

**January 20, 2011
6:30 PM**

Annual potluck and member-

ship renewal meeting. Meat, Drinks and Dishes will be provided. Bring a food of choice to share. Elect board members and enjoy a 15 minute summary of the upcoming book, *Communities of the*

Palmer Divide. Bring an historical item that may/could have pertained to the history of the Palmer Divide and tell us about it. Stories of the “good old days” are welcome as well.



September: Florissant: Colorado Pioneer Cemetery

Text paraphrased from Bernard L. Minettie's article in Our Community News

Laura Moncrief, author, researcher, and lecturer, who became interested in the backgrounds of the pioneers buried in the Florissant cemetery a few miles from her home, spoke to PLHS on September 16. She said that she and her two daughters spent many hours combing the archives, vari-

ous libraries, county courthouses, old newspapers and other local cemeteries to gather the historical backgrounds of the people.

Various reasons drove the pioneers west. Some escaped from unhappy circumstances in their lives, others sought fortune in the California gold fields while many took advantage of the Homestead Act

passed by Congress in 1862 and rushed west to establish homesteads in the Colorado high country.

Many pioneers settled around Florissant named by its first resident, James Castello, after his hometown in the state of Missouri. Approximately 70 residents resided in the town of Florissant when Colorado became a state in 1876. In 1886, the Florissant Ceme-

tery Association was formed by Frank Castello, John Wilson and Valentine Hamman.

In close association with friend, Nancy M. Boyed, who helped with the research, Moncrief said they decided to co-author a book to provide a "one-stop short biographical notation of the many pioneers who were residents at that time and were interred in the area."

October: The Life of Julia Archibald Holmes

Text paraphrased from Bernard L. Minettie's article to Our Community News.

At the PLHS October 21 meeting, Pikes Peak Community College American history Professor Kathy Sturdevant narrated a presentation about "Bloomer Girl" Julia Archibald Holmes, an avid women's rights activist and abolitionist.

"Bloomers" symbolized the

struggle for women's



suffrage. They were loose trousers worn below the knees beneath a short skirt. Holmes adopted the outfit, added a pair of moccasins, a hat and called her outfit an "American Costume."

Holmes and her husband, James, migrated to Colorado to partake of the 1858 gold rush. They eagerly explored the Front Range and, in June 18, 1858, they first viewed the splendor of Pikes Peak.

Believed to be the first white woman to climb Pikes Peak, Holmes ascended the "fourteener" on August 5, 1858, dressed in her "American Costume."

Holmes and her husband moved to New Mexico. Fluent in Spanish, she became a correspondent for the New York Tribune. Later, Holmes moved to Washington D.C. She died in January 1887.

November: Go West Young Woman

Text paraphrased from Bernard L. Minettie's article to Our Community News

At the PLHS meeting on November 18, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Professor Bridget Hollingsworth related the struggles of early Colorado pioneering women as prospectors, miners and other professionals. Though they played significant roles in the mining camps as professionals and wives, they had a difficult time due to non-acceptance by the mining

communities.

Ellen Elliott Jack, a widow who lost four children to scarlet fever, prospected in the area of Gunnison. She succeeded as part owner of the Black Queen Mine. Whereas, a young medical graduate by the name of Susan Anderson attempted to establish a medical practice in Cripple Creek but was met with skepticism.

After her presentation, Hollingsworth then asked people to share their

"impressions of life in the mining camps in Colorado."

We learned what real women actually did in the mining camps of Colorado, which is often contradictory to how they are portrayed by popular history.

"I do not fear man or devil; it is not in my blood, and if they can shoot any straighter or quicker than I, let them try it, for a

.44 equalizes frail women and brute men, and all women ought to be able to protect themselves against such ruffians."

- "Captain Jack", prospector



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Stamp



Address Label

"History Should Be More Than a Memory." (rmd)

Visit Us At: <http://www.PalmerDivideHistory.org>

Getting Acquainted With The Lucretia Vaile Museum

The Palmer Lake Historical Society was founded in 1956.

In addition to preserving and disseminating information about the history of the past, the Society looks to the future by recording and discussing the history being made today. By participating in the Society's activities, Tri-Lakes residents enjoy a sense of the mutual history all area people share.

The Society meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Palmer Lake Town Hall. Meetings feature historical presentations, refreshments, and the promotion of neighborliness among Tri-Lakes residents. An annual membership is \$10 for sin-

gles, \$15 for family, and open to all.

Under the auspices of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, the Lucretia Vaile Museum opened in 1981. It is dedicated to the advancement of learning and the preservation of our area's history. The Vaile Museum preserves many photos, articles, and artifacts significant to the historical "Divide" area, a broad geographical territory that includes the Tri-Lakes and surrounding locations. The Vaile Museum, which is free to all visitors, is open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm, and also on Weds. 1pm-4pm June through August. It is located at the corner of Lower Glenway and Valley Crescent on

the Palmer Lake Village Green.

Individual tours and historical research times may also be arranged by calling the museum at 559-0837.

Do visit us. We may be small but our patrons and visitors are sometimes surprised and always pleased with the completeness of the exhibits and displays.

We are the best kept "secret" of the Palmer Divide.



Lucretia Vaile

