

Volume XI Number 1

April 2017 through July 2017

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## Palmer Lake Historical Society

### Board of Directors 2017

President - Tom Baker

Vice President - J. Patrick McCarthy

Secretary - R. Michael Walker

Treasurer - Melissa Robohn (interim)

Museum Director - Rogers Davis

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Su Ketchmark, Community Liaison

Rodger Voelker  
vacant

Sigi Walker (*ex officio*): Newsletter

## Mark your 2017 Calendars

Sunday, June 18, 2017, 2-4 PM

ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FREE pie and ice cream!

Music on the Green

## Program Schedule: April 2017 – July 2017

April 20, 2017, 7:00 PM – "The Alexander Film Company" – Steve Antonuccio

May 18, 2017, 7:00 PM - "Charles Good-night in Colorado" - Laurel Campbell and Linda Crawford

June 18, 2017, 7:00 PM - "Hummingbirds: Up Close and Personal" - Jerry DalFerro

July 20, 2017, 7:00 PM - "Pete Seeger: A Musical Portrait" - Dan Blegan



## Contributing to this issue:

Tom Baker John Snyder  
Bill Thomas Mike & Sigi Walker

Thanks to all who reviewed and commented!

A Newsletter of the

# Palmer Lake Historical Society

and the

*Lucretia Vaile Museum*

## The Legacy of Sheldon Jackson in Colorado

### Part I: *Stuck in a Palmer Lake Storm*

Everyone who has lived for a while in the Tri-Lakes area has a story or two about a memorable snowstorm. We know, however, that there were more and bigger storms during the early settlers' days. The pioneer missionary, Sheldon Jackson, who founded the Monument Community Presbyterian Church in 1874, described one such storm that trapped his train in Palmer Lake one winter night.

Jackson wrote for a newspaper that a Denver and Rio Grande train, pulled by an engine nicknamed "Ouray," got stuck in high drifts in Palmer Lake. The passengers made the best of it by making themselves a formal organization. Jackson was elected secretary, and we can see that he knew how to have a good time. He wrote a report as follows: "Pursuant to a call previously published, the passengers on Car Denver came to order at 7 o'clock p.m., December 23, ten feet deep in a drift on the Divide. After much discussion it was decided that the name of the association should be and hereby is 'The Divide Snowbound Association.' It was objected that the association did not seem to be *bound* anywhere just now. The chairman could not see the *drift* of that remark, but was only *railed* at for saying so. (Loud laughter by the passengers and howling by the wolves outside)."

Jackson continued: "The chairman then produced the following poem entitled *Drifting*, which is respectfully dedicated to the Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge railway.

Squirring along on the mountain side,  
Over the slopes of the great divide,  
Little, but awfully puffed with pride  
As the giant of the age.

Snorting its way through the forest glades,  
Climbing the stiffest sort of grades,  
Ever cut by the king of spades  
Is the rail of the narrow gauge.

Like lonely sentries cold and grand  
The lofty summits on either hand  
Guard the route of the Rio Grande  
With a care that's simply votive,

And the moaning pines far up the peaks  
Shiver and shake as the horrid shrieks  
And the savage Lilliputian squeaks  
Of the plaything locomotive...

Up the slopes of the great divide,  
Puffing along with conscious pride,  
With a fair haired boy and his lovely bride,  
Pants the little "Ouray."

Till stuck in a drift of virgin snow,  
(Cutting its way through a cut, you know)  
The little monster stops to blow,  
Then on again with a "hooray."

Hardly a memory lingers now  
Of the balmy air that swept the brow  
Of the engineer, while the engine plow  
Sped along the Rio,

And he heaved a sigh of sad regret,  
And whistles "We may be happy yet,  
Opening the throttle wide, you bet,  
With a muttered "mucho frio!"

Five p.m. by Pepper's clock,  
(A big round thing like a butcher's block)  
When up we come with a sudden shock,  
Stuck beyond redemption;

And all night long in the howling storm,  
With blankets round each shivering form,  
We hug the fire that keeps us warm,  
In our cabin of pre-emption.

After two passengers ventured into the storm to find a little food from a Palmer Lake family, the group settled in for the long night. Before that, however, they adopted the following statement: "*Resolved*, that the thanks of the association be tendered to the officers and employees of the narrow-gauge for the efficient manner in which they propelled the train into the several snow banks and the persistent manner in which they kept us there all night, and their final success in digging us out the next day."

Part I of this article was contributed by John Snyder, Pastor of Monument Community Presbyterian Church for 14 years. The story brought two questions to mind: Who was the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, and what photos of Palmer Divide snowstorms could we find?  
*(continued on page 4)*

## President's Message



The Palmer Lake Historical Society is off to a great start in 2017. The annual Potluck Dinner and Membership Meeting in January was a big success, with over 70 attendees, fine food, and lots of visiting among friends, old and new. Everyone was treated to a lively ragtime piano performance by Joe Bohler. We hope you are using and enjoying the Tri-Lakes Historical Calendar. Joe once again contributed the cover art. Members present at the meeting elected officers of the Board of Directors for 2017. They are Tom Baker (president), Pat McCarthy (vice president), Mike Walker (secretary), and Melissa Robohn (interim treasurer). Continuing to serve on the Board are Su Ketchmark (Community Liaison), Rodger Voelker, Rogers Davis (Lucretia Vaile Museum director), and Sigi Walker (ex officio member and newsletter editor).

The 2017 line-up of programs for the Monthly History Series offers a wide range of local and Colorado history topics. Look over the list of upcoming programs and join us for as many as you can. All programs start at 7:00 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall and are free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served. Don't forget to put Father's Day, June 18, on your calendar and attend the annual Ice Cream Social on the Village Green.

This Newsletter's feature article, to which John Snyder contributed, reminds us of *mucho frío* winters of the past and the community spirit needed to get through them.

Please consider joining PLHS or renewing your membership. The Society operates exclusively through volunteers. We have a variety of jobs for willing hands. Please consider donating some of your time and talent. Contact us by e-mail at [plhs@plalmerdividehistory.org](mailto:plhs@plalmerdividehistory.org) or call 719-559-0837 for more information and to volunteer.

Tom Baker

Below: Your hard working 2017 board



## THEN AND NOW: Palmer Divide Photos Past and Present

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!



Above: Although not a Palmer Divide photo, *In the Deep Cut on Pikes Peak Carriage Road* is breathtaking in depicting the amount of snow that had to be dealt with.

Photo courtesy of Pikes Peak Library District, No. 013-418

Winter delays and breakdowns in railroad travel were more often experienced in October, December, January, and April as reported in the *Rocky Mountain News*, *Pueblo Chieftain*, and *Denver Post* between 1871 and 1921. PLHS member Dan Edwards' book, *A Century of Railroading at Palmer Lake, 1871-1971*, provides reprints of many of these reports.

The railroad most often reported as "getting stuck" is the Denver & Rio Grande. But, the Santa Fe, Colorado Midland, Missouri Pacific, Rock Island, and Colorado & Southern, who at various times also served Palmer Lake, were reported stuck as well.

On April 17, 1900, the *Denver Post* report states that "at Palmer Lake . . . the drifts are 20 feet in height." At this time, the D&RG, SF, and C&S all had trains stuck or had to cancel service originating in Pueblo or Denver.



Above: In *The Communities of the Palmer Divide*, this photo is described as follows: Several unidentified people stand on a 20-foot snowdrift in front of Higby's store [in Monument] after a 1913 storm that struck in early fall. Vaile Museum



Above: Dan Edwards' book, *A Century of Railroading at Palmer Lake, 1871-1971*, contains this 1921 photo entitled "A Rio Grande snowplow at work at Palmer Lake." Vaile Museum

## *Upcoming PLHS Programs and Events April 2017 through July 2017*

**Social Hour at 6:30 PM, Presentations begin at 7:00 PM in the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 28 Valley Crescent Street**

### **Thursday, April 20, 2017 – "The Alexander Film Company"**

**Presenter: Steve Antonuccio**



Founded in Spokane, WA, in 1919, the Alexander Film Company moved to Englewood, CO, in 1923, and then to Colorado Springs in 1928. Here the company produced by the early 1950s between 2000 and 3000 advertisement films a year. But the advent of television and the closing of many local theaters in the late 1950s dealt it a crippling blow.

Steve Antonuccio is a Pikes Peak area writer, producer, and videographer. He was a 1991 Heartland Region Emmy nominee for "Everybody Welcome: The Story of Fannie Mae Duncan and the Cotton Club" and 2000 nominee for "The Treasure of the Cripple Creek Mining District."

### **Thursday, May 18, 2017 – "Charles Goodnight in Colorado"**

**Presenters: Laurel Campbell and Linda Crawford**



This presentation, illustrated with both old and new slides, covers the history of Charles Goodnight's life: his arrival in Texas, jobs as a youth and teen (including Indian Scout and Texas Ranger), early interest in Texas Longhorns, partnership with Oliver Loving and their cattle drives, the settling of Rock Canyon Ranch near Pueblo, CO, in 1868 on which he built his magnificent stone barn in 1870, and his eventual move to the Palo Duro Canyon in the Panhandle of Texas in 1876.

Laurel Campbell and Linda Crawford are co-chairs of the Goodnight Barn Historic Preservation Committee, devoted to restoring Goodnight's historic 1870 stone barn. Their involvement with other preservation organizations has brought the restoration project into focus along with much-needed grant funding.

### **Thursday, June 15, 2017 – "Hummingbirds - Up Close and Personal"**

**Presenter: Jerry DalFerro**



Just in time for summer, the fascinating world of hummingbirds is presented through a slide show of stunning photographs that highlight the natural beauty of this area. The hummingbird's specialized skeletal structure allows its wings to twist, producing 22 to 78 movements per second and allowing the bird to hover forward and backward while it drinks from a flower. The family of hummingbirds contains the smallest birds in the world.

Palmer Lake resident Jerry DalFerro is well-known for attracting large numbers of hummingbirds to his feeders and then taking stunning photographs of them. In the photo at left, you can almost hear the humming of the wings of a broad-tailed hummingbird hovering above a honey-suckle flower.

### **Sunday, June 18, 2017, 2-4 PM**

**SPECIAL EVENT – FREE**

**Annual Father's Day Ice Cream Social**

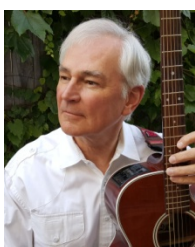


We continue a decades-old tradition. The Palmer Lake Historical Society, with donations from the Rock House Ice Cream Shop and the Monument Village Inn restaurant, invites Dads and their families from the local area to join us in this annual event. Special music will be provided for this event. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and relax on the green while you tap your toes to the music and enjoy a tasty treat of pie and ice cream.



### **Thursday, July 20, 2017 – "Pete Seeger: A Musical Portrait"**

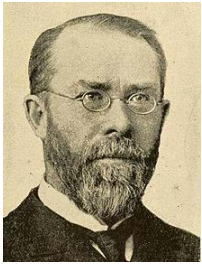
**Presenter: Dan Blegen**



Until his death in 2014 at age 94, Pete Seeger was one of the country's most influential voices. Singing traditional ballads and his own compositions, Seeger ignited the folk music revival of the 1960s and championed freedom and dignity for all. He united and empowered audiences - and he got them singing! This program is an informative and entertaining evening for audiences all ages, both those who remember the music fondly and those who may be hearing it for the first time. Plan on singing along!

Dan Blegen initiated his unique docu-concert format in 2012 with the premiere of *Hard Travelin': Woody Guthrie's Life and Songs*. A retired secondary and college teacher, he is a published author, poet, and playwright, and has written extensively about the arts for local newspapers and national magazines.

## The Legacy of Sheldon Jackson in Colorado: Part 2: *Sheldon Jackson, his life and times* (continued from page 1)



Sheldon Jackson was born in eastern New York in 1834 and graduated from Union College, Schenectady, in 1855. In 1858 he graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary, became an ordained Presbyterian minister, and married Mary Vorhees. His goal was to become a missionary overseas, but the Presbyterian board told the 5-foot Jackson (who had weak eyesight and was often ill) he was better suited for duty in the United States. It was around the time of the Civil War, and vast areas of the north-central and western U.S. were only lightly populated. He first worked at the Choctaw mission in Oklahoma Territory, but poor health forced him to go back East in 1859. After recovering, he went to southeastern Minnesota and spent ten years organizing or helping to establish twenty-three churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

*Left: Sheldon Jackson, May 18, 1834 - May 2, 1909*

Then, in the summer of 1869, Jackson went on a missionary tour throughout the American West, establishing a church a day. The transcontinental railroad had been completed, which, along with stage lines, opened a huge territory for him. He became the Presbyterian Missions Superintendent for Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah Territory, Arizona Territory, and New Mexico Territory. From 1872 to 1882, he published the *Rocky Mountain Presbyterian* denominational newspaper, which

Monument Presbyterian Church



included pictures of places in the West. Ultimately Jackson supervised the building of churches in at least twenty-two Colorado locations, including Greeley, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Monument, Ouray, and Fairplay. During his career he travelled about one million miles and established more than 100 missions and churches.

In 1874, while in Fairplay in Park County, Colorado, Jackson built the still standing Sheldon Jackson Memorial Chapel. It is a one-room Victorian Gothic structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977 and has been renamed the South Park Community Church.



South Park Community Church, Fairplay

In 1877, Reverend Jackson found his major life's work in the new territory of Alaska. He became committed to the Christian spiritual, educational, and economic wellbeing of the Alaska Natives and founded numerous schools and training centers that served these native people in the belief that Americanization was the key to their future. In 1885, Sheldon Jackson was appointed the General Agent of Education in the Alaska Territory. But his "English only" educational policy has resulted in few indigenous Alaskans able to still speak indigenous languages in the 21st century.

Sheldon Jackson continues to be remembered in Colorado. In October 2015, the Park County Historical Society enjoyed John Redmond's portrayal of Rev. Jackson. The First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs has named one of its large community rooms the "Sheldon Jackson room." And the sign in front of the original church building in Monument reads "Sheldon Jackson Chapel, Established 1874."

*Portions of Part 2 were excerpted from Wikipedia*

### Lucretia Vaile Museum Hours:

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM all year  
 Wednesday 1 - 3 PM Sept - May  
 Wednesday 1 - 4 PM June - August  
 1st Thursday of month: 10 AM-noon  
 For information or tour requests,  
 call 559-0837 and leave a message.

*Coming August 12, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.*



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Visit the PLHS website by scanning our QR code with your smart phone.



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Note: All submissions may be edited for content, grammar, and space allocations, and become the property of the Palmer Lake Historical Society unless other arrangements have been made. Digital word submissions in .doc or .docx, photos in .jpg format, please. Submit pieces and photos to Editor at mikensigi@comcast.net

*Don't miss this fun-filled family event!  
 Portrayals, Demonstrations, Music, and More*

