



NORTHEASTERN COLORADO HERITAGE LEAGUE

JUNE 2015

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NECHL TO SPONSOR WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

On May 11, Chris Ruth, chairman for the Wreaths Across America project spoke to your Board of Directors about the event. The board had agreed that Northeastern Colorado Heritage League would sponsor the 2015 project after the Daughters gave up their sponsorship of the event in the Greeley area.

The plan is for us to sell wreaths beginning in September for \$10.00. They will be mounted on the grave sites for the December 12 event.

Chris planned to start advertising the program at the Armed Forces Day ceremony on May

16 at Bittersweet Park and Memorial Day ceremony at Linn Grove Cemetery on May 25.

We plan to have a presence at the Centennial Celebration for Historic Barn on August 1 at the A.H. Myers barn from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A.H. Myers, an Eaton pioneer, built the barn in 1915 and farmed the property until his death in 1947.

What will be offered at this celebration?

History talks and barn tours

Photo ops with tractors and horse drawn equipment

Arts, crafts and collectibles fair, and history related information
Artist's booths

Hand built furniture

Story Barn's furniture repurposed wood

Barn Quilts

Writer of country life & historic books

Art Show featuring numerous artists in a variety of media creating images of the barn

Eaton Historical Society

Sounds like fun. Hope to see you there.

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Myers100Barn>

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Wreaths \$10 this year
- First Colorado baby born at Latham Station
- Kersey Days will be fun on August 1
- Bruce Ford, a real "bronc buster"

MERCY, MERCY, FLOODING IN "KERCY"

Are you as disgusted as I am when TV announcers pronounce our neighboring town's name as "Kercy"? It is spelled Kersey; why don't they call it Kersey?

We are addressing Kersey and Latham Station (or Fort Latham) this issue. We will be looking for special events we could attend this summer, catch up with the Wreaths Across America, and include a

word or two about the art show slated for September.

Again, I am asking for input from our readers for pictures, story ideas, and volunteer opportunities.

Your editor apologizes for the major goof that kept many of you from receiving a copy of my letter reminding you of the Heritage Fair in Fort Lupton.

A few of us did make it and

enjoyed our experience. The buffalo burgers were pretty good, also.

My camera is messed up so I could not share the pictures I took at Ft. Lupton. Hope I can retrieve them and share then next time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

President, 2015	Susan Harris	Directors, 2015-16	Ron/Sally Harms
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Secretary/Treasurer	Olive Richter	Past Past Presidents/Non voting	
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CEMETERY TOURS

This past Saturday, June 20, at 9:00 a.m. the first of three monthly tours of the Linn Grove Cemetery took place.

Mike and Linda Peters, and Olive Richter plan to follow up with tours in July and August. Folks who have taken the tours find them to be very interesting. It is amazing how much important history can be learned from these tours. Actually cemeteries can be fun! Volunteers are appreciated. Contact Mike, Linda or Olive to volunteer. Tours start at 9:00 a.m. when it's cooler.

NECOHL BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 8, 2015 MINUTES

The board of the Northeastern Colorado Heritage League met June 8, 2015 at The Egg & I West, at 11:30. Six members were present: President, Susan Harris and Directors: Louanne Timm, Ron and Sally Harms, and Joyce Carr, as well as Starr Jageler, non-voting Past President. Bill and Cheryl Jackson, Linda and Mike Peters, Ruth Fritz, Olive Richter and Gabe Lopez were excused. Gabe, Ruth and Olive were the only voting members, therefore it was determined we had a quorum. Meeting was called at 12:24.

Reports of President Susan and Director Joyce were heard. Susan has set the calendar for future meetings: July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, and November 9. (We do not meet in December).

Susan reported Treasurer's

balances: Checking account - \$4,076.97 and Savings account - \$425.23.

Also, dues reminder letter has been sent out.

Education-Genealogy classes will be held by Linda Peters later.

Membership-It was suggested we plan a membership campaign. Joyce recommended our President-Elect, Ruth Fritz, be appointed as membership chair. No action taken, as Ruth was not present.

Unfinished business-Ron Harms moved and Sally Harms seconded that we ratify our e-vote to allow \$50.00 for the printing of two 2'X6' banner for the Wreaths Across America and \$500.00 for the expenses associated with Wreaths Across America. Had a consensus to accept.

Starr Jageler showed her design for the banners.

Group suggested she add "Preserving Northeastern Colorado History" along the bottom of the design. Starr given okay to proceed with the printing of the banners.

Starr had volunteered to take over Linda's duties for the art show. Starr reported Collette will be there for the hanging of the art pieces but will not be there for the reception, so Starr will be working with U.N.C. to run the reception. We will be hanging the art on August 29.

We were reminded that the first tour of Linn Grove Cemetery for the summer would be June 20 at 9:00.

President Susan has an appointment with the Greeley mayor to find out what we can do about getting a Greeley archive.

We decided by consensus that we would print the minutes of our board meet-

ings in the newsletter and on the website. Joyce observed communication with the membership would be improved by allowing them to see what we are accomplishing and to understand our needs when we ask for volunteers. It may encourage more participation in our projects.

We plan to have a display for Northeastern Colorado Heritage League at the Historic Barn celebration on August 1. More information will be forthcoming.

Meeting was adjourned.

Joyce C. Carr, Interim Secretary

Ed. Note: In order to better communication with our members, the board decided to share its meeting minutes with you. Hopefully, this information will help you feel more connected to our organization's projects and plans for the future.

KERSEY

Just east of Greeley four or five miles lies a small but lively community of fewer than 2000 people, Kersey, Colorado. The site was originally called Orr. But, in 1882, it became a point on the route of the Union Pacific Railroad; a point of interest between Julesburg and LaSalle. John Kersey Painter bestowed his middle name to the location in 1896 to honor his grandfather. The town was not incorporated until 1908.

The town of Kersey lies a short distance from the confluence of the Cache La Poudre and the South Platte Rivers. High water is often a concern in the area, thus we hear "...possible flooding in Kersey," from our T.V. announcers. In September, 2013, Kersey was hit badly by the Northern Colorado flood. Traffic on a major U.S. highway was cut off west of Kersey, as a huge chunk of the roadway was washed away on U.S. 34 right at the confluence. Bruce Ford had high praise for the Kersey residents for their generous response to the Ford family's needs after his family was flooded out.

BRUCE FORD, COWBOY

In 2013 one of the more famous residents of the Kersey area, Bruce Ford, lost his home to the September flood. Bruce was born in Greeley on October 7, 1952. Bruce and his wife, Sherry, raised their children, Royce and Courtney, near Kersey. Bruce rode bareback broncos in the rodeo circuit and gained fame with five world titles to his credit. Also, Bruce made 18 appearances in National Finals Rodeo, nine

Mountain Circuit bareback titles and more rodeo titles than you could count. He was the first cowboy to earn more than \$100,00 in one event. When he retired, he earned a spot on a special list of pro rodeo cowboys to achieve over \$1,000,000 in career earnings with \$1,043,224.

Bruce was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1993 and was the first professional cowboy to be inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1994, a photography documentary, produced by Arthur Elgort, won Best Cinematography at the Sundance Festival. The film was titled, "Colorado Cowboy: the Bruce Ford Story".

After retirement from competition, Bruce and Sherry built up a school on their spread near Kersey to teach rodeo skills. Riding the circuit is brutal business-tough on the body and tough on the family. But, as Bruce would tell you, "Rodeo gets in your blood."

LATHAM STATION

Another flood hit Kersey in 1973, when the Latham Reservoir dam broke. Water flooded the large part of the town and surrounding area, causing major damage. This reservoir got its name from the site's close proximity to the old Latham Station site of the Denver and California Overland Stage Line. The name Latham honored Milton S. Latham, a California governor and U. S. senator, who was a great advocate for intercontinental railroad. In 1862, he made an impassioned speech encouraging

the railroad expansion. Ben Holladay started the Denver and California Overland Stage Line in response to the fledgling Denver's desire for dependable mail service. It connected Julesburg to Denver following the South Platte River. Latham Station was built at the confluence of the South Platte and the Cache La Poudre River, in the area where Nathan Meeker would found the town of Greeley. At this juncture the

stage line route split with one track following the Poudre River northwest to La Porte, CO where the trail loosely followed parallel to today's HWY 287 to Laramie to join the Oregon Trail. And, the other followed the South Platte River into Denver.

A marker for Latham Station is in the front yard of a farm located south of U.S. 34 and Rd 45. The marker carved by Ray H. Mattison reads: "Site of Latham Station at junction of Denver & California Overland Stage Route, 1859 to 1870. Refuge from warring Indians. Camp of "Colorado's 100 Day Volunteers" in 1864, U. S. Post Office, store and school, 1864 to 1870. County seat of Weld County, Colorado Territory, 1865 to 1870, Erected by Greeley Lions Club, 1927." Lillies, grass and wooden yokes for oxen are beside the monument. (Google Greeley/Fort Latham to see photograph of monument).

It is believed that the first white baby (a girl) born in Colorado was born at Latham Station.

SUMMER FUN 2015

It's summer and the living can be fun. Greeley is ready to celebrate with the Greeley Stampede. From now until the fifth of July we can enjoy rodeo, carnival, concerts, and lots of junk food at Island Grove Park, plus a great parade down 9th Avenue on the Fourth of July.

Kersey celebrates Kersey Days on Saturday, August 1, at Centennial Park. Starting at 6:00-9:00 a.m. with a pancake breakfast put on by the Poudre Valley Fire Department, a myriad of activities take place until the fireworks at 9:30 p.m.

Take a look at

<http://www.townofkersey.com> for the complete schedule.

Friday evening they will have a lawnmower and kart race 6:00-10:00 p.m. Sounds like a hoot.

I/we have read and agree to support the objectives and purposes of the
Northeastern

Colorado Heritage League

Website: necoheritage.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Fees:

Individual _____ \$20.00

Family _____ \$25.00

Youth (age 12 to 18) _____ \$15.00

Institutional _____ \$35.00

Corporate _____ \$50.00

Donation _____

Mail to: Northeastern Colorado Heritage League

P. O. Box 337241, Greeley, CO 80633