



## NORTHEASTERN COLORADO HERITAGE LEAGUE

FALL 2015 ISSUE

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**CONTACT INFORMATION** 2

**SAD LOSS: BILL JACKSON** 2

**EATON, COLORADO** 2

**BENJAMIN HARRISON EATON** 3

**ART SHOW** 3

**UPCOMING** 4

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** 4

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Flying Photographer Speaks at Membership Meeting. Don't miss it.
- All, well not all but quite a bit about Eaton, both the town and the man..
- Buy a wreath now!

## FLYING PHOTOGRAPHER TO SPEAK IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 12 is the date of Northeastern Colorado Heritage League's next Membership Meeting and a fascinating program by Evan Anderman, noted geologist/photographer, will be our guest speaker. Evan, who lives in Denver, Colorado, says "I seek to challenge our understanding of the relationship between human development and the natural world by documenting the way we use the land."

In his presentation, Evan will examine the history of the land and the modifications made to that land by a combination of both natural and manmade processes. He notes that he decided to concentrate on our Eastern plains in Colorado, sifting the "subtle beauty" of the natural landscape and the tensions evoked to this landscape by the changes man has thrust upon vast areas with raising

crops, grazing cattle, and, more recently, the rapidly expanding growth of the energy business. These operations must be managed carefully or the beauty and the land will be decimated.

Anderman is a social landscape photographer who shoots mostly from his airplane. As a youth, Anderman explored the mountains and plains of Colorado and the Western United States. His love of this land led to him seeking a career in the earth sciences. He holds several degrees in Geological Engineering, a BSE from Princeton University, a Masters and a Ph.D. from Colorado School of Mines. After working in the field for two decades, in 2005, Anderman decided he would pursue his love for photography and became a full-time artist. His work can be found in several galleries in Denver, the Denver Art Museum,

and in several private collections.

This program promises to be quite interesting. Therefore, we hope you will plan on attending this final meeting of the year on November 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Centennial Park Library in the Betty Bowers Room. Light refreshments will be served. Please consider bringing a friend, as the public is invited.

Light refreshments are served.

## SECONDARY STORY HEADLINE

Your board of the Northeastern Colorado Heritage League has developed an outreach program during the summer. Members have participated in several events to expand our attempts to disseminate information about our League. On August 1, our president, Susan, and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Harms manned a booth at the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at the Myers' barn, east of Eaton. From that experience, they learned we needed

some handouts to gain attention of the visitors. The board voted money to build a supply of items for such occasions.

Our next event was the Potato Day Festival at Centennial Village. Our group was situated by the DAR table so we were able to push our organization and also help sell wreaths for our Wounded Warrior project. Susan and her team had the



Our set-up at Myer's Barn  
Photo by Ron and Sally Harms

tables decorated with flags of red, white and blue, a candy bowl, and fliers about the League and DAR, the wreath project and the popular info on genealogy classes. It was fun and productive; gaining two new members.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

President, 2015 <a href="mailto:syharris@aol.com">syharris@aol.com</a>	Susan Harris	Director <a href="mailto:billjackson4488@gmail.com">billjackson4488@gmail.com</a>	Cheryl Jackson	<b>Past Presidents/Non voting</b>	
President-Elect 2015 <a href="mailto:Landfritz@q.mail.com">Landfritz@q.mail.com</a>	Ruth Fritz	Director <a href="mailto:grandlopez@yahoo.com">grandlopez@yahoo.com</a>	Gabe Lopez	Webmaster/ Parliamentarian <a href="mailto:ljevhp@comcast.com">ljevhp@comcast.com</a>	Linda Peters
Secretary/Treasurer <a href="mailto:om_richter@yahoo.com">om_richter@yahoo.com</a>	Olive Richter	Directors, 2015-16 <a href="mailto:srharms@msn.com">srharms@msn.com</a>	Ron/Sally Harms	Art Show Co-Chairman <a href="mailto:Sjageler@gmail.com">Sjageler@gmail.com</a>	Starr Jageler
Director, Editor 2015-16 <a href="mailto:elcarro@greeleynet.com">elcarro@greeleynet.com</a>	Joyce Carr	Director <a href="mailto:wpr66@juno.com">wpr66@juno.com</a>	Louanne Timm	Communications <a href="mailto:mpeters26@comcast">mpeters26@comcast</a>	Mike Peters

**SAD LOSS OF BOARD MEMBER**

I was shocked, as most of you were, when I read the Tribune last week and learned of the passing of our friend, Bill Jackson, a charter member and past president of our Northeastern Colorado Heritage League. I was honored to meet Bill, again, when I joined the board. Bill was one whom I had admired as a consummate journalist, after first meeting him in the 1980's when we worked together on an article about Daughters of the American Revolution and the University of Northern Colorado working together to establish a Sister City with Diamantina, Argentina.

Bill wrote about agriculture and water issues, covering so many events, programs and activities about farming and ranching. And, can you imagine the number of interesting individuals he had interviewed, during his thirty-three year career?

Recently retired, Bill and Cheryl had begun to do a lot of traveling, enjoying the country and enjoying the people they met.

I remember a trip we took early in my husband's career in grocery retail, when his superintendent wrote a letter

of introduction for us to tour some of the Monterey/Salinas, California Safeway Stores while visiting relatives. So, I can imagine the Jacksons have visited a few farms and ranches out of state. (Old habits are hard to break; it's called a busman's holiday).

I liked this good man (and his wife, Cheryl) and will miss seeing him sitting at the table at our monthly board meetings. I am sure I speak for us all when I offer Cheryl and the family, our heartfelt sympathy for their lost.

**"...admired as a consummate journalist."**

**EATON, COLORADO**

Just a hop and a jump to the north of Greeley one will find himself in Eaton, Colorado, a town that has experienced quite a bit of growth, along with other Front Range communities.

Named after Benjamin Harrison Eaton, agriculturist, governor, water engineer and

early pioneer of the state, (see page 3 for his story),

The Eatonton post office was incorporated in 1882. In 1891 the Eaton Cemetery was incorporated by Benjamin H. Eaton, Edward Packard, and J. Montgomery. The 1st four acres of the cemetery had been donated by Frank G. Reeman in 1889.

1891 was also the year the "Eaton Free Press", a weekly newspaper, was established. The town name was shortened to Eaton and was incorporated in 1892. B. H. Eaton was involved with the establishment of the town of Eaton. He had given Eaton's school district land (1/4 of section 31, Twp. 7N,

Range .64W. In 1886. "The Eaton Herald" was established in 1894. By 1901 the first sugar beet factory in Northern Colorado opened at Loveland. Eaton soon followed when the Eaton Sugar Company was formed at Eaton. Half of the acreage needed to guarantee a factory being built was subscribed by Benj. Aaron and

## BENJAMIN HARRISON EATON

My grandad owned a farm on CR 41 just north of first curve of the Bliss Road, northeast of Greeley. At the southernmost border of his land was a ridge which had been carved out by the Cache La Poudre River. Some of the early pioneers trailed alongside the river to the west passing thirty fifth avenue and on to Windsor and further West. Benjamin Harrison Eaton and his wife may have followed this trail to where Martin Lind built his Water Valley subdivision's golf course. West and North of the Poudre at CR 257 they pulled away from the water's course and built their home. His brother, Albert and his family also settled in the area.

Benjamin and Rebecca had left the Coshocton, Ohio birthplace of Benjamin to venture west first to Iowa, then on to Colorado in 1859.

I feel a wee connection of sorts to the Eaton family. A good friend of mine, Carol Rein Shwayder was related to a second brother of Benjamin and did a genealogy of the family. I worked in the archives at the Greeley Museum, at that time, and did a search for Carol. Also, two women, close relatives to

Ben's brother Albert, visited the archives while I was on duty and I enjoyed the conversation we had very much. Also, Larry Eaton was in my 1949 graduating class of Greeley High School (now Greeley Central). Also, I was on hand when the Centennial State Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution dedicated a marker where his riverside home was built. I wonder if the marker remains, as one cannot see the spot from the road.

"The home he built on N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, one of the oldest and most prominent landmarks in the Windsor community, was recently designated by the Town of Windsor as a historic landmark."

The home Eaton built in Greeley was situated on the northeast corner of 8th Avenue and 12th Street. I remember visiting that home when I was a young woman.

The Eaton family also left a home in Eaton, Colorado, Ben's son, Aaron, built a lovely home in the town north of Greeley named in honor of Benjamin. That home is now on the Historical Register and is the home of the Eaton Historical Society.

Benjamin Eaton gathered a lot of notice from others in the county. This man was what today we call a "doer." "He was an agriculturalist, politician, civic leader and visionary." He fought in the Civil War with the New Mexico Volunteers and Kit Carson; returning to Colorado to his home on the border of Weld and Larimer counties.

While in New Mexico, he acquired a great deal of irrigation knowledge from the Hispanic farmers in the San Luis Valley. He applied this knowledge by building many irrigation ditches and canals. One notable project was the Eaton Ditch. Another was the #3 ditch that runs through Greeley.

"As a landowner, Eaton built canals and reservoirs to supply 90 land parcels of 160 acres he owned in Weld and Larimer counties." Yes, this man had vast holdings and was instrumental in making Weld County, Colorado one of the top agricultural areas in the United States.

Eaton was elected the fourth territorial governor in the Colorado territorial legislature in 1884. His understanding of the importance of the rivers' water led to the passing

Water laws still in force today.

Another member of this family that should be mentioned.

Bruce Eaton, Benjamin's son with Rebecca Hill (Aaron was born to Ben and his first wife Delilah) founded Severance, Colorado. His ranch was the 7 Cross.

Jcc

If you wish to delve into Eaton History go to: [http://archive.org/stream/history\\_of\\_Colorado/Eaton](http://archive.org/stream/history_of_Colorado/Eaton) and search for ben's story.

**This man was  
what today we  
call a "doer"**

## EATON, COLORADO CONTINUED

Bruce Eaton. Benjamin announced he would donate the land for the factory site.

One can Google [Colorado/Eaton/Sugar Factory/Implosion](http://Colorado/Eaton/Sugar Factory/Implosion) and view a video of 2013 razing of the plant.

Many good people have come from Eaton. One, I remember fondly is Pauline

Allison, who authored a history of Eaton, CO. She was a member of DAR and had been a WWII service member. She had been involved in the entertainment of her fellow GIs. My bet would be the GIs loved her; she was such a cute, perky package of energy.

### INFORMATION SOURCES:

I used several sources for the Eaton stories. Pauline was quoted in Shwayder's [Weld County Old and New, Volume V](#). I Googled several Eaton sites,

## ART SHOW

Approximately 100 local artists entered the art show, sponsored by the Heritage League and University of Northern Colorado. The artwork was displayed at the Mari Michener Gallery in Michener Library for most of the month of September. This was the third year for the show.

**NORTHEASTERN  
COLORADO  
HERITAGE LEAGUE**

ADDRESS: P. O. Box 3372244

Greeley, CO 80633

WEBSITE: [necoheritage.org](http://necoheritage.org)



**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR HISTORY LOVERS**

A good friend and colleague of mine, Ken Kafka, has put on an Open House at his farm west of Pierce on the first Saturday of November for many years. If, things vintage turn your crank, you will enjoy visiting this year. Ken has a collection of re-stored cars, trucks, tractors and trains (his railroad collection contains models and real railroad relics, plus a miniature train for the young'uns to ride).

Ken and his wife, Karen, will have free cake and soda pop on hand. (If he follows his usual plans). There will be lunch-time food available for sale.

Folks come from all over with their restored tractors, cars and trucks. One year a fellow came from Wisconsin with his red pick-up, trailer and tractor. Ken has restored many trucks which will be on display. One truck not on display is the restored Federal Truck Ken did while employed with the City of Greeley's Centennial Village.

I have missed the last several years, but I plan to go this year. I love mingling with the crowd of farm families and aficionados. See you on **Saturday, November 12, 9:30-4:00.**

To get there travel north on U.S. 85 to WCR 88, turn left to the west. Kafka's Farm is about 2 1/4-1/2 miles and is on the south side of the road. Just keep driving until you see parked cars and several large outbuildings. Please do not park on roadside.

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

Colorado Heritage League

Website: [necoheritage.org](http://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

**UPCOMING CONTINUED**

Autumn is a couple of weeks old and the changing color of the leaves and the cooler days remind us that the holiday season begins with Halloween. But for the artists among us, the beginning of a new year for producing artistic projects for the 2016 prairie inspired art show is with us.

**Reminder: November 12 full membership meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Centennial Park Library, Evan Anderman, photographer speaking.**

**KEN KAFKA'S OPEN HOUSE**

**FREE ADM.**



**NOVEMBER 12, 9:30-4:00**