

Lafayette Historical Society AND Miners Museum

Fall Newsletter - 2019

108 E. Simpson Street, Lafayette, Colorado 80026 303-665-7030 minersmuseum@cityoflafayette.com

The Lafayette Miners Museum Mission Statement

The mission of the Lafayette Miners Museum is to showcase the history of Lafayette, Colorado, especially as it refers to coal mining and miner's lifestyles. The Museum will serve and educate the interested public through the collection, preservation and interpretation of artifacts and materials that represent the history of the Lafayette area.



Volunteers Give the Museum a Facelift

On September 18th nine students (grades 9-12) from the Alexander Dawson School spent a day dedicated to community service at the Lafayette Miners Museum. The students performed some much needed maintenance at the Lewis House with the guidance of Gerry Morrell (LHS President), Seth White and Tom Marshall. Students cleaned out our storm windows, painted the front porch and also helped to repair and revitalize our garden. We are incredibly



thankful to the students for their hard work!

We would also like to thank Lafayette Friends of the Garden Club for their dedication to the care of our garden. The community service day was just one part of Seth White's plan to repair and restore the museum's garden.

New Expanded Hours!

The Miners Museum is now open to the public every Wednesday – Friday, 10am– 2pm, and Saturdays, 8am – noon. We are also available by appointment, so come by and visit anytime!

New ways to support your local Historical Society!

You can now support the Lafayette Historical Society when you shop on Amazon. Are you an Amazon customer? Have you heard of AmazonSmile?

The AmazonSmile program donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice! In order to participate, you must check-out at smile.amazon.com. It may be a different url, but it's the same as visiting Amazon.com. The only difference is AmazonSmile will ask you which non-profit you would like to donate to and that's it; they take care of the rest! The donation comes from the purchase price, so there are no additional fees or cost to you. It's a completely free way for you to contribute to the museum while you're shopping online. Amazon sends the money directly to us on your behalf as long as you check-out using the Smile.Amazon.com url.

Special Membership Offer!

If you become a new member or renew an expired membership between now and the end of 2019, your next dues payment won't be due until Jan 1st, 2021!

Memberships are billed annually based on the calendar year, but if you sign up now, you'll receive membership benefits for the rest of 2019 and all of 2020!

Don't want to be billed annually for your membership? Consider a Lifetime Membership for \$100.

SEEKING!

A member of the historical society is seeking a photograph of the swimming pool that was built in Lafayette in 1934.

According to a Louisville Times article from Dec. 27th, 1989, the community funded pool opened on July 23rd, 1934 with a sign posted saying, "Fireman's Pool. We reserve the right to reject any or all persons without cause. White trade only. Lafayette Fire Department."

Do you have a picture of the pool in your personal collection? We would love to see it! A LHS member has been conducting research on the pool, and the associated law suit, led by Rose Lueras, that followed. According to the same Louisville Times article, after closing for the season, the pool was never opened again and it was eventually filled in.

We are looking for pictures of the pool, but we have not been able to locate one in the local public collections. Do you have an image of this pool? If so, please bring it into the Miners Museum, so we may copy it for our member's research. Or you can email a scan of it to LafayetteMinersMuseum@gmail.com

Kids Corner and Early Learning Space

The Miners Museum received a Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museum (CWAM) grant this summer to transform our porch into an early-learning space for children! The porch now features a sensory table, where kid's can "mine for coal", and a mining train set as well as other interactive artifacts. We now have a play table for coloring or story time—complete with some brand new picture books about the history of Colorado and coal mining!



Meet Krista Barry

The Lafayette Historical Society would like to introduce Krista Barry, our new Museum Administrator. Krista most recently held a National Endowment for the Humanities grant-funded position, as an Anthropology Collections Assistant, at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Previously, she worked for Beloit College for several years, in curatorial and collections management roles, at both the Logan Museum of Anthropology and the Wright Museum of Art. Krista received her BA in Anthropology from Beloit College, where her education focused on material culture, museum studies, and art history. She also spent time as the Collections Manager for the Beloit Historical Society.

Krista has spent her career dedicated to small museums. She is part of a volunteer committee that produces an annual conference along the Illinois-Wisconsin border. The Stateline Small Museums Conference (SSMC) is held every spring, and Krista manages the website and registration remotely. As a founding member of the conference, she strives to stay as involved with the event as possible, despite the distance.

Krista has always loved history, and has fallen in love with Colorado. She is enthusiastic to learn everything about Lafayette's history, and to serve as the new Museum Administrator for the Lafayette Miners Museum. Come by to say "Hi" anytime!



Annual Election of Officers & Board

At our November 9, 2019 meeting the Lafayette Historical Society will hold our annual election of officers and board members. This year the following offices are up for election:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Three board member positions

The president, vice president and secretary positions are for one year, the treasurer and board members are two year positions. Gerry Morrell, our current president, is term limited and cannot run again.

If you would like to run for an office please email the museum at lafayetteminersmuseum@gmail.com or call 303.665.7030 and tell us what position you would like to run for. Remember if you would like to vote in the November election, then you must be a current member of the LHS.

Lafayette Miners Museum Tours

Do you scramble for entertainment ideas when friends and relatives come to visit? If you are hosting a club meeting or family reunion, or just tired of hearing the kids complain about being bored, why not plan a visit to the Lafayette Miners Museum? Call us for an appointment for a tour at 303-665-7030.

Martha Maxwell & Me

On November 9th, 2019 the Lafayette Historical Society will present BJ Schwendler who will portray Martha Maxwell in a program called "Martha Maxwell & Me."

Martha Dartt Maxwell, only five feet tall and a lifelong vegetarian, became an accomplished hunter and taxidermist whose work changed the look of natural history museums forever.

In Wisconsin while attending to her ailing mother she became inspired by the work of a local taxidermist.

After resettling near Boulder, she began hunting regularly and skinned her own animals for artistic endeavors.

In 1868 she opened a museum in Boulder and later showed her stuffed mammals and birds at the Colorado Agricultural Society Fair in Denver and the American Centennial Exhibition of 1876 in Philadelphia.

This program will be offered Nov. 9th, 2019 in the downstairs meeting room of the Lafayette Public Library, 775 West Baseline Rd, at 10:30 am.



The Lafayette Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following members for their contributions!

Donations:

- 7/11 - Ed Franco donated to the museum for requested research and scans.
- 7/12 - Ken Kittleson donated to the museum for the use of our images
- 9/7 - Kristen Lewis donated to our matching-grant

Thank you, Donors!

Renewing/New Members:

Amy Richau	Individual	Nancy Bailey,	Individual
Sharon Stetson	Family	Michael Puhr	Life
Ed Franco	Family	Darlene Puhr	Life
William King	Family	Mathias Johnsen	Life
Pat Pollock	Family	Kristen Lewis	Life
Roy Sargent	Individual		
Jim Venette	Family		
Barbara Zeidlik	Individual		

Volunteers:

- John Brugger (Treasurer, open hours, STEPS Collections Committee)
- Leigh Campbell-Hale (Board member at Large, educational outreach)
- Carol Glen (Cleaning)
- Bruce Grieshaber (Open hours, docent, research)
- Jean Morgan (Board Member at Large)
- Mary Moriarty (Secretary)
- Gerry Morrell (President, newsletter editor, STEPS Collections Committee, presentation to Lafayette Outdoors)
- Janet Morrell (STEPS Collections Committee, Presentation to Lafayette Outdoors)
- Beverly Nicol (Assisting with collections management)
- Curtis Wagner (Filing)
- Bill Watson (Vice-President, fundraising, open house)
- Barbara Zeidlik (Docent, assisting with archives)
- Seth White (Gardens and grounds care)
- Rebecca Schwendler (Gardens and grounds care)
- Mike Robinson (Gardens and grounds care)
- Lynda Pinkerton (Gardens and grounds care)
- Kent Brown (Gardens and grounds care)
- Leslie Brown (Gardens and grounds care)

An exciting new feature is coming to the Miners Museum Webpage!

Keep an eye out at <https://cityoflafayette.com/463/Miners-Museum> for several updates! One feature will be a button that will allow you to donate and pay membership dues online using PayPal!

Are you a member of the Lafayette Historical Society? Once the button is installed, you will be able to renew your membership online! Just click the Donate button and note that you're paying for your membership.

WANT TO BE A MEMBER OR NEED TO RENEW

Fill out the application and mail to: **Lafayette Miners Museum** 108 E. Simpson St., Lafayette, CO 80026

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Please Check Membership Category

Individual\$15 Business..... \$50

Family (2+immediate family)..... \$25 Life..... \$100

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Make check payable to Lafayette Historical Society.

Membership dues are tax deductible.

How do you want to receive correspondence? Email or Hard Copy



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