

Englewood Historic Preservation Society

Preserving Englewood Colorado History

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P.O. Box 11234 Englewood, Colorado 80151

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EHPS UPCOMING LECTURE *September 27th*



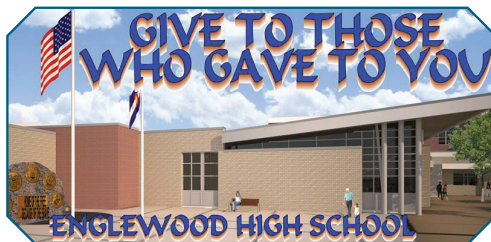
Join the Englewood Historic Preservation Society on Friday, September 27th for our monthly lecture titled "Englewood People who have made a Difference". Doug Cohn will lead a discussion about innovative thinkers in Englewood history. Englewood's past is full of people with great imaginations who saw problems and came up with creative solutions. The event will take place at the Englewood Public Library at 3 pm. It is free and refreshments will be served. For more information: Check out our website HistoricEnglewood.org or call 720-254-1897.

Ongoing EHPS Events

Joanne Michaelis is actively working on oral histories. If you know someone who would like to have their story told, or someone who is interested in transcribing from audio, please let us know.

We are continuing to catalog and organize the items in the library storage area left over from the old historic society. There is some work that still needs to be done. Open dates include, Sunday Oct. 6th & 13th from 1-5 pm. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Doug Cohn at 303-762-8873 for more information.

October 25th Lecture



Kay Howard is confirmed as our upcoming speaker for Friday, October 25th. She will speak about the Englewood High School Military Memorial and her efforts to raise money in order to honor Englewood High School's fallen military people.

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In my early years, every summer I enjoyed staying a month with my grandparents. During the month, I would be spoiled with my favorite meals (never liver), pastries, homemade ice cream, and Saturdays at the movies. The month would end much too soon and it would be time to go home. My grandmother would give me the best hug in the world and with a tear kiss me goodbye on my cheek. My grandfather would assume his most austere posture, shake my hand, and with a voice meant to be slightly “gruff” he would say, “Take care, boy and don’t take any wooden nickels”.

Wooden nickels. I hadn’t thought about a wooden nickel in years. I actually owned a real one. Unfortunately, at some point my wooden nickel joined the number of misplaced things in my life. My wooden coin was about an inch in diameter and inscribed with dark blue paint and had an expiration date. The face and the reverse sides were a copy of the famous Buffalo nickel which was minted by the government until 1937. I recently attended a social gathering where the party favors were one dollar wooden coins. I could assume this wooden dollar inscribed with features of the Barber half dollar minted during

1892 and 1916 was meant to possibly replace the wooden nickel due to inflationary pressures, but it did remind me of the advice from my grandfather.

Where did the wooden nickel come from? One would guess the wooden nickel might be a product of the Great Depression this Country suffered during the 1930’s. Actually the wooden nickel came into being several years prior to the Depression. Quite often when a product or a piece of art work became popular in limited quantities, the item would be copied or counterfeited in wood, given a fine Plaster of Paris finish and sold as the real item. Consequently wood became associated with something that was false or worthless. Creative promoters often used wooden tokens to introduce a product, promote or advertise an upcoming event, and were redeemable as partial payment for admission to the circus or a specific item such as a drink. There is printed reference to the use of wooden nickels as early as the late 1880’s.

The Great Depression did in fact see the use wooden coins issued by banks and sometimes by the chambers of commerce to offset the scarcity of real change. These coins

would come with expiration dates and were used to help mitigate or soften difficulties faced by merchants in making change. Wooden coins were issued as currency in some small cities such as Blaine, Washington when their bank failed in 1933. During the Nation’s recovery, wood coinage continued to be used for advertising of civic celebrations and centennials.

Just when the adage, “Don’t take any wooden nickels” became part of America’s vocabulary is unclear, but the sentiment is easy to understand. Each wooden coin had an expiration date and often a redemption time. One might have a handful of wooden coins that would expire today at noon and if fate would happen to make one late in getting to the redemption center, the wood coins would no longer be of any value. Likewise should the wood coin become damaged or broken, it could not be redeemed and would become just a piece of wood.

You can contact us any time:

HistoricEnglewood.org
contact@historicenglewood.org
720-254-1897

Please like us on facebook!

FORT LOGAN'S

Colonel Merriam and the Railroads

by Dr. Jack Ballard



Exterior of Museum, which had been Field Officers Quarters. Note the cannon, which has been used for ceremonial purposes. Photo by Paul Skizinski



Interior of the formal living room, displaying a portrait of Col. Henry C. Merriam. Merriam, 1837-1912, was Fort Logan Commander 1889-1897. Photo by Paul Skizinski

Fort Logan's first principal commander, Colonel Henry C. Merriam, helped provide Indian attack protection during the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the Spokane area in the early 1880's. Little did he know at that time how his future army career would be forever changed by the country's emerging rail system. When Merriam arrived to command the new Fort Logan in 1889, a Denver and Rio Grande rail spur had already reached the post. Fort Logan, an urban-type fort, and the rail connection, represented the army's new strategy of closing frontier forts and deploying troops by rail.

Merriam, his wife and five children, had hardly gotten settled in at the Fort when he and his 7th Infantry Regiment were ordered via train to South Dakota to participate in containing the 1890 Sioux uprising. The Fort Logan troops quickly reached their assigned area, even in the winter, and accomplished their mission.

Although some troops were momentarily snowed in at Julesburg on their return, the army train troop movements seemed to validate the army's new strategy.

The railroads continued to be important during Merriam's time at Fort Logan (1889-1897). In 1894, Merriam and his regiment commuted to Denver Union Station to help calm the strange "City Hall War" and later that year troops deployed to protect rail mail during the labor strikes at Trinidad and New Castle. Colonel Merriam then skillfully employed fort rail service for public relations purposes by encouraging Denver, Englewood and Littleton citizens to attend drill- parade ceremonies, band concerts and athletic events. Merriam saw Fort Logan's rail connection evolve into an early day commuter system, including a scheduled "Uncle Sam" train. Friends of Historic Fort Logan provided this information for Historic Englewood.org

EHPS needs a home!

Englewood Historic Preservation Society is actively seeking a permanent home. As you know our former mission was to obtain the historic Englewood train depot with the hopes of turning it in to a museum but City Council voted to sell it to Tom Parson's instead. If you know of any building up for lease that might work as a museum, allowing space for storage of archives and general meeting & lectures, please let us know. The City Center Community Center are graciously allowing us to use their place for our meetings, but they have no place for a museum.

Englewood Historic Preservation Society Mission

To Preserve and share Englewood's history.

EHPS EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

September & October



September 28th - Saturday

Join EHPS at Sheridan Days from 8 am - 4 pm, located at 4100 S. Federal Blvd. We will be operating a fun photo booth and sharing the photos on our Facebook page. Volunteers are still needed, please contact Sharlene Barker at 303.378.5540 if you would like to participate.

October 2nd - Wednesday

October 16th - Wednesday

Monthly EHPS Study Sessions at 6 pm, General Meetings at 7 pm at the City Center Community Center located at 801 Englewood Parkway, Suite 112. Everyone is welcome at both meetings.

October 26th - Saturday

Join EHPS at the Englewood Recreation Center's Annual Carnival on Saturday from 5:30 - 8:30 pm. We will be running a game booth and handing out prizes. Volunteers are still needed, please contact Lindsey Runyan at 303.726.3942 if you would like to participate.

Buy a train ride on the
Royal Gorge Train
and support the
**Englewood Historic
Preservation Society.**

Check out the website
HistoricEnglewood.org
or call
720-254-1897
for details.

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