

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 2026 - VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1

Reader: Betsy Denney

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

website: www.fremontheritage.com Facebook page: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM
"Beneath Blue Mesa" by David Primus
JANUARY 18, 2026 - SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH,
801 SHERIDAN, CANON CITY, CO 81212
2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

"Beneath Blue Mesa"

David Primus has lived in Gunnison, Colorado since 1978, graduating from Western Colorado University in 1981. After enjoying a 40-year career in technology, he retired in 2021.

His life-long passion has been the history of the American West, specializing in Colorado history.



David Primus



A third generation Coloradoan, he has written the books *Beneath Blue Mesa: The Gunnison River Valley Before the Reservoir*

and *Steamboat Springs: Memories of a Colorado Pioneer*. He was also a member of a small team producing *Medicine in the Mountains*, a history of the Lake City Medical Center.

He has served as a long-time member of the Gunnison County Historic Preservation Commission, written historical articles for the Gunnison Country Times, and contributed to the development of a historical mapping project with Gunnison County.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FC HS MEMBERS.

I hope all of you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. Although we didn't get our white Christmas, it was still very nice. As I am reflecting on 2025 and what all went on, I am surprised I am still upright.

The Fremont County Historical Society board has been extremely busy this past year. For such a small board we managed to get a lot accomplished for the members and others to enjoy. Here is a recap:

- Six wonderful programs were presented to the members and public to learn more of our local history.
- The Doc Little Award was presented to a FCHS member who has promoted Fremont County history for years. (I am humbled and cherish the award.)
- Scholarships were presented to well-deserving young ladies as this program continues to evolve.
- The Prospect Heights Jail was open every week from the first of May until the end of September with a significant increase in visitors. Thank you Sue from the bottom of my heart.
- There is a new plaque in front of the jail, also. It is just beautiful!!! (See past newsletters on the presentation.)
- The Prospect Heights Jail also got a new trim. The tree in front now has a new look. Thank you, Phil and Gloria, for doing this.
- The grass and weeds continue to be cut as needed, thanks to Nathan for doing this for us.
- Meanwhile, the Oak Creek Cemetery also has a new style. The cemetery has a total new fence around the entire property. Thank you, Mike, Shania, and Jonathan, for the great work.
- A new sign was also erected in the parking area for visitors to see. Thank you, Gloria and Steve, for doing this.
- There was also an opportunity to try to locate some of the graves. Although this was not successful, it was worth a shot.

WOW!! I think we were very busy. Each of these activities takes a lot of organization and work to get done. I hope the members enjoy all the board's efforts.

2026 is shaping up to be even busier, as this year we will be celebrating Colorado's 150th birthday and the United States of America's 250th. The celebration will be a yearlong celebration with many fun activities scheduled, including six new programs from FCHS.

The first program will be by David Primus and "Beneath Blue Mesa." This program will be about the Blue Mesa Reservoir and the history of this great water system. Although I don't remember, our parents can still remember the making of the reservoir.

Hope you will come and enjoy the story as well.

Thank you,
Betsy Denney
FCHS Board President



2026 Historical Society Program Schedule (subject to change)

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January 18, 2026 - "Beneath Blue Mesa" by David Primus

March 15, 2026 - "Sand Creek Massacre" by Nancy Oswald

May 17, 2026 - "Artifacts from History" by Lisa Studts

July 19, 2026 - "Stepping Back to 1776 and 1876" by Betsy Denney

September 20, 2026 - "Stories of Colorado's Female Felons" by
Gloria Stultz

November 15, 2026 - "Cannibal, The Musical" by Tony Towner

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**WESTERN FREMONT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(WFHS)**

P.O. Box 181 Howard, CO 81233
wfhinfo@westfremonthistory.com

The Cotopaxi-Mullins Center is open during Society activities and by appointment and each Wednesday afternoon from 1-3:00pm and the 2nd Sunday of each month from 1-3:00pm AND whenever the "OPEN" sign is on.

The Howard History Center is open during Society activities and by appointment. During the months of April through October, the center is open the last Sunday of each month (1:00-3:00 p.m.)



Cotopaxi-Mullins Center
(120 Co Rd 12, Cotopaxi, CO 81223)



Howard History Center
(0070 Co Rd 56, Howard, CO 81233)



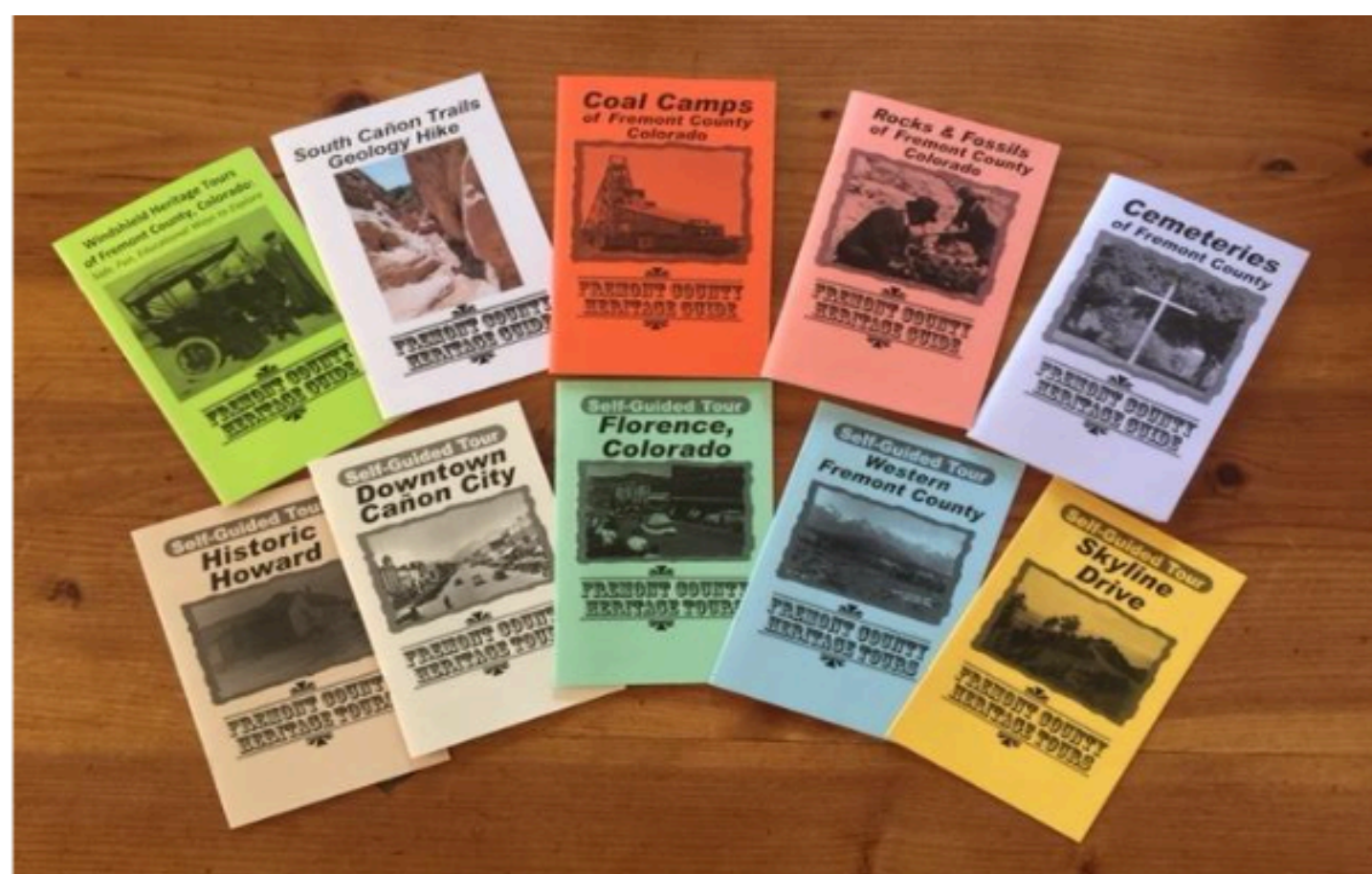
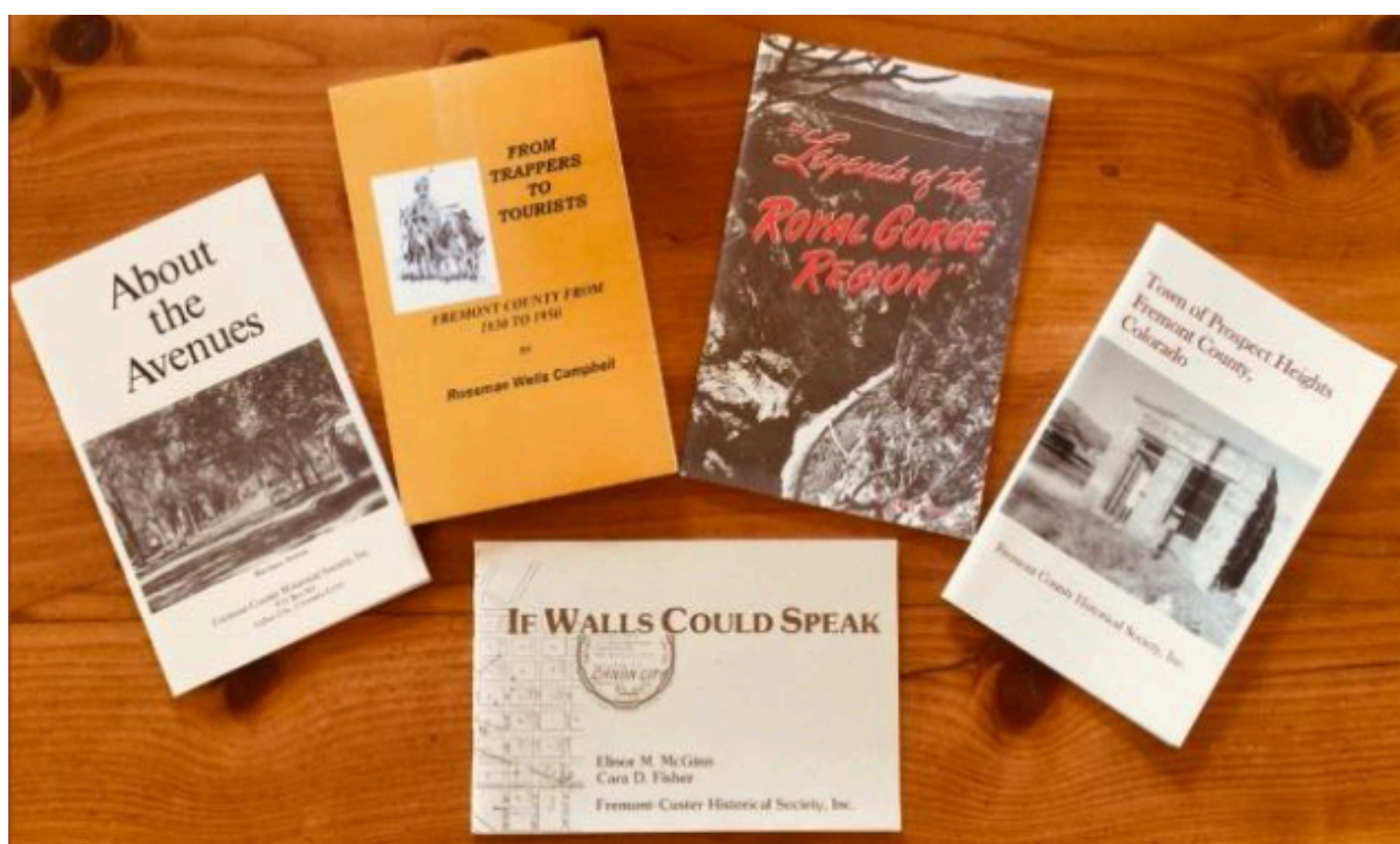
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ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS FOR SALE

The history books written by Cara Fisher and Eleanor McGinn have been reprinted. A new book, *Legends of the Royal Gorge Region* by Janet Sterling, has been added. The new *Prospect Heights Town* book is also available at retail outlets in Canon City and Florence.

These have been added to the library of Fremont County Historical books published in the past four years by the Historical Society. The titles are *Canon City*, *Skyline Drive*, *Florence*, *Howard*, *Windshield Tours*, *South Canon Trails Geology Hike*, and *Western Fremont County*. The guide books for *Rocks and Fossils*, *Cemeteries*, and *Coal Camps* are also available online at www.fremontheritage.com/fchs.



ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS -- PRICES VARY.

CANON CITY AREA

1. FREMONT COUNTY ADMIN. BUILDING
2. ARTIST'S GALLERY
3. AUSTIN AUTOMOTIVE
4. MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER
5. PROSPECT HEIGHTS JAIL (SUMMER)
6. COLORADO MUSEUM OF PRISONS
7. AUTUMN'S ATTIC
8. ANY BOARD MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

FLORENCE AREA

1. FLORENCE HISTORICAL ARCHIVE, INC.
2. FLORENCE PIONEER MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER
3. ANTIQUE SALVAGE ON MAIN
4. BELL TOWER ART CENTER

WESTERN FREMONT COUNTY AREA

1. HOWARD MUSEUM (CHURCH)
2. COTOPAXI STORE
3. COTOPAXI-MULLINS HISTORY CENTER

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thank you to all the new members who have joined this year – we are glad you have joined us. Dues cover December 31, to January 1.

Individual.....\$15.00

Family.....\$20.00

Group.....\$25.00

Lifetime.....\$150.00

Fremont County Historical Society. P.O. Box 965, Cañon City, CO 81215

Fremontheritage.com

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Colorado Mountain Land Office
Real Estate – Lot Development – Consulting



Earl Pfeiffer
Broker - Owner & Home Builder
719-275-2501
813-416-4076 c
Earl@ColoMtnLand.com

457 Shannon Road
Cotopaxi, CO 81223
(by appointment only)

  CRC 058278

The City of Cañon City is pleased to print the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter as a contribution to the Society. Thanks for all you do for Fremont County History.



ROYAL GORGE **REGIONAL MUSEUM**
& HISTORY CENTER

612 Royal Gorge Blvd.
Cañon City, Colorado

Open 10am - 4pm
Wed. - Sat.

museum.canoncity.org
719-269-9036

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728 Main Street, Cañon City, CO

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Austin Automotive

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	Gloria Stultz
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