

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY 2026 - VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4

Reader: Betsy Denney

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM
"Exploring the Goodnight-Loving Cattle Line" by Tony Towner
JULY 19, 2026 - SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH,
801 SHERIDAN, CANON CITY, CO 81212
2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

EXPLORING THE GOODNIGHT- LOVING CATTLE LINE

A 4th generation Coloradan, born and raised in southwest Denver, Tony Towner has spent much of his life residing in and exploring the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. With roots in Canon City, he quickly discovered what would soon become an obsession: Dinosaurs. As time progressed, he developed a deep interest in archeology, anthropology, and history in general.

Throughout his life, he has worn many hats. Whether it's broadcasting operas to the local theaters or teaching science and art to kiddos in the mountains, he has always strived to leave an impression. The true spark that led him to pursue a future in the historical sector was meeting ancestors of the Sand Creek Massacre while working as a night manager at a hotel. Diving down the rabbit hole of the atrocity left a deep impact, spurring him to join the efforts in preserving and protecting history from censure.

In this month's program, he will explore the impacts that the Goodnight-Loving Cattle line had within Colorado during its early days as a territory and what long term outcomes came from the cattle industry as a whole during one of Colorado's most historically packed eras. Many figures will make surprise appearances that you may not expect, some of which have even been depicted and satirized in modern media!



TONY TOWNER

As of 2026, Tony is the acting vice president of the Fremont County Historical society and a regular volunteer with El Pueblo History Museum. With economic improvement in mind, he has begun a series of historic and haunted walking tours and hikes throughout the Fremont County area. His long term goal is to reinvigorate the local interest in history with some fresh, new ideas. Be sure to stay tuned to see what he does next!

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JULY 2026

A Note from the President:

Happy Summer,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer weather, hot, windy, and dry!!! This year Mother Nature is upset with Colorado, I believe. We had spring in February, the only winter day was in May, and temperatures meant for August are in June. Oh, well enough of the weather complaints.

This year also marks 250 years of the United States of America being an independent country. As the USA prepares for their birthday July 4th, I thought I would bring up some dates that we as Americans and Coloradoans should remember:

- July 4, 1776: The signing of the Declaration of Independence
- April 30, 1789: George Washington sworn in as USA's 1st President
- July 4, 1803: Louisiana Purchase was finalized by President Thomas Jefferson
- August 24, 1814: Burning of Washington D.C. by British in the War of 1812
- December 8, 1848: Discovery of gold in California, starting the western movement
- July 1, 1858: Official date of the discovery of gold in Colorado Territory
- April 12, 1861: Civil War starts with the shelling of Ft. Sumter
- November 19, 1863: President Abraham Lincoln gives the Gettysburg Address
- May 10, 1869: The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad
- August 1, 1876: Colorado becomes the 38th state
- October 24, 1929: Black Thursday, the beginning of the Great Depression
- December 7, 1941: The attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii by Japan
- September 11, 2001: The attack on the Twin Towers by Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda.

These are just a few dates that make us who we are today in some form or another.

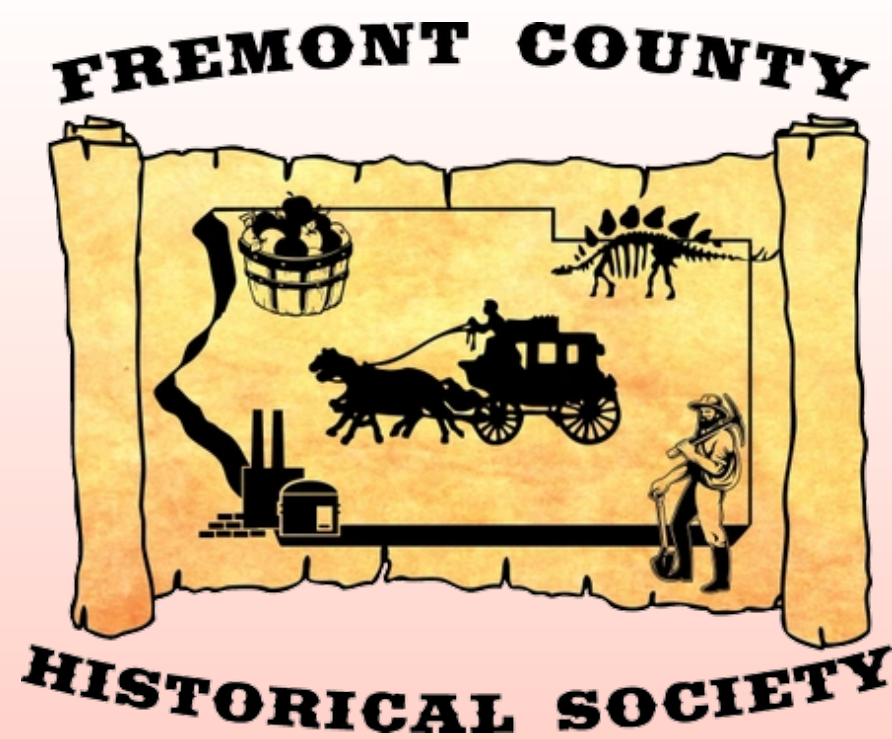
I hope you join us July 19, 2026 as we honor this year's scholarship recipients. Our program by Board V.P. Tony Towner talks about the importance of the cattle Industry in Fremont County and Colorado. Also, check out some of the activities going on within Fremont County including the Tavern Talks in Howard, Florence, and Penrose; Farmers Market in Florence and Canon City; and Colorado Day, August 1, 2026, in Canon City with a plethora of activities.

Thank you,

Betsy Denney

Betsy Denney, Board President





2026 Historical Society Program Schedule (subject to change)



September 20, 2026 - "Old Radio" by Ed Norden

November 15, 2026 - "Cannibal! The Musical" By Tony Towner

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TAVERN TALK  

saturday
July 11
4pm

DUSTY ROSE
ROADHOUSE
10281 US-50, HOWARD, CO

THE GOOD, THE BAD, Q AND THE QUESTIONABLE



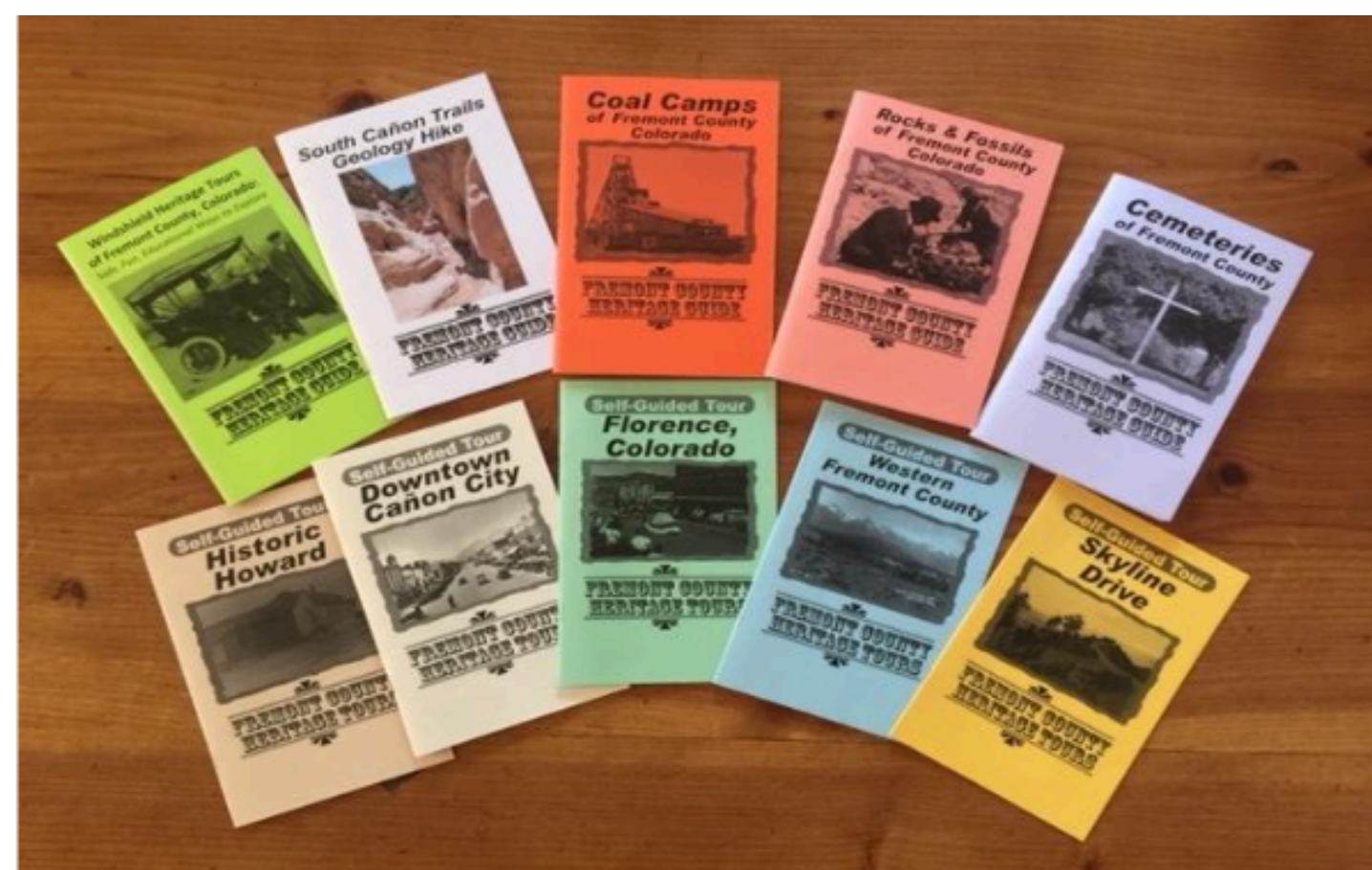
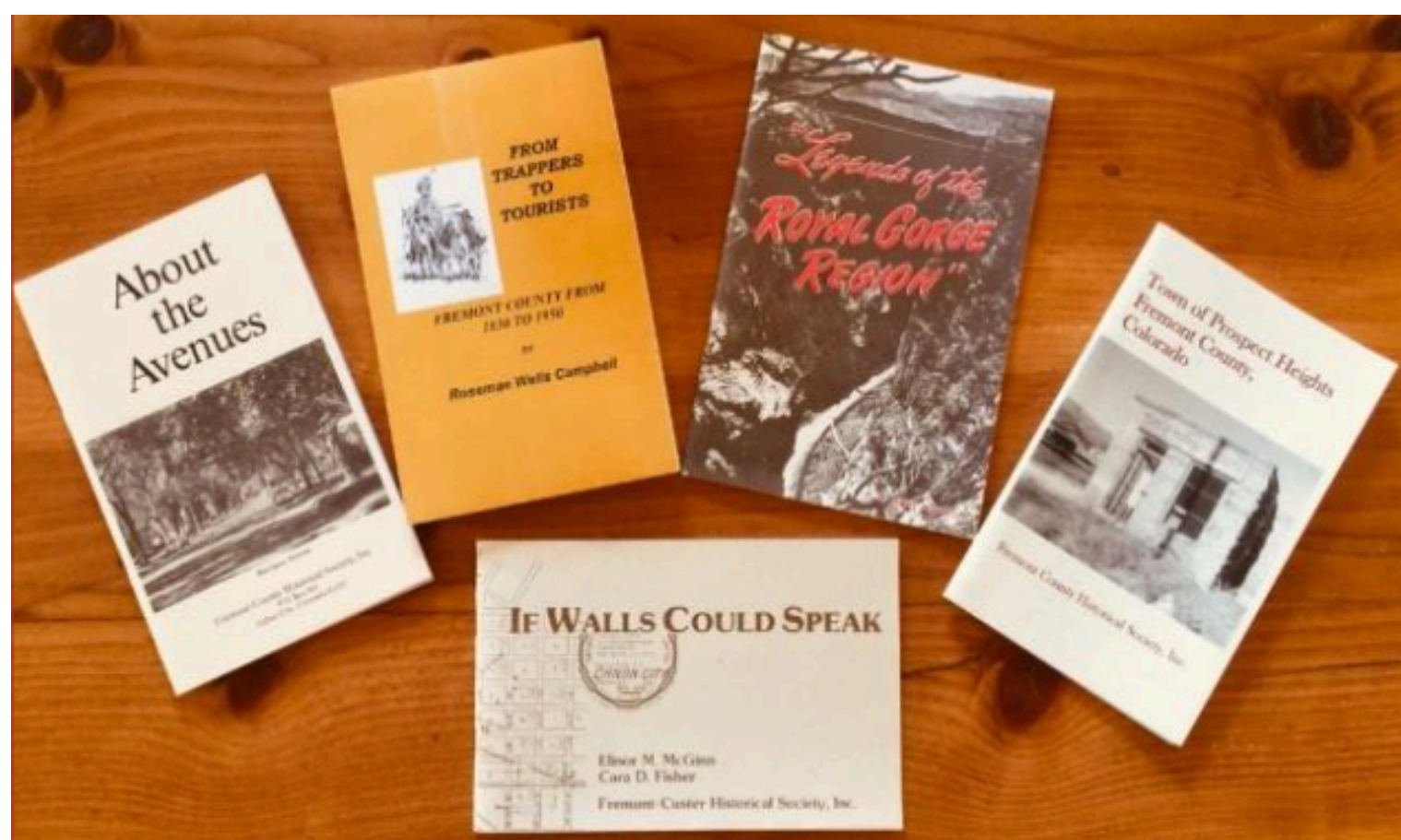
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ROYAL GORGE REGIONAL BOOKS FOR SALE

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.

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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 JULY 2026

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(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
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WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Howard, CO 81233