

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2026 - VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

Reader: Betsy Denney

Editor: Tiffany Coleman

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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM
“Sand Creek Massacre” by Nancy Oswald
MARCH 15, 2026 - SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH,
801 SHERIDAN, CANON CITY, CO 81212
2:00 P.M. - PUBLIC WELCOME

A WRITER'S JOURNEY



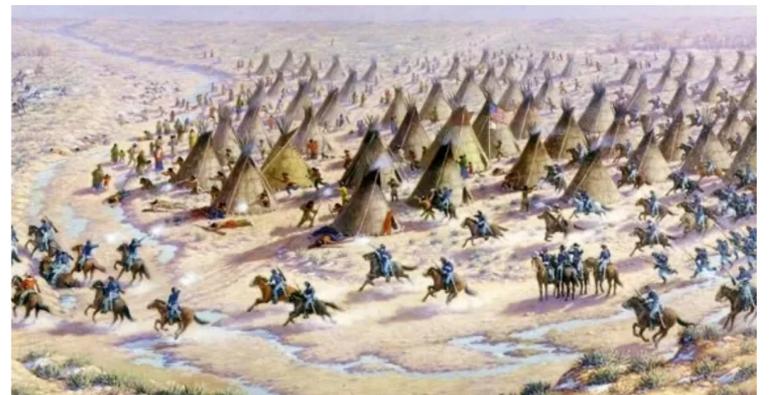
Nancy Oswald is a native of Colorado, living on a family ranch at the north end of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. She loves the West and writing about it, and focuses on Colorado-set historical fiction and non-fiction for young readers.

Nancy taught elementary school for most of her adult life, including several years in one and two-room schools near an Indian reserve in British Columbia, Canada. She retired in 2012 after almost 20 years of teaching elementary at the Cotopaxi School. It's no surprise that when she started writing, her genre of choice was writing for middle-grade readers. Combined with a rural lifestyle, it has been a perfect fit.

Her first published historical fiction book, based on the Jewish Colony of Cotopaxi, is set in the mountains right outside her back door. From there, her writing journey shifted to other places in Colorado. It came from a curiosity about a place she'd seen on a Colorado map, but knew little about. Sand Creek, a dot on the maps, and as one person said, a spitting distance from the Kansas State border.



Nancy Oswald



Oswald will present about the Sand Creek Massacre (pictured above) at the next program.

A WRITER'S JOURNEY (continued from page 1)

A trip to the Colorado History Museum in Denver cemented her interest. One room was filled with artifacts and displays about the Cheyenne Indians, and Oswald left the museum bookstore with a special book about Cheyenne Indian Dog Soldier Art. Many other books were to come—books about the Bent Family, Black Kettle, the Southern Cheyenne, and an informative book about the archaeology of Sand Creek, titled, Finding Sand Creek.

The thing about research, Oswald believes, is that one scratch at the surface leads to shovelfuls of additional digging. One of the things she enjoys the most about writing historical fiction is research. If possible, she makes a point of traveling to the places she writes about. Before the current National Monument was made official, she and her husband, Steve, drove out to Eastern Colorado, and with the help of a local photographer and tour guide, made a trip to the general area where the massacre is said to have taken place.

Most of Nancy's books center on a main historical event. She does a lot of reading beforehand and continues to research as more questions come up while she writes. Fiction writing has its own set of rules, so what gets incorporated into a finished book is only a fraction of the information available. However, she's very careful to include only things from the time and place where the book is set.

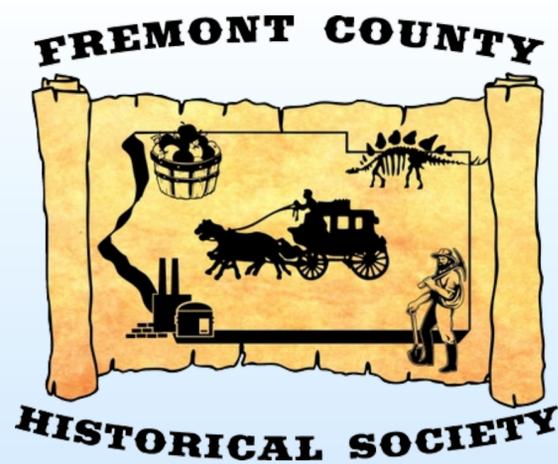
She has one published middle-grade biography that ties in with the Sand Creek Massacre: Edward Wynkoop: Soldier and Indian Agent. From writing the non-fiction biography, she learned that every fact must be accurate. Not so with historical fiction. Fiction allows for the selection of details to keep the reader interested and engaged. Nevertheless, in her opinion, the history should be well-researched and accurate to draw the reader into the historical period and to support the story.

Oswald's books have won the Willa Literary Award, Spur Award, Will Rogers Medallion, Evvy Award, CAL Award, and Mom's Choice Award, and have had numerous finalist recognitions. She enjoys gardening and helping on the family ranch where she lives with her husband, cows, dogs, cats, and one nearly human donkey.

<https://www.thelostsandcreek.com/the-lost-sand-creek-site-la-junta-co-program/>



Nancy Oswald and her husband Steve on their ranch near Cotopaxi.



2026 Historical Society Program Schedule (subject to change)



May 17, 2026 - "Homesteaders" by Art Hutchinson

July 19, 2026 - "Goodnight Loving" by Tony Towner

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

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

TO HELP YOU FIND JUST WHAT YOU'RE

looking for...



Frontier West Realty

Michael Butts, Broker Associate

- 36 Years of full-time experience in the Real Estate Industry
- Full-time agent committed to complete client satisfaction – *one customer at a time!*
- Proudly serving Fremont, Park, and Custer Counties
- Knowledgeable in all facets of Real Estate including residential, commercial, farm/ranch, and vacant land

731 Macon Avenue • Cañon City, CO 81212

mike@mikebutts.net • Mobile: 719-269-2922 • Office: 719-275-7404



Help Wanted!
**Volunteers to help this
summer for the
Prospect Height Jail
Docent.**
**Sunday afternoons
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**
Contact Betsy Denney
betsy@fremontheritage.com
or 719-942-3679.



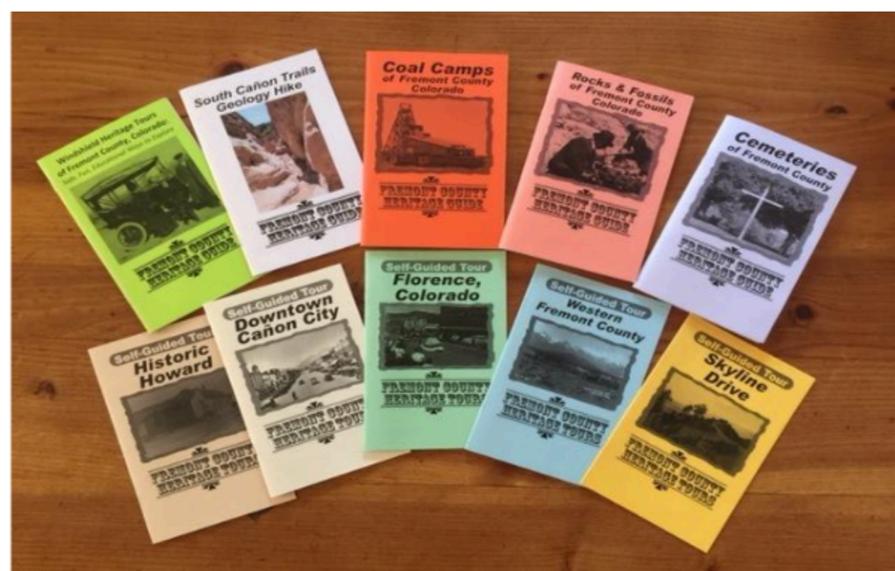
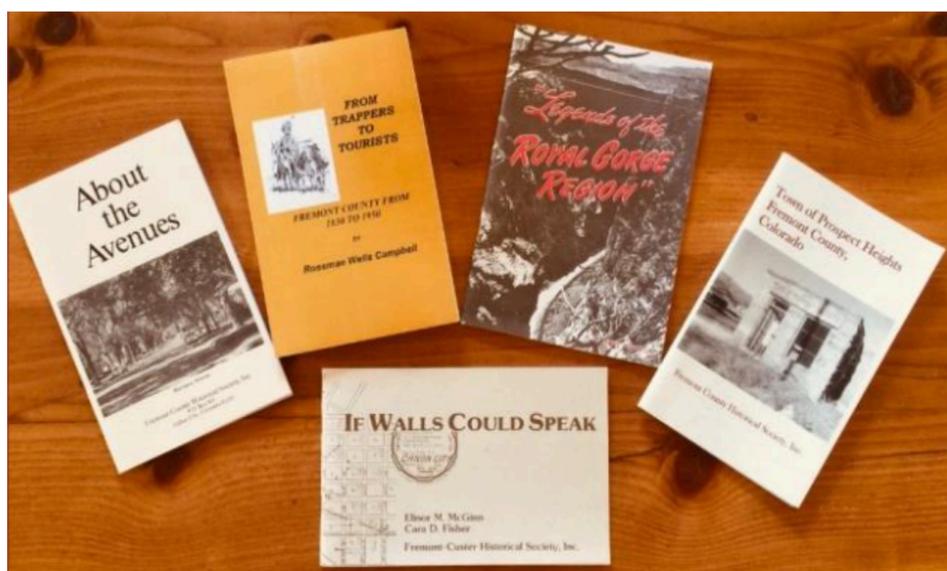
Home · Auto · Health · Life Insurance
Dennis Podzemny
719-275-1548

1004 S 9th St. Canon City, CO
www.canoncityinsurance.com

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 MARCH 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

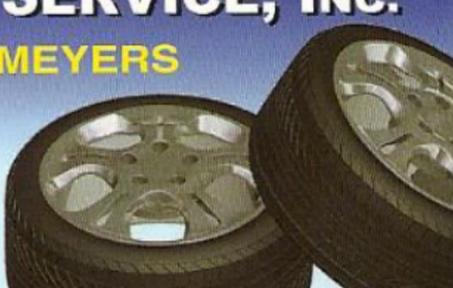
Open 10am - 4pm
Wed. - Sat.

museum.canoncity.org
719-269-9036

NEW and USED TIRES
CUSTOM TIRES and WHEELS
MICHELIN - BF GOODRICH - GOODYEAR - MULTI-MILE

JIM'S TIRE SERVICE, INC.
J. D. MEYERS

1005 South 9th Street
P.O. Box 1005
Cañon City, CO 81215
275-1886 or 275-1576



Golden Age Council, Inc.
Cañon City Senior Activity Center
728 Main Street, Cañon City, CO

GAC Transit Program Call 276-5200 for a ride!

Office (719) 275 5177 Nutrition (719) 345-3064
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Director@theccgac.com or admin@theccgac.com.

Paul and Karen Austin/Owner
2625 E. Main, Cañon City, CO 81212
719-275-5055

Austin Automotive

FCHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Betsy Denney, Pres.	Helene Blake
Sue Buchanan, V.P.	Maryann Harper
Kathy Uhland, Sec.	Ashley McDermott
Cinde McPhail, Tres.	Margaret Storm
	Gloria Stultz
	Tony Towner
P.O. Box 965, Canon City, CO 81215	Adam Clawson



WESTERN FREMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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