
What's New at the *Grand Lake Area Historical Society*

Our mission is to preserve, protect and promote the history of the Grand Lake area.

Spring 2018

AKA Barney McCoy

by GLAHS Board Member Steve Batty

My journey down this road started one beautiful fall afternoon while having a coffee and reading Nell Pauly's book *The Day Before Yesterday* at the Hub in Grand Lake. Nell's book, published in 1972, is about many of the old timers buried or should have been buried in the Grand Lake Cemetery located in Rocky Mountain National Park. The two individuals I read about that day, "Little Bill Lehman - The Moonshiner" (page 135) and "In Defense of Barney McCoy" (page 139) fascinated me and I decided I wanted to learn more about them, in particular Barney McCoy.

According to Nell, Little Bill Lehman was born in the mid 1880s, while his mother was sailing to the US from Germany. Nell does not mention anything more about Little Bill's mother but indicated that Little Bill was passed around the several Lehman families in Grand County. He also had two cousins, Big Bill and Art Lehman, who were a little older and much larger than Little Bill. Nell also implied that Little Bill was not the sharpest cookie in the cookie jar and much smaller than his two cousins, who teased him incessantly.

LB was shy around women and usually tried to avoid any contact with them. Up until the 18th Amendment and Volstead Act started Prohibition in January of 1920, LB struggled to make a living by doing menial jobs in and around Grand Lake. Sometime after prohibition started, Little Bill saw his opportunity to become a moonshining entrepreneur and started his own business, making and selling intoxicating white lightening in the Grand Lake area.

During Little Bill's moonshining days, he was seen around town carrying his little 22 caliber rifle while wearing a large outer coat with many pockets used to transport his hooch. The author also indicated that LB started having difficulty containing his pent up anger at his two bigger cousins who had started raiding his bottled white lightening hidden in Tonahutu Creek and drinking any profits away. After Little Bill had warned cousin Art to cease and desist his hooch stealing several times, he eventually threatened him with death if it happened again. Art, and cousin Big Bill did not take the threat seriously and made one more hooch raid. The following day Little Bill with his trusty 22 knocked on Art's cabin door. When Art opened the door, Little Bill fired his squirrel rifle and missed Art but not poor Barney McCoy. Barney died there on the floor before medical help could arrive. Little Bill fled the scene but eventually turned himself in to the law.

That same year, Little Bill Lehman was convicted of the crime of murder and sentenced to life for the criminally insane at the State of Colorado Penitentiary in Canon City, Colorado. William Lehman passed from this world on 11/12/1951 and is buried at the facility's cemetery.

In her book, Nell describes Barney and Jo McCoy as a very fine married couple. She believed this because Barney and Jo took room and board with Nell and her husband Jake for three weeks in early 1930 before they were able to find a little log cabin on the Tonahutu Creek trail to rent.

Nell tells us that there were all sorts of negative rumors going around about the McCoy's and some folks in the area felt they were running from something. Some residents referred to their association with Little Bill and his rumrunner and bootlegger cousins as proof of guilt through association. Nell held to her belief that Barney and Jo were a fine couple and did not deserve the labels folks put on them.

In the spring of 1932, Jo was called away for a while. Barney started spending more time with Little Bill and his cousins. Unfortunately for Barney, he was present in Art's cabin that fateful morning of June 19th, 1932 when Little Bill went hunting his booze stealing cousin Art. When Art opened the cabin door, Little Bill raised his 22 caliber rifle and fired without aiming. The shot was wide and killed poor Barney McCoy.

At the end of the funeral for Barney, Jo dressed in a fine lace gown, leaned over her poor Barney, kissed him on his forehead and said, "It was wonderful while it lasted, Darling." Barney was buried in the town cemetery with a white wooden cross bearing his name to mark the location. Some years after that a fine granite headstone replaced the well worn wooden one. The new headstone bears two names on it. In larger letters is written Max K. Fraughton and above that in smaller letters Barney McCoy. His birth and death dates are also cut into the stone.



Now for the sleuthing phase of my journey. I started with using Ancestry.com and found in the 1929 Denver City Directory that Barney and Josephine McCoy lived on Irving St. and he was a cook. The entry just below the 1929 city directory was the 1930 April 3rd US Census showing the two of them renting in Grand Lake; he was listed as a 40 year old farm laborer. Both of his parents were born in Ireland and he was born in Alabama. There were no more search entries for Barney McCoy so I switched to Max K. Fraughton.

At that time I did not know where Max was from, but when I searched his name and birth year I located him as being from Heber City, Utah. When I added some additional facts about him in my search a host of hits came back. I found him and his family in the census rolls of 1910-30 and several World War entries but nothing led me to know why he and Jo were using the name McCoy.

Then I went to Google to see what I could find. I began to listen on YouTube to the fun old song titled Barney McCoy, originally published in the 1880s and resurrected about 1925. After listening to the song several times I concluded that Max and Josephine had used the song's name to stay under the radar. I was never able to discover any online data showing just why they needed to stay hidden or who Josephine was. I let the project rest for the remainder of the fall. In early 2018 I was working on my family genealogy, but one day I keyed in Max K. Fraughton and discovered a Lifestory timeline for him with Mattie Josephine Whitworth McCoy his wife. Looking through the timeline some of the facts in the lifestory were his, and some were Barney C. McCoy's whose wife was also Mattie Josephine Whitworth McCoy.

It turns out that Mattie had married the real Barney C. McCoy in Texas in 1913, and delivered four children before they divorced and she moved to Wichita County, Texas. She never married again and died in Texas in 1961. I tried to follow the timeline facts and found the person who must have added the marriage between Max and Josephine to her public family tree. I have tried to contact her several times through the internet without success. I even traced her down and found her mailing address and wrote her. I've received no replies to any of my inquiries. I'm told by the local genealogy chapter that this not unusual and not to get my hopes up.

So, now there seem to be two possible reasons why Max and Josephine chose the name Barney McCoy. I have changed my mind. I feel that they used Barney McCoy because Mattie Josephine suggested it to Max. She knew the source of the new name and could tell "almost real" stories about its people.

It was a fun journey for me and if you would like to see a longer version of the story and the material I found, go to <https://cottagecourt.wordpress.com>.

Steve



Visit our Websites:

www.grandlakehistory.org

Facebook: Smith-Eslick Cottage Court

www.cottagecourt.wordpress.com

**Send us your e-mail address so we
can send you our monthly E-Blasts:
historygrandlake@gmail.com**

Contact us:

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P.O. Box 656 Grand Lake, CO 80447

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Kauffman House Museum

407 Pitkin Street

Grand Lake

Smith Eslick Cottage Camp

729 Lake Avenue

Grand Lake

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News From The Cottage Camp

So much has been accomplished in the last year as we work to make the Smith Eslick Cottage Camp a terrific museum and community events site!



The central building at The Cottage Camp is the Smith Eslick Cottage Court, the oldest original condition motor court in the region, and perhaps the nation.

The Cottage Court is now completely restored, making it very like its original self, but also making it sturdy enough for visitors' entry and installation of exhibits. This project was paid for in part by a generous grant from History Colorado – State Historical Fund.

A grant from the Rotary Club of Grand Lake jump started the acquisition of a 1929 Briggs Body Model A Ford 4-door Town Sedan which is being refurbished for display in a carport at the Cottage Court. Several other extremely generous and patient donors added to the purchase, and are greatly appreciated.

Coming soon - specially designed paths that will make it easy for *everyone* to access the Smith Eslick Cottage Court. Every carport space will then be accessible, and a path will come from the parking area and along the front of the Court as well.

Basic informative interpretive panels are being designed for each space at the Cottage Court, and will be fabricated and installed in Spring 2019, funded in part by a grant from History Colorado – State Historical Fund. More exhibits for the Court site are also planned to share the history and importance of automobile tourism in the Grand Lake area and more.

Later, a welcome center and gift shop, community events spaces and much more are to be added. It's exciting, and your help is always welcome and needed. Call us! Jet us an email!

2018 Coming Events – Mark Your Calendars



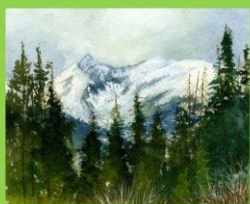
May 26th Kauffman House Museum opens for the season. Open Daily 11:00 am – 5:00 pm through Labor Day, and weekends in September. *Many* fascinating, family friendly exhibits to be enjoyed! \$5 Adults, Free to Children 12 and Younger, Active Military and GLAHS Members.

June 20th, 7:00 pm, Grand Lake Community House
GLAHS Annual Meeting & Election of Board Join us and bring a friend for a presentation by Ken Fucik, Rocky Mountain Boat School, sharing the wonderful history of boating in and on Grand Lake.

It's all-FREE and we always have yummy treats and coffee. Stay for the Annual Meeting after the presentation to get the latest news.



Gaff Rigged Sailboat



Join us
for a
fun
evening
in a lovely
setting

SUPER STARS for the COTTAGE CAMP

Friday, June 22nd, 5:30 pm

Super Stars for the Cottage Camp at Onahu Lodge

There'll be hearty food, excellent live entertainment from Tight Like That, wonderful old and new friends, adult beverages, and a great time altogether. \$50 per person if purchased ahead, \$60 at the door; all proceeds benefit the Cottage Camp Campaign. If you'd like a mailed invitation, or to Reserve, or for location and more information, 970-627-8324, historygrandlake@gmail.com.

Tuesday, July 17th, 2:00– 4 pm , **Victorian Tea at the Historic Rapids Lodge**
Join us for a lovely Light Tea in a wonderfully historic setting. Bring your own, or borrow one of our hats! \$25 if Reserved, \$30 at the door – both include a glass of bubbly! All proceeds benefit the Cottage Camp Campaign. For more information, or to reserve with a credit card, contact historygrandlake@gmail.com, 970-627-8324 or call the Historic Rapids Lodge directly: 970-627-3707.



Sunday, August 19th **Fourth Annual Community Chicken Dinner** at the Cottage Camp, 729 Lake Avenue. It's an all-Town party with plenty of great food beginning at 5:30 pm: dinner with chicken cooked on-site and loads of delicious side dishes, campfire and marshmallows, great music and more! 970-627-8324 or historygrandlake@gmail.com for more information. Don't want to miss this! Dinner for adults \$15, for kids \$5, beverages purchased separately.

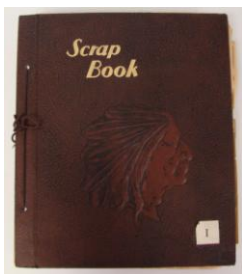
Docents Welcome Visitors – and We Need You to Help!

People love to visit the Kauffman House Museum. They feel like they've truly come to someone's home when they are warmly greeted by volunteer docents who are ready to answer questions or to tour them through the House. We strive to have two docents on duty; we could use your help so someone's always at the entrance to greet folks, and there's no reason to hurry through the visitor conversations. Volunteer docents work a three hour per week shift, either 11:00 am-2:00 pm or 2:00 to 5:00, and it takes 28 people to keep the House open and running smoothly! We need a few more folks for this summer's season, and would love to have you join the team. It's fun, and you'll meet very interesting folks. There's a little training, but that can be arranged to suit your needs. Give Frank a call at 301/980-9081 or e-mail frankreardon@gmail.com! Thanks!

Donated Items From the Past Year

During the past year we have received some extremely valuable donations to the collections of the Historical Society.

Danielle Sullivan donated many documents on property owned in Grand Lake by former Lieutenant Governor William Grover Smith. Norma Platt sent us three books which belonged to the family of Franklin I Huntington, Grand County Surveyor in the early 1900s. Cornhusk and Costume Dolls have been added to our collection from Penny Dibble. Jane Binford gave five framed posters, books and documents to the collection. We received photographs of a 1978 high school senior trip to Grand Lake from Annette Barber; a 1956 vacation in Grand Lake by Howard Bolton from Michael Gibbons; and Grand Lake in 1976 from Sheree Downs. Kathleen & Ken Rutter donated a table which had belonged to the Cairns. Bob Scott has been generous in loaning and donating several items for our Indian and history display, a linen tablecloth, pressure cooker, and window box from the Grand Lake Lodge. Postcards were received from Alvin Schaut, Wisconsin and Pam Tyrell. Lynne Ludwig donated an invalid feeding cup, and from the Ludwig family we received a vintage baby buggy, rocking horse, iron and ironing board. John Thompson piano music from Jim Stromberg in Minnesota and a book of Memories of Grand Lake Lodge by Gary Coover's father are now in our files.



Jane Kemp has generously released all of the pictures, files and scrapbooks which were compiled by her mother Patience Kemp and grandmother Mary Lyons Cairns. The scrapbooks contained all the correspondence and original photographs used in the books *Grand Lake the Pioneers* and *Grand Lake in the Olden Days* authored by Mary Lyons Cairns. We now have the ledgers and other documents from the Cairns Store which her father operated from 1881 – 1926. Many items of vintage clothing, hats and shoes are also part of

our collection. Newspapers, over 200 postcards, books, dishes, historical artifacts saved by the family over the years that are related to Grand Lake and our history will be available now for research and displays by the Historical Society. A tin bathtub brought to Grand Lake from Kansas by Mary Lyons Cairns is now on display at the Kauffman House.



Website: grandlakehistory.org

Visit the website for information about Grand Lake History – the People, Places and Events that tell the interesting stories of long ago. We update the site regularly with current events sponsored by GLAHS and add pictures of current and past exhibits.

You will be surprised at what you are able to read at our grandlakehistory.org website. Some of the wonderful exhibits from past years that are available in “Grand Lake History/Places” include Changes in RMNP’s West Side Over the Past 100 years, and Historic Guest Ranches now gone. You can search various people with fascinating lives and impacts on our area. There’s even a lesson plan for classroom use built around our website. The historic pictures are amazing, well worth a look!

Let us know what more you would like to see on our website, www.grandlakehistory.org. And check out our other sites: Facebook: Smith-Eslick Cottage Court and Blog: cottagecourt.wordpress.com.

The President’s Two Cents

What a successful year it’s been, thanks to our members, volunteers and Board members!

Our dedicated volunteer docents continue to welcome about 5,000 visitors annually to the Kauffman House Museum from around the world all summer long, plus several special dates through the winter. Last winter’s special display of nutcrackers was a hit with both young and old. Thank you to Kathy Means, her volunteers, and George Wilczinski, who lent the nutcrackers for that exhibit.

We celebrate the restoration of the Court to its 1930’s condition, due largely to the efforts of Elin Capps and Dennis Humphries and funding from the State Historical Fund for this \$145,736 project. We are continuing implementation of the Master Plan developed for the site. An interpretive sign describing the Cairns #3 Ditch, which flows adjacent to the Cottage Camp, has been installed on site thanks to the Grand Foundation and Town of Grand Lake. We are now embarking on efforts to create displays interpreting the Smith and Eslick families, the Cottage Court itself, early automobile tourism, and the importance of water in Grand Lake and the American West. We received a \$12,034 grant from the State Historical Fund to begin this effort; work is now underway behind the scenes.

We have purchased and are having rehabilitated a 1929 Model A Ford for display at the Cottage Court. This vehicle has all its parts, but won’t move. Thanks Rotary Club of Grand Lake, Mimi Fowler, Ray Hauschel, Barbara Ahrens and Dennis Humphries. Visitors will love to explore this! Look for it this summer in carport #3.

There are many reasons to donate financially to the Grand Lake Area Historical Society. You get the satisfaction of knowing you are preserving our heritage. You can see the results of your donations here in the community. We have no paid staff, so all your donation goes into our continuing operations and projects. Plus, you get at least a 100% return on your investment: know that when I refer to grant funds we have acquired, most require a local match, so your donation is often multiplied by 4 times. Quite a return!

So much going on! So much important work to do! If you can contribute 3 hours a week, 2 days a month, one day a year, or a few hours here and there, I encourage you to contribute what you can toward our common goal of Preserving, Protecting and Promoting the History of the Grand Lake, Colorado Area.

Please call for 970-627-8324 or contact us at historygrandlake@gmail.com for more information about how you can help.

Thank You!

Your Financial Support is Needed!

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to join with us in supporting the Grand Lake Area Historical Society. We are an extraordinary and very hard-working all-volunteer organization. Your dues help create a history experience for visitors and local citizens alike. Following are a few of the products and services we provide: Kauffman House Museum -FREE ADMISSION for MEMBERS; family history research, recording and access to records and artifacts; research of local business histories including people, structures, stories; historical picture reproduction; archival storage of photographs and artifacts; ever changing fresh exhibits: research, development, presentation; Grand Lake Walking Tour; interviews and transcriptions of local histories; advise and counsel to local government and site owners regarding restoration and preservation.

The money we receive from memberships goes toward funding the behind the scenes work required to accomplish all that needs to be done to keep Grand Lake history alive to be enjoyed by people like you. Please join us by returning the "Yes! I want to become a member" form in this newsletter or through PayPal on our website www.grandlakehistory.org. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Sharon King, Membership Chair.

Yes! I want to become a member of the Grand Lake Area Historical Society:

Date _____

☐

New Member

☐

Gift

☐

Renewal

☐

Individual Membership..... \$25

☐

Family Membership..... \$40

☐

Business Membership..... \$50

☐

Benefactor \$100 - \$1,000

☐

Other Contribution

☐

Heritage Coalition Master Membership.... \$175 Includes membership in four organizations

Grand Lake Area Historical Society, Grand County Historical Association, Moffat Road Railroad Museum, Grand County Characters

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***Keeping
History
Alive***



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I wish to support the GLAHS by making a contribution/pledge to the Cottage Camp Campaign (CCC).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

☐ GLAHS may publicly acknowledge my contribution.

☐ Gift in honor or memory of

☐ I wish to learn more about naming opportunities.

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Method of Payment (please check):

☐ Enclosed ☐ Pledge amount \$ _____

Please bill me ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ yearly
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Make checks payable to GLAHS/Cottage Camp Campaign and
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