

Grand Lake Area Historical Society
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Kauffman House

The Grand Lake Area Historical Society

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



Cottage Court

What a year it's been. The volunteers of the Grand Lake Area Historical Society are very much looking forward to Summer, 2021, hoping there's far more joy and far less chaos for us all. We are eager to see you at our museums and events.

2021 coming events – Mark your calendars!

If dates or formats need to be changed, we'll alert the public ASAP!

More Information at 970/628-8324
historygrandlake@gmail.com

May 24th 2:00, May 25th Noon Cottage Court Museum Tour Guides training for new and experienced volunteers

May 26th Noon, May 27th 5:15 Kauffman House Museum Tour Guides training for new and experienced volunteers

May 28th 8:30 am Breakfast Welcome Docents-Tour Guides Meet at the Cottage Court.

May 29th 11:00 – 5:00 Kauffman House and Cottage Court Museums open for the season

July 3rd 10:00 – 4:00 Ice Cream Social & Pie Sale at Cottage Court

July 10th 1:00 Native American Dancers at the Cottage Court

July 10th, 11th, August 14th, 15th & 21st History Walking Tours beginning from Town Park

July 14th 7:00 pm Community House presentation & celebration, GLAHS Annual Meeting

Weekend in mid-July, Stay Tuned for More! 5:00 – 9:00 Stars at the Barn fundraising event for the Cottage Camp

August 1st Colorado Day at the Kauffman House and Cottage Court

August 22nd 5:30 pm Annual Community Picnic at the Cottage Court

Plan to come to other events at the Cottage Court Museum: Dress Up and Photograph Days, History Bike Hikes, Old Movie Nights, Music and More

Happenings – story sharing events will begin again in Fall. Stay tuned!





Visit our Websites:

www.grandlakehistory.org

Facebook: Kauffman House Museum

Smith-Eslick Cottage Court

www.cottagecourt.wordpress.com

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

Contact us:

970/627-8324

P.O. Box 656 Grand Lake, CO 80447

historygrandlake@gmail.com

Kauffman House Museum

407 Pitkin Street

Grand Lake

Smith Eslick Cottage Camp

729 Lake Avenue

Grand Lake

GLAHS Board of Directors

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Kathy Means – Vice President

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Paul Harrington Sandy Kukoy

Lesley Janusz Kathy Means

Lucy Fitch Dennis Humphries

Patti Stahl Layla Schnacke

Sandia Bruton Steve Batty

Grand Lake's Historic Community House



Celebrate the 100th birthday of the Grand Lake Community House at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, July 14th.

Come to meet some of the local folks who lived here in 1921, and learn about this amazing building's past. This event is free, not your usual slide show, fascinating and fun, treats served

too! The GLAHS Annual Members Meeting will follow the presentation.

Also important; The Grand Lake Creative District and Town of Grand Lake with the support of the Women's Club, Grand Arts Council, Chamber, Rotary, and GLAHS are conducting a fundraising campaign to restore theatrical lighting, sound and a video system to the Community House so that it can once again be a center of activity for the Community. Half the needed funds have been raised to date. Contact Ken Fucik at 970-305-7132 with questions or to donate.

News from the Museums

The Kauffman House Museum, located at 407 Pitkin Street overlooking the beach in Grand Lake, will be open daily 11:00 – 5:00

beginning May 29th. The 115 year-old geraniums are ready to be placed in the dining room window, and the gardens will be blooming. Come by this summer for fascinating local history in this restored, 1892 Victorian rustic hotel. A treasure! The Kauffman House is now a Distinctive Destination;



National Trust members get a 20% admission discount.

The Smith Eslick Cottage Court Museum, located at the corner of Vine Street and Lake Avenue, will also open May 29th. In addition to

professionally produced as well as homegrown exhibits throughout, the museum features guided tours and great stories of the unique history of Grand Lake's early auto tourist days. There will be a lot going on at the Cottage Court this summer, including "pop-up" events and wonderful new exhibits, so stay tuned. This new museum is still



short-staffed, and may not be open every minute of every day. We will try to accommodate tours during "down" times. Just call 970/509-9556 to arrange! Please contact us if you'd like to join the tour guide team. We welcome folks who love to chat with visitors about our community and its history, and folks who love old cars! We need you!

EXPLORING AN OLD SUMMER RENTAL CABIN

By GLAHS Board Member Steve Batty

The Village of Grand Lake was a pretty difficult place to live after the silver mines that spurred its existence failed in the early 1880s. Those who stayed to tough out the harsh winter weather eventually found themselves living in an early summer tourist destination, at first a three-day trek from Denver. That trip from Denver turned into only one long day when the first train arrived in Granby in 1905. Then, once the road was improved over Berthoud Pass and automobiles became more reliable, more tourists started arriving. A boost for Grand Lake.

To accommodate the additional tourism, individual small log cabins were starting to appear. They were pretty basic. Mostly, they were equipped with a small potbellied stove, a bed or two, table, chair and when piped water came to town, they were developed into summer-water only cabins. Their plumbing consisted of a sink with one cold water line in and the wastewater running out on the ground outside. If there was a group of cabins located together there usually was a shared wooden privy somewhere near.

The story I'm going to recount is about one of those old summer rental cabins located at 829 Park Avenue. I had been interested in the old full log cabin for years. It was unique because it had a green and white metal roof, with all five windows and two doors screwed and nailed shut. Then in 2019, the owner/developer called me wondering if I might like to have the building, for free. I drove over and found the rear door open so I took a look inside. It was chuck-full of old building materials and junk. I realized right away it wouldn't work for me, but I called Travis at his Winding River Ranch and told him the situation. He agreed it would be perfect for his dude ranch and would move it, and he agreed to a done-by-August timetable. Well kind of, you have to remember it is GL time and very few things in GL happen on time.



I spent my spare time during July hauling out anything I thought might have value and putting it in front of the cabin. Eventually, much of the stuff disappeared except for 12 used bathroom sinks. I could tell that this cabin had its one water line coming in and one out, plus a cover in the ceiling where the potbellied stove pipe went into the attic. This rental cabin had the galvanized water pipe still on top of the ground but hidden in the tall weeds; the sink and stove had long disappeared.

A few other discoveries made the project fun for me. I found a table made from wooden crate boards, and one of them was marked "P.H. Smith". In the old days anything valuable transported into GL was put in a wooden crate with the name of the recipient stenciled in black ink. P.H. and his son-in-law Clyde Eslick built the Town's first motel, now known as the Smith Eslick Cottage Court Museum.

Among names written on the inside walls of the lean-to was this message: "I have slept in better cabins but I don't know when, Paul Kernodle, Grandview MO, Write me! 1953 age 16." I was able to find some facts about Paul. I learned he was born in September of 1937, he earned his private aircraft license when he was 16 and his instrument rating at age 18, graduated from U of MO, followed by three years in the US Army, then flying for Ozark and TWA airlines. I had hoped to be able to communicate with Paul since he was only 9 years older than I, but it was not to be. He died in KC in 2008. I did find someone who remembers living in that cabin while she worked for the Grand Lake Restaurant in 1968. She said because the doors were nailed shut, entry was through the front window. Also, the outhouse was down the block and used by other cabin renters.

One of my joys, at this time in my life, is researching and writing about Grand Lake history. Unfortunately, this one now has a sad ending. As the October 2020 East Troublesome Fire roared east then north into RMNP, it completely consumed the Winding River Ranch and all the old buildings Travis had saved over the years.

There's more to this story! Go to the GLAHS Blog, www.cottagecourt.wordpress.com, where Steve Batty has much more, with pictures, about this authentic early Grand Lake summer cabin.

MEMBERSHIP, DONATION OR PLEDGE CARD

I wish to support the GLAHS by **becoming a member.**

Name _____

New Member Renewal

Mailing Address: _____

- Individual Membership \$35
 Family Membership\$50
 Business Membership \$50
 Benefactor\$100 - \$1,000
 Heritage Coalition Master Membership
includes membership in four organizations. \$175

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

I wish to support the GLAHS by **contributing or pledging.**

Method of Payment (Please check.) Enclosed Pledge amount \$ _____

Please bill me monthly quarterly yearly for a one two or three year period

Charge my credit or debit card \$ _____ Visa Master Card Discover

Cardholder's Name : _____ Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ 3-Digit Verification Code: _____

GLAHS may publicly acknowledge my contribution. Gift in honor of in memory of

Cardholder Signature: _____

Please apply my contribution to the Cottage Camp Project.

Make checks payable to GLAHS. Mail to GLAHS, POB 656, Grand Lake, CO 80447

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

**IF YOU PREFER, YOU CAN ALSO DONATE OR BECOME A MEMBER AT THE GLAHS WEBSITE:
www.grandlakehistory.org. Check it out... fascinating photos and historical information.**

Tour Guides – Very Important People!

Visitors love to learn about our area's rich history when they come to our museums.

They are warmly greeted by volunteer tour guides, sometimes called "docents", who are ready to answer questions and share interesting stories. We are often told, and visitors often leave messages about how welcoming their guide was and how much fun they had during their visit. Tour guides are essential. They make the history experience come alive for visitors of all ages. We Need YOU to become a Tour Guide!

Volunteer tour guides work a three-hour shift per week. You'll receive some training, and the sincere appreciation of the Historical Society and countless visitors. You'll soon feel comfortable chatting with people from all our states and the entire world as they come to enjoy our history and our community. Please consider joining the team! For the Kauffman House Museum, give Frank a call at 301/980-9081 or email frankreardon@gmail.com. For the Smith Eslick Cottage Court Museum, call Elin at 970/509-9556 or historygrandlake@gmail.com.

Please join us for a "Welcome Breakfast", Friday, May 28th, 8:30 am, at the Cottage Court Museum, corner of Lake Avenue and Vine Street. You'll meet some volunteer tour guides, and have some great food and conversations!

