

Grand Lake Area Historical Society  
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Spring, 2022



*Almost 50 years ago, in 1973, a group of concerned citizens banded together to purchase and preserve the Kauffman House, Grand Lake's last, still-standing, lakeside Victorian rustic hotel. They formed the beginning of what we now call the Grand Lake Area Historical Society. So much has changed in our area since then, but the pride we have for our community's rich history remains impactful.*

*The volunteers of your Grand Lake Area Historical Society... and we're all volunteers... work diligently because we love our town. We cherish our unique Grand Lake, with its historic architecture, its welcoming people, businesses and boardwalks, and its unsurpassed natural beauty.*

*Our volunteers maintain and operate the Kauffman House Museum and the new Cottage Court Museum, with fascinating exhibits and wonderful stories of life as it was and with relevance to our lives today. We archive family histories - pictures, other items of importance, and treasured stories - and help folks research other historical topics of interest. We work to enhance the historical significance and ambience of our community for visitors and those who call it home, and have exciting projects to further support that effort coming soon.*

*We like to say "Our History is Our Future". Our community is strengthened by our amazing and still existing historic qualities, and that's why the volunteers of your Grand Lake Area Historical Society are working so hard. We'd love and benefit greatly from your help, so please consider taking on one of the many interesting positions and tasks in the GLAHS!*



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

**Keeping History Alive**





**Visit our Websites:**

**[www.grandlakehistory.org](http://www.grandlakehistory.org)**

**Facebook: Kauffman House Museum  
Smith-Eslick Cottage Court**

**[www.cottagecourt.wordpress.com](http://www.cottagecourt.wordpress.com)**

**Send us your e-mail address so we  
can send our monthly E-Blasts:  
[historygrandlake@gmail.com](mailto:historygrandlake@gmail.com)**

**Contact us:**

**970/627-8324**

**P.O. Box 656 Grand Lake, CO 80447  
[historygrandlake@gmail.com](mailto:historygrandlake@gmail.com)**

## **Kauffman House Museum**

**407 Pitkin Street**

**Grand Lake**

## **Smith Eslick Cottage Camp**

**729 Lake Avenue**

**Grand Lake**

### **GLAHS Board of Directors**

Jim Cervenka- President

Kathy Means – Vice President

Patti Stahl – Treasurer

Elin Capps – Secretary

Steve Batty – Newsletter, BLOG

Frank Reardon – Docent Chair

Alan Walker– Property Chair

Sandia Bruton – Membership

Ken Fucik – At Large

Melody Anders – At Large

Lucy Fitch – At Large

### **Adjunct Committee Chairs**

Malene Mortenson – Gift Shop

Lois & Dave Sauer - Gardens

### **Cottage Camp Committees**

Elin Capps Jim Cervenka

Paul Harrington Sandy Kukoy

Lesley Janusz Kathy Means

Lucy Fitch Dennis Humphries

Patti Stahl Layla Schnacke

Sandia Bruton Steve Batty

## **Where's Our Water?**



Learn the surprising and often crucial history of how we came to share the waters of the Colorado River and other water sources in the area. Come to the Grand Lake Community House at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, June 8th. The GLAHS Annual Members Meeting will follow the presentation.

Some new, and really wonderful, exhibits are being added to the Kauffman House Gallery. "Grand Lake Artists Past and Present" features Alexander Phimister Proctor, a world-renowned sculptor who was influenced by his life in Grand Lake. His family is sharing stories and items you don't want to miss seeing! There are many other artists featured as well, including Elsie Patty, Nell Pauly, Dorothy Young, Grace Eslick, Lee Boehner, and more. Spectacular joy for the eyes and soul. In addition to the Artists Exhibit, there'll be a display highlighting the life-changing Colorado Water Compact of 1922.

## **More News from the Museums**

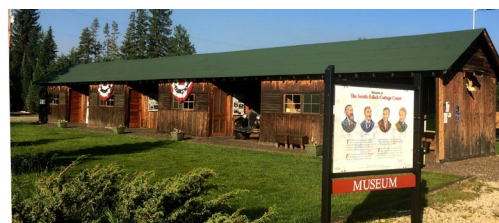
The Kauffman House Museum, located at 407 Pitkin Street overlooking the beach in Grand Lake, will be open daily 11:00 – 5:00

beginning May 28<sup>th</sup>. Visit us this summer for fascinating local history in this restored, 1892 Victorian rustic hotel. A treasure! As a Distinctive Destination, National Trust members get a 20% admission discount; GLAHS members, children, and Blue Star active military are always given free

admission. We will soon have a portable station for viewing digitized, archival films and audio, thanks to funding from Grand County, Town of Grand Lake, and the Grand Foundation.



The Smith Eslick Cottage Court Museum, located at the corner of Vine Street and Lake Avenue, will open May 28<sup>h</sup>. The Cottage Court



Museum tells surprising stories of how our lives changed with the advent of the automobile and auto-tourists coming to our area, how we came to have our rustic wooden architecture,

and so much more. This new museum is still a bit short-staffed. You can become a truly essential worker, a volunteer tour guide at the Cottage Court for a three-hour shift once a week during the summer. We NEED folks who can chat with visitors about our community and its history, and folks who love old cars! We need YOU! Contact Elin at [jimelin34@icloud.com](mailto:jimelin34@icloud.com) or call 970/509-9556 and leave a message.



# AN OLD HOME CRAFT IN GRAND LAKE

*By GLAHS Board Member Steve Batty*

My family's cottage sits about halfway down the south shore of Grand Lake on Jerico Road. My grandparents Anna and Earl Batty purchased the property from Jay and Mamie Adams (Adams Falls) in September 1908. It is my best guess that this duplex log cabin was constructed the next summer and they probably first used it in August of 1910. The cabin was very basic. It was constructed of kiln-dried D logs chinked with horse hair oakum, and still has much of the bark on the exterior side of the logs. The interior, flat walls were covered with 1909 Denver Post newspapers covered over with colored burlap, a common practice in D log-built structures.

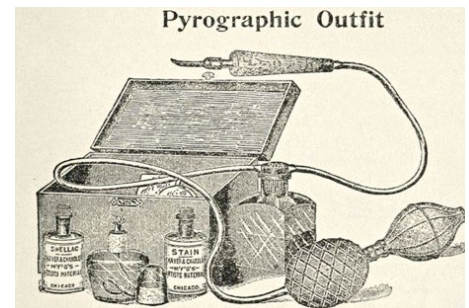
The one item that is still there from the original cabin is a mirror installed in a large wood-burned frame. The frame is covered by strange looking sea creatures. One summer I was attending the local estate sale of a summer lake cottage, soon to be replaced with a modern year-round structure. When this happens, I try to save something from the cottage. This time there was a wood-burned wall hanging that I chose to save. Now I have several like it hanging on my walls. Recently I discovered one that had an elk on it and the initials BPOE burned in on it. Since it was in one of Clyde Eslick's outbuildings on my town property, I assumed it might have been his. In the Kauffman House there is a photo of the three Kauffman girls in a similar old wood-burned frame.



Being the curious type, I started researching wood burning from back when my grandmother Anna Stewart Batty (1880 – 1919) might have decorated the cottage mirror frame and discovered an interesting history of the craft. Decorating wood, leather and gourds by burning them with hot pokers, wires, electric woodburning tools and lasers goes back about 2000 years. Some say it started in China, others in Iran, and it's even been discovered in Peru. Originally heated metal pokers were used to burn art into furniture, wall hangings and gourds. Finer detailed items were burned

with metal tipped pen-like instruments or wires.

In 1875 a Frenchman invented a gas cauterizing apparatus for closing wounds and blood vessels. Ten years later another Frenchman adapted the small benzene gas machine to be used with a platinum tipped pen-like instrument to create wood-burned works of art (Vulcan wood etching machine). The name given to the, now home craft, was pyro graphics or pyrography (writing with fire). It soon caught on as a home hobby for decorating homes, and “burning” art appealed to others less talented. It first spread over France and Belgium, then to Germany and Austria. From there the craft made its way to England and across the pond to America. One of the features of this craft tool was that electricity was not needed. Much of rural Nebraska and Colorado did not get electricity until later in the 30s and 40s. I feel with considerable certainty that the two pieces of pyrography I have of grandmother Anna's were both made at her home in Alma, NE or Grand Lake without using electricity.



From what I could find, one of the larger suppliers of the pyrography kits and wood burned art in the US was the Flemish Art Company of Brooklyn, NY. To learn more, go online and Google “pyrography”, “woodburning” or checkout eBay to see all kinds of the new and old art. You can also stop by the Kauffman House this summer to view their fascinating and extensive pyrography display.

**Want to Know More?** At some point this summer, I will post this article to the [cottagecourt.wordpress.com](http://cottagecourt.wordpress.com) blog site with URL links to additional online material.

## 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

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](http://www.grandlakehistory.org). Check it out... fascinating photos and historical information.

### 2022 coming events – Mark your calendars!

More Information at 970/627-8324 or  
[historygrandlake@gmail.com](mailto:historygrandlake@gmail.com)

**May 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am & May 24<sup>th</sup> 2:00 pm** Training for all volunteer tour guides, Cottage Court

**May 25<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon & May 26<sup>th</sup> 5:15 pm** Training for all volunteer tour guides, Kauffman House

**May 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am** Volunteers' Breakfast at the Cottage Court

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** Museums open for the season, 11:00 – 5:00 Daily thru Labor Day, Weekends in September

**June 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**, GL Community House, GLAHS Annual Meeting and Community Presentation

**July 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 am – 4:00 pm** Ice Cream Social & Pie Sale at the Cottage Court

**July 31<sup>st</sup>** Stars at the Barn! A wonderfully fun, musical and delicious fundraiser at the AA Barn. If you haven't received information, would like to attend, or have questions, contact us at 970/628-8324 or [historygrandlake@gmail.com](mailto:historygrandlake@gmail.com).

**August 1<sup>st</sup>** Colorado Day at the Kauffman House

**August 12<sup>th</sup>** Farmers Market, 10:00 – 2:00 at the Cottage Camp, 725 Lake Avenue.

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** Community Picnic at the Cottage Court Delicious food, music, fun 5:30 pm

Kauffman House open 1:00 – 4:00 pm on **November 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>**, and **December 26<sup>th</sup>**