

Historic Highlandlake

Preserving the history
of the Highlandlake/Mead area



Building Bridges Across Time

Volume 2, Issue 1
May 2006

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Highlandlake Church Reborn

In May of 1896, the Denver Post published an article entitled, “A Beautiful Country,” in which the unknown author extolled the virtues of the Highlandlake community, including its homes, businesses, school, and the soon to be built, Congregational church.

Nine years later, a similar article appeared in the Greeley Tribune. This time, the self-described author (a fat man with a big camera, a bicycle and a large bunch of papers), explains that when looking, “south on Main street you could not help but notice the pretty little church and neat school house at the curve where the road winds around the lake. . . , and you’d unstrap your camera right then and there and take a picture. . . .”

Today, as the three year-long Highlandlake church restoration project nears its end, one of the most visible changes to the church’s appearance is the exterior paint color. For as long as anyone can remember, the building has always been white. No one today imagined that when the original builder’s planned how they would paint the building, that their idea of what was a “pretty little church” was far from the white we see on so many similar churches today.

To determine the historic colors, our Architectural preservationist, John Feinberg, and his daughter, preservationist specialist, Natalie Lopez, analyzed dozens of paint samples taken from various parts of the exterior, by examining the fragments under the microscope, and comparing them against contemporary paint charts and with early photos of the church.

During their research, John and Natalie discovered that there were at least three different paint schemes from 1896 until the mid to late 1910s, before the familiar white appeared that we associate with the building today.

The first colors were a butterscotch yellow with two colors of green trim. There is also evidence that there were at least two other colors, a slate blue, and a black, and possibly a third, red color used. The second time, the church was painted similar to the first, but with the addition of dark green, broad stripes added in all the gables. The third time however, was dramatically different. The body color became a medium kelly green with a darker green trim. Finally, sometime in the mid to late 1910s, probably about the time that the church was changed to a community center, the building was finally painted white.

While to twenty-first century eyes, the sight of a multi-colored, wood-framed church building might be jarring, to a 1890s observer, choosing several colors from nature was an obvious choice.

To honor the Highlandlake pioneers, and as part of our commitment to the State Historical Fund and the historically accurate restoration of the church building, we have chosen to return our building’s exterior colors back to how she originally appeared in 1896.

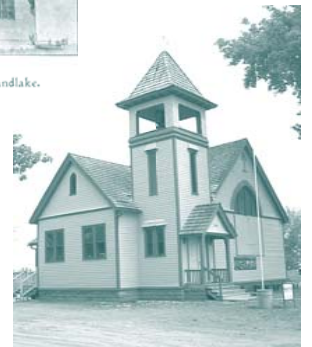
May everyone who visits our building feel as welcome today, as did those early residents on a cold, December day in 1896 when her brightly colored doors opened for the first time.



Congregational Church, Highlandlake.

Above~ Church as it appeared in 1896.

Right~ Church as it appears today.





Mead United Brethren Church. Built 1907. Photo dated 1907/1908 donated by Linda and Neil Gehring.



"I think that it is important that we preserve the histories of our farming communities, especially since now so much of our farmland is being sold for development."

~Nancy Kiteley



The above article about Mary Bumstead Coates appeared in the Fall, 2005, issue of Miss Kitty's Journal, a quarterly magazine for the active, mature woman. You can order back issues on their website at: www.misskittysjournal.com

85th Annual Highlandlake Community Gathering and Reunion slated for June 11

Please join us for our 85th annual community gathering to be held at the Historic Highlandlake church at 16896 CR 5, Mead Co. Potluck lunch at 12:00 noon followed by a program at 1:00. This year we are celebrating the completion of the three-year long restoration of the Highlandlake church building, as well as the 135 anniversary of Highlandlake, the 110th anniversary of the church, and last but not least, the 100th birthday of Mead. Bring a dish to serve eight, and table service. Hope to see you all there!

Joyful Gathering Lives Up to Its Name

Because work had not yet begun on the church interior, we were able to hold the annual "Country Christmas Joyful Gathering" at the church on December 21, 2005. Due to the relatively warm weather and interest in the restoration project, the church was filled to capacity.

Following the invocation by Barbara Logsdon, Boyce Logsdon announced the rest of the program. The Christmas story from the gospel according to Luke was read by Pat Jorgenson, followed by an inspirational message from the Rev. Phil Mitchell.

As in several recent years, the Roberts family of Longmont provided musical accompaniment for the carol singing.

After the service, everyone enjoyed coffee, hot apple cider, cookies, and conversation. All agreed that in our world of commercialization, it was nice to experience a truly "old fashioned," neighborly Christmas service in the historic church.

Thanks, Jack Schwella & Johna McLean!

We want to give special thanks and a public acknowledgment to Jack and Johna for allowing us to use one of their sheds to store the contents of the church during this final phase of the restoration. Their contribution is significant in that it saved us money that could be then placed toward the restoration and made access to needed items readily available. Thanks, a whole bunch for your generosity, Jack and Johna, you have made one area of our work, so much easier

to deal with!

Eagle Scout Project Underway

Nathaniel Osborn, of Boy Scout Troop #160, is building a new church sign for us that will stand near the south entrance to the church property.

Osborne's project is based on a drawing by our Architectural Preservationist, John Feinberg, and will incorporate the signboards (that used to hang on the wall just to the right of the front entrance), originally made and donated by former board members, Ron and Mary Lee Brossman.

Completion date is by June 6, so you should all be able to admire Nathaniel's work when you come to the reunion.

Highlandlake Pioneer Cemetery

Lee and Helen Swenson have been working hard to clean up the cemetery in time for Memorial Day weekend. The grass is mowed, the flags are up, and the weeds and around the edges trimmed.

A new flag appeared (thanks to an anonymous donor), to replace the old tattered one, but was quickly stolen, along with its pole. The Swenson's purchased a new one to replace the missing one and Lee has a plan on how to secure the pole to make it less easy to steal.

We need volunteers and donations to replace the fence line along the west side of the cemetery. This fence section was taken down last year so built up soil could be leveled, but the work was never completed due to lack of material, equipment and volunteers.

More Thanks

There is not enough space to list all the workers and volunteers who have made the saving of the Historic Highlandlake Church building possible. Over the past three years, untold numbers have come and gone, but each has left their indelible mark on our building and our hearts. If you are one of the people who contributed your time and labor to this project, we hope you can attend our 85th reunion so we can thank you per-

Judge F. P. Waite

4 Sept 1903

Longmont Ledger

Among the first settlers who led the van of civilization in the western world, braved the hardships of pioneer life, broke the sod and paved the way for an empire of modern homes, schools and churches, none, perhaps, are more deserving than Mr. Waite.

He first settled at Denver in 1869. He cruised the state on horseback, and located where Lyons now stands and started a sheep ranch, being the first settler. He sold the ranch in 1873 and went east, but returned the same year and located on his present homestead of 160 acres. In the spring, he and Mr. L. C. Mead turned the first furrows near Highlandlake.

Tall shade trees adorn the well kept lawn that sur-

rounds his comfortable home, and the trees in his large apple orchard are large and symmetrical. Here and there we find patches of berries of all descriptions, also cherries and other varieties of choice fruits. As a horticulturist, Mr. Waite is a success and has solved the fruit question.

Back of all this wealth of trees expand fine fields of wheat, alfalfa, potatoes and corn, all of which is handled by renters, Mr. Waite having retired from the cares of the farm, excepting cattle, of which he has a goodly number of choice strains both here and in the hills.

Mr. & Mrs. Waite are both public spirited and take an interest in the future of Highlandlake. Mrs. Waite is a member of the Board of Education and President of the 5th District of the W.C.T.U.



F. P. Waite and his grandson John Thomas, taken Jan 17, 1910. Photo courtesy of John Thomas and Betty Ann Newby

Mead Centennial Kicks Off

Historic Highlandlake helped to kick off the Town of Mead Centennial Year by providing the entertainment for the first event, a progressive dinner, on February 17.

The date was very appropriate, as Paul Mead filed a plat for the town on February 19, 1906. The rails of the Great Western Railroad reached the fledgling town on March 6, 1906.

Following a presentation of early-day photos and sketches, HHL Executive Director Pauli Smith reviewed the history of Highlandlake and Mead, and introduced the evening's first special guest, Paul Mead, who was portrayed by Mead resident, Brian Adler.

Mead told the audience of his early life in Highlandlake, life on his family's farm, southeast of Highlandlake, and how he came to found the town and name it for his family.

He had barely finished when Isadora Terry True, portrayed by HHL Board Member, Pat Jorgenson, took the stage and told the audience of her anguish at seeing the new railroad bypass Highlandlake, for

the new town of Mead. "When I heard the bells ring that day, celebrating the birth of the new town of Mead, I feared they were tolling the death knell for Highlandlake," True recounted. After hinting that her former Sunday School student, Paul Mead, may have done something to influence the railroad's route, she complimented Mead on his caveat that no liquor should ever be sold or consumed in the town named for him.

In a rebuttal, Paul Mead, of course, denied any collusion between himself and the railroad officials, and he and Mrs. True ended up shaking hands, before answering questions from the audience.

Paul Mead and Isadora True, as well as other characters from early Highlandlake will probably be in attendance at other events planned to mark the Mead Centennial.

A community celebration, complete with a parade and reunion of all those who graduated from Mead High School, is planned for June 24, and a 'Sugar Beet Festival' is planned for October.



Train that brought the original settlers to the Chicago Colorado Colony (Longmont), and Highlandlake in the early 1870s.

The train ran from Cheyenne to Denver. Travelers got off at Erie then took the stage back

Centennial Photo Exhibit—Longmont Museum

HHL and the Longmont Museum and Cultural Center photo exhibit, celebrating Mead's Centennial, will open at the museum starting October 28, 2006. A Community open house will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4th. We are still looking for a few

artifacts depicting life in Mead, and of course old photos are always welcome. The whole community is getting involved, including the schools. Interested in helping out, or have items to share? Call Pauli at: (970) 535-4936 See a list of our sponsors

Sponsors-Highlandlake Church Restoration

Deacon L.C. Mead (\$20,000 and up)

- Colorado Historical Fund
- Seeley Family Foundation

Rev. Mary Bumstead (\$10,000-\$19,999)

- the Collaborative, inc.

Judge F.P. Waite (\$5,000-\$9,999)

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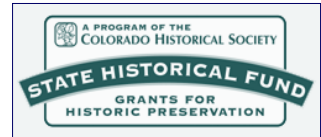
Highlandlake Ladies Pleasure Club (\$1,000-\$4,999)

- Truecraft Masonry
- Mead Area Community Foundation
- Brenda Logsdon
- Walt & Barbara Logsdon
- Territorial Daughters of Colorado-Greeley Centennial Chapter
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- Leroy and Helen Swenson

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- Ghost Town Club of Colorado
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-



The Historic Highlandlake Church restoration project is partially funded by the State Historical Fund.

Without their help, we would have lost this valuable community resource.

Thank you SHF!

Sponsors for the Mead Centennial Exhibit

(As of this printing)

Centennial

(\$1,000-only one)

Town of Mead

Contributing

(\$500)

First National Bank of Mead
Centennial Bank of the West

Supporting

(\$100)

Mead Café

Butch & Karen Sekich

Quality Turf

Vale View in the Meadow

Additional Support provided by:

Longmont Museum
& Cultural Center
Historic Highlandlake, Inc.



Special thanks to all of you who have donated your \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$75 contributions. While there are too many of you to mention individually, we know that without you we would never be able to reach our goals!



Join Historic Highlandlake!

Our organization is open to anyone who has an interest in the past history and future vitality of the Highlandlake/Mead Communities. We have two designations of membership —General and “Pioneer,” with the latter designation reserved for those individuals who are descended from anyone who lived in the Highlandlake Community prior to 1906.

Annual memberships are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families, whether General or “Pioneer,” and \$100 for a Supporting Member. \$500 will buy you a lifetime membership. Additionally, one-year, individual memberships will be conferred on those individuals or businesses that have donated \$100 or more to the church building fund per year.

The money collected from membership dues will be used for the regular, ongoing expenses of the organization, such as printing, mailings, newsletters, programs and other day to day expenses of running the society.



L. C. Mead
Founder of Highlandlake



New Members/Donors

- Debra Edwards
- Warren & Susan Hindman
- Cheryl Heyne
- Miguel & Cindy Martin
- Esther McCrumb
- Jim & Sally Baumann
- Glenn & Pat Markham
- Harriett Markham Smith
- Robert & Lucena Olsen
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- Mark Maeda
- Dusty Hill

Historic Highlandlake, Inc.
C/O Lawrence Jensen - Treasurer
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303.402.1031

Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution for 2006.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email: _____

Sign me up as a:

Individual (\$15) *Family (\$25)* *Child (under 12 (\$5))*
 Supporting (\$100) *Life (\$500)*
 I am a direct descendant of a pre-1906 Highlandlake Pioneer.*

*Pioneer memberships are restricted to those members who can prove direct descendancy to a pre-1906, Highlandlake settler. Please contact us for more information.

I am contributing \$ _____ to the Highlandlake Church Restoration
I am contributing \$ _____ to Historic Highlandlake's Operating fund
I am contributing \$ _____ to the Historic Pioneer Cemetery
I am contributing \$ _____ to wherever you need it most

I would like to help with:

Membership Committee *Church Restoration* *Pioneer Cemetery*
 Programs & Tours *Annual Reunion & Community Gathering*
 Oral History *Highlandlake and Mead Digital Photo Project*
 Educational Outreach *Centennial Exhibit*



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Pauli Driver Smith—Executive Director



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HIGHLANDLAKE
HIGHLIGHTS

