McIntyre Family History

by Elaine Hood and John McIntyre Bevan

Circa 1860, the Duncan McIntyre family homesteaded the land on which the Meyer Ranch now stands. Duncan's great-grandson, John McIntyre Bevan, presented the family history to a rapt audience on the evening of June 17.

John McIntyre Bevan recently spoke about his family history to an attentive audience at the monthly CHSM Summer Lecture Series. His great-grandfather, Duncan McIntyre, homesteaded the land on which the Norm Meyer Sr. home now stands.

Questions? Call us at 720.333.0223

As of August 1, 2010, CHSM is more than 1/2 way to meeting its $10,000 goal for the Meyer Feasibility Study.

Once again, CHSM partnered the Intermountain Humane Society for their annual Dog Walk on the Meyer Ranch, held June 26. CHSM placed nearly 40 historical signs along the trails so hikers could learn about the local history during their enjoyable jaunt with their favorite pooch.

John McIntyre Bevan was born on October 18, 1933, in Los Angeles. John and his wife, Constance Mae (Mickelson) Bevan reside above Los Angeles in the city of La Cañada Flintridge. John's ability to weave his family history into a fascinating narrative for a spellbound audience was remarkable. Like almost all CHSM events, his story was video recorded for historical archives and will be available for public access soon.

Do you have your family history in the Conifer area researched? If so, please contact CHSM to share your story.

www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org

IMHS Dog Walk

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CHSM
Conifer Historical Society and Museum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 15 Old Timers’ Picnic, Pleasant Park School
September 12 Meyer Home Tour and Chat
November 13 CNN Holiday Boutique

Questions? Call us at 720.333.0223

This issue of CHSM can be found at www.ConiferHistoricalSociety.org
Call us at 720.333.0223

* DID YOU KNOW *

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Meyer Home Tour and Chat September 12

Norm Sr. and several of his children will provide tours of their historic home.

$50/person
Limited tickets

Call CHSM now to reserve your tickets for this unique opportunity.

720.333.0223
Proceeds will go toward the Meyer Feasibility Study.

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While John was careful to distinguish the difference between fact and conjecture, he presented a fascinating story of how his family immigrated from Scotland to Ontario, Canada, in the early 1800s and then to Conifer circa 1860.

Duncan McIntyre was born on October 22, 1806, in Scotland. His wife, Elizabeth (Brush) McIntyre was born on February 11, 1816, also in Scotland.
A Letter to the Community
by Janet Shown, CHSM President

In the past year, four significant opportunities for preservation of historical properties and culture have become available. With so many options, how does a community decide what its priorities should be?

It is this question with which several groups in the Conifer community have wrestled. They have noted these important occurrences:

- The property affectionately termed the Yellow Barn corner is for sale.
- The DeLaCastro property across Highway 73 from the Yellow Barn, possibly a part of the original ranch on which the Yellow Barn stood, is also on the market.
- The State Park Service has indicated it would like to partner with a group to turn several historic cabins at Stansion State Park into museum sites.
- The Norman Meyer family has teamed up with CHSM to pursue a feasibility study to determine whether the Meyer home site might one day become a museum.

Thankfully, the Conifer area community has champions for the preservation cause!

- The Conifer Area Council, under the visional leadership of Shirley Johnson, recently conducted a new survey that queried residents about their preservation priorities. Analysis of the results from 1,329 completed surveys showed that the preservation of the Yellow Barn and the Meyer home site are the community’s top preservation priorities.
- Ably led by Jacque Scott and Karl Dise, the Conifer Area Council’s Historic Preservation Committee is working to create a Historic District stretching from the Norm Meyer property along Sutton and Barkley Roads to the Yellow Barn. The committee also facilitates communication and collaboration between several preservation groups, keeps the community informed about historical properties which may qualify for preservation, and facilitates action planning among interested parties to accomplish preservation of the area’s most important historic structures.
- The Preserve the Yellow Barn Committee, presided by the tireless Angela Bassano, has signed a Transaction Agreement with the real estate broker for the commercial corner that includes the Yellow Barn. The group is gathering information to determine whether it will make an offer and begin fund-raising to purchase the corner with its iconic Yellow Barn and other historic buildings.
- In the past two months, the Conifer Historical Society and Museum has raised more than half of the amount needed to conduct a feasibility study which will help the committee and the Meyer family determine whether a museum is a viable use for the Meyer home, historic barn, outbuildings and surrounding 10 acres. An additional $4,500 is needed to reach the $10,000 goal to cover the cost of a structural assessment and feasibility analysis.

The next fund-raising event is scheduled for Sunday, September 12 at the Meyer home on US Highway 285. The $50 ticket will allow guests to tour the Meyer home and hear about its history and family life from Norm, Sr. and several of his children.

All of these projects will require a great deal of human and financial resources. And all of these projects are worthy of the community’s support. I invite you to join with us or with one of these other groups – to reach these important goals. What a legacy we will leave to the next generations if we can preserve what’s best about our community’s heritage!

For more information about the Meyer project or other CHSM activities, be sure to visit our newly revamped website at www.conifer-historicalsociety.org.

Janet Shown

Duncan McIntyre continued from page 1

Duncan was shanghaied and forced into the British Navy around 1825. Family lore states he received lashings for interceding on behalf of a fellow sailor and it was shortly thereafter that he jumped ship along the Saint Laurence River. He worked for the Hudson Bay Company near Pembroke, Ontario, Canada, which was involved in the lumber trade. Duncan sent for his sweetheart, Elizabeth Brush, who was still in Scotland. Elizabeth’s ship was intercepted on the high seas by a privateer and she subsequently spent three years in a convent in Spain before ultimately arriving in Ontario. They had six children, the first five were born in Pembroke, Ontario, and the youngest was born in Montreal.

The family migrated to Colorado around 1860, most likely with a wagon train of other Canadians. John believes the Legault family was part of this early migration to Conifer and some people in his trie of photos are perhaps Legault family members.

Early 1860s historical records identify Duncan McIntyre as a Justice-of-the-Peace in Conifer.

The barn that still stands on Norm Meyer’s property was undoubtedly built by Duncan McIntyre. Norm Meyer, Sr., had the wood tested and it was determined that the trees used for the barn had been cut down in 1870. Wooden pegs were used instead of nails.

The McIntyre family’s influence was felt beyond Conifer. Duncan’s brother John W. McIntyre was a lumberman and contractor who was listed in Denver telephone directories in the 1870s. John W. McIntyre’s son, John D. McIntyre, was a draftsman and surveyor who drafted the plat map for the city of Castle Rock in July 1874. Duncan’s daughter Elizabeth married Enos Throop Hotchkiss, who homesteaded the land in what eventually became the Colorado town bearing his name.

Sometime in the 1870s, the Duncan McIntyre family migrated from Conifer to Castle Rock, Seguache, Gunnison, Powderhorn, Lake City, Montrose, Delta, Hotchkiss and the Crawford/Maher area. Duncan McIntyre died September 14, 1884, in the Crawford/Maher area and was buried there. Elizabeth Brush McIntyre died February 16, 1887, and was buried next to her husband.

Duncan McIntyre and Elizabeth (Brush) McIntyre had six children. Two of their sons, John Brush McIntyre and Douglas McIntyre married identical twin sisters, Rosa Belle Lemon and Isa Belle Lemon, in a double wedding ceremony on the young ladies’ father’s ranch near Crawford.

Duglass Duglas McIntyre and Isa Belle (Lemon) McIntyre continued on page 4.