



UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY & Pikes Peak Museum

P. O. Box 6875 / 231 East Henrietta Avenue

Woodland Park, CO 80866

(719) 686-7512 • uphs@peakinter.net



Captain Jack

by Linda Wommack

She was a tough lady, eccentric and legendary as one of Colorado's most colorful pioneers. Ellen Elliott was born on Nov. 4, 1842, in New Lentern, Nottingham, England. By the time she made her way to Colorado in 1880, she had suffered tragedy and loss.

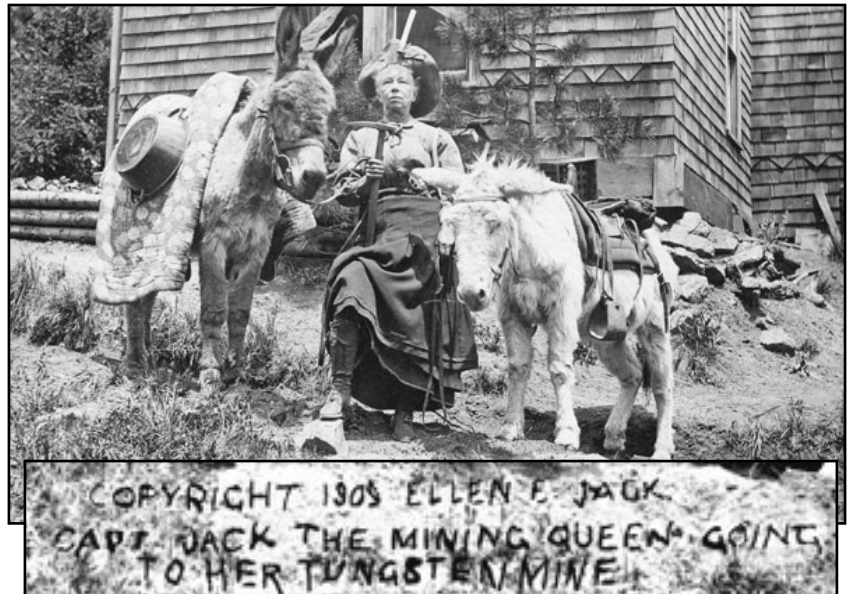
In 1860, Elliott boarded the "James Foster" ship bound for America. While aboard, she met Charles E. Jack. The two were married after they settled in New York. When the country erupted in Civil War, Charles Jack served the Union, eventually rising to the rank of captain. During the war, Ellen gave birth to their first child, a girl. Not long after the war ended, the couple welcomed their second child, a boy.

Tragedy struck the Jack family when both children died of scarlet fever. The couple eventually had two more daughters. Sadly, one of the daughters died, again due to scarlet fever. Not long after the death of their third child, Charles died of an enlarged heart in 1872.

Devastated by so much tragedy and loss, Ellen Jack eventually placed her surviving daughter in the care of her sister-in-law and headed to the West. Her first stop was Denver where she learned of the gold discoveries in the Gunnison area on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. In Gunnison, she opened a boarding house and with the income she was able to buy into a partnership in the Black Queen Mine, located between Crested Butte and Aspen.

It was at this time that history records her name as "Captain Jack," which she had taken from her deceased husband. This was also the time when her colorful Colorado legend assumed a whole new persona. According to her autobiography, *Fate of a Fairy or Twenty-seven Years in the Far West*, Captain Jack was well accomplished with firearms, including pistols, shotguns and rifles. She wrote she was involved in several gunfights, including a few with local Indians. Traveling alone through the heavy snows in the mountains, she always carried a pistol and pick-ax to get her through the snow-packed passes. She later said, "I do not fear man or devil; it is not in my blood, and if they can shoot any straighter or quicker than I, let them try it, for a .44 equalizes frail women and brute men, and all women ought to be able to protect themselves against such ruffians."

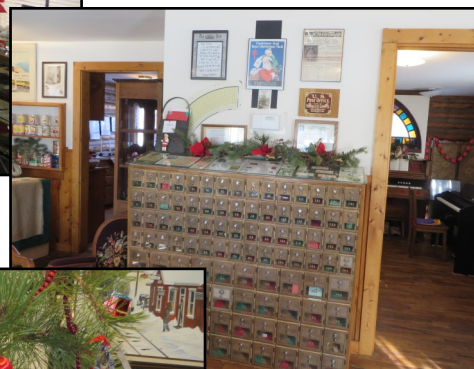
Among the many events related in her book is a somewhat fanciful tale involving Gypsies. Captain Jack relates that at the age of 7, she attended the Goose Fair in her hometown of Nottingham, where she met a Gypsy queen who supposedly said to her mother, "The child will meet with great sorrows and be a widow early in life." Whether the event is true or not, the prediction certainly proved to be correct.



Continued on page 6



**2016
Tweed's Holiday
Home Tour
at
History Park**



Upcoming Events:

2017 Patronage Luncheon

Sunday, January 29

Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Avenue

12:30 p.m. Time for **Patrons** of Ute Pass Historical Society to arrive

1:30 p.m. Time for the **public** to arrive

This is our largest Patron event of the year. There will be a selection of UPHS' recent publications for sale.

Sorry-no credits cards.

Free Tours every Saturday from June 3rd through September 2nd (excluding August 5th).

Walking Tour of downtown Woodland Park meets at the Museum Center building at 10:30 a.m., and lasts about 90 minutes. Tour the historic cabins of History Park from 11 am to 1 p.m.

Free tours are offered year round. Call UPHS for an appointment

Annual Cemetery Crawl, Tuesday, July 4th, 1 to 3 pm
Woodland Park Cemetery, 650 Short Street

Call now to volunteer and explore your inner thespian

Thanks to our Amazing Volunteers who made the Holiday Home Tour a Smashing Success

Karla Schweitzer and Pat Hyslop

- Larry Black * Austin Box * Dee Dejong
- Nancy Desilets * Donna Finicle * Linda Garrett
- Miriam Gillespie *Karen Gilliam * Suzie Graf
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- Betty Merchant * Suzanne Miller
- Ric and Ricky Nieves * Judy Perkins
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- Jean Rodeck * Darlene Ruth * Nancy Spradling
- Wayne Stewart * Karin Taylor * Marion Vance
- Mary Ellen Zimmerman * Fred Zobel
- And many more!

**Thank you to ...
Our new and renewing
Family and Associate Patrons**

Allen County Public Library * Debra Bloch
Lisa Bonwell and John Bell Family
Jim and Meg Huber * Pat Hyslop * Bill Phelps, Jr.

Our Business and Supporting Patrons

AK Pioneer Consulting
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Jim and Natalie Unruh

**And UPHS recognizes our
Honorary Lifetime Patrons**

Larry Black * Paul and Patricia Crowson
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Claudia and Jim Eley * Anne Foster
Marg Ed Kwapil * Sandy and Daniel Lampe
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Mel McFarland * Louisa Moore
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Claude Wiatrowski



Ute Pass Historical Society joins with family and friends in remembering the talented and respected community members who recently passed away. They are gone, but never forgotten.

Major David C. "Garry" Garrison

Long time UPHS volunteer

Garry died peacefully at home and ascended to his Lord on Saturday, October 15, 2016 surrounded by his loving wife and family. He was born June 18, 1939 to the late Hill and Mable Garrison in Kansas City, Missouri.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, one brother Ward Garrison, four children: Cindi Hosmer, Rex Garrison (Heidi), Ronda Batt (Tony) and Sandra Garrison (Gene); ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He is also survived by three step sons Dale Koehn, Craig Koehn (Valerie) and Rick Koehn (Michelle), five step grandchildren, and four step great grandchildren.

Garry received his Bachelor degree in 1963 from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. In 1974 he received his MBA from Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

He completed 20 years with the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and the Marshall Islands. He retired in 1983.

After retirement, he received his CPA certificate and practiced until 2002.

Garry was an active member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, Manitou Kiwanis Club, Pikes Peak Soap Box Derby, Ute Pass Historical Society, Ute Pass Chamber of Commerce, Chipita Park Association and West Side Cares.

Garry was loved and cherished by all who knew him.



Roger Hathaway, a Colorado-born musician, piano technician, motorcyclist and wood carver, passed away on December 11th. He was 75.

The second son of notable Woodland Park sculptor and furniture maker Paul Robert Hathaway, Roger grew up at the foot of Pikes Peak. Upon graduating from high school in 1959, Roger joined the U.S. Navy and volunteered for the Submarine Service, serving as a diesel engine-man on the U.S.S. Cusk. A life-long lover of the American Southwest, he felt at home in New Mexico, and moved there in 1986.

Roger is survived by older brother, Paul, and two sisters, Diane and Lynne, his wife, Peggy Abbott, and two sons, Nate and Barry.

The Ute Pass Historical Society appreciates his "first person" stories about growing up in Woodland Park, and about his father, Paul, which were featured in *Discovering Ute Pass*, Volume II.

Thomas Lee Willoughby

Thomas Lee Willoughby died unexpectedly November 24th at his home in Woodland Park. He was 73.

Lee and his wife Kathy moved to Woodland Park in 2005 and dedicated themselves to learning about high-altitude gardening. Lee loved the city and threw his heart and soul into the community.

He was the current president of Teller Park Conservation District. He served on Keep Woodland Park Beautiful and the WP Utilities Advisory committees. He was also on the Woodland Park Main Street board and was the current treasurer. He helped establish and sustain The Harvest Center, an organization dedicated to educating the community about high-altitude gardening and sustainable living. Lee will be sorely missed in our Woodland Park community.

Those that knew him had these thoughts to share:

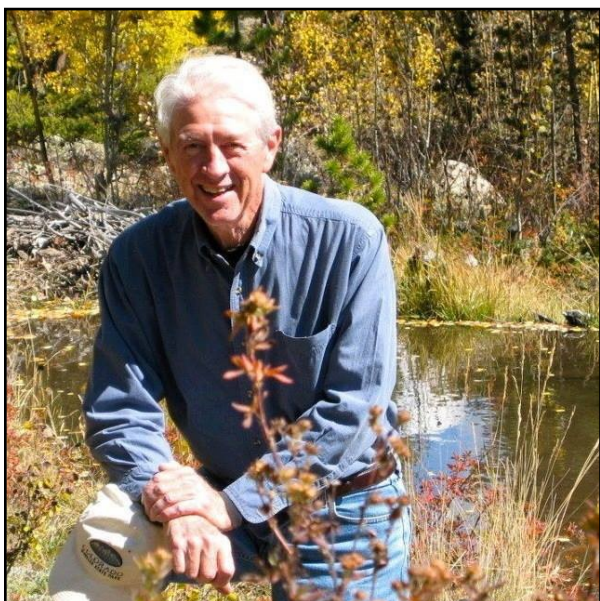
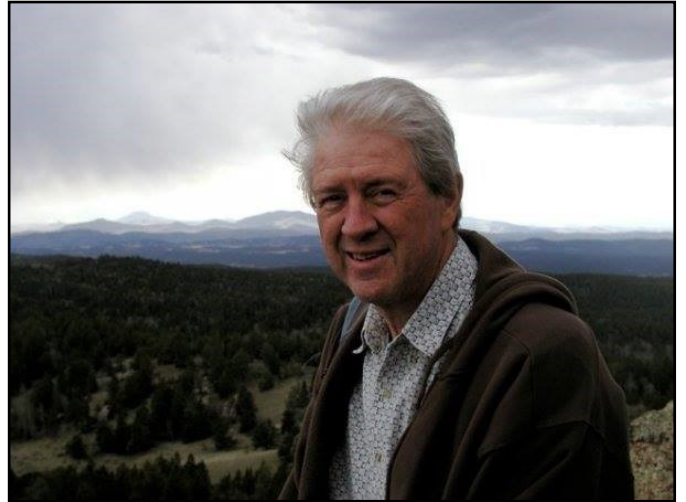
Donna Finicle, UPHS President: A great vacuum remains where Lee once was. A unique and special person whose life contributed to the greater good!

Judith Rice-Jones: He will be sorely missed. Loved the classes he organized at the WP library on successfully growing food at altitude.

Gloria White-Duddleston: Lee and I were classmates and graduates in 1961 at Provine High School, Jackson, MS. I always thought he was special and would make a difference somehow in this world and he did in many ways. I am so glad I got to know him. My prayers are with the family. RIP Lee Willoughby.

Joan Knudsen: What a wonderful human being he was! My husband and I are very privileged to have known him!!!

Patricia Galvin: I was so shocked to hear this news. I'll always remember Lee and his love of life, family, the earth and all it's bounty. He led others with kindness and gentleness. Lee, you will be missed by many!!! My prayers are with your family and friends.



Lee and his mother, Betty Waller

In 1900, Captain Jack was living in Cripple Creek where she ran a boarding house for three years at the corner of Bennett Avenue and 4th Street. Nothing else is known of her time in Cripple Creek and her autobiography makes only one reference to her time there. In 1903 she had relocated to Colorado Springs where she operated a few rental cabins for tourists on the High Drive above Bear Creek Canyon. In a time when automobile tourism became a rage, Captain Jack set out to corner the new market. She set up an eclectic tourist trap complete with a curio shop featuring exotic pets including snakes and macaws. She regaled her customers with fanciful stories of magical gypsies and wild stories of her life.

Captain Jack became something of an oddity in the area of Colorado Springs. Rumors and whispers regarding her sanity floated around the city at the base of Pikes Peak. One of her many competitors was Nora "Ma" Gaines. She had a reputation in the town as well. Gaines was one of the first to capitalize on the tourist trade. She ran a hotel in town and was one of the many hoards of carriage drivers that clamored at the train depot to take the visitors, businessmen and tourists to their establishments. Gaines, who could out-smart, out-swear and out-fight any competitor, eventually out-smarted Captain Jack.

As Gaines launched a heavy marketing campaign, Captain Jack escalated her wild tales of her adventurous life. As time went on the Indian stories got wilder and the mountain tales included fights with beastly animals. She had photos taken of herself outlandish mountain garb, complete with pistols and shotguns, that she sold in her curio shop. The photo captions, in her own handwriting, read, "Mrs. Captain Jack Lost in the Mountains" and "Mrs. Captain Jack Looking for Mountain Lion."

Meanwhile, Gaines' tourist business was cutting into Captain Jack's, forcing her to take out loans she was unable to pay back. Financial difficulties led to three separate lawsuits in 1906. Nearly broke, she became a recluse, living alone with her cats, parrots and burros. However, the wild tales continued. In an interview published in the Feb. 5, 1905, issue of the Gazette Telegraph, she claimed she had located a cave to rival the nearby Cave of the Winds, another tourist attraction. However, she said she was keeping the location secret until she could develop it as tourist destination.

In June 1920, heavy rains turned into a horrific flood, washing out the road to Captain Jack's tourist cabins on High Drive. With her business virtually wiped out, and in ill health, 78-year-old Captain Jack died the following year, on June 16, 1921. She was buried in the city's Evergreen Cemetery, where her tombstone ironically faces the High Drive. In another irony, "Ma" Gaines bought Captain Jack's tourist property a few years later and operated it quite successfully.

Many thanks to author Linda Wommack who is a Contributing Editor of True West Magazine, Staff Writer for Wild West Magazine, Web Editor of Wild West History Association, and Board Member -Women Writing the West.



Ute Pass Historical Society & Pikes Peak Museum Annual Patronage Luncheon

Sunday, January 29, 2017, Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Avenue, Woodland Park

Captain Jack performs along with other "Unconventional Women of the West"

12:30 p.m. Doors open for UPHS Patrons

1:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the program

Ute Pass Historical Society honors its Patrons with a buffet of homemade soups, salads and sandwiches. The Traveling Book Store will be on hand with a selection that includes

Discovering Ute Pass Volumes I and II and the **2017 UPHS Pictorial Calendar**.

Not a Ute Pass Historical Society patron? Become one at the luncheon! A family membership is only \$35 and all memberships include a 10% discount at the Gift Shop.

Sorry-no credit cards. For more information call 719.686.7512.



CHOCOLATE CHERRY FUDGE BUNDT CAKE (HIGH ALTITUDE)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 box (18-oz.) devil’s food cake mix | 1/2 c. water |
| 2 tablespoons flour (for high altitude) | 1 teaspoon almond (or vanilla) extract |
| 1/2 c. vegetable oil (or coconut oil, melted) | 1-21 ounce can of cherry pie filling |
| 3 large eggs | 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips |

Preheat oven to 350° or to temperature indicated on cake mix high-altitude instructions. Grease a 12-cup bundt pan and set aside.

Pour the cake mix into a medium bowl and whisk to break up any clumps. Add the oil, eggs, water and vanilla. Beat at medium speed until well mixed. Fold in the cherry pie filling and chocolate chips. Pour into the prepared pan and level the batter. The batter will be thick and heavy.

Bake for 45-55 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out of the cake clean. Allow the cake to cool in the pan for 10 minutes and then invert onto serving platter to finish cooling.

When cooled, dust with confectionery sugar.

Variations:

Spice cake, apple pie filling, vanilla extract

White cake, blueberry pie filling, lemon extract

Instead of a bundt pan, bake in well-greased and floured 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees F for 35 to 40 minutes.

**Bonus recipe this month by special request from attendees
(especially Steve Plutt) of the 2016 Annual Potato Soup Supper in October.**

*Speaking of potato soup, here’s a recipe that is sure to take the chill out of a frosty fall morning.
Serve it with a crisp green salad and crusty bread. Then, sit down and wait for the compliments!*

Creamy Potato Soup

- 6 pieces of bacon, cooked 3 T bacon drippings 5 stalks celery, diced 4 carrots, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped 8 medium potatoes, cubed 3-14 oz. cans of chicken broth 1 pt heavy cream
- 1 T thyme 3 T cornstarch 1/3 C of milk 1 can of sweet corn 1 c. cheddar cheese, grated

In a large soup pot, put 2 T bacon drippings. Add celery, onion and carrots. Cook until tender. Add potatoes and remaining 1 T drippings. Cook until potatoes are slightly done; then add chicken broth. Simmer approximately 1 hour, or until potatoes are tender (not mushy). Add cream; bring to a slow boil, stirring constantly.

Stir in corn starch mixed with milk to thicken. Reduce heat; add thyme, corn and cheese. Crumble bacon into mixture. Makes 8 servings.

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P.O. Box 6875
Woodland Park, CO 80866-6875



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*2017 Patronage Renewal
Form Enclosed!!!*

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UPHS is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization

THANK YOU!

*The Ute Pass Historical Society's Board of Directors is grateful to our loyal patrons and enthusiastic volunteers. Without your generous financial contributions and dedicated volunteer service, we would not exist. Thanks to all of you for supporting our mission to preserve and share the history of the families and communities of the Ute Pass area of Colorado.
It is an honor to serve you!*