

Grand Valley Historical Society Newsletter  
July 2010  
Prepared by Jim Klink, Public Relations Chair

Dear Members,

I hope that the arrival of this newsletter finds you well. Like me, I'm sure you're looking forward to a warm, dry summer after the cold, wet spring we had in Western Colorado again this year. It's been a successful year for the Historical Society and I will try to highlight some of the more important events and happenings that have occurred.

This newsletter also begins our annual membership drive and I hope you will take the time to fill out the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter and return it to us sometime during July. I cannot overemphasize the importance your membership means to the success of the GVHS. Not only do we depend on your financial support to maintain the schoolhouse – including insurance and utility costs, its grounds, and the newly added Glover Cabin - but it also allows us to present quality programs at our quarterly meetings. Even though the Society has again been successful at renting the schoolhouse to outside groups, the revenue is not sufficient to cover the above mentioned costs. Therefore, your support through your membership is vital to us.

**Glover Cabin arrives at last**

Last year at this time I reported for the second straight year that the historic Glover Cabin would likely be moved to the Schoolhouse grounds before winter. That report has finally become a reality. After almost three years of negotiations and meeting governmental hurdles the cabin was moved to the Schoolhouse on September 23, 2009. The move was made by Bill Bailey House Movers and occurred without a hitch. In fact the eight mile journey took only about an hour, much less than expected. On October 1<sup>st</sup> a formal dedication ceremony was held with members of the Historical Society, employees of the Williams Corporation and local government dignitaries present.



Since that time repairs have been made to the cabin including tuck pointing, re-roofing and general structure reinforcement that was needed as the cabin was attached to a cement foundation. In spring, the Society's Cabin Committee, under the direction of Charlotte White, began to furnish the

cabin with donations of period furniture. It is our hope to make the cabin appear as if it was inhabited by a schoolmarm in the early 1900's.

We are grateful to all of the people who helped make the Glover Cabin project a reality, especially Williams Corporation who donated the cabin and provided the funding of the move and the site preparation. A special thanks goes out to Susan Alvillar of Williams who worked so hard to make this project a reality. Without her persistence the Glover Cabin would likely have been left to decay on its original site.

### **GVHS Enters Into Leasing Agreement**

The GVHS has recently entered into a pool agreement with Antero Resources Corp. to lease the mineral rights beneath the schoolhouse grounds. While the Society's Board of Directors had some reservations about such an agreement, it also became apparent that we would probably be "force pooled" if we did not sign, and consequently receive little or no royalties. Antero did agree to not drill or put any roads on schoolhouse property. Once well production begins on the pooling land, we will receive a percentage of that production in royalties. However, at the time of this writing, no definite amounts are known.

### **McKay/Wassam House**

The Town of Parachute, which had previously purchased the historic McKay/Wassam house located on Cardinal Way in Parachute, has recently completed renovating the structure for use as office space for the town government. The town is applying for placement of the house on the National Historical Register. Additionally, there is a cabin on the grounds which the town is interested in seeking a state preservation grant for. Although the Historical Society has no connection to the McKay/Wassam House, we do support the town's efforts to preserve another building of historical significance and we have offered our services in helping them with the process as well as in obtaining the state grant.

### **Schoolhouse Maintenance**

During the past year most of the work projects at the schoolhouse were done in preparation for the Glover Cabin relocation and were financed with significant help from the Williams Corporation. These projects included site grading, construction of a concrete slab for the cabin foundation and construction of a sidewalk from the schoolhouse to the cabin site. The most notable non-cabin project was the purchase and installation of window shades for the east room of the schoolhouse. These shades are not only aesthetically pleasing, and in keeping with the historic look of the schoolhouse, but also great insulation against the summer sun and winter winds. One other maintenance project on the schoolhouse has been recently completed – repair and painting of the exterior window frames and sills.

In addition to these projects, many improvements have been made to the schoolhouse grounds. With the help of the Work Enders – Garfield County's community release program – the grounds have been cleared of weeds and underbrush and new trees and some flowers have been planted. Thanks go out to Garfield County for their help with this project and also to Sandy Getter who has assumed responsibility for watering the new plantings.

Over the last year two storage sheds have been added to the schoolhouse grounds. One shed is temporary and is being used to store books and materials from the public library while the library building is being enlarged and remodeled. The second shed was given to the Society by the Friends of the Library and is being used to store lawn equipment. Our thanks to the Friends for donating this shed.

The GVHS has a number of upcoming maintenance projects that need to be done this year to keep the schoolhouse in the excellent condition that it currently is. Chief among these projects is repainting the roof to protect it from weather damage and tuck pointing the outside walls of the building. Those projects are costly but must be done periodically to preserve the structural integrity of the building. Other projects involve continued improvement of the grounds which we hope to accomplish with help from the Work Enders program.

Finally, the continued use of the schoolhouse for meetings and community events necessitates constant cleaning of the building. Charlotte White and her volunteer cleaning crew have done an outstanding job in that capacity but can always use more help. If you are interested in helping out, please call Charlotte at 285-9766. Major cleanings occur about once a month so minimal time is required.

**July Membership Meeting – “Unsinkable Molly” is coming to Parachute!**

The Grand Valley Historical Society will be holding its summer meeting on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the Historic Battlement Mesa Schoolhouse. The program will feature the gifted storyteller Mary Jane Bradbury portraying Margaret “Molly” Brown, survivor of the Titanic sinking and crusader for the rights of women, children and mine workers in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Colorado. Ms Bradbury draws on over 20 years as an actress, speaker, educator and author to bring history to life. She is an interpreter/enactor for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and has written and produced historic events for Four Mile Historic Park in Denver. Her speaking business, A View of the Past, is dedicated to inspiring audiences of all ages by bringing to life compelling stories from history.



There will be a brief business meeting before the program and light refreshments will be served. I hope you can attend this very interesting and informative meeting. We do have an air conditioning system, so the afternoon should be comfortable as well as entertaining.

**Membership Renewal**

As was mentioned above, July is the month of our annual membership renewal drive. The Society is very proud of its large membership and counts on your support to help sponsor the many activities, projects and programs we present each year. Your support is even more important now that the schoolhouse restoration is completed and will require funds to maintain it in the condition it has been restored to. If you have an annual membership, please fill out the following form and send it along with your check to GVHS at PO Box 363, Parachute, CO 81635. (If you are a lifetime member there is, of course, no need to fill out this form unless you have a change of address or email). With costs for everything in our lives rising, the Society has held the line and not raised dues. We will continue this course as long as we can meet our financial obligations. Please remember that your membership is tax deductible (tax exempt #EIN84-1551611). We hope you will continue to support

the Grand Valley Historical Society, your organization dedicated to preserving the history of the Parachute/Battlement Mesa area.

**2010-11 Membership Renewal Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip code)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:**

Youth (\$5.00) \_\_\_ Individual (\$20) \_\_\_ Family (\$25) \_\_\_ Business (\$50) \_\_\_

Patron Lifetime (\$1000) \_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I am interested in serving on a GVHS committee. Please contact me with more information.