

THE SANFORD HISTORIAN

Today is tomorrow's history

Issue 1

June 2021

Welcome to Sanford Museum Heritage Month. Remember when ... We learned to type on a typewriter, doing finger stretching exercises to warm up? A Viewmaster told us stories instead of TV? Katie's Place was run by Al Lujan, then Gene Poulson? The Tivoli was a favorite forbidden place to explore? It was the Sanford Giants, not the Sanford Indians? No? Visit the Sanford Museum to reminisce and learn more about our Heritage.

*Frankie Colton,
Sanford Museum Board President*



Museum Has a History of its Own

The building that houses the Sanford Museum is a treasure in and of itself. It was built as the Sanford Town Hall in 1936 as part of the WPA effort to provide jobs during the Great Depression. Over the years it has served as a temporary church, a jail, a band room for the school, fire department, a library, and even a lookout tower where volunteer observers for the US Ground Observer Corps watched the skies for possible enemy aircraft after World War II. In 1995, Mary June Miller, Madge Perko, and Gary Bailey spearheaded the effort to start the Sanford Museum in the building, and the rest is history. This building is part of Sanford's story. Like all buildings of its time it is showing its age. The Museum Board and the Town of Sanford have been looking at options to preserve the building.

JULY IS HERITAGE MONTH



MUSEUM HOURS

- Saturday July 3rd, 12pm-9pm
- Friday July 16th, 10am-2pm
- Saturday July 17th, 10am-2pm

We can also open by appointment.

Call (719) 580-4114.

SPECIAL EVENTS

John Canty will be here to talk about Catawba history from *1pm-2pm on Saturday, July 17th*

Gather, Gab, and Remember

Come join this fun, informal evening of sharing. You bring your memories.

We'll bring snacks.

Saturday July 24, 6pm



THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Jared Kreps, Scott Kreps, Kasia and Tiana Mortensen for recent outdoor maintenance.

Dwayne Gilling of Sanford Country Store is recognized as a Friend of the Sanford Museum and has agreed to mow the lawn.

BIOGRAPHY CORNER

Silas Sanford Smith

Silas Sanford Smith, after whom the Town of Sanford was named, was born in 1830 in Stockholm, New York. He was a first cousin to the prophet Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

When Silas was 9 years old, his father died. His mother, Mary, took her sons Silas Sanford and Jesse Nathaniel along with the Saints to settle in Nauvoo before going west in 1847 to what would later become Utah.

Silas was an officer in the militia during the Indian War of 1853, and later during the Black Hawk War. He served a mission to the Sandwich Islands in 1854.

In 1864 he became a widower, leaving him with 8 children under the age of 12. The following year, Silas married Martha Eliza Bennett, with whom he had 12 more children.

While living in Utah, Silas was a state legislator, a bishop, a probate judge, a prosecuting attorney, and a U.S. deputy marshal. Church leaders appointed him to lead an expedition to identify suitable settlement locations in southeastern Utah, and then to serve as president of the San Juan Mission.

A short time later he was called to the San Luis Valley to preside over Saints settling in Conejos County. As a land agent, he worked hard to overcome multiple obstacles and eventually he obtained over 20,000 acres of land in 40-acre tracts for the settlers. In June of 1883, the San Luis Stake was formed with Silas Sanford Smith as president. After about a decade, Silas Sanford Smith returned to Utah.

To learn more about Silas Sanford Smith, check out these resources:

We Call It Home, by Mary June Miller (for sale at the museum)

The Mormons: 100 Years in the San Luis Valley of Colorado, compiled and edited by Carlton Q. Anderson, Betty Shawcroft and Robert Compton.

LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, by Andrew Jenson



Would you like to submit a short biography of someone in Sanford's history? Send it to administrator@sanfordhistorymuseum.org.

An Invitation from Scott Kreps

Sanford Museum Vice President

Friend,

Can you spare a dime or two or three or four?

Can you spare a dollar or two or three or more?

Can you spare some time, an hour or two or three or four?

We will accept all the help we can get and even more.

We invite you to become a Friend of the

Sanford Museum. Annual dues are only \$50.00, or contact a Board member about using volunteer hours in lieu of payment.

Donate at www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org

Or make checks payable to *Sanford History Museum* and mail to:

Frankie Colton, Sanford History Museum
295 Greenleaf St, Sanford CO 81151

Sanford History Museum Board

President – Frankie Colton, President; Scott Kreps, Vice President; Linda Smith, Secretary; Lois Miller, Treasurer.
Members: Lynette DePriest, Brian Crowther, Valerie Crowther, Terry Colton