

# THE SANFORD HISTORIAN

*Today is tomorrow's history.*

Issue 4

September 2021



“Everything we have now was left by our ancestors. What will we leave for our children? Our roots lie in this ancient city, and it has influenced our character. We have to take good care of it.” This quotation by Xu Gangyl gives us food for thought. What are our roots? Who has influenced our lives? How can we take good care of the place we call home?

*Frankie Colton  
Board President  
Sanford History Museum*

## **FALL MUSEUM HOURS**

Beginning in September we will be open on **Saturdays from 4pm-7pm**. The museum is can also open by appointment by calling one of these numbers:

(719) 580-4114

(719) 588-5540

(719) 588-6410

## **SUMMER RECAP FOR THE MUSEUM**

The Sanford Historian is an idea I shared with our secretary, Linda Smith. She thought it was a good idea and she has been making my idea look good ever since. Many thanks to her for her dedicated service.

This issue for September makes our fourth issue. My idea is for the Sanford Historian to be a voice for our museum. I want it to become a connecting ink between the museum an the community. I want it to

highlight the cultures which have built our town from rabbit brush and rattlesnakes to the community it has become.

If the museum could talk, what stories could it tell? In fact, it has many stories to tell as people over the years have donated journals, and personal histories. They can speak to us as voices from the past. We can get to know them better and their stories become a part of our own.

Each issue has highlighted the lives of selected individuals. Our June issue had a short biography of Silas Sanford Smith. Our town is named after him. Our July issue told about Viola Garcia, a World War II army nurse and one of Sanford's citizens of Catawa Indian descent. Our August issue featured John Cany as he shared his knowledge of the Catawba Indians and the drums he made. As people poured in we scrambled for every chair and we were still left with standing room only. We would certainly welcome John back again, as well as others with expertise in local history.

We will be planning future events. We invite all to share their stories about their families and how they came to be part of Sanford.

*Scott Kreps  
Vice President  
Sanford History Museum*

## BIOGRAPHY CORNER

### Don Juan Naranjo

Los Sauces is a community east of Sanford that was settled in the 1860s by Hispanic families from northern New Mexico looking for a better life. There, settlers were able to graze their animals on both sides of the Rio Grande. Community members built their homes of adobe. They built places to worship and a school for the children, and the settlement developed a strong sense of community.

One influential early resident was Don Juan Naranjo, who was born in Espanola in 1855 and moved to Los Sauces in 1869. He eventually taught school in Los Sauces and helped to organize the Los Sauces Ditch Company. He also served as Postmaster and mail carrier. In 1934, he was elected Justice of the Peace, sealed with Kit Carson's signature.

When the Sanford History Museum was founded, its founders determined that they wanted the museum to preserve the history of the area covered by the Sanford School District, which includes Sanford, Los Sauces, and surrounding areas. Over the years, a small collection of materials about the Los Sauces has been donated to the museum.

*The information in this article was based on an article by Manuel D. Salazar that is part of the Sanford History Museum's collection about the history of Los Sauces.*

## Future Biography Corner Features

Would you like to submit a short biography of someone in Sanford's history? Send it to

[administrator@sanfordhistorymuseum.org](mailto:administrator@sanfordhistorymuseum.org)



This Sanford Indian has found a new home at the Sanford History Museum.

## THANK YOU

Volunteers make the Sanford History Museum possible. If you would like to know more about how you can help, please contact one of our board members.

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](http://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

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Visit our website at [www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org](http://www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org).

### 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