



# THE SANFORD HISTORIAN



*Today is tomorrow's history*

December 2023

## In Memory of Scott Kreps

We will deeply miss Scott Kreps, who began serving as President of the Sanford Museum Board President earlier this year. Many a museum visitor had the good fortune to be guided through display after display by Scott, a gifted storyteller. The Sanford Historian newsletter was Scott's brainchild, and he coined the tagline at the top of this page: "Today is tomorrow's history." His passion for history and his love of learning shone brightly in the work he did on behalf of the museum. We offer our thanks to Scott, and our love and condolences to his family.

## Holiday Traditions

Recently asked on our Facebook page for people to share their memories and meaningful holiday traditions.

"We picked a family before Christmas, then bought presents for each member in the family and secretly dropped those off on Christmas Eve. We brought pants, shoes, blouses, or whatever was needed." – *Sigrun Combs*

"We celebrate 4 feast days in November and December. Thanksgiving, of course. November 30 is St. Andrew's Day (celebrating our Scottish heritage). December 5 is Sinterklass Day (celebrating our Dutch heritage). Then Christmas.

For St. Andrew's, we pull out our Scottish recipes like sausage rolls, tablet, shortbread, steak and heather pie, etc. and the bagpipe music. For Sinterklaas Day we put carrots in our wooden shoes the night before for St. Nicholas' hors, and in the morning the kids get about an East-sized bit of gifts/candy. Then I coop up the whole feast of runderlapies, oliebollen, Dutch potato salad, breads, you name it, with raspberry Baklava thrown in. (Baklava is not Dutch but it's just the way I like to keep my old Greek best friend in our thoughts! I usually do tons of good Dutch chocolate, we play Dutch language Christmas music, and we all get a chocolate letter. Love this time of year!" - *Denise Tucker*

"My grandma and her sisters used to take turns hosting the family Christmas Eve party. It was a big crowd with people sitting around the room two or three deep, kids on the floor in front. There was a gift exchange, but the best part was the program and sing along. Our cousins Sue and Nancy led us in singing our assigned parts for Up on the Rooftop and the 12 Days of Christmas, ending the magical evening with everyone singing Silent Night together." - *Linda Smith*

Others shared memories of spice cookies, hayrides, ice skating, choirs singing, and much love shared with friends and family.

## Sanford's First Winter

Although there were earlier settlers in the area, the townsite of Sanford was first surveyed in October of 1885. That fall and winter three homes were constructed on the new site.

## A Look Back at 2023 Spotlights

During 2023, the museum hosted several spotlight events featuring local people with experience and expertise in a variety of areas. Topics included sewing through the years, a look back at Sanford businesses, a history of Sanford schools, and stories from local Veterans. Many thanks to all who helped organize, present, and participate to make these events meaningful.

If you have an idea for a spotlight, please contact us at [SanfordHistoryMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:SanfordHistoryMuseum@gmail.com).

## Crossroads: Change in Rural America

The Smithsonian's "Crossroads: Change in Rural America" project recently came to the San Luis Valley Museum in Alamosa this fall. While it was here, the Sanford Museum participated with a small display highlighting changes in community celebrations and local agriculture, from maypoles to hay derricks. The display will be available for viewing during your next visit to the Sanford Museum.

## Support the Museum with a Donation

Donate online at

[www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org](http://www.sanfordhistorymuseum.org)

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

Sanford Museum

PO Box 337

Sanford, CO 81151

## Museum Hours

During the winter, the museum is open by appointment. We would love to have you visit!

Call (760)715-7219 or (719)580-4114.

