Hayden's earliest historical record has been somewhat clouded due to events that transpired in 1879 which we will explore in another issue.

Hayden’s history, as well as all of Northwest Colorado, started on April 29, 1874, with the signing of the Brunot Treaty which opened up the Northwest corner of the then Colorado Territory to settlement. While this treaty was being signed by the US Government with the Utes, a group of investors, spearheaded by veteran explorer and entrepreneur Porter Smart, was busily organizing a venture to colonize these newly opened lands. The central site of this 'would be' colony, which included what is now west Routt County & Moffat County, was originally referred to as 'Haydenville'. This was in reference to the explorer F.V. Hayden who surveyed the area in the late 1860’s/early 1870’s for his U.S. Geological & Geographical Survey of Colorado which was published in 1873. The name was later shortened to just 'Hayden' in the 1875 Post Office application.

Porter Smart was a man always on the move. He was born in New York around 1820 and headed west as a young man settling first in Illinois where he took up several land patents and met and married his wife Sarah. Never the one to sit still while opportunity abounded in the newly expanding West, he moved his growing family to Wisconsin before moving to the Colorado territory in the early 1860’s. Porter was a leading citizen of Gilpin County with investments in mining and land speculation, he was often referred to as "Colonel Porter" by the newspapers. He was politically active and served on the Colorado Territory Commission of Immigration, which was created and funded by the territorial governor to induce settlement of the territory in order to eventually secure statehood. The governor allocated $6000 a year for the Commission to research and print pamphlets noting the terrain, public lands, mining and coal field opportunities of the sparsely settled rugged areas of Colorado which were difficult to get to and close to Indian lands. As part of the Commission, Porter explored Middle Park and western Colorado as early as 1862, when much of the land he was exploring was considered Indian Territory. In 1864, he accompanied C.S. Stowell of Georgetown and U.M. Curtis, a government interpreter for the Utes, taking a tour through Middle and Egeria Parks and the Grand River area. In 1865, he traveled with a Major Oakes and a Mr. Whitely, an ex-Indian agent, along with a Prof. Denton of Boston, exploring western Colorado by way of the White River to Salt Lake, travelling back through the White River by the Bethmond trail through Middle Park crossing the range into Gilpin County through the Boulder Pass. Porter saw a future opportunity in the region however travel was difficult, as most of the roads were little more than old trails, and the land was not officially open for settlement.

With the signing of the Brunot Treaty, Porter saw his window of opportunity. He secured $250,000 in Eastern money to incorporate two companies: The Bear River Wagon Road, which would provide the needed roads for settlers to get to the newly opened lands through the mountains from Hot Sulphur Springs and The Western Improvement Company, which sought to develop the Bear River Colony by attracting settlers who would pay a $25 fee for Smart to locate a pre-emption claim site for them.

The first of the Bear River Colonists to settle in the Valley in the summer of 1874 included Porter’s sons Albert & Gordon as well as Albert’s pregnant wife, Lou and two of their children, and according to Thomas Iles diary: Thomas Iles, Joe Morgan, Frank Ganson, brothers Homer and Jim Polip, George Schlosor, Frank Man, John Newton, and two other men, one an old trapper by the name of Tow and another man known as ‘Uncle John’. Joe Morgan was the first to set up an Indian trading post on his claim. Albert Smart established the Hayden post office by November of 1875 at his home-stead near the Yampa River just north of the present site of Hayden. In 1876, JB Thompson, a former Denver Indi-
Museum Awarded Yampa Valley Electric Round Up Grant

The Museum is happy to announce that it was awarded $761 through the Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA) Operation Round Up Program. These funds will be used to purchase 3 relative humidity (RH) and temperature data loggers which will be used to monitor the Museum main building, the Depot, as well as two onsite small historic buildings: the Historic Hayden Jail and the Burroughs Dog House. These data loggers will aid in determining what our collection care needs are in terms of temperature and humidity controls as we work towards restoring the buildings, setting up exhibits and developing a storage facility within the Depot.

The YVEA Round up program was designed to reach communities in need within its territory. YVEA members began voluntarily to have their electric bills "rounded up" to the next dollar and those extra pennies fund the program which is governed and administered by an independent board of directors, made up of community members. All YVEA funds collected through the Round Up Program are used to support worthwhile social and civic endeavors in the YVEA area. Non Profit organizations can apply for funds through the program.

The Museum is very grateful for community opportunities such as this which enable us to afford this type of equipment which will help us to better care for our local history.

Library Dedication

"Since memory is frail, sayings & deeds have to be reinforced by the evidence of writing, so that neither time nor the cunning of posterity can obscure the knowledge of past events."

-William de Bono
13th Century

The Library rededication was well attended Sat. Dec. 9th, taking place before the annual Holiday Stroll. Nadine and Richard Leslie were on hand representing the Leslie Family. The Research Library was completed in 2016 through a matching grant from the Routt County Museum and Heritage Capacity Fund, donations from the Leslie family and in kind donations from different businesses and numerous volunteers hours. The Library is now situated on the Museum ground floor making it more accessible and there are two public computers which allow public access to the Museums collection database and internet sources. People can come in and do research using the museums extensive genealogical and catalogue files and books (many of which are out of print) or just look through the museums digital collection of photos via name, place, or search term or just browse through some of the wonderful historic photos.

The Museum provides free research help! Call 970-4280 or email the museum curator at haydenmuseum@zirkel.us

Mt. Harris Tokens Honored

The Mt. Harris Tokens, which are on display in the Museum's Mt. Harris mining exhibit have been selected as one of Colorado's 2017 Top Ten Significant Artifacts by a panel from Colorado Collections Connection, Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library, CWAM, History Colorado and the Colorado State Library and the general public. The purpose of the program is to emphasize the stories of artifacts and our Colorado History.

The tokens represent a bygone way of life in which Mt. Harris coal miners were paid by the tonnage of coal that they mined per shift in both cash and in company script which they could only use in the company store. Fortunately for Mt. Harris coal miners they had a store that carried many items that local stores did not. Some questions come to mind regarding what the prices were at the store and how comparable they were to other stores? If anyone has a story or memory about the tokens and the Company store at Mt. Harris we would love to hear it!!

Right: Mt. Harris Store in 1949
The Museum’s expansion is moving along. The Museum was awarded a Routt County Museum and Heritage Fund capacity grant to develop the construction documents for rebuilding the Holderness Granary. This includes some redesigning in order to repurpose the building to meet the museum’s needs which include: ADA restrooms, exhibit space for large items and space for public programming. Axial Arts of Hayden is designing the plans which include: a second floor loft for exhibits with room for public programming, a large main floor for exhibition of large items currently stored outdoors or off site such as the Meeker Thresher & May Wagon, a visitor center/gift shop entry area with two ADA restrooms. The new building will allow the Museum to develop the freight room in the Depot to be the new collection storage facility and will open up the upstairs of the Depot for exhibit gallery space. The project is now an approved Enterprise Zone project in which cash donations may be eligible for up to 25% Colorado Tax deduction.

MUSEUM SELECTED FOR COLLECTION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Hayden Museum was one of 75 institutions from across the country selected to participate in the inaugural year of the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program in 2017. Administered by the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artist Works (FAIC), CAP assists museums in improving the care of their collections by providing support for a conservation assessment of the museum’s collections and buildings. A team of two preservation professionals spent two days surveying the site and meeting with staff before preparing a comprehensive report that will identify preventive conservation priorities. The assessment report will help the museum prioritize its collections care efforts in the coming years. The Hayden Heritage Center expects the program to be a first step in the next phase of its collections care work. The timing for this grant is perfect as the Museum is currently working on a much needed expansion of the museum, which includes the development of better storage facilities. This assessment will help us identify our collection care needs, and give us the tools to develop and implement any needed changes to current care policy and procedures and identify any changes that are needed in our current building as well as the new building which will also house collections.

The CAP program is administered by FAIC through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal grant making agency that supports museums and libraries.

Board Member needed!!

Are you interested in learning about and preserving our local history? Like working with a fun group of creative and dedicated individuals? Have your parade wave down and don’t mind wearing costumes once in awhile? The Museum is looking for you to fill a vacant Board position. If you are interested in joining the Museum Board please stop in a pick up an application or email the Museum.
Become a Member of the Museum!

**Membership Levels**
- Senior/Student $15
- Family $50
- Business $75.00
- Supporting $100
- Patron $500.00
- Benefactor $1000.00

**Member benefits:**
- Preserving our local history & heritage for future generations
- 10% off books and gifts in the museum gift shop
- Discount tickets to paid events such as the Elkhead School Tour and the Fall Cemetery Lantern Tour
- Newsletter and email notifications

*Memberships can be purchased online at the museum webpage!*

www.haydenheritagecenter.org

Stay up to date on events, genealogy resources, more on our webpage!!

Don’t forget to ‘Like us’ on Facebook at:
Hayden Heritage Center Museum & Research Library

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Curator Corner - What's new at the Museum...

There is always something new at the Museum. We have been very fortunate in donation of local history items. Our most recent items:

- Original newspaper photos (and newspapers -1955-78) taken by award-winning photographer & editor of the Hayden Valley Press, Nick Delucca.
- Photocopy of 1950 Mt. Harris 8th grade annual includes group photos of 1st - 7th grade
- Holderness family photos digitalized at the museum
- 1950 – copy of Mt. Harris 8th grade yearbook

The Museum is always looking for new ideas to meet the ever-changing needs and interests of the community. It is our goal to not only preserve our local history, but to be a community asset in sharing that history... but we can't do that without your help and input! Please share your ideas with us and let us know how we can better serve the community! Contact the Museum and let us hear from you!

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New Arrivals in Gift Shop!


**Children books** – "The Adventures of a Girl & her Dog" soft cover, author signed — $12.95

The Museum gift shop has a number of local area history books, children books, gifts, toys and more!

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Museum hours: Winter: T-Thu 9-5 pm FREE Admission