



**Thursday, October 14, 1 pm-*Isabella Bird and the Big Thompson Players*,  
Speaker John Meissner, local historian & founder of Estes Park Archives**

1980-2021

Estes Park Genealogical Society

41st Year

New Website: <https://estesparkgenealogicalsociety.weebly.com/> Administrator-Bob Leavitt

President: Liz Stewart, [dnestewart@gmail.com](mailto:dnestewart@gmail.com); Vice President/Programs: Kris Holien, [kjholien@aol.com](mailto:kjholien@aol.com);

Secretary/Membership: Mary Jo Seifert, [bobnmaryseif@msn.com](mailto:bobnmaryseif@msn.com);

Treasurer: Jim Redman, [jim.redman28@gmail.com](mailto:jim.redman28@gmail.com)

**Estes Park Genealogical Society (EPGS):** For 41 years, our society has sponsored professional speakers from the Northern Colorado region to present monthly genealogical programs, free of charge to the general public. If you have an interest in family history or genealogy and would like meeting with other local researchers, we invite you to join us!

**Monthly Meetings:** At Estes Valley Library Hondius Room on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, 1-2:30 pm, followed by ½ hour of optional genealogical help. We will have the Hondius Room from 1-3, with 15 minutes before and after reserved for set-up and clean-up. Our general schedule: 1 Introduction, 1:15-2:15 Program, 2:15 Questions & Announcements, 2:25 break, followed by 2:30 Optional Genealogical Help Available, with clean-up by 3:15.

**Last Month's Meeting:** Our 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 EPGS meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>, was attended by 10. Due to our scheduled speaker's unexpected medical emergency, VP Kris Holien contacted our October speaker, Dina Carson and she graciously filled in with her Boulder Pioneers History Program. Inspired by Boulder's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009, Dina began to identify the names of 16,958 pioneers to date, who were in Boulder from 1820 when Stephen Long explored the region, until Colorado statehood in 1876. The list of Pioneers included trappers, traders, Native Americans, gold seekers and residents. The power point program emphasized lessons in community-wide genealogical research and provides a model for other Colorado counties. Dina covered topics such as finding original records, gathering, photographing, extracting the records using spreadsheets and databases, with each pioneer receiving an individual listing. She has published the records as indexes in books for future researchers, available at: [www.irongate.com](http://www.irongate.com).

**1:00 Introduction: Welcome-**Liz Stewart, President. If any folks come in late, Mary Jo Seifert, Secretary/Membership/Archivist will pass around **Attendance Sheets & Newsletters**. **Financial Report-**September balance was \$851 and Jim reports our October balance is \$845, prior to paying our October speaker. Jim Redman, our treasurer reported that our September balance was \$851 and our paid membership is 13. The October balance before paying our speaker is \$845 with 13 members. Before COVID, in 2019, we had 35 members. So, EPGS is still on the rebound from the pandemic, necessitating the 2021 dues increase from \$20-\$30 for individuals, couples and families. Next month is our annual meeting and Jim will be providing a full financial report that will include dues recommendations from the Board of Officers for 2022. **Any dues paid in Oct. or Nov. will be considered paid through 2022.** For those who have not already done so, please consider renewing your membership by bringing a check payable to EPGS to the meeting or renew by sending it to: Jim Redman, 540 Laurel Lane, No. 7, Estes Park, CO 80517.

**1:15-2:15**

**Program Introduction-**Kris Holien, V. P./Programs, **Speaker: John Meissner**, Local historian, founder of Estes Park Archives and organizer of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Isabella Bird's 1873 visit to Estes Park.

**History Program: *Isabella Bird and the Big Thompson Players.*** Travel writer Isabella Bird arrived in territorial Colorado in September 1873, and interacted with and wrote about a number of pioneer families along the Big Thompson River. Because she often used aliases or initials, as was the convention at the time, it is important to first establish who these people she stayed with actually were, so that family trees are not created as an empty exercise. Secondly, and more importantly, to trace these trees forward as well as backward, so that living descendants can be located and any letters, document, or family photographs from that era, if they still exist, become part of the repository of Estes Park and Northern Particular Colorado history. Particular attention has been devoted to the Alexander, Hutchinson, and Evans families, those early settlers located at the entrance and exit of the Big Thompson Canyon, whose quirks and hardships provided material both humorous and poignant for "A Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains."

**2:15 Questions**

**2:25 Break**

**2:30-3 Last Genealogical Help Session**

**Last 2021 Meeting:** Thur., November 11, speaker Ted Bainbridge, Military Records for Veteran's Day, followed by our annual business meeting in the 2:30-3 time slot that is usually reserved for optional genealogical help. Plans for EPGS in 2022 will be discussed.

**After the program, we appreciated you carrying chairs over to the storage closet.**

