



Aspen
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



“Colorado In Character”

Summer Speaker Series

in conjunction with and in part funded by Colorado Humanities



at the Wheeler/Stallard Museum

(Sixth and Bleeker in
Aspen’s historic West End)



Colorado’s colorful history is no better told than through its characters. Learn about four of Colorado’s best known and most loved citizens through “living history” presentations that include a live performance, an in-character Q & A and a post-performance scholarly Q & A.

THURSDAY, JULY 19: Martha Maxwell as performed by Mary Jane Bradbury. Martha Maxwell traveled to the Colorado Territory with the first wave of the Pike's Peak Gold Rush in 1860. A self-educated naturalist and artist, she found her passion and life's work quite by accident and contributed to the development of taxidermy and museum display with ideas and techniques that are still used today.



THURSDAY, JULY 26: Augusta Tabor as performed by Mary Jane Bradbury. Often called the First Lady of Leadville, Augusta Tabor is a well-known name on the Colorado mining frontier. Though many consider her a footnote to the more well known and scandalous saga of Silver Baron Horace Tabor and Baby Doe, Augusta Tabor stands alone as a pioneering businesswoman with a heart of gold and a generosity that is legend.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2: Aunt Clara Brown as performed by Opalanga Brown. Aunt Clara Brown was born a slave and joined the stream of fortune seekers headed up Clear Creek to Central City, where the first great gold strike had been made on May 6, 1859. In Central City, she opened a shop as a laundress, worked hard, and saved money. Although then almost 60, she also took in needy black people. In 1879, when she was nearly 80, she traveled to Kansas to help out poor black "exodusters" relocated on Kansas farms from the South. In 1882, she finally found her long lost daughter Eliza Jane, who had been sold into slavery as a girl and helped her relocate to Iowa.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 9: Jerome B. Wheeler as performed by Dick Osur. Jerome B. Wheeler was one of the dominant figures in the settling of Aspen. Married into the Macy department store family, Wheeler headed west to explore the Rocky Mountains and its vast opportunities. Having heard about the rich silver strike in Aspen, he arrived in 1883 to make an indelible mark on this community that is still seen today in local architecture that bears his name.

All programs begin promptly at 5:30 pm on the east patio of the Wheeler/Stallard Museum and run for approximately one hour. Events are free and donations are gratefully accepted. In the event of rain, programs will be held inside the Museum in the new Victorian exhibit on the first floor.

For further information, contact the Aspen Historical Society at 925-3721.