approved the expenditure.

#### Walter property update

President Jim Hale reported that he and homeowners association Manager Matt Beseau had met with members of the Walters family to discuss the future of the family's 133-acre conservation easement property in south Woodmoor.

Hale said that the property is administered by several trusts and is owned in common by eight family members. At this time, there are no plans to sell or develop the land. Hale said that WPS will monitor activity on the land to avoid illegal dumping.

#### **Engagement Announcement**







Destiny Brooke Richardson and Ryan James Brooks announced their engagement and forthcoming wedding on October 25, 2014 at Tatanka Ranch in Stroud, Oklahoma. Richardson is a graduate o Kellyville High School and the University of Oklahoma. She is the daughter of Clayton and Paulette Richardson of Kellyville. Brooks is a graduate of Lewis Palmer High School and is the son of Jeffrey and Patricia Brooks of Palmer Lake, Colorado.

Hale said he was pleased that communication had been reopened after many years.

#### 91 accounts overdue

Beseau reported that the budget reserve study has been received and will be sent to the board in the next few weeks

He said that there are 91 past due accounts among the homeowners, and these individuals have been sent letters stating that, if not paid within 30 days, the bills will be sent to collections.

Beseau said that he has been talking with county officials about overgrown trees and shrubs along county easements, obstructing the view of signs at intersections. He is making a list of problem areas and will prioritize them.

Hale commented that there are fewer county funds than usual for removing problem vegetation, because the county invested heavily in equipment to remove large amounts of tumbleweed from other areas early in the summer.

Beseau also said that his office is working on a better way to provide information about the association to homeowners. Instead of a large packet of materials, all information is now available on a CD. Nielsen said that he is provided with a list of new homeowners and personally delivers the information to them. He said that

reactions have been positive.

In the absence of Treasurer Tom Schoemaker, Beseau reported that expenditures are well below budget, with most summer expenses already paid.

Common Areas Director Mark Ponti reported that the initial mowing was completed by Aug. 1 but said that a second mowing may be necessary in some areas. He said that his committee is considering the purchase of a riding mower and some weed whackers so that the association may do the second mowing rather that contracting the work.

Nielsen reported that one of his officers is retiring and that interviews for his replacement will take place on Sept. 3.

He said the first bear sighting of the month occurred the previous Sunday evening where a bear was going through trash near Doewood and County Line Road.

\*\*\*\*\*

The board of the Woodmoor Improvement Association meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the association's Barn, 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting will be on Sept. 24.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Historical Society, Aug. 21

## Computer programs enhance ancestry search

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**Above:** At the Aug. 21 Palmer Lake Historical Society meeting, Chuck and Cathy Loef er demonstrated how to use an online family database to collect basic genealogy information from census reports, local historical groups, newspapers, and county, state, federal, and foreign records. *Photo by Tom Van Wormer.* 

By Tom Van Wormer

On Aug. 21, Chuck Loef er, Palmer Lake Historical Society member and head of the Chautauqua Organizing Committee, gave a presentation on the use of computers in enhancing genealogical research to trace family ancestors. Loef er has traced over 14,000 relatives in his and his wife Cathy's families using the free and for-pay programs that are online.

He demonstrated his family data base to show how to collect basic information from census reports, local historical groups, newspapers, county, state, federal, and foreign records, and much more. This session was very well received by many who are attempting to trace their roots and determine if great granddad was really connected to that famous figure, as your grandaunt claimed.

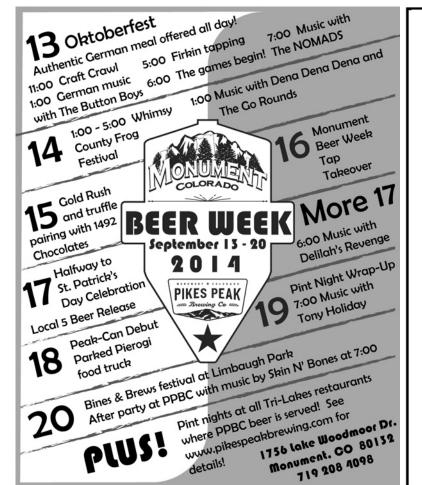
The September presentation will feature Dwight Haverkorn, who has used county and state records to clear up the tangled stories about the museum director's great grandfather Rogers McDonough, who was involved in the early development of Colorado. This is a very complicated tale

that has been covered only by a few newspaper articles, which caused more questions than answers. Haverkorn is the official historian of the Colorado Springs Police Department and has access to many more sources than the average genealogist.

For more information about the Palmer Lake Historical Society, see www.palmerdividehis tory.org/. Come join your fellow friends for a great presentation and refreshments 7 p.m. at the Palmer Lake Town Hall on Sept. 18.

Tom Van Wormer can be contacted at robsmom@pcisys.net

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