

FAIRMOUNT HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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Contact Information

Executive Director/Patricia A. Carmody
 Email: heritage@fairmountheritagefoundation.org
 Phone: 303.322.3895

FHF Locations

Fairmount Cemetery—Gate Lodge
 430 South Quebec St., Denver, CO 80247
 Phone: 303.322.3895

Riverside Cemetery
 5201 Brighton Blvd.
 Denver, CO 80216
 Phone: 303.293.2466

Website
fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Follow us on 

So you think you know Colorado history?

Join us for FREE history tours and hear about the Colorado history that did not make into the books.

Riverside Cemetery

Sunday, June 26

Sunday, July 31

Sunday, August 28

10:00 am meet at the Chapel

Fairmount Cemetery

Sunday, June 12

Sunday, July 10

Sunday, August 14

2:00 pm meet at the Gate Lodge



Riverside Cemetery has been chosen as the service project for:

Denver, 2011: Colorado in Motion, Transportation, Travel & Travails Colorado Preserve

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Mission Statement

To preserve the rich, diverse historical and horticultural assets of Riverside and Fairmount Cemeteries; educating the community as fellow guardians to pass on those resources to future generations.

CALCP Earth Day Tradition Continues

Earth Day at Riverside is truly about the earth, thanks to Colorado Association of Lawn Care Professionals (CALCP). In what has become a spring tradition, the CALCP Day of Service was a burst of activity with seeding, planting, pruning, and removing dead trees. Twenty-four companies participated, donating equipment, labor, seeds, supplies and plants.

CALCP is so committed to the Riverside Revival that after last summer's drought, they donated three water tanks: one 1000 gallon tank, on a trailer, to irrigate the areas that grasses have been planted in and two 1500 gallon stationary tanks, placed in areas that tree and shrub borders have been planted. After the plants are well established, 2-3 years, the stationary tanks will be moved to a different area in the cemetery, to establish new plantings.

The Colorado State University Plant Select Demonstration Gardens were cleaned and pruned by CSU Master Gardeners; additional plants were added thanks to the generosity of Al Gerace of Welby Gardens, also a Riverside family member.

Riverside family members, along with Colorado Preservation, Inc. staff, helped by dividing iris at gravesites throughout the cemetery and then the Master Gardeners added the extra rhizomes to the Heritage Iris Garden.

One week later, Riverside was again abuzz when the Mile High Youth Corp Saw Crew donated a Day of Service removing trees near the office and "old stone house."

The Riverside Revival is truly community collaboration at its best and we'd like to thank our many community partners: CALCP, Welby Gardens, Front Range Community College, Colorado Preservation, Inc., Colorado State University, Plant Select, Colorado Forest Service, Hardy Boy Bedding Plants, Mile High Youth Corp., Denver Master Gardeners; as well as the many Riverside family members and FHF volunteers.

Riverside Gardening Angels



CALCP Day of Service , Earth Day 2011

Riverside Revival Accomplishments

- ◆ **Seeded 7 acres with native grasses**
- ◆ **Designated as a Colorado State University Plant Select Demonstration Garden**
- ◆ **Planted over 500 herbaceous plants**
- ◆ **Planted 30,000 tulip bulbs**
- ◆ **Pruned numerous heritage trees**
- ◆ **Removed dead drought stricken trees and recycled the wood**
- ◆ **Planted over 300 native trees and shrubs**
- ◆ **Divided iris at over 35 gravesites and established a Heritage Iris Garden with the extra rhizomes**
- ◆ **Offering FREE Plant Select Landscaping Workshops**

Calendar of Events 2011

JUNE

Fairmount Heritage Rose Tour

June 11th at 9:00

Tickets \$15.00; reservations required

Riverside Iris Lecture & Tour

June 11th at 3:00

Meet in the Chapel

FREE History Tour at Fairmount

June 12th at 2:00 – meet at the Gate Lodge

FREE History Tour at Riverside

June 26th at 10:00 - meet at the Chapel

JULY

Preservation Workshop

Date/Time to be Determined

FREE History Tour at Fairmount

July 10th at 2:00 – meet at the Gate Lodge

Colorado Day Concert FREE

July 29th at 6:30 at Fairmount Cemetery

303-399-0692 for details

3rd Annual Riverside Colorado Cares Day Project

July 29th-31st - more details available soon

FREE History Tour at Riverside

July 31st at 10:00 - meet at the Chapel

AUGUST

Preservation Workshop

Date/Time to be Determined

FREE History Tour at Fairmount

Aug 14th at 2:00 – meet at the Gate Lodge

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly...So You Think You Know Colorado History

Aug 25th at 6:00 pm - FREE virtual tour at University Hills Branch Denver Public Library

Plants to Use When the Growing Gets Tough

Riverside, Aug 27th at 10:30 -

CSU Plant Select Workshop, meet in the Chapel

FREE History Tour at Riverside

Aug 28th at 10:00 — meet at the Chapel

SEPTEMBER

Preservation Workshop

Date/Time to be determined

Plants to Use When the Growing Gets Tough

Riverside, Sept 10th at 10:30

CSU Plant Select Workshop, meet in the Chapel

OCTOBER

Riverside Open House

Oct 1st & 2nd

Vintage Baseball Game & FREE History Tours

Riverside History & Mystery Moonlight Tour

Oct 21st & 22nd

Tours at 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 & 7:30

Tickets \$15.00; Reservations Required

NOVEMBER

Veterans Remembered

Riverside and Fairmount

Flag Placement

Date/Time to be Determined

DECEMBER

Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony

Riverside and Fairmount

Date/Time to be determined

Contact Fairmount Cemetery Company at 303-399-0692 for more information

Check our website often for updates.
fairmountheritagefoundation.org



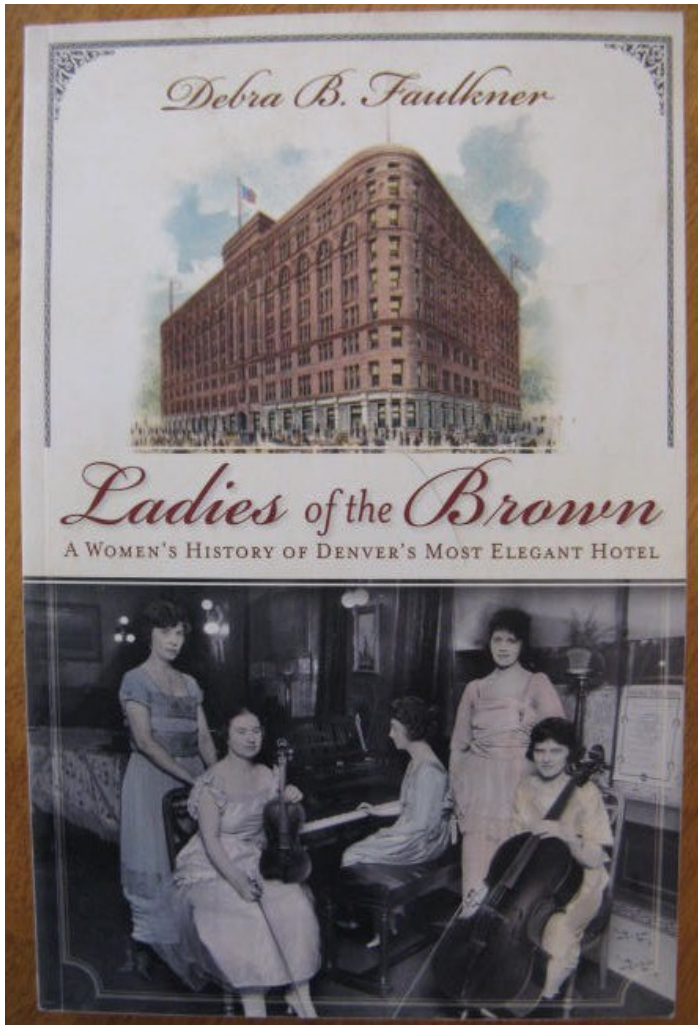
Fairmount Red

Photo by Merle Moore

Ladies of the Brown, A woman's history of Denver's Most Elegant Hotel

By Debra Faulkner, The History Press, 2010

Reviewed by: Tom Morton



Debra Faulkner is a Colorado native who grew up in Loveland, and earned a Master's degree in Colorado history from the University of Colorado. She now teaches Colorado History at Metropolitan State College. As well, since 2008 she has served as the Historian and Archivist for the Brown Palace Hotel, conducting tours, presenting programs, and preserving the hotel's artifacts.

Unlike her previous book on Emily Griffith which was a straight biography, this book is a collection of anecdotes about some of the many women who have a connection to Denver's Brown Palace Hotel. She had originally wanted to write a book entitled "Ghosts of the Brown Palace", but the hotel management feared that would deter some potential paying guests, so she compromised with a book about the ladies.

The book is divided into five chapters, each one telling about six women who fall into a similar category. The first category is entitled "Legendary Ladies", which includes Mrs. Henry C. Brown, and Augusta Tabor; the second, entitled "Society Ladies" includes Edna Boettcher and Evalyn Walsh McLean; the next is "Famous Ladies" including Sarah Bernhardt and Zsa Zsa Gabor; the fourth is "Working Ladies", women who worked at the Brown in various capacities; and the last "Prominent Ladies" which mentions Mamie Eisenhower and Hillary Clinton.

Some ladies stayed at the Brown for extended periods, but the author mentions some who stayed for a short time in order to introduce interesting asides. Isabel "Sassy" Springer had an older husband and two younger boyfriends. While all three were staying at the Brown in 1911 she asked one of her beaux to tell the other that she was no longer interested in him! Later that evening the two men ran into each other in a hotel bar, an argument broke out, and one shot and killed the other. Marilyn Van Derbur in 1958 became the first Miss Colorado to be crowned Miss America. In 1956 she had been presented at The Brown as one of twelve debutantes, and for that evening the atrium was turned into a dance floor. Joan Baez stayed at The Brown in 1964 while on tour, and happened to be there while The Beatles were also guests. The author goes into details of the hotel's efforts at security to ensure the safety and privacy of "The Fab Four".

On the eerie side, Ms. Faulkner relates a tale of Mrs. Louise Sneed Hill, the arbiter of Denver society during the early part of the twentieth century who spent the last 15 years of her life in Suite 904 at the Brown Palace. Earlier in her life she had had an amorous affair with a polo-playing socialite named Bulkely Wells. When Mrs. Hill's husband died she expected Wells to marry her, but instead he eloped with a blond divorcee. Through her social contacts Mrs. Hill set out to break him, and within a few years, Wells, on the verge of bankruptcy, committed suicide. In 2000 an earlier historian at The Brown developed a tour emphasizing stories of romance, including Louise Hill. When she mentioned Mrs. Hill and her affair the hotel switchboard would light up with calls from room 904. When the operators

picked up the line all they heard was static. At the time the entire ninth floor was under renovation, and suite 904 not only had no guests, but all the furniture and telephones had been removed! The guide felt Mrs. Hill's spirit resented her peccadilloes being aired, and when she stopped mentioning them, the mysterious calls ceased.

As someone with an interest in Fairmount, I noticed some small factual errors. Nathaniel Hill, Louise's father-in-law was not the first republican senator from Colorado. And Crawford Hill died in 1922, not 1923. Both are buried in Block A. nevertheless, Ms. Faulkner has written a very readable and interesting book, especially for anyone who has ever visited The Brown Palace, or has any interest in Colorado history. The book is illustrated with many pictures, both from the hotel archives, and from the western history department at the Denver library.

Tours of the Brown Palace take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Cost is \$10 per person. The book "Ladies of the Brown" can be purchased at The Tattered Cover and other local bookstores for \$19.99.



**HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED
TO TELL THE
WORLD WHERE TO GO???**

**JOIN THE
FHF TOUR COMMITTEE
AND YOU WILL!!!**

FHF COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Archival Research & Conservation

Sorts, catalogs, and files information, photographs, and documents about Riverside & Fairmount Cemeteries and about those interred.

archives@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Heritage Rose Committee

Develop and implement educational programs as well as maintenance plans for the Fairmount Heritage Roses.

roses@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Preservation Committee

Plans preservation & restoration projects for structures, monuments, features and stained glass at Riverside & Fairmount Cemeteries.

preservation@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Riverside Revival

Develops and implements plans for the environmentally sustainable landscape at Riverside Cemetery, CSU Plant Select Demonstration Gardens and Heritage Iris Garden while maintaining the heritage plants.

nativeplants@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Tour Committee

Researches, organizes, schedules and facilitates tours of Riverside & Fairmount Cemeteries.

Tom Morton

Garry O'Hara

Fairmount

Riverside

tours@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Volunteer Connection

volunteer@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

Riverside's Block 12 Residents

A project of love and respect for our kindred dead.

Cemeteries can hold a wealth of hidden treasures and information, yet, cemetery records seem to be the resource many people overlook, pass over, or just don't know to tap.

The Fairmount Heritage Foundation houses such a wealth of information. Their repository holds information for both the Fairmount and the Riverside Cemeteries. The information they hold will not only assist you in Family Research, but Historical Research as well.

So what is it the Fairmount Heritage Foundation can assist you with?

- 1) They have volunteers that will gladly assist you in your research – many of these volunteers know the rich history of Fairmount, Riverside, and local Colorado histories.
- 2) The Fairmount Heritage Foundation has Archival Collections to assist in one's gathering of information.
- 3) Biographic Information, Photographs, and Historical Artifacts also make up the Fairmount Heritage Foundation's rich treasure trove of information.

Our Project: Block 12, a Potter's Field, came to our attention (Vickie Smejkal & Diane Nygaard) when we learned of the many babies buried there. We were under the impression that approximately 3885 babies were buried in the "Baby Lots" located there. Diane Nygaard and I felt the strong need to find out who these babies were. Many days and hours were spent as we fully uncovered stones, pulled weeds and other growth away from stones; taking pictures and documenting as we went along. With the help of the Block Book (each page indicating where a person is buried and if a marker existed), we have been able, for the most part, to identify who the headstones and remnants of headstones belong to.

While doing this work, it became my mission to identify all the residents of Block 12. Vital statistics were not

tracked until 1909 and most of these people were born before then, making information scant to nonexistent, so I began my research using the Riverside documents. After two years of sifting through the records, I was able to document over 7600 residents of Block 12.

My visits to Riverside not only led me through their various records (Burial Book, Block Book, and Index Cards), but also to the Denver Public Library to research Mortuary Records, Obituary Records, and to Genealogical and Historical Societies that also hold treasures of knowledge.

What have I learned during my past two years of research at Riverside?

- 1) Riverside is the final resting place of a variety of people; from poor to affluent and from the simple to the famous; some merely passing through time, some leaving their mark on history.
- 2) Riverside is a wonderful depiction of Denver's history and the people who were a part of it. The Chinese; the Japanese; the Koreans; the Germans; the Russian; the Irish; the Welsh; the Mexicans; the Italian; the Blacks; and the Indian; many with a story to tell.
- 3) Riverside is also a depiction of the many diseases and illnesses that plagued society. These diseases and illnesses took no pity on the poor or the rich; nor on the young or the old. Long before modern medicine came diseases, such as, the flu, small pox, yellow fever, diphtheria, typhoid, and tuberculosis.
- 4) Denver was fast growing, bringing to its city the miners, railroad workers, laborers, hotel workers, painters, carpenters, and yes, the cattle and railroad barons. Go west young man, go west. And west they did.

By Vickie Smejkal



Does the sight of beautiful iris make you smile?

The iris, with a history dating back to Greek mythology, takes its name from the Greek word for "rainbow". Each one a unique beauty, iris can be found in virtually every part of the world, growing both naturally and in farms.

Please join us for Riverside Cemetery Heritage Iris Lecture & Tour June 11th at 3:00 pm

Meet in the Chapel

Photo by Anne Phelps

Presented by **Lowell Baumunk** of Iris Colorado. Lowell has been working with bearded irises in all classes since 1991; his first two irises were introduced in 1999. His "Midsummer Night's Dream" has been awarded the Hans and Jacob Sass medal, the American Iris Society's highest award for Intermediate Bearded Irises.

For more information on Lowell and Iris Colorado visit: iriscolorado.com/

Reservations are highly recommended and taken at: 303-322-3895 or e-mail: nativeplants@fairmountheritagefoundation.org.



Do you want to know more about the sustainable plants being used for the Riverside Revival?

Please join us for a **FREE 90-minute Landscaping Workshop** **"Plants to Use When the Growing Gets Tough"**

Program covers selecting hardy, xeric Plant Select® plants to use at your site as well as how to plant and maintain them; an exciting presentation with a short walking tour of the cemetery to discuss growing conditions and plant selection.

Presented by Colorado State University Master Gardener
Deb Courtner
in collaboration with the Colorado State University

Aug 27th & Sept 10th

10:30 – 12:00

Space is limited, reservations are highly recommended. You may make your reservations for this workshop at: nativeplants@fairmountheritagefoundation.org or call 303.322.3895.

ANNUAL HERITAGE ROSE TOUR

Throughout history no flower has been so loved or celebrated as the rose. Rosaceae is older than the human hands that first cared for it, drew pictures of it, and sang its praises in music. Forty million years ago, a rose left its imprint on a slate deposit at the Florissant Fossil Beds in Colorado. Join us as we explore the history of the Fairmount Heritage Rose collection, the largest in Colorado and one of the largest in North America.

Saturday, June 11th

9:00 am - Check in / 9:30 am - Tour Starts

Fairmount Cemetery Gate Lodge

430 S Quebec St (off Alameda Parkway at Quebec Street)

Tour guide, Peggy Williams, Denver Rose Society Consulting Rosarian; two time past President of the Denver Rose Society; Horticultural Judge and District Director of the American Rose Society. Peggy has been growing roses for about a dozen years and her favorite roses are Old Garden Roses for their hardiness, fragrance and history.

Tickets \$15.00

Reservations required e-mail:

roses@fairmountheritagefoundation.org

or call: 303-322-3895 ext. #3

www.fairmountheritagefoundation.org



430 South Quebec St.
Denver, CO 80247

