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The Broomcorn *Express*

The Crawford Honey House Renovation





A Sparkle in My Eye

Thank you, dear friends, for reading our newsletter. We are always eager and excited to share with you our projects and thoughts. As you read this issue, we hope you can also feel the excitement as we announce some things that have been in the works for years! We also hope that you come and join us at our openings and events to share in the rich history of Broomfield.

Broomfield has a history that is sometimes repetitive, but more often than not, it's surprising. There are a lot of "who knew?" moments, both big and small, in our past. Sharing information about the past, present and future with our community is our top priority. Over the years, Broomfielders have authored books and newspaper articles that have provided a snapshot of our city at certain points in time—you may have read some of these publications, but maybe not all of them. In addition to our written history, the buildings and homes throughout our neighborhoods continue to echo the past, serve the present, and remind us to think about what is ahead. Broomfield has hills to hike and open spaces to travel—places that let you relax and set your sights on the future while considering the time when all of this land was "open space." In a way, history



Andrea Margheim-Minnich
President,
Friends of Broomfield History

may always be at the peak of our personal and community conversations because we're surrounded by the past. Take a pause and either learn something new or formulate some thoughts or feelings about this lovely community we call home, Broomfield. We're here to help raise community awareness as part of our work with the Broomfield Depot Museum.

The sparkle that has been in my eye is the buzzing feeling of spring. I am curious how our native ancestors of this land felt during this time of year. Also, I remember that during this season, my ancestors prepared for planting with an eye toward harvesting in the fall. One more thought—the emerging of the insects and bees from the long winter! Guess what! We will get to learn all about that when we have the official opening celebration of the restored Honey House! What a joy to be able to share Broomfield History in this way with so many of you!



Opening Soon! The Sweet History of the Crawford Honey House

By David Allison, History Coordinator, Broomfield Depot Museum

You'll notice a newly renovated building—replete with exhibits about honey-making, bee ecology, the Crawford family, and agriculture—at the Broomfield History Campus if you come to the Depot this spring. **Starting April 22**, the Honey House will be open to the public!

The Crawford family and the Crawford story is one that spans the pre-Broomfield Heights history of Broomfield and connects the community in many ways. We have over 1,000 objects, documents, and photos from the Crawford family in our Collection, which means that the Honey House is a key part of the historical landscape of this place. In addition, the Honey House is one of the oldest extant buildings in Broomfield, having been built in 1905.

The Honey House, Pumphouse and Outhouse were originally located on the Miles Crawford Estate along 120th, just to the east of the old center of Broomfield. After its honey-packing days were over, the building was rented as an apartment. Carolyn Lambert, Norval Olson, and Sharon Chadwick donated the Honey House in memory of their parents, Rose Marie and Emmet Olson.

We're excited to share this newly renovated and updated space with you this spring.

Roberta Depp wrote a fantastic article with great background information about the Honey House in the last issue of the *Broomcorn Express*. That article can be found on page three at the link here—[https://friendsofbroomfieldhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FoBH BCE Jan-2023 final.pdf](https://friendsofbroomfieldhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FoBH_BCE_Jan-2023_final.pdf)

Image by Yabayee@Pixabay

Some Information on the Crawford Family



The Crawford Honey House, c. 1910s. Courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum.

By Elizabeth Beaudoin, Curator, Broomfield Depot Museum

In preparation for the re-opening of the Crawford Honey House, I took the time to deep-dive into getting to know the family's role in Broomfield History. Looking at newspaper clippings in the archive, as well as Ancestry.com, I started to build a narrative about the family.

Our story revolves around two men, Harry R. Crawford (1871–1946) and his son Miles Crawford (1900-1987); together they represent nearly 100 years of beekeeping in Broomfield.

Harry came to Broomfield in 1891—around the age of 20—purchasing a single acre of land from Adolph Zang to start a beekeeping enterprise. Harry had grown up in Marion, Ohio, where he attended school in a one-room schoolhouse. The teacher was Warren G. Harding, future US president, and only 18 at the time (it was his first job after graduating). When Harding was inaugurated, Harry sent him a case of honey from Broomfield.

We don't know why Harry chose Broomfield or how he had even heard of it. Harry may have traveled to Broomfield with his parents King (1836–1911) and Elizabeth (née

Leaper) Crawford (1836–1906) who are both buried in Broomfield’s Lakeview Cemetery. Both born in Ireland, King and Elizabeth settled in Marion, Ohio, where they raised at least 5 children. Oddly, King and Elizabeth don’t appear on another census after 1880, so we don’t know exactly when they came to Broomfield (maybe they were traveling during the 1890 census). We also don’t know where Harry learned beekeeping; his father King is listed as a farmer, so he may have learned from him or came to it independently.

A few years after settling in Broomfield, Harry R. Crawford married Ada (née Coward) Crawford on September 25, 1899 in Denver. Ada was born in England in 1872, immigrating to New York City in 1882. Harry and Ada had three children:

Miles (1900–1987)

Dora (1903–?)

Harry James (1904–1976?)

In 1904 Harry had 500 bee colonies producing 32,000 pounds of comb honey. That same year he won a silver medal for honey at the World’s Fair in St. Louis. Shortly after this win, Henry built the Honey House right along 120th Ave and “used the building to can and sell honey.” Harry also served as the Broomfield postmaster from 1897-1898.

Likely sometime in the 1920s, Harry handed over the honey operation and farm to his oldest son Miles, retiring to Long Beach, CA with Ada. Both appear on the 1930 census as living in Long Beach, passing away there in 1946 and 1943 respectively. Interestingly, the 1930 census also lists their youngest son, Harry James Crawford (age 25 in 1930) as living with his parents, with his occupation listed as apiarist (beekeeper).

Miles Crawford claimed to have been beekeeping since the age of six, no doubt learning directly from his father. Photos show all three Crawford siblings working on the farm and helping sell honey.

In 1924, Miles married Emily Crawford (née Krugel, 1903–1977) who had come to Broomfield from California to teach at the Lorraine schoolhouse. The two met at the Crescent Grange, the major spot for dances, picnics, and socialization. Emily and Miles had three children:

Doris (1926–2016)

Harry M. (1929–1998)

Robert J. (1932–2016)

Throughout the Depression, the couple eked out a living selling honey wholesale and retailing it from a stand along the highway. They also helped harvest beets. This “stand” may or may not have been the Honey House, as a different, smaller small building also appears in photos from the 1950s. In 1944, Miles claimed to have 700 beehives, but relying on beekeeping alone for a living had become too precarious and Miles “wanted a job with a paycheck.” So again like his father, he took a job as postmaster. But unlike

his father, who only held the position for one year, Miles was Broomfield's postmaster for 21 years (from 1944 to 1965), seeing the growth of the city from a few hundred people to over 5,000. Emily also joined him at the post office, working there from 1950-1965.

Miles and Emily lived on Crawford Farm on 120th until the late 1950s, when they purchased a new "Princess" home in Broomfield Heights (First Filing) at 390 Kohl St. Miles reportedly did not want to leave the family farm, but Emily wanted a more modern and spacious house in the new community, and he relented.

Both Emily and Miles remained members of the Crescent Grange for their entire lives. They were also members of the Methodist Church. Miles was a member of the Masonic lodge and supported the early Depot Museum later in life. He also cared for bees for his entire life, although had to move the hives as Broomfield became more developed. Emily loved to garden and travel, and Emily amassed a large collection of dolls from around the world.

While none of Miles and Emily's children stayed in Broomfield, the couple remained here for the rest of their lives and are buried at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, CO. Photos and objects relating to the Crawfords can be seen on our publicly accessible database at <https://hub.catalogit.app/9352>.

Kozisek Farm: A Brief History



Photo courtesy of the Broomfield Depot Museum

By Roberta Depp

The land around the Brunner Farmhouse was once part of the 400-acre Kozisek Farm, located on the east side of Main Street. James and Amelia Kozisek purchased the 40-acre Leonard Kranbeck Farm in 1915 and added to it over the years. About half of the farm is today's "The Field" open space. Some of the rest is now the Outlook neighborhood. They raised wheat, corn, alfalfa and white-faced Hereford cattle. The cattle were herded up and down Main Street as they were moved to different pastures. Milk from their dairy cows was made into cheese by local cheesemakers. Water for irrigation was

brought to the farm via the Community Ditch and stored in small lake located at what is now the corner of Main and Midway. While the lake is gone, the old dike can still be seen on the property.

Their distinctive hip-shaped barn was located where the Brunner farmhouse now sits. Unfortunately, the barn was purposely burned down by the fire department in 1969 because of safety concerns. James Kozisek died in 1945, and 18-year-old son Bob took over running the farm. The Kozisek family farmed until 1968, when the property was sold to the city.

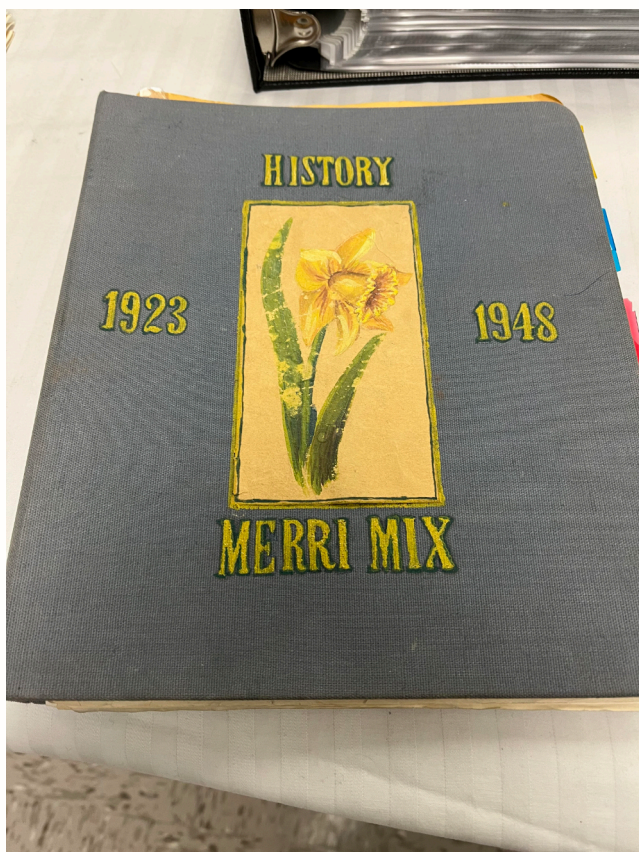


Photo by Annie Lessem

What A Merri Mix!

By Annie Lessem

As Women's History Month highlighted many women who did extraordinary things, I wondered about the women who lived what was deemed a "normal life," and what they might have done other than their regular household and child-rearing activities. My curiosity was somewhat satisfied when I learned that the trend in the early 20th century was for middle class women to form—and to religiously participate in—women's clubs. So then I wondered what these clubs might have been like.

Again, my curiosity was somewhat satisfied because in 1923, some women in Broomfield organized a women's club and kept very detailed minutes of their club meetings. Those minutes still exist in the Broomfield History Collection and are available for reading (and are just waiting for someone to digitize them). This photo is the cover of the first of three notebooks that include the club minutes and other club information. The initial entry explains that several names were suggested for the club, but "Merri Mix" won the vote.

The club originally capped membership at 28, met twice a month and focused on sharing recipes, songs, prayers, poems, and friendships. At some point the meetings were changed to once a month and membership was raised to 32. One of their first orders of business was to create the club rules. For the Merri Mix, those rules were made with a subtle sense of humor and were dubbed the "Merri Mix 10 Commandments." They were as follows:

1. *Thou shalt have no other clubs before this one.*
2. *Thou shalt limit thyself in preparing the club refreshments* [NOTE: The penalty for going overboard in preparing refreshments was a fine of 25 cents].
3. *Remember thy club engagements.*
4. *Honor thy club sisters.*

5. *Thou shalt not covet office.*
6. *Thou shalt be prepared for role call* [NOTE: Role call was not simply a calling of names, but was very specific, based on pre-determined topics such as favorite food, favorite saying, favorite short poem, pet peeve, etc. Each member responded to their name by indicating their choice based on the topic that had been chosen].
7. *Thou shall not forget thy dues.*
8. *Thou shalt not at the eleventh hour begin to hunt material for papers* [NOTE: unprepared members were often “punished” by being required to present or participate in a program].
9. *Thou shalt attend the club faithfully.*
10. *Thou shalt diligently keep these commandments so that thy club days may be lengthened and their fame spread into the uttermost parts of clubdom.*

Each of the monthly meetings had a specific theme, usually based on the season or major holiday of that month. The meetings followed a very strict agenda. Below is an example of what a typical agenda looked like.

- Role Call—Favorite patriotic quotes
- Bible recitation—by Alice Crooks
- Opening song
- Business meeting
- Program—Solo by Mrs. Mitze
- Game selected by Mrs. Rees
- Paper on Colorado by Mrs Dreier
- Current events
- Refreshments

Interestingly, the minutes included explicit details about the role calls, Bible

recitations, opening song, and club business (usually a discussion about dues or possible locations and financial information related to club outings), but did not include information about anything discussed during the “current events” part of the meeting. On the other hand, the minutes provided detailed information and comments about the type and quality of the refreshments.

While most of the programs presented were apolitical, some were not. Every once in awhile, a somewhat controversial topic would come to the forefront. As recorded in the club minutes, some of these more controversial topics included the following:

- The “Negro Problem,” in which members learned about the conditions of African Americans from other members who had lived in the South and/or had relatives in the South [NOTE: it was decided that the roll call topic at the next meeting would be to respond with a favorite “Negro” joke];
- Heredity and Eugenics;

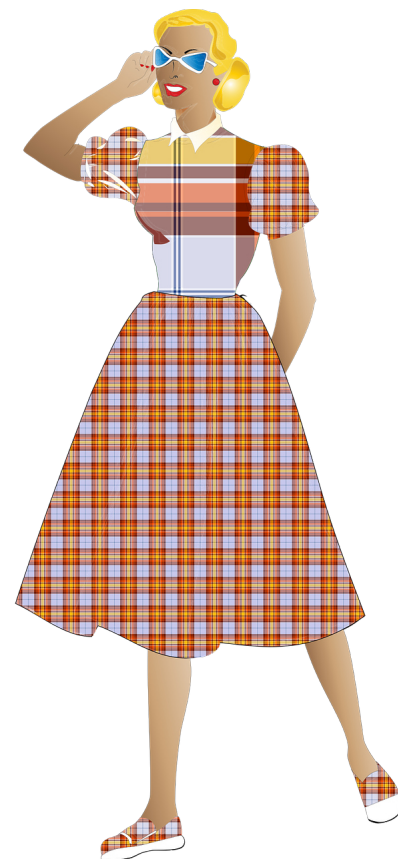


Image by Daria-e32@Pixabay

- The proper role for women and whether they should become professionals;
- The development of a water system in Broomfield;
- The safety of frozen food;
- And, as World War II loomed closer, the meetings also included conversations about Red Cross work.

In the Merri Mix's 25th year the women reminisced about who they had been and likely still were. One of the things they did was to list the "vocations" (their word, and likely to refer to the members' skills, knowledge, and hobbies, as well as occupations) of their members. This list included (in the order as listed in the club minutes) songwriters, musicians, poets, vocalists, teachers, nurses, dancers, actresses, artists, florists, telephone operators, interior decorators, seamstresses (especially of of evening and wedding gowns), and very charming and wonderful hostesses.

The collection of club minutes ends in 1968; however, club reunions took place sporadically into the early 1970s. I think it's kind of fun to think about how the Merri Mix club would look if it still existed today. Would the rules still be basically the same or would substantive changes have been made? Would men be allowed to join? What about transgender women or men? What about women of color? Would the dues still be 25 cents? Would there still be a reading of a religious text, and if so, which one? Maybe one day some of the women of Broomfield will come together and revive the Merri Mix. I wonder what their Ten Commandments might be!



Broomfield's Oral History Project

By Sandra Roberts

The Friends of Broomfield History organization has just started a three-year project to collect oral histories from local residents. Most of the interviews will be on Zoom, but some may be in person.

Broomfield is a diverse community, and the Friends of Broomfield History will work hard to ensure that residents of our community are fully represented.

Selected excerpts of interviews will be edited and put together in short videos to be released periodically over the next three years. Original interview media will be saved in the collections of the Broomfield Depot Museum.

If you would like to be part of our project, either as an interviewer or an interviewee, please reach out to us at BroomfieldHistory@gmail.com.



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The Friends of Broomfield History is dedicated to sustaining the history and heritage of Broomfield through our relationship with the Broomfield Museum, our members and other community partners. Your membership or contribution bolsters all our work, and we greatly appreciate your support. "Be in! Be appreciated! Be connected! Join today!"

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