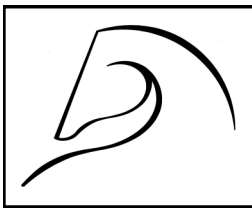


Heritage Museum of Layton  
403 North Wasatch Drive  
Layton, Utah 84041

Phone: (801) 336-3930  
Email: [abommer@laytoncity.org](mailto:abommer@laytoncity.org)



*Community identity and pride are enhanced by having a place where local history and culture is preserved, displayed and available for research. Visit our museum often!*

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.laytoncity.org](http://www.laytoncity.org)

**Museum Hours:**  
Tuesday - Friday  
12 p.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday  
1-5 p.m.

Closed  
Sunday-Monday

## A History of Coloring Easter Egg

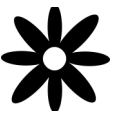
Humans have been decorating eggs for various purposes since at least 60,000 years ago, as evident in the archaeological find of the Diepkloof Eggshell Carvings in South Africa. Eggs decorated specifically for Easter, also known as Paschal eggs, have been around since around 1290 AD when England's King Edward I ordered 450 eggs to be colored and covered in gold leaf to be given to royal relatives. Eastern Orthodox Christians were some of the first to consistently color eggs for Easter, draining the yolk and painting them bright red. In Germany, eggs were painted green on Good Friday and hung on trees. The iconic waxed and dyed eggs from Eastern Europe, called *pysanky*, likely predated Christianity but became associated with Easter as the practice spread throughout Europe. These practices most likely came to America in the 1800s with the Pennsylvania Dutch. Chicken eggs were collected, hard-boiled, and dyed using dried onion skins, hickory bark, coffee, and calico fabrics. Dyes were first commercially produced by William Townley in 1881, who sold color tablets packets for five cents out of his New Jersey pharmacy using the name PAAS Dye Co., which is still well-known today.

Stop by the Museum between now and May 1 to learn about the history of Easter traditions and look for dyed eggs hidden throughout the exhibits!



HERITAGE MUSEUM OF LAYTON

# Heritage Horizons



SPRING 2021

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Archaeology for Kids	2
Have You Wondered?	2
Centennial Lectures	2
Dansie Mural	3
Intern Spotlight	3
Junior Curator	3
Easter Eggs	4

## Sheep Killer

By Harris Adams

Early Kays Ward settlers grazed cattle, sheep, and horses several miles northwestward from their town site on a native grassland they called the "Big Range." Northern Layton, Clearfield, Sunset, Syracuse, Clinton, and West Point now occupy this former rangeland. A few small springs supplied drinking water in cool months but dried up during the summer. Herders had to drive livestock southeast to the nearest running water in Kays Creek. They sometimes delayed their return for two days. On the way they encountered deep gullies with seepage water in the bottoms. Smelling this water, thirst-crazed sheep clambered down the steep banks to the water. The stampeding herd behind piled in, trampling leading animals into the mud, drowning and suffocating many sheep.

Some gullies were large enough to be called ravines, eighty or more feet across and near thirty feet deep. One of the most infamous gullies now is bordered by Fort Lane, Antelope Drive, and Gordon Avenue; it is known as "Snipe Creek" or "Sheep Killer." While the area served as a gruesome trap for livestock, it was also a lively ecosystem for wildlife. Coyotes and little burrowing owls tunneled into the steep gully banks for sheltered dens and nests. Marsh-loving blackbirds

nested among cattails lining the channel bottoms. Swallows darted for insects. High in the sky, a haunting hu-hu-hu-hu-hu sound filled the air as a tiny Wilson's Snipe flew his steep downward dive then swooped upward to end in a motionless flutter of wings. Long-legged Snowy Egrets and Great Blue Herons hunted in the bottoms for pollywogs and frogs. Springtime Sego Lilies like soils not too wet and not too dry; they lined the top of the gully banks just below the surrounding flat lands. "Sheep Killer" had its beauty.

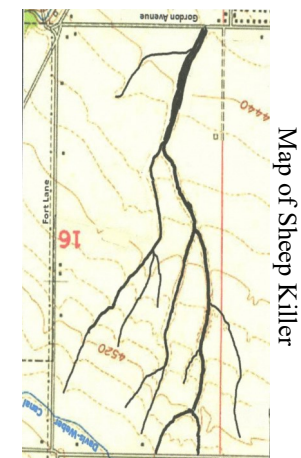
Gullies such as "Sheep Killer" are not recent land features. They date back thousands of years when ancient Lake Bonneville's water filled the valley. Weber River sediments in the lake created a huge fan-shaped delta extending to present-day Farmington on the south and to Ogden on the north. As the lake lowered, Weber River's water spread over the exposed delta in streams and rivulets. Large streams carried sand and smaller ones deposited clay. The northern part of the "Sheep Killer" area became a swampy backwater of salty alkaline slimy clay.

Dry years further lowered the lake. Weber River then cut its deep channel northward, leaving this side of the delta dry. Snow and

rainfall water flowing from the sand ridge and hills to the north eroded gullies into the fragile clay, then cut a large gully farther south into more fertile land.

Irrigating fields between "Sheep Killer" gullies proved difficult: R.W. Adams could only water fifteen of his farm's sixty acres that was on the now Antelope Drive. Charles' Sill's home faced Fort Lane and his farm extended a half-mile west into the gullies. He put a dam in a large gully bordering his west property line for a reservoir to hold water he received from Last Chance Ditch Co.

Most of "Sheep Killer" is now gone, only an outline on a map, but is fondly remembered by the now-grown children who played it in it, and by adults who farmed it.



Map of Sheep Killer

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 1920—2020, Celebrating 100 Years of Layton
- New exhibits around the entire museum!
- Now open for School Tours! Call Today!
- A History of Easter Traditions—A feature exhibit on display through May 1.



## Archaeology for the Kids

Last fall, the Museum received a generous donation from the Weber State Anthropology Department. The items consisted of an archaeological dig box, sieves, and a slew of artifacts. The goal is to create an educational program that will teach children about the

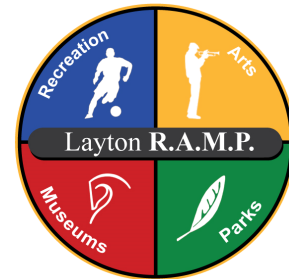
importance of archaeology while allowing them to participate in a hands-on excavation. The project has been put on hold because of COVID, but the Museum is hoping they can get the dig up and running for the summer. Thank you for your generous donation, Weber State and Dr. Brooke Arkush!



## Centennial Lectures

The Museum's Centennial Lecture Series comes to a close on April 1, when Mayor Joy Petro will tie the series together with a wrap-up of the last one hundred years of Layton's history. Other lectures in the series have been recorded and posted on the Heritage Museum's

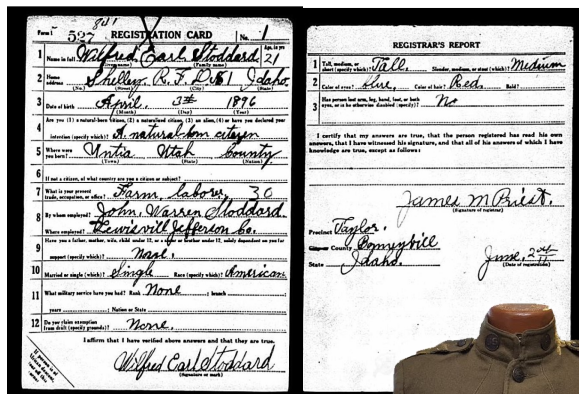
website at <https://www.laytoncity.org/LC/HeritageMuseum/SpecialEvents>. The Museum would like to thank Layton City RAMP for making the lecture series possible! Stay tuned for more lectures in the future.



## Have You Ever Wondered...?

Wilford E. Stoddard of Uintah, Utah was born on April 3, 1895. He served in World War I in the 10th Aero Squadron of the 3rd Army Air Park. The unit was organized on May 31, 1917 at Kelly Field, Texas and transferred to Chanute Field, Illinois on July 7, 1917. Aero Squadrons were the designation of the first United States Army aviation units until the end of World War I. Within the units were specialties of combat flying, training, ground support, and construction. The squadrons were part of the American Expeditionary Force and were sent to serve in France. Most of these units demobilized following the end of World War I.

Wilford Earl Stoddard's Draft Card



See uniforms worn by Wilford E. Stoddard and other war veterans on display now at the Heritage Museum of Layton!



Wilford Earl Stoddard's Uniform

## Dansie Mural

The long-anticipated Museum mural depicting Dansie's Market as it would have looked in the 1920s is finally finished! Local artist Laurel Bitton was given the task to recreate a photograph taken at Dansie's on one of the Museum's walls in preparation for an exhibit centered around Dansie's Market. Bitton stated, "I am grateful and honored at the opportunity to take part in representing a portion of Layton's history by painting a mural of the Dansie's Market for the Layton Heritage Museum. It was fun to paint on site at the museum surrounded by artifacts of days gone by. We decided to use the existing 4'x 8' display panel and gesso over the

fabric to use for the canvas. It was soon evident that this fabric was going to be a textured, rough surface which became the biggest challenge; though I do like painting on textured surfaces! Thus, no smooth brush strokes or filling large areas in quickly, no sharp lines, it was painting a little at a time, dabbing or pushing the paint onto the surface with a brush. Besides going through several brushes, this challenge became an asset along with the warm sepia tone, adding to the nostalgic feel of the mural. The little boy with the sun shining in his face and the open door invites the viewer to stop in for

an ice cream or soda, and the back drop of the mountains and rural landscape are reminiscent of an earlier era. Because of the painting's size when you come to the museum look at the painting up close and then step back 10-15 feet and you can really feel like you are experiencing a moment at Dansie's Market."



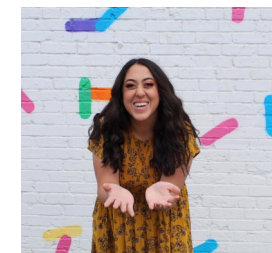
## Volunteer Spotlight—Islay Montiel

Islay Montiel served as the Heritage Museum of Layton's first service missionary, enthusiastically helping with projects since August 2020. Islay is a return service missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints. She served at the Humanitarian Center, the Heritage Museum, the Syracuse Museum, and Ogden Head Start. Islay has a passion for art, history, and music. She stated "there is so much to learn about the city and never a dull day while

volunteering at the museum. Finding artifacts and information is my favorite part because as I learn the history, the more memories I create! I grew up in Layton and seeing familiar names and places brings so much joy. I love to use that knowledge

to help others." Thank you for all you do for the museum, Islay!



## Junior Curator Program



Students from Providence Montessori

The Junior Curator program is underway at the Museum! Families and school groups are welcome to pick-up activity books that will guide them through the Museum! When the

book is complete, children can turn it in to receive a Junior Curator sticker badge. The Museum has given out over one hundred badges since the program

rolled out at the beginning of March! Schedule your tour today at 801-336-3930 and become a Heritage Museum of Layton Junior Curator!