

Vol. 3, No. 1, January–March 2023  
Quarterly Publication of the Friends of Broomfield History

# The Broomcorn *Express*



## Celebrate Martin Luther King Day with us



Saturday, January 14, 2023  
from 11 AM - 4 PM

Broomfield Depot Museum  
2201 W. 10th Ave.  
Broomfield, CO 80020

Questions? Email us at  
[BroomfieldHistory@gmail.com](mailto:BroomfieldHistory@gmail.com)

[FriendsOfBroomfieldHistory.org](http://FriendsOfBroomfieldHistory.org)

[facebook.com/FRIENDSOFBROOMFIELD  
HISTORY](https://facebook.com/FRIENDSOFBROOMFIELDHISTORY)

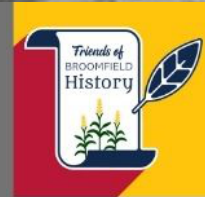
Food Drive - Bring non-perishables  
for F.I.S.H.

Enjoy a special story time for kids

Listen to MLK speeches

Help create a visual display of the  
cultural amalgam of Broomfield  
residents

Volunteer to participate in an oral  
history project that will bring to light  
formerly unheard stories about  
Broomfield.



# A Sparkle in My Eye



## **Andrea Margheim-Minnich President, Friends of Broomfield History**

Welcome Friends of Broomfield History! Welcome to a new year, new members, and a new President! (I really like to be excited when I address a group of people.) Don't worry, things are not going to change (too much)! Thank you for reading! Thank you all for your "vote!" I am super excited to lend my time and talent (whatever that may be...) to keeping this "historical society" alive and going!

Looking forward to the year ahead we have a few things in the mix already, including having a stronger presence

in the community for MLK Day— Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup>—involvement in supporting so many of our numerous non-profit community programs, and speaking to you all, the greater Broomfield public about ALL of your amazing stories!

We all have stories to share and those stories are so important. We want to record these stories any way possible and combine what we can, so that we can always keep history in the forefront of our minds as we move forward together—as a community, as friends, and as humans on this earth!

# The Crawford Honey House

**Compiled by Roberta Depp**

The Crawford Honey House was a commercial building used for the sale and shipping of honey. It was part of a cluster of businesses and homes around 120th Avenue and the railroad tracks that later became known as “Old Broomfield.” Neighboring enterprises included a cheese manufacturer (Robert and Mary Wright); dairy (Watson Colman); blacksmith (Henry and Anna Naeve); flour and feed mill (Ralph and Alice Colman); and railroad agent, general merchandise dealer and postmistress (H.H. and Florence Graves).

The Honey House was operated by beekeeper Harry Crawford, one of Broomfield’s early pioneers, who had moved to Broomfield from Ohio in 1891. He purchased property from the Zang holdings on which he maintained 500 bee colonies. The honey was put in containers and shipped by train to Denver. His product’s quality was recognized when he received a silver medal for his comb honey at the 1904 World’s Fair held in St. Louis.



Crawford Honey House, c. 1910s. Photo from the Broomfield History Collection.

Harry said he had learned beekeeping as a child.

In 1899 he married Ada Coward and they raised three children: Miles, Dora and Harry. Harry Sr. also served as Broomfield's postmaster from 1896–1898 and was listed as the Justice of Peace in 1900, as well as being a dealer in general merchandise. Their home was originally on the north side of 120th Ave., but in 1910 they moved to the south side. Their son Miles became Broomfield's postmaster serving from 1944–1965. He was also a beekeeper. Many of the artifacts in the Depot Museum are from the Crawford family.

The Honey House building was moved to its current location in Zang Park in 1996. It received Local Landmark designation in 2006. A new foundation and building renovation were completed this year. The plan is to use the building for displays about early Broomfield enterprises, especially in agriculture. When you visit the Depot Museum, be sure to add the Honey House to your visit.

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Sources:

Pettem, Silvia. *Broomfield: Changes Through Time*. The Book Lode, 2001.  
Turner, Carol. *Legendary Locals of Broomfield*. Arcadia Publishing, 2014.



Crawford Honey House, c. 1910s. Photo from the Broomfield History Collection.



Photo from the Broomfield History Collection.

# The Connection between Broomfield Depot Station Agents and Martin Luther King, Jr.

**By David Allison, Museum Coordinator**

The Broomfield Depot was a “live-in” train depot—the station agent in Broomfield both lived and worked in the same building. From the evidence we have in the Broomfield History Collection, the station agents in Broomfield worked long hours and had to be ready to support the activities of the railroad at any time of day or night.

The station agent was an essential worker for the other railroad workers and the passengers who used the Colorado & Southern Railway and the Denver Interurban. Without their dedication, lives would be at risk due to the speed, size, and complexity of railroad

operations. Station agents were part of the infrastructure of working people who supported and sustained their community.

Today we continue to see the incredible value of these essential workers. From nurses and doctors to custodians and street maintenance workers to grocery store employees and law enforcement officers, these individuals keep us fed, healthy, and safe. Their service and sacrifice is worth remembering and honoring.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a particularly apt time to honor essential workers. Throughout the years of his advocacy for civil rights for African-Americans, King continually made the connection between raising up and amplifying the voices and rights of working class people. By the end of his tragically-cut-short life, he had begun organizing a Poor People's Campaign as a way to draw attention to inequality and poverty via direct, non-violent action. In a planning meeting for this campaign, King said that the Poor People's Campaign was, "the beginning of

a new co-operation, understanding, and a determination by poor people of all colors and backgrounds to assert and win their right to a decent life and respect for their culture and dignity."

*We hope that you will take time to reflect on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy with us at the Broomfield Depot on January 14 from 11am-4pm.*

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Sources:  
"Poor People's Campaign," Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute, Stanford University, Retrieved from <https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/poor-peoples-campaign> on January 8, 2021.

"Riding and Working on the Railroad," Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Retrieved from <https://americanhistory.si.edu/america-on-the-move/lives-railroad> on January 8, 2021.



# Walk this Way

By Sallie Diamond



If you head over to 7051 W. 118th Avenue in Broomfield, you will find a very popular organization for the performance of community service. A Precious Child assists children and families facing difficult life challenges such as abuse and neglect, crisis situations and poverty. They work with more than 546 agency partners to identify children and families in need of resources, services, opportunities and educational support. If you are interested in providing community service to a worthwhile local organization, look at the array of opportunities on the web page for A Precious Child.

<https://apreciouschild.org/>

# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATION IN BROOMFIELD

By Annie Lessem

Every year, on the third Monday of January, America honors the birth, life, and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday reminds us of the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. On this day we commemorate the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership. This year the Friends of Broomfield History, in conjunction with the City and County of Broomfield, will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday January 14 at the Broomfield Depot Museum from 11:00–4:00. Join us for this free event and help create a visual display of the cultural amalgam of Broomfield residents. While you're here, you may also enjoy a special story time for kids; listen to MLK speeches; tour the museum; donate to a food drive for FISH; or volunteer to participate in an oral history project that will bring to light formerly unheard stories about Broomfield.



Washington, D.C. MLK Memorial. Photo by Bryant's Juarez@Pexels.

Dr. King was an American clergyman and civil-rights leader. He became minister of the Dexter Ave. Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama in 1954. He led the black boycott of segregated city bus lines in 1956 and gained a major victory as a civil-rights leader when Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis. Dr. King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which provided a base to pursue further civil-rights activities in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance resulted in his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 60s. His 1963



protest in Birmingham, Alabama earned him worldwide attention. He brought together more than 200,000 people on the March on Washington in August 1963 where he delivered his famous “ I Have a Dream” speech. In 1964, at the age of 35, he was the youngest man and the third black man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. His interests widened from civil rights to include a deeper concern over poverty. His plans for a Poor People's March to Washington in 1968 were interrupted for a trip to Memphis, Tennessee in support of striking sanitation workers (which is why many of the marches on MLK Day are led by a garbage truck). On April 4, 1968, he was shot and killed as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

The bill to create Martin Luther King Day was sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy and passed the Senate in October of 1983. The following month, President Reagan signed it, establishing the third Monday of every January as Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday, beginning in 1986. The holiday was first observed by all 50 states on January 18, 1993. It is a time to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought against, and his fight for the freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and peoples through nonviolence. It is also the only national holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

Dr. King’s legacy has also left us with many inspiring words and noble principles. Below are some of those inspiring quotes:

***“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”***

***“Never, never be afraid to do what’s right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society’s punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.”***

***Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality.”***

***Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.***

***The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.***

Additional Martin Luther King Jr. quotes will be displayed around town between Jan 13 and Jan 17.

# New Acquisition: The Dime Store Clearance Turkey Platter

By Elizabeth Beaudoin  
and Kathy (Chestnut)  
Hoburg

Someone recently asked me “what kinds of things are you hoping people will donate to the museum?” I think the answer surprises a lot of people. We’re not looking to collect anything just because it’s old or even monetarily valuable. Instead, we are actively seeking things that come with a story that gives insight to what life was like (or is like) living in Broomfield.

A lot of people get hung-up on the idea that their personal stories are not “History” with a capital H, but I hope to convey that we at the Depot Museum are interested in little stories, the ones about family and everyday life that move and touch us on a deeper, more relatable level.

One of our 2022 donations is a perfect example of this. The donor, Kathy (née Chestnut) Hobough recently donated a turkey platter, which we eagerly accepted. Now if this well-used turkey platter was given to us with no context, we probably wouldn’t have added it to our collection. But her touching story, along with photos of her and her family made this object to tell a piece of Broomfield history that I



Photo from the Broomfield History Collection.

“I was surprised when Dad said he wasn’t going to go inside. Instead, he handed me some money, sent all four of us in and told us not to come out until we had bought our mom a gift.

think many Broomfielders can relate to. Here is an excerpt from Kathy’s story about her family’s “Dime Store Clearance Turkey Platter”:

“It was June of 1966. My Mom, Iris June Chestnut’s 29th birthday was coming up (June 25th). There were four of us kids at home the day Dad took us shopping. Since my older brother Steve was in Kansas, I was the oldest (about 10-

years old). My younger brothers were Randy-7, Rick-6, and Kelly-5 years old.

We drove to the Dime store. I was surprised when Dad said he wasn't going to go inside. Instead, he handed me some money, sent all four of us in and told us not to come out until we had bought our mom a gift.

All three boys ran directly to the toy aisle. They were totally hands-on everything. They wanted to shop in the toys only, so I left and started looking elsewhere. I found some perfume and a pearl necklace, but we didn't have enough money. Finally I found a pair of earrings that we could afford. I went back to the toy aisle and asked the boys what they thought of the earrings. They didn't like them. The three had found and agreed on a toy truck for Mom. I was tickled that they wanted to buy her a toy truck. I explained to them that Mom



Iris June Chestnut, c. 1960s. Photo from the Broomfield History Collection.

didn't play with trucks. They still didn't like the earrings. Then I glanced down the aisle and was drawn to a large clearance sign. There in the middle of the clearance section was a very affordable out-of-season, breakable turkey platter. I asked the boys what they thought of the platter. Much to my surprise all of us agreed that it was the perfect gift for Mom.

Mom cooked Thanksgiving dinner for all of us (sometimes 35+) for over 50 years. She always served turkey on her 'Dime store clearance turkey platter'. By Kathy Hobaugh, Aug 22, 2022"



Chestnut family, 1968. Photo from the Broomfield History Collection.

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Once logged into King Soopers, search for *Friends of Broomfield History* either by name or *KU085* and then click Enroll. If you don't have a King Soopers account, open one today! You will need a loyalty card from the store and an email address.

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!"



Find us on Facebook!  
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OR visit our website at <https://friendsofbroomfieldhistory/shop> to donate online

\$20 donation: Basic Donation

\$50 donation: Contributing Donation

\$100 donation: Sustaining Donation

Donation of your choice: \_\_\_\_\_

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