

History Tours

SUMMER 2022



Historic Farms of Westminster

July 9, 2022, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Enjoy a vintage baseball game and learn more about historic farms in Westminster. This tour will start and end at Wolff Run Park. The tour will begin with the opportunity to enjoy a vintage baseball game featuring the Westminster Lightning Bolts and the Star Baseball Club of Colorado Territory. The tour will then depart Wolff Run Park to learn more and tour both the Shoenberg Farm and Semper Farm.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WESTMINSTER'S HISTORIC FARMS

- Shoenberg Farm provided milk, eggs, and meat to the National Jewish Hospital treating those with tuberculosis.
- Dolly the Cow is a sculpture on the Shoenberg Farm built completely of farm tools and scrap metal.
- Semper Farm has a Colorado State Champion Apple Tree which is nearly 140 years old.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
the Westminster
Historical Society



Shoenberg Farm and Tepper Fields

Shoenberg Farm now



Tepper Fields



Historic Shoenberg Farm



1911

Louis Shoenberg founded the 800-acre farm in 1911 in memory of his son who died of tuberculosis. The farm supplied the National Jewish Hospital with eggs, milk and meat. The farm also operated as a trade school to help recovered tuberculosis patients learn new job skills.



1921

Jacob Tepper purchased the farm in 1921 and continued working with the National Jewish Hospital. He also added such amenities as a Dolly Madison Ice Cream Shop, which began in the late 1930's and operated through 2001. During Tepper's management of the farm, it was the largest egg distributor west of the Mississippi River.

Cherokee-Overland Trail Connection

The Cherokee-Overland Trail that went north to the Oregon Trail ran right through this farm site.



CITY OF WESTMINSTER HISTORIC LANDMARK

In 2008, the **Shoenberg Farm** was designated as a Historic Landmark. It obtained landmark status because it is representative of early 20th Century poultry and dairy farms in the area as well as its association with the National Jewish Hospital in the treatment of TB patients in the 20th Century. It was one of several farms in the Denver metro area that was associated with the 20th Century sanatorium movement.

As part of the Historic Landmark process and associated preservation activities, the City has preserved silos and many of the original historical structures that made up the original farm. Additionally, Dolly the Cow has been added to the site as a nod to both history and art.



Dolly the Cow

Dolly the Cow is 5 feet tall and 8 feet long and weighs 800 lbs. Dolly was created by Colorado artist Lyle Nichols of Palisade in 2011. She is made of nearly 500 pieces of reclaimed and recycled farm tools and other metal scraps. Her tail is made from drill bits and she sports a real cowbell.

Semper Farm

- The original farm structures of both the Semper family and Allison family are still intact on the site.
- Charles was the first typesetter for the Rocky Mountain News. They built their farmhouse in 1881-1882 and farmed the 160 acres of land, at first raising both beef and dairy cattle but eventually turning to sheep after a horrible blizzard ravaged the area.
- Their house, which ran alongside the Cherokee-Overland Trail, was also the location of a post office and grocery store for the area.
- The Semper Farm served as the seat of the Semper Township which was located from 72nd Avenue to 120th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard to approximately Alkire Street. By 1900 there 277 residents in the township. Semper served as the was the local Justice of the Peace and his wife served as the post mistress.
- The Cherokee-Overland Trail passed through the farm property as it wound its way up to the northwest and connecting with the Oregon Trail.



Semper house now →



CITY OF WESTMINSTER HISTORIC LANDMARK

In 2005, the **Semper Farm** was designated as a Historic Landmark. It is part of the Semper-Allison Open Space and contains original farm buildings as well as the Allison Community Garden which was established in 2006. The farm provides educational resources to learn about local history, botany, and wildlife.

Prize apple tree →



•The Sempers planted an extensive orchard on the farm. Their prize apple tree, planted in the 1880s, still lives on the property. At nearly 140 years old The State Champion apple tree proudly continues to produce *Sops of Wine* apples. Many of the plants on the site trace their roots back to original plants including a Mulberry Bush you can go around! In 2010, 150 cuttings were taken from the Semper tree and grown as saplings ~ they are now distributed throughout the city.



SELF-GUIDED TOUR

The Semper Farm provides signage that allows for self-guided tours. As you walk the path, you can learn about the Semper and Allison families and their farming activities. The area connects to the Farmers Highline Canal and walking trail.

Vintage Baseball Game

AT WOLFF RUN BB FIELDS

The best part of history is getting to relive it, and that is exactly what the Vintage Baseball games are all about. On this tour, we will enjoy a good old-fashioned 1870s baseball game. Westminster's own Lightning Bolts will play the Star Baseball Club of Colorado Territory on Saturday, July 9th at Wolff Run Park ~ 4705 W. 76th. Suffragettes will be out there demonstrating for the right to vote. You can learn to say "Huzzah" when our team does well (means 'hurrah' today). But don't be caught booing the umpire—you could get fined or shot!

Baseball History

The first organized baseball team in our territory was organized in 1862. When Colorado became a state in 1876, the National Baseball League was also formed. In 1885, the Denver Base Ball and Athletic Club formed for professional baseball play.

Vintage Baseball Facts

Baseball back in the 1880s was far from what we see and hear today!

First of all, the vocabulary was very different. The **hurler** (pitcher) threw the ball underhanded to the **behind** (catcher). The **striker** (hitter) might hit a **bug-bruiser** (ground ball) to **first tender** (1st base). The rest of the **ballists** (players) waited patiently for their turn. A **crank** (spectator) should know that the **judge** (umpire) carried a six-shooter. So! All reporters, politicians, high society personnel, suffragettes, and wild critters are hereby warned!

To cross the judge could mean a fine between a dime and a dollar. The judge was the first and final authority in everything, since there was no strike zone. However, he might ask a crank or cranks for an opinion as to whether it was a strike ball or not.

An **easy out** was a catch from either the air OR from the first bounce off the ground. Baseball mitts weren't used until the 1880's. No runs to home base were counted if the runner did not report to the tally keeper and ring the bell.

Of course, some things don't change.

A great baseball game isn't complete without snacks like peanuts in the shell, popcorn, and hot dogs.

Baseball then and now



Suffragettes

