

Regional historian to sign books

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Regional historian Doris Monahan will be in Holyoke Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. to autograph two books.

Featured at Inklings Book Store's annual Christmas tea, Monahan will be signing her newest book, Julesburg and Fort Sedgwick, *Wicked City—Scandalous Fort*, as well as her recently reprinted book, *Destination: Denver City, the South Platte Trail*.

Monahan, who lives in Sterling, traveled to Washington D.C. and in the National Archives, she read letters, telegrams and records. She corresponded with small libraries which had unpublished diaries and worked with larger collections such as Lincoln, Neb. and Denver.

From this research, she sought to prove or dispel rumors, legends and misunderstandings about ill-famed Julesburg and shameful Fort Sedgwick. Both books are in-depth history of the area during the decade of 1857-67 when so much was happening.

Monahan found enough material to tell the stories of interesting characters and events.

Destination: Denver City details a gold rush, stagecoaches, stage stations and station keepers and the beginning and course of an Indian War in Colorado, which continued in Nebraska and Wyoming.

Her new book, *Julesburg and Fort Sedgwick*, concentrates on a smaller area. Julesburg was the town that moved four times before it settled in a permanent location. It was at first a trading post, then a stage station, both managed by Jules, the notorious French-Canadian, for whom the town was named.

Fort Sedgwick was a military installation, first called Camp Rankin, established in 1864 by Lt. Eugene Ware, who wrote a memoir of his service, and by Captain Nicholas O'Brien. After his discharge, O'Brien became mayor in the second and third Julesburg sites.

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He and his new wife, Emily, lived in Julesburg III in its Wicked City phase until the Union Pacific Railroad was built. The fort was intended to protect the emigrants and railroad workers, but became best known for corruption and barbarity.