

Keith Mulhern
2026 Evenings of History

Keith Mulhern, originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, immigrated to the United States in 2011 and currently serves on the board of directors for the Snohomish Historical Society in the city of Snohomish. Through genealogical research, he discovered that Thomas K. Walsh is his great-great-great-grandfather, linking his Irish roots directly to one of Colorado's most prominent mining families. His research has focused on uncovering the Irish origins of the Walsh family and tracing the transatlantic journey that brought them from Ireland to the American West during the post-famine era. Keith is excited to share the Irish side of the Walsh family story and explore how events in 19th century Ireland shaped the lives of those who eventually built their legacy in Ouray County. Besides his passion for history, Keith is an avid road cyclist and works as an engineer in the Pacific Northwest



Michael Peddecord
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Michael Peddecord, a great great grandson of Thomas K. Walsh, was raised in Craig where his Irish immigrant grandparents owned the MH Murphy ranch. He will recount how historical events during the life of his grandmother, May Walsh Hennessy Murphy, were impacted by: the poverty of post-famine Ireland, her journey to Colorado, the violent Mine Wars in the Cripple Creek/Victor Mining District, a wonderful gift from her uncle, Thomas F. Walsh, the growth of Craig, the great depression, prohibition and an unsettling confrontation with the Craig klavern of the Klu Klux Klan. Besides being an avid history buff, photographer, skier and traveler, Michael is the husband of Mary, an award-winning photographer, a grandfather of three and emeritus professor at San Diego State University. Thanks to his grandmother, in 2010 he became a dual citizen of Ireland.

