**TOWN HISTORY**

The Yampa Valley’s hard winters and deep snows made year-round settlement difficult. The area long served as the Ute Indian tribe’s summertime hunting grounds. Later, trappers and mountain men pursued small game, selling the hides to the fur industry. James Crawford arrived with his family in 1875 to file a homestead claim and establish what would become the town of Steamboat Springs.

More homesteaders soon followed. Some raised cattle or sheep, while others worked in the nearby gold and coal mines. Still others settled in town, opening shops, businesses, and even “spa” facilities at the mineral springs. Almost everyone relied on skis (then called “snowshoes”) for essential wintertime transportation, but with the arrival of famed ski jumper Carl Howelsen in 1913, residents started skiing for fun and recreation. Since 1915, Howelsen Hill has hosted breathtaking Winter Carnival stunts and competitions. In 1958, the clearing of trails on Storm Mountain (now Mount Werner) launched the ski resort that now attracts visitors from around the world. Townsfolk as well as tourists enjoy skiing “Ski Town U.S.A.” and its trademark champagne powder™. Now Steamboat Springs holds the record of producing more Olympic athletes than any other town in North America.

Want to know how Steamboat Springs was named? Come to the museum!
PIONEERS

Step into the 1901 Queen Anne-style house, where a period-furnished kitchen, dining room, parlor, and bedroom take you back in time to imagine life as the pioneers lived it. Explore the lives and ways of Native Americans, early settlers, miners, outlaws, and skiers.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Our Native American exhibit features an astounding collection of basketry, pottery, beadwork, weaving, and Edward S. Curtis photogravures.

OUTLAWS

Experience Routt County’s wild and rugged past in our Western Heritage exhibit. Don’t miss the Harry Tracy “outlaw audio” and our extensive firearms collection.

OLYMPIC HERITAGE

Our Ski Town U.S.A.® exhibit traces the development of skiing in Steamboat Springs from essential winter transportation to the popular recreational sport of today. Find out why Steamboat Springs is home to more Olympic athletes than any other town in North America!

JOIN US BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE MUSEUM TODAY!