

# TheTribune

## Local historic farm to be discussed at Weld County Genealogical Society meeting

STAFF REPORTS,

A farm near Greeley that has been an important part of Weld County history will be the subject of a discussion for the Weld County Genealogical Society meeting Thursday at the Centennial Park Library.

The Von Trotha-Firestien Farm at Bracewell was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2009.

The farm was started sometime around 1887 when Baron Claus Wolfgang Von Trotha and his wife, Helen, who had immigrated to the United States prior to 1865, homesteaded in the Bracewell/Farmers Spur area.

Judy Firestien, a descendant of the family, will present a program at 7 p.m. Thursday at Centennial Park Library, 2227 23rd Ave.

Prior to the presentation, the regular mini-class will be taught, beginning at 6:15 p.m. Linda Peters will teach the 30-minute class about researching World War I records.

In the early days of the farm, Peter and Sophia Firestien and their sons, Conrad and Louis, immigrated to the U.S. in 1899 as part of the group that became known as the Germans from Russia. They were in the Bracewell area as early as 1911 and started farming for the Von Trotha brothers shortly thereafter.

The house where Judy Firestien lives was built in 1926 with recycled material from grain silos and other materials on the farm. The land is farmed by family members, and about 40 acres on the farm continue to produce crops.

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