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John Taylor—Slave-Born Colorado Pioneer*

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“Yes, suh—yes, suh, I wuz de fust white man to settle in de Pine ribber valley ob sou’wes’rn Colorado.”

“That’s right, John,” chorused a group of a dozen or more grizzled white men, gathered at an annual reunion of San Juan pioneers—those argonauts who came to the region before 1880.

My eyes bugged out like biscuits. The first speaker was a black man. A short, chunky block of glistening granite black. John Taylor. One of the most interesting characters ever to ride the wild trails in the wild southwest and across the border into Mexico before he settled in southwestern Colorado.

John Taylor was born at Paris, Kentucky, in 1841, according to his army record. He was the son of slave parents.

“Cos I doan’t ’membah much about de fust, two, free yea’s ob my life,” John declared. “But I ’spect I wuz lak all de odah pickaninnies. I suah does ’membah dat as soon as I wuz big ’nuf to mock a man at wo’k, I wuz sent into de cawn an’ baccy fiel’s, an’ ’til I wuz twenty-free I wuz raised on de handle ob a hoe.”

“And then what happened, John?”

“I becomes a runaway niggah,” John chuckled.

On August 17, 1864, John Taylor enlisted in the first negro regiment recruited by Union army officials in Kentucky. That is a matter of record. His regiment, John said, was first to enter the city of Richmond after its evacuation by Confederate forces. On February 6, 1866, he was honorably discharged from service.

“Dere wuz nothin’ fur me to do, nothin’ I c’ud do, ’cept wage-han’ about de ’baccy, cawn an’ cotton fiel’s,” John declared.

*Accompanying this story, when sent in by Mr. McGue of Durango, Colorado, was an interesting letter from which we quote:

“The occasions for my interviews with Taylor and innumerable other old-timers:

The late Col. David F. Day yanked me out of the backroom (printshop) to make a reporter out of me. Am still hopeful. During his lifetime and later as city editor for his son, the late Rod S. Day, gathered a mass of pioneer information. The old *Democrat* office was nightly filled with O-T’s, whites, Mex, Indians, and quite often John Taylor. I was in Ignacio the day of his funeral.

Have not lived or worked in Durango all the time, but have called, or rather my father, a retired railroad employe, and mother have called Durango home since 1900, and her folks—the Morrisons, stockmen—first came to the region in 1871 or ’72. My hobby: Writing the story of little known pioneers of the San Juan country. Have 50 to 60 such stories written, and data on more than 100 others.”—Ed.

“An’ I sho’ didn’t lak dat. I reckon when hit comes right down to taw, maybe I wuz lazy, ’cause I’d got fatted up in de a’may.” He smiled and licked his thick lips.

Being in the army was John Taylor’s dream of heaven.

“Why didn’t you re-enlist, John? What held you back?”

“Hit wuz like dis,” John explained, “I’s fall in luv’ wit’ dat yalla gal, Caldonie.”

John didn’t marry his first love. Instead—

He frittered away a year and some days less than a month. When he was with Caldonie he was happy. When working in the fields: “I’d feel de col’ barrel ob my musket pressin’ ’gainst de pa’m ob my han’ or de bayonet w’ud tech my cheeks, an’ at de tech sumpin w’ud tighten in my froat an’ I’d shake de thoughts ob luv’ an’ wage-han’in’ aroun’ from my mind. I couldn’t ferget my soger days.”

On March 21, 1867, John Taylor, ex-slave boy, re-enlisted in the United States army. His company was sent to Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona to fight the Indians. On March 20, 1870, he was mustered out of the service at El Paso, Texas.

John had not soured on army life when his second hitch expired. The carefree life of the red nomads of hill, plain and desert appealed to him. Irresistible impulses seized him. They filled him with a great unrest and strange desires. He joined a roving band of Chiricahua Apaches. Desert folk that lived under the sun, and the sun had entered their blood and burned them with a great fire until they were filled with lusts and passions. There was unrest with them and with them John Taylor rode the wild trails, north and south of the border. But on every trail he observed the law, pitiless and potent, ever unswerving. And John had a submerged respect for the law.

“I don’t care to say much about dose days,” John declared, “but we sho’ don’ a lot ob ridin’ bof no’t’h an’ souf ob de line.”

While with the Apaches, John met “the worst Indian that ever lived,” the “tiger” of the southwest—Go-ya-thle.

The deserts of the southwest are still vocal with this red devil’s evil fame. To the harassed whites, plainsmen and prospectors, and Mexicans he was a cunning and cruel marauder and cattle thief. They called him Geronimo!

Geronimo waged warfare on both sides of the line from 1853 to September 3, 1886, when he, with 18 braves, all that remained of his once large murdering, thieving band, was captured at Skeleton canon by a force of United States regulars under the command of Gen. Nelson A. Miles.

John rode out on the Apaches, leaving behind four squaws he had taken as wives during his stay with the band. He drifted north to Tucumcari, New Mexico, where he hired out as a camp cook for the late Thomas Burns.

Rasslin’ pots and pans didn’t provide much excitement for John. He soon joined a band of Utes and went with them to Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico. Here he took unto himself a couple more wives, an Indian and a Mexican woman. Within a few months he left them to keep the home fires burning and went to the Pine River valley.

With eight rivers—Rio Chama, Rio Blanco, Rio Navajo, Rio Piedra, Rio Los Pinos, Rio Florida, Rio San Juan and Rio de Las Animas—coursing through the immediate region, and innumerable creeks, the latter all called “Nutrita,” indicating the presence of beaver in them, John became the first “white” trapper-settler in the valley of the Pine. That was in 1871-72.

The heavy take of fur and pelts was not enough to make John forget the splendid barbaric sight of mounted carefree Indians, over all splashed the rich colors of red, vermilion and ocher, on the bodies of men, on their horses. Scalps dangling from bridles, gorgeous war-bonnets fluttering their plumes, bright feathers dangling from the tails and manes of the horses, and bronzed, half-naked bodies of riders glittering with ornaments of silver and beads. He left his traps to rust and joined a band of fast, wild-riding Navajos.

Until mid ’70s John was a wanderer of the barrancas, riding with first one wild bunch, then another. When a branch of the Ute tribe located in southwestern Colorado, John again rode out on his wild companions and cast his lot with the Utes.

After locating, for the second time, in Pine River valley, John began falling in love. He admitted that during his wild riding days he had married ten to twelve different women, including Mexicans, Navajos, Hopis and Apaches. But none of these he brought into Colorado.

“But, John,” I protested, “how did you get away with so many marriages without being prosecuted?”

“Yah, yah,” John guffawed. “I married all dose gals de Indian way, an’ I wuz deevorced de same way.”

“How was that, John?”

“Gittin’ married, y’u mean? De cerymonee is about de same ’mongst all de tribes. De gal she doan mix up some cawn meal mush in a bowl an’ sits down, facin’ de openin’ in de hogan. Y’u goes in, kneels down befo’ her, takes a spoon an’ feeds her mush.

D'en she feeds y'u some mush. After eatin' all de mush, y'use married."

"How about getting a divorce?"

"Dat's easy. Y'u do sumpin y'ur squaw doan't like, she picks up yore saddle an' t'rows it outa de hogan. Y'use deevorced."

The wiles of Ute squaws made John an easy victim and in quick succession he married five of them. He had this number of wives when federal laws forbade plural marriages. None of these women ever bore him any children. All the women died. His next matrimonial venture was with a widow, who had one son. She soon died, and her son, Henry Green, was allotted a homestead on the Ute reservation. He died two, three years later. John, his stepfather, being the only heir, inherited his homestead.

With the founding of the Southern Ute agency, the Green-Taylor homestead was chosen for the townsite of the present town of Ignacio. John received \$5,000 for the land. He immediately married Kitty Cloud, Ute. She bore him three sons and a daughter.

The waving Stars and Stripes, fluttering to the breeze over the agency building, was a daily reminder to John Taylor that he loved the flag, had fought for it, would again fight for it, if need arose. Thus he jerked himself out of the snarly path he'd been traveling, folded the daubed pages of his past.

Although he spent more than three score years with the Utes, had a Ute wife, four half Ute children, John persistently refused to become a member of the tribe.

Why?

"I'se a free man. I ain't no 'pendent or ration Injun," he declared with emphasis. "Massa Abe (President Lincoln) proclaimed us to be free, an' I fit fur dat freedom, too. I'se gwine to remain a free, self-supportin' man long as I live. Yes, suh, till I dies."

Many places knew John. Cow camps, where he cooked; sheep camps, mining camps, gambling dives, the white man's courts. All recorded interesting episodes in the life of this unusual man.

For many years John, who could neither read nor write, acted as official interpreter whenever a Ute, Navajo, Apache, Hopi or Mexican case was heard in court. After selling his homestead he learned to sign his name to checks under the tutelage, perhaps, of gamblers. That was the extent of his book l'arnin'. But he had learned a lot from the book of life.

John liked to gamble. After he sold his homestead as a townsite he often visited various towns to woo luck with the cards. His favorite game was coon-can.

When the United States declared war on Spain, John, at 57, was one of the first Coloradans to offer his services.

"You're too old," he was told.

"Too old!" John shouted with amazement. "W'y, white man, I'se jes' a kid, eben tho my wool is gray." And to prove his assertion he turned a double somersault backwards.

The gesture was of no avail.

While his army discharge papers say John was born in the year 1841, there are several living witnesses who will testify that he was gray haired when he first went to the Pine River valley in the early '70s.

When the United States entered the World war in 1917, John, 76, thinking his gray locks had kept him out of the army during the Spanish war, resorted to a little trickery to fool the examining board. He took a swim in a vat filled with gooey sheep dip. It dyed his hair as black as midnight.

With his tell-tale gray locks hidden beneath sheep dip, John, with a broad grin on his face, shoulders erect, eyes to the front, proudly strode into the office of the late John W. Wingate, chairman of the examining board for conscription at Durango, Colorado.

Thinking he wanted to act as an interpreter for some of the Mexican boys being examined, Mr. Wingate called John to the strip room.

John undressed in a jiffy or, as he said, "in the shake of a lamb's tail." . . . "I'se fit an' fine an' rarin' to go," he informed the amazed examiners. "I 'low as how y'u gotta use dem thing-abobs, so git busy so's I kin git my unyform."

"Not registered. Too old. Get dressed," John was told.

"Cain't I trade places wiv some ob dese lads?" John asked in a plaintive plea. "Looka here, I's not too old," and he began cart-wheeling around the room, ending by jumping into the air, cracking his heels together and turning a forward somersault.

"Sorry, John. You're a Civil war veteran. You're too old for this war. Go home."

Several years later his youngest son, Henry, was born.

And it was another son who, years later, brought a tragic twist to life for John Taylor when time had put its hand on him, and twisted. When time had taken him by the nape of the neck and pushed his head forward and bent a crook in his back. When a shag of gray, kinky hair stuck down over his ears. When he was old. When he was like a man going down hill, a long step every day.

How it happened. John was awakened from his siesta by the sound of a rifle shot, instantly followed by the shattering of glass and a piercing, agonized cry from a woman. He rubbed his old eyes, left his couch and padded into the next room in his moccasins. Inside the sagging-floored room he stopped, gazing at the slumped-over figure of his daughter-in-law, the wife of his son, Ed. "What's wrong?" he asked. No answer. He moved to her prone body, stooped and lifted it and carried her to a shake-down bed in the corner. Blood was gushing down the front of her dress.

John went into the lean-to kitchen for a dipper of water. A singing stream of bullets bit through the walls of the frame shack and made venomous buzzes around his head. His wife, Kitty,



JOHN TAYLOR AND KITTY CLOUD TAYLOR (IN 1934)

rushed in from the garden. "He's shooting at me," she panted. "Who?" John asked. "John Francis." John Francis, their son.

John, dipper of water in hand, returned to the side of Ed's wife, splashed the water over her face, felt for a pulse beat. She was dead.

John strode to the front door. A bullet crashed into its casing not an inch above his head. Then he saw John Francis, .30-30 Winchester in hand. He was behind a clump of brush beyond the clearing in front of the house.

"Cut out yoah damfoolishness, John Francis," the grizzled father called. "Y'use done committed murder."

A maniacal laugh and a bullet was the answer.

An unarmed old black man with a grim smile on his thick lips and eyes that never wavered started across the clearing to reach his shooting son. His short, close-knit body made a fair target. Bullets whined about him but none seared his flesh.

"I's gwine a git y'u, John Francis," the old man called, and the muscles tightened across his square jaws, and his face had that rocklike formation of black granite.

There, behind a clump of brush an aged father, about five-six in height, weighing about 150 pounds, subdued a 175-pound athletic son in what the father described as a rough and tumble, knock down and drag out, kick and claw, gouge and bite scrap. But there was a mighty toughness of age in the muscles of old John Taylor. He had won the fight by the time Ed, whose wife had been killed, showed up.

John Francis was sentenced to serve a 15-year term in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth. Good behavior reduced the time served. He was released in May, 1941. . . . The father attributed his son's outbreak to overindulgence of whiskey and smoking marijuana cigarettes.

In August, 1934, afflictions and the inroads of advanced age incapacitated John Taylor. He was sent to the Veterans' hospital at Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he lingered for a few months.

Before leaving his home, near Ignacio, Colorado, John posed for a kodak picture. So did his wife, Kitty Cloud Taylor. . . . Prints of those small pictures were sent to John Francis. He prized those small photographs. Kept them. Strangely enough, they were the only pictures of the Father and Mother possessed by any member of the family in May, 1941.

The official statement issued from Cheyenne said:

"John Taylor, 96, Indian fighter, of whom little or nothing is known, died at the Veterans' hospital here on January 10, 1935."

It was a picturesque procession that formed John Taylor's funeral cortege. The townspeople of Ignacio left their houses and shops, and stood silently along the sidewalks, with their heads uncovered to the falling snow as the procession wended its way to the Catholic church.

Grizzled veterans of early-day Indian wars, bow-legged cowmen, paunchy sheepmen, men who fought in Cuba and the Philippines in '98, and boys who wallowed in the mud and filth and gore of France in 1918-19 represented the colors that John Taylor had served during the days of his young manhood. And among others were Chief Buckskin Charlie and many of the older men of the Southern Consolidated Ute tribes, and many of the younger

generation, whites, Mexicans, Indians, who followed in the procession as it wound its way up the street on a cold, gray winter day to the side of an open grave in the Indian burial ground.

I've told you the story of John Taylor. The story of the first white man to settle in the Pine River valley of southwestern Colorado.

Some Early Manuscript Records of Park County, Colorado, 1859-63

ROY A. DAVIDSON*

One of the most interesting phases of Colorado history is that of the early records of mining districts. The laws made were necessarily brief, as no miner wished to use the precious summer days constructing long and detailed laws. Each person came specifically for the purpose of obtaining a fortune, or at least a good living, and no one felt inclined to spend time doing else, unless it was absolutely necessary for the life of the district.

As a result the early records were concise. They were rather well kept, when one considers the urgency of the times. These records were, wherever feasible, based on past experiences of the miners who had come from other camps. A study of the Park County records as compared with Gilpin County records of contemporary date shows that the Park County records are remarkably like those of Gilpin County.¹ The history of Park County reveals the fact that many miners had migrated thither from the earlier Gilpin County diggings. In many cases the marked brevity of Park County mining records shows that undoubtedly the miners of that county were depending largely on "unwritten" law for the successful government of their camps.

Though not the first, the largest and most famous of all camps in the county was "Buckskin Joe District". The original manuscript laws of that camp are now located in the Colorado Supreme Court Library in Denver. The parts quoted and summarized here were taken from the original *Recorder's Book "A"*. This book was donated to the Supreme Court Library by the Commissioners of Park County.

*Mr. Davidson took his master's degree in history at the University of Denver.—Ed.

¹Thomas Maitland Marshall, *Early Records of Gilpin County, Colorado, 1839-1861*. For particular reference see Marshall's chapter on the Gregory and Russell diggings.

Buckskin Joe's Mining Laws

August 19, 1859.

Several prospectors having discovered valuable Digings proceeded to organise by Choosing S. M. Belden President and J. Jones Secretary of the meeting. . . .

Reso [Resolution] 1 Every man shall be entitled to hold one Bar of crick claim and one lead claim by Preemption.

Reso 2 Those in discovery party granted an extra claim. Amendment (can claim 3 claims by Purchase).

Reso 3 Branch to be called Fairchilds Branch of South Park and Buckskinn Joes Diggings.

Reso 4 Each Bar of creek Claim shall be 50 feet up or down the creek and 300 feet in length on one side of creek or on both sides.

Reso 5 Boundaries of this district shall be East end of this District shall be the South Plat and Run South to the Main Divide between this creek and the next one South. Thence west on divide to the head of this (Fairchild's) creek thence north to Divide north of creek thence north to divide North of our Creek thence East on Divide until strikes the South Plat.

Reso 6 The present Prospecting party shall be entitled to hold their claims 30 days without working but subsequent parties shall be obliged to commence work on the same 20 days after staking the claim.

Reso 7 That it shall be the duty of the President to preside over all meetings.

September 30, 1859

Met by call of miners and chose S. M. Belden Recorder. All claims shall be 100 feet up and down the creek. Fees 50c for recording each claim.

Messrs. Moore and Belden chosen as committee to revise the by laws. L. M. Belden then resigned the chair and I. W. Hibbard chosen President for the ensuing year. Then carried that all old claimants shall be allowed to select 50 feet of any unclaimed portions of the gulch.

May 19, 1860.

I. W. Hibbard—President.

M. F. Moore—Secy. Protem.

Amendment to Art. 5 and 7

Persons holding lead claims shall be entitled to hold their claims until such time as they can procure machinery to work the quartz. Revision of May 19, 1860.

Resolution by George Mercer that "the proceeds of the Nash claim be paid to his widow by the man that works the same. The claim to be appraised by disinterested men. . . ."

A disputed claim title between Wm. Smith and E. W. Fairchild was brought before the meeting and decided in favor of Smith. June 16, 1860.

Met in house of J. T. Berger.

Pres. L. M. Belden.

Rec. and Sec. J. B. Stansell.

Reso. by L. L. Robinson that any man may hold one claim by Preemption on each lode in the district.

Reso. by L. L. Robinson that any one discovering a lode shall plainly define the same by stake and boundary and shall record same and that subsequent preemption claims shall be recorded by number running each way from the discovery claim and that such number being recorded shall hold the same.

July 12, 1860.

Meeting in house of J. T. Berger.
Discussion to who was to be regular recorder some claiming the office for D. J. Grist others for J. B. Stansell.

Grist and Stansell retired.

Charles Hitchcock moved meeting vote on recorder and Stansell was elected by a vote of 26 to 18.

Moved by Stansell that meeting be held regularly the first Saturday in each month at 4 of the clock P. M. at the house of J. T. Berger.

September 25, 1860.

It was suggested that monthly meeting of the miners be postponed until spring of 1861 in consequence of a majority of the voters leaving the District to spend the winter in the States.

Meeting adjourned until first Saturday in May 1861.

June 1, 1861.

N. J. Bond President for year.

27 for Bond out of 37 ballots.

Geo. DeAlby Sec. and Rec.

Although the first Saturday in May had been officially designated for the first meeting in 1861, it would appear from the records that the first meeting in 1861 was held on June 1, as shown above.

The Buckskin Mining Laws of 1859 and 1860 seemed to be put together by various recorders in a very hodge-podge manner. It would appear that for the first year the only laws listed on the books were those that occurred to the miners, not those necessary to govern the camp properly.

The following survey of the Revised Laws of Buckskin Joe District as found in a later portion of *Book "A"*, are in much better form and give one a more concrete picture of what was actually occurring legally in that camp.

Revised Laws of Buckskin Joe District

Fairchild's Creek, So. Park Adopted June 8, 1861.

Boundaries of District from house of Hermann Dickerman east of the Platte River running thence So. ½ mile thence westerly following summit of main Divide So. of Fairchild's Creek to the head of said creek thence north to the Summit of the Divide North to the head of said creek thence due east to a point due North of Hermann Dickermans House and thence south to place of Beginning.

Officers 1 President and Secretary.

Art. 1. Duties of the President and Secretary to preside over all meetings and record all mining records.

Art. 2. All gulch claims shall be hereafter 100 feet up and down Gulch and 300 feet across. All bank, flat, hill, Bar or Placer claims 100 feet square. All lode claims 100 feet on lode and 25 feet on each side provided no other lode comes within that distance and that the distance is equally divided between them.

Art. 3. One extra claim for right of discovery.

[Arts. 4 and 5 omitted as they contain no original provisions.]

Art. 6. All civil and criminal cases shall be tried and settled by, a. Judge of the District.

b. Jury of six miners of the District.

c. Appeal to resident miners whose decision shall be final.

[Arts. 7, 8, 9, and 10 omitted as they contain no original provisions.]

Art. 11. Discoverers shall be entitled to one claim for discovery and one by preemption.

Art. 12. All persons shall hold only water sufficient for his purpose and no water claim shall be more than 50 feet up and down the stream.

Turning attention now from laws to other types of records for Buckskin Joe, page two, listing claims recorded (near center of Book), shows these two recordings of special historic interest:

Buckskin Joes Diggings May 23d 1860.

Know all men that I Joseph Higganbottom claim 100 feet of ming ground for ming purposes. It being situated in Buck Skin Diggings Bounded on the upper end of Frank Dunbar and on the Lower by Bill Smith.

Joseph Higganbottom.

Know all men that I Buck Skin Joe Claim 100 feet of ming ground for ming purposes it being situated in Buck Skin Diggings Bounded on the Lower End by D. Griest and on upper end by Moore and company.

Buck Skin Joe.

These two claims were Numbers 4 and 9 respectively.

Purchase and sale of mining claims were recorded by Jacob B. Stansell, the first regular recorder in the following manner:

May 22, 1860.

Know all men by these presents that I, Frank Obena of Buckskin Diggings, J. T. [Jefferson Territory] for and in consideration of the sum of \$50 to me in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and receipted. Do sell Transfer and assign unto A. Fall my right title and interest in and to certain mining claims situated in Buckskin Joes diggings between Mr. Belden and Buckskin Joes claim, said claim being 50 feet up the creek and 300 feet across. In testimony of which I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28th Day of April A. D. 1860.

F. Obena.

W. G. Swimez }
B. S. Peabody } Witness

May 22, 1860.

Know all men by these presents that I Chas. W. Darling of Buckskin Diggings J. T. for and in consideration of the sum of \$100 to me in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged do sell transfer and assign all my right title and interest to A. Fall in and to a certain ming claim situated in Buckskin Joe Diggings the next clam above Jones and the next below Mr. Noltidge said claim

running 100 feet up the creek and 300 feet across. In testimony of which I have here unto set my hand and seal this 28th day of Apr. A. D. 1860.

Chas. W. Darling.

B. S. Peabody }
W. G. Swimez } Witness

A third section of the *Record Book "A"* contains a list of the claims recorded but not detailed for description. Description of the same appears elsewhere. Those claims recorded from May 22 to May 28, 1860, are in the following order:

- 3rd claim to Geo. H. Mercer
bound by Orville Anderson claim on east and west by isolated tree with My name inserted thereon.
- 4 Geo. C. Bassett
bound east by Frank Obena and west by a stake
- 5 David Griest
east by Berger and west by Buckskin Joes claim
- 6 Wm. Berger
East by Jas. Phillips and west by D. Griest
- 7 Frederick Dachterman and Co. . . .
- 14 Peter A. Ranouse sold for \$25 to Geo. H. Mercer and Co.
100 feet of mining claim, west of Mercers Claim.
- 16 A. F. Catlin . . .
- 17 P. A. Ranouse . . .
- 18 H. L. Farr . . .
- 21 Orville Anderson . . .
- 22 Nicholas Bubb . . .
- 23 Thomas Leap . . .
- 24 Luke Holst . . .
- 25 James Anderson . . .
- 26 Jacob Wesner . . .
L. W. Belden transfer to G. H. Mercer E. 2/3 claim No. 14.
- 15 W. W. Anderson . . .
M. F. Moore and Co. purchase of Discovery Claim from Hibbard-Fall and Co. May 11, 1860.

There were eight lodes discovered and worked in Buckskin Joes Mining District. Fairchild's Branch and Buckskin Joes lodes were both discovered in 1859 and the remainder in 1860. The record is as follows:

<i>Lode</i>	<i>Discovered by</i>
Fairchild	W. H. K. Smith and David J. Griest
Buckskin Joes	Buckskin Joe Higganbottom and Darling
Mamouth	I. W. Hibbard and J. B. Stansell
Badger	L. W. Stewart
Bambridge	Bambridge
Anderson	Bambridge and Anderson
Eureka Gulch	Stansell and M. B. Dodge
Sucker	C. A. Crane and M. B. Dodge

There were 47 claims Up from Discovery Lode on Fairchild's Creek and 20 claims Down from Discovery Lode. The original owners as listed in *Book "A"* of Buckskin Joes Diggings are:

<i>Up</i>	<i>Down</i>
W. H. K. Smith.....Discovery.....	D. J. Griest
1. Virden and Co.	Buckskin
2. Berger	Moor and Co.
3. Grist	Berger
4. Buckskin	Berger
5. Chamberlain	Wilhard
6. Shappell	M. B. Dodge
7. Moore	Moore and Co.
8. J. Russell	Dachterman
9. Buckskin	Shay (ea)
10. Dunbar	Stansell
11. Hibbard	Berger
12. Hibbard	Bayes
13. M. B. Dodge	L. G. Dodge
14. Taylor	Smith
15. Taylor	Smith
16. Grist	Geo. B. Curtis
17. F. I. Hibbard	G. M. Moore
18. M. B. Dodge	H. M. Case
19. Barnett	Peter Forbes
20. Barnett	H. J. Albert Anderson
21. Cummings	
22. A. J. Crain and Co.	
23. A. J. Crain and Co.	
24. Stansell	
25. A. C. Dodge	
26. M. M. Dodge	
27. G. B. Wilson	
28. L. M. Dodge	
29. J. Dodge	
30. J. Dodge	
31. Geo. Calvin	
32. Jas. Aitkin	
33. Ellen C. Perrine	
34. Kate White	
35. C. E. Lapham	
36. T. Hayden	
37. T. Hayden	
38. J. Rudolph	
39. R. Brinkhoff	
40. A. Murray	
41. F. M. Sprayner	
42. Hiram Tillot	
43. Wm. Carter	
44. Wm. Traverse	
45. James Hamilton	
46. E. F. Jamenn	
47. N. Calvin	

The first twenty claims up and down from discovery lode on the Buckskin Joe Lode were:

N. N. E.	S. S. W.
Buckskin Joe.....Discovery.....	C. W. Darling
1. W. H. K. Smith	M. Shappell
2. W. H. K. Smith	J. Griest
3. John Russell	L. Holst
4. J. T. Berger	G. C. Bassett
5. C. Danforth	F. I. Hibbard
6. Giles Ilet	F. M. Hibbard
7. D. J. Griest	E. S. Bowen
8. F. Dunbar	J. Downing
9. Stansell	J. H. Marshall
10. Foster Maserve	Fredrick Hayden
11. Daniel Shea	John Munay
12. Henry Shea	Oliver Milner
13. W. M. Slaughter	L. W. Stewart
14. R. Sopris	Noah Baer
15. E. B. Smith	J. E. Blain
16. John Willhart	John Hayden
17. Chas. Champion	Henry Miller
18. M. B. Dodge	G. Harrington
19. M. B. Dodge	Joseph S. T. Francis
20. L. M. Dodge	Esre Mires
(Etc.)	(Etc.)

The Excelsior Lode record is brief:

Laurette Buckskin Joe District, Sept. 24, 1860.

Meeting of miners at house of J. T. Berger at Laurette to organize upon a new Silver and Gold Lode discovered by B. F. Glauner and Co., called and designed Excelsior Lode in Buckskin Joe Dist. I. W. Hibbard chosen Ch. pro tem.

Geo. DeAlby Secy.

Berger elected president and Geo. DeAlby secretary and recorder.

Motioned by T. E. Garland that the laws made for Wisconsin Lode be adopted with necessary corrections. On motion meeting adjourned "Sine die".

Geo. DeAlby.

There is no Wisconsin Lode listed in the Park County records. However a Wisconsin Lode and District are listed in the Gilpin County records and it may be that the miners of Excelsior Lode had reference to that District.

Changes in the Wisconsin Lode laws as made by Excelsior miners are summed up as being:

Sec. 3. Recorder to receive \$1 for each mining record.

Sec. 4. Each claim to be 100 feet square running N. N. E. and S. S. W.

Sec. 5. Claimants on this lode may hold one claim by pre-emption and two by purchase.

Sec. 10. All votes taken at meetings of the Company shall be by ballot and anyone not a member or claim holder shall not vote

in meetings of this Company and further the Secretary shall act as clerk of said voting, the President as Judge.

Such were the records of the greatest of all Park County mining camps. It can be said that these records were great in their simplicity. Perhaps their principal weakness was in locating of lodes, districts, and claims. In too many instances objects chosen for markers and corners were subject to destruction or removal.

Record Book "A" of the Fairplay Diggings is a disappointing volume to one who knows something of the romance and history of that camp. The records kept were extremely brief as can be shown by the meeting of April 26, 1860. This is the first date in the Fairplay District manuscript record book and is a statement of a revised set of laws, the essence being:

Sec. 1. All claims to be 75 feet front and 300 back.

Sec. 2. The District shall extend two miles up and down the stream and one mile on either side.

Sec. 3. All (Quarrels) to be settled by arbitration of three other miners. they being allowed for compensation on the same, \$5.00 each in each case.

Recorder H. Henson.

[The same record book describes claim locations and ownership as follows:]
May 25, 1860.

No. 1. Henry Seymore claims 100 ft. in this dist. from Bluff to Bluff or No. 1 up the stream from the line.

No. 2. John Reynolds claims 100 ft. in this dist from Bluff to Bluff up the stream or No. 2.

The Mosquito Mining District was organized in 1861, and being adjacent to the famous Buckskin District and Phillips Lode, reflected some of their glory. Mosquito District was also famous for its town of Laurette, which soon became the official county seat and center of business and social activities.

Mosquito District Laws

Organized June 22, 1861.

Henry Lowbert, President. James Newland, Recorder.

George DeAlby—Made motion to name the District Mosquito.

Boundary—South Line of Buckskin Jo on the North-East and the No. line of Pennsylvania District on the South-West and extend ½ mile S. E. and N. W. from Discovery Hole of the Newland Lode.

Claims are to be 100 feet on the lodes and the persons holding claims shall be entitled to 25 feet on each side of the lode for throwing strippings or other obstructions.

A fee of \$2.50 to be paid by the applicants requesting a miner's meeting and shall be posted three days in advance.

Recording fee 50c per claim.

Gulch claims are to be 100 feet square and bank claims 100 feet square.

The Discoverer is entitled to one claim extra for discovery.

In case of conflict between owners of lode, gulch, bar, or placer claims, the oldest upon record shall have priority.

Art. 3. All water claims shall be 150 feet long in general direction of the stream and shall be 150 feet on each side of the channel providing that it does not interfere with any mining claims.

A total of 29 claims on this lode were recorded in *Book "A"*, up and down from discovery hole.

Laws of the Independent Mining District were distinctive in that they possessed a "Preamble."

John W. Smith, C. Griswold, Swan Anderson, C. G. Anderson, A. L. Dodge, J. W. Shell and H. S. Mundy met on 4th day of July, 1861 to form a mining district.

J. W. Smith, President.

C. Griswold, Recorder.

Preamble

For the purpose of securing peace harmony justice and security to our property, we the miners of this Dist do hereby enact the following laws by which we all agree to be bound by laws passed on July 4 and amended on July 28 at a Meeting called for that purpose.

Boundaries

Extending two miles each way from Shins house on the Platte River making the District four miles square.

Dimensions of Lode Claims shall be 100 feet on the Lode and 50 feet wide.

Recorders fee to be 50c.

Certificates of claims and all other instruments of writing presented for record, \$1.00.

No person shall be allowed to file and record for more than two partners.

January 9, 1862 Amendments.

For the purpose of more fully developing the lodes We the miners of the Independent District will grant to any person or Company here after preempting a Tunnel Claim, the right of way (and quartz taken there from) say five feet wide by six feet high through all discovery lodes on the line of said tunnel together with 250 feet on each side of said tunnel line on all now undiscovered lodes.

Gulch Mining Articles of the Independent District.

Art. 1. Claims to be 100 feet square.

Art. 3. Water taken from a natural channel shall be returned to same as soon as possible.

Art. 5. Any person running tailing on another claim shall be held responsible for damage.

Art. 7. Any gulch, bar, hill or side claim fee 25c for staking.

The best planned and organized manuscript record book of the early mining camps in Park County was that of the Montgomery District. Montgomery was originally known as the *Snow Blind District*. In the fall of 1861, its name was changed to *Montgomery* and at the present, mining claims are recorded in the *Montgomery*

Consolidated District, which includes the original Montgomery and several minor districts adjacent eastward down stream on the Platte.

The Snow Blind District of Gilpin Gulch was organized in a miner's meeting April 18, 1861.² Richard Langdon was selected as chairman and George F. Crocker as Secretary. The claims are listed first.

On motion Crocker, Pratt and Cummings were appointed a committee to report a code of laws. The committee reported as follows:

Sec. 1. District to be called Snow Blind District, Gilpin Gulch. Boundaries—West by 10 Mile Creek running thence along the Gulch to the summit of the Range on the east and extending one mile each side of the gulch.

Sec. 2. The officers shall be a Recorder, stake driver, Justice and Sheriff and term of office one year.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep a correct record of claims filed with him and act as Secretary of Miners Meetings.

Sec. 4. Stake Driver shall measure, stake and number all claims.

Sec. 5. Duty of the Justice to hear and try all cases brought before him unless the parties wish a trial by Jury, when he shall cause six competent Jurors to be summoned then if summoned by either party shall appeal to a Jury of twelve and the verdict of ten shall be final. The party demanding the Jury shall advance Jury fees.

Sec. 6. Sheriff shall serve all processes.

Sec. 7. Recorder shall call Miners meeting to change the laws or amend the same.

Sec. 8. No person shall be entitled to vote at any miner's meetings unless he owns a claim or a share therein—and he has resided in the district for twenty days.

Sec. 9. All claims staked after May 2, 1861, shall be recorded within seven days after staking.

Sec. 10. Rich Langdon Prospecting Company of Langdon, H. A. Cummings, Alex Wood, Felix Simone and C. S. Fay are declared entitled to five claims above discovery and five claims below running each way from the discovery stake.

Sec. 11. A meeting shall be held May 20, 1861, to amend or change these laws, etc.

Sec. 12. All transfers shall be recorded and no purchases can be made until claim purchased has its deed filed for record.

Sec. 13. Gulch claims shall be 100 feet along gulch and run from bank to bank. Patch or side claims shall be 100 feet square and each person may take one Gulch claim in every gulch, one side or Patch claim and one claim on each lode for preemption.

Sec. 14. Fee, \$1.00 for recording

.50 for staking
2.50 Justice fee for each summons
.25 for swearing each witness
.50 for docketing
.50 for entering satisfaction of judgment
.50 for serving papers and summoning witnesses
.25 for summoning jurors
10% on collections under \$100
5% on collections over \$100
2.00 jurors fee
1.00 witness fee

²Lode Claims Book "A", Montgomery Mining District, Park County, Colorado.

Costs are to be charged against and paid by the losing party.

Sec. 15. Suits filed to contested claims shall be tried before a Justice.

Geo. F. Crocker
Sey.

Second Meeting May 29, 1861.

All claims to hold good till July 1, without being worked. On motion resolved that this meeting adjourn to July 1 with power to call a meeting previous by giving ten days notice in California Gulch.

H. A. Cummings, Sec.

August 22, 1861 on Motion by D. Ogden and Seconded by Tredway, the Mining District changed its official name to the name of the town adjacent, i.e. Montgomery. [The second step in this meeting was to care for a code of laws to be enacted for this newly named district of Montgomery.]

Boundaries of this new district:

Commencing at a point due south of Sheans Cabbin in the centre of the Platte River to the Summit of the divide between the Platt and Arkansas River. Thence North to the Summit of the divide between the waters of the Platt and Blue Rivers. Thence easterly along the Summit of the divide to a point due north of Sheans cabbin. Thence South to the centre of the Platt. the place of beginning.

Claims were to be the same as in the old "Snow Blind District Organization." In addition, claims for mill sites and water power recognition were added to Section 13. An amendment attached to Article 4 stated that, "No person or persons shall be allowed to hold more Territory as a Mill Site or water power than shall be absolutely necessary for his Mill and its appurtenances."

One of the last lodes to be discovered in Park County during the first great gold rush was that of the Prospect Lode in Buckskin Joe District, February 4, 1863. It was discovered by Ware and Morey and situated north of Main Street near Horace Tabor's House.

Lots were probably drawn for claims, as they are listed in the Claim book in this order:

- | | | |
|------|-----|-----------------------|
| No. | 1. | Cullan Farnham |
| N.E. | 9. | George W. Lechner |
| | 12. | H. A. W. Tabor |
| | 3. | School Fund |
| | 2. | N. J. Bond |
| | 5. | Jacob Stansell |
| S.W. | 9. | A. S. Tabor (Augusta) |
| | 10. | Albert Mathews |

The laws of this district were short and of no special interest. However, the above list of claim holders is of interest. Unquestionably the best known of that group is Horace A. W. Tabor, later of

Leadville, Little Pittsburg and Denver fame. His wife, Augusta S. Tabor claimed number 9. George W. Lechner was particularly active in Tarryall mining, county and territorial politics. N. J. Bond was the first official representative of Park County in the Colorado Territorial Legislature and an important figure in Laurette and the Phillips Lode. Jacob Stansell was the best known recorder of the times and held claims in practically every lode in the county at one time or another. Albert Mathews was the well known reporter for Park County for the *Rocky Mountain News*. Mathews came to Park County in 1860 and claimed residence there until 1865. He was active in county politics and mining.

Appearance of the School Fund as a claim holder is a new feature not appearing previously in district organization and is worthy of attention.

Recognizing the fact that a centralized form of government would sooner or later become necessary for the administration of mining laws, a meeting was called in Hamilton, Park County, to form such a government. On September 22, 1860,³ representatives from the Arkansas, Blue River and Park Districts met to interpret and clarify mining law in those districts.

After some general discussion about a centralized form of government the following officers were chosen:

- | |
|--|
| T. W. Wetmore—President |
| W. J. Holman—Secretary |
| W. J. Holman—Circuit Judge of the District |
| Dr. E. C. Baird—Marshal |
| J. W. Carter—Recorder for the Arkansas District |
| Albert Mathews—Recorder for the Park District |
| W. B. Riddle—Recorder for the Blue River District. |

The name "United Mining District" was selected and adopted and a committee was chosen to draft a code of laws. This organization was undoubtedly a fine basis for common mining law and should have been able to simplify and unify mining codes. However, as was the case with many other worth-while organizations, it was nipped in the process of formation, due to the rapid decay of mining camps in these regions.

Joel Barlow and Sugar Beets

DIXON WECTER*

In the economy of Colorado the introduction of sugar beets to America is a matter of no small historical importance. It is well

¹*Rocky Mountain News*, September 26, 1860.

*Prof. Wecter, who formerly taught at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado, is now with the English Department, University of California at Los Angeles.—Ed.

known that Margraff in 1747 announced to the Berlin Academy of Sciences that the sugar beet was the most saccharine of various sugar-containing plants he had examined, and predicted its commercial use; fifty years later his pupil Achard extracted the first beet sugar, and announced his methods to the Berlin Academy in 1797 and to the Institute of France two years later. Within the next decade several factories were built in Germany, and from 1810 onward the industry received government support in both France and Germany. A hitherto unpublished letter from the American poet Joel Barlow, as Minister to France under President Madison, to Dolly Madison, is of some interest in revealing probably the earliest importation of sugar-beet root into this country. Barlow, however, who had the poetic imagination to write his famous *Hasty-Pudding* and the scholarly imagination to attempt a history of the United States (interrupted by his French mission) failed to see the economic possibilities in beet sugar. His comment in the letter below is obviously shortsighted.

The remainder of this letter may be explained in a few words about American diplomacy and Napoleon. Some four months before the date of this letter, in August, 1811, Barlow and his wife had sailed for France on the frigate *Constitution*; the special aim of his ministry was to plead for more generous treatment of American commerce from the hands of Napoleon, under the growing tension with England that led to the War of 1812. The evasiveness of Napoleon is well indicated in the present letter. The Emperor and his ministers were unready to bind themselves to a clear-cut treaty of friendship with America. Eventually, in October, 1812, Barlow was informed that Napoleon—then immersed in the unlucky invasion of Russia—would meet him in Poland for a parley. Barlow doggedly set out, but Napoleon's defeat at the Beresina shattered all hopes of a successful interview. The hardships and severity of this Northern winter broke Barlow's health, and ere he could return to Paris he died of inflammation of the lungs in a village near Cracow, December 24, 1812—a martyr to dilatory diplomacy.

The letter, now in the William A. Clark Library of the University of California, Los Angeles, and here published by courtesy of that institution, reads:

Paris 21 Dec 1811

Dear Mrs. Madison

I send you the oddest present that you will receive from France if not of the least value. It is a beet root, of that sort that they make so much noise about as cultivated for sugar. This root weighs about 14½ pounds our weight. The man who gave it to me said he could give me a hundred from his garden that would weigh a thousand pounds. Put it in your garden for seed, not that I think it worth our while to make sugar of them, but to eat & feed our sheep & cattle. It is the same as our common beet, but the seed

taken from more vigorous plants may produce more vigorous ones.—Our girls will write you about courts & fashions & finery.¹ For my part, tho I have got to be a prodigious fine gentleman & a perfect courtier, I don't like to talk about it.—I have been here three months at work very hard for our blessed country yet I am afraid I shall have produced but little effect & the president may think I have been idle. If he should approve my conduct I wish you would let me know it. For you cannot realise how much I am attached to him & his administration. It is therefore natural that I should be anxious to merit his approbation.

The greatest sin I have committed is detaining the frigate so long. I have endeavored to explain this both in my official dispatch to the Secy of State & in my private letter to Mr. Madison, sent yesterday by way of England. I ought to add that the Emperor, who assumed such an air of goodness to me at the first audience & every time since, desired expressly that I could detain her for the ministers answer to my great note.² This answer he offered me with his own mouth at [*sic. for that*] the audience would be satisfactory. And as I was told repeatedly not only by the Duke³ but by every one else that came near the emperor, that he was very much struck with my note & was probably changing his system relative to the U. States, I thought I could not with a decent respect to him, & ought not for the interest of our Govt to send off the frigate under such circumstances.

I still believe he is changing his system & that I shall have the result in a day or two. We wrote you from mid ocean ten days out —We don't know whether you got the letter.

Yr Obt St

J. Barlow

You cannot think how my precious wife has renewed her life since her terrible fever of last winter. She has not known so much health before in 20 years as within the last six months. — We found our own convenient & elegant house vacant, & so we have moved into it.⁴ It is well situated airy & handsome, & the garden, now grown up to a thicket, is more interesting to us from having been planted by our own hands.

The Catholic Church at Central City

ELIZABETH ANN SWEENEY*

When Central City was but a struggling little mining camp we find Catholicity beginning in it. The man really responsible for this early development was Reverend Joseph Projectus Machebeuf. Times and circumstances were not generally favorable for church building, but Father Machebeuf kept his eyes open for places where prospects were good for a permanent town and would begin at once to make preparations to build a church on the spot.

¹With changes in punctuation this sentence is quoted in Charles Burr Todd, *Life and Letters of Joel Barlow* (New York and London, 1886), p. 273; the rest is not given.

²Todd, *op. cit.*, p. 270, remarks that "Barlow's correspondence with the French Emperor and his ministers during this period . . . shows him making desperate efforts to hold them to something definite, and they in turn making the smoothest promises," with no palpable result.

³Other Barlow correspondence identifies him as the Duke of Dalberg.

⁴After seven years' absence the Barlows returned to their house in the Rue Vaugirard, where they revived their earlier salon held under that roof.

⁵Miss Sweeney is a member of the Machebeuf History Club of St. Mary's Academy, Denver.—Ed.

As early as 1860 he held services at Central City. From his own words we learn:

"The only place I could find to say Mass in was a kind of theater and I had to put up the altar on the stage. A pretty good number of Catholics and others attended."¹

Father Machebeuf returned in January, February and April to hold Mass in whatever halls were available, and thenceforth regularly, once a month in a two story frame building in Central City that had been acquired by the congregation. According to Father Machebeuf's own account we know the following:



MONSIGNOR GODFREY RABER

"At my second visit Mass was said in a vacant billiard room and it required the work of two good men to clean and scrape the floor; the third visit in a ball-room used as a theater; the fourth visit in a large store finished but not occupied."²

The women in attendance at these Masses were few, as women were scarce in these days in mining camps, and Central City was no exception.³ The first white woman to come to Central City was

¹The first visit was made in November, 1860, the exact date is not mentioned. See Reverend W. J. Howlett, *The History of the Denver Diocese*, 15 (unpublished manuscript in the Archives of the Chancery Office, Denver, Colorado). Also, *The Denver Catholic Register*, July 9, 1936; and Reverend W. O'Ryan and T. H. Malone, *The History of the Catholic Church in Central City*; Lynn I. Perrigo, *A Social History of Central City, Colorado, 1859-1900* (a Doctoral Dissertation submitted to the Department of History, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado).

²O'Ryan and Malone, *op. cit.*, 49.

³Howlett, *op. cit.*, 15.

Mary Yorke, unmarried, reputable and a Catholic. She arrived on June 1, 1859. On December 30, 1860, she was married to William Cozzens by Father Joseph P. Machebeuf. Mr. Cozzens was the sheriff of Gilpin County at this time.⁴

Father Machebeuf urged the matter of a church upon the people of Central City but he got no results until he resorted to heroic measures. One Sunday after Mass was over he had the doors of the church, or hall as it was, locked and the keys brought to him at the altar. Turning to the congregation he told them they could leave the hall only when the question of a church had been settled. The first to respond with a donation of \$50.00 was a Mr. John B. Fitzpatrick. His example was contagious. Soon enough was contributed to purchase a house, remodel it into a church and equip a few rooms for a priest. This was the first house of worship of any denomination in the entire mining center.⁵

Bishop Lamy of Santa Fe, New Mexico, came to Central City on September 8, 1861, to lay the corner stone for the first real church.⁶ In September, 1863, the parish at Central City received its first permanent pastor, Reverend Thomas A. Smith. In 1866 troubles arose which forced Father Smith to leave the diocese. Some one must necessarily be sent to replace him. There were no extra priests available at the time so Father Machebeuf was compelled to send his dear and devoted Father John B. Raverdy. Father Raverdy made great plans for the development of Catholic Institutions in Central City but was unable to carry them out because of financial conditions. This is set forth in the letter written by Father Machebeuf from Europe on August 20, 1869:

"From the information you gave me of your plan for a big school, hospital and church at Central City I see there is but a very poor chance of doing anything this year. Circumstances will change and times will be better. It would be imprudent to commence at present. . . ."⁷

Father Raverdy remained at Central City until 1871, when he was called to Denver to act as Vicar-General. He was succeeded by Reverend Honoratus Bourion, a man of great energy, big ideas but somewhat lacking in prudence. He built an academy which cost \$30,000 and planned a church to cost \$75,000—trusting, like many others, to the continued prosperity of the mines. The

⁴*Ibid.*

⁵O'Ryan and Malone, *op. cit.*, 49.

⁶According to records in the Chancery Files, Denver, Colorado, this has always been called the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption. However, in the Western History Section of the Public Library, Denver, there is a note which reads: "In the paper [sic] of 1872 the church is spoken of as St. Patrick's Church." *The Colorado Directories* for 1878 and 1880 carry it as St. Patrick's. It would seem this is not correct as all other accounts call it The Church of St. Mary of the Assumption.

⁷*The Denver Catholic Register*, July 9, 1936, "Central City Convent Built Sixty-three Years ago. Glories of Church in Pioneer Mining Days Are Recalled with Passing of Once Flourishing School."

church never rose above the basement. This was perhaps due to the fact that the treasurer of the grand-prize drawing scheme for the benefit of the parish left the country with the funds, leaving the pastor and the bishop "holding the sack."⁸

A fire on May 21, 1874, swept away most of the town, destroyed the old church, the priest house and the temporary home of the Sisters of Charity, who were to come to open the new academy in the fall of that year. To build up the town required money and many of the mines had begun to show signs of barren grounds. The best Father Bourion could do was to enclose the new basement and equip it as a church.



COURTESY OF M. B. MORGAN

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION IN CENTRAL CITY

The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, who were everywhere along the firing line as the Church moved over Colorado in the boom days, did come in the fall of 1874. They opened classes in the new Academy building. St. Aloysius' Select and Boarding School was organized in three departments, "the select school," the Boarding School for Girls and the "pupils school" for boys and girls. Board and tuition cost \$100 for five months and tuition alone cost \$20 but no one was excluded who could not pay.⁹ The Sisters of Charity remained at the school for three years, but the Academy did not prove a success, so on August 20, 1877, they

⁸Howlett, *op. cit.*, 15.

⁹The Denver Catholic Register, July 9, 1936.

handed the management of the school over to the Sisters of St. Joseph from Carondolet. These Sisters of St. Joseph assumed part of the debt and conducted it at their own risk of support.¹⁰ The name of the school was now changed to St. Patrick's Academy.

In 1877 Father Bourion left the parish and Reverend Joseph M. Finotti took his place. Father Finotti was a student and a writer of some merit. He died in 1879. After his death the pastorate was filled temporarily by Reverend A. Montenarello, S.J., of Denver, until the Reverend W. J. Howlett was appointed pastor. Father Howlett labored here until 1886. During the years of his incumbency he enlarged the auditorium, built a residence, improved the premises, and almost liquidated the parish debt. In 1886 he left a willing and united parish to his successor, Reverend Michael J. Carmody. During the pastorate of Father Carmody the number of students at St. Patrick's academy numbered one hundred and twenty. Father Carmody left Central City in 1891 and was succeeded by Reverend P. R. Robinet, who remained but one year and was followed by Reverend Godfrey Raber. Father Raber tore down the old basement and built a new church¹¹ on a modest plan.¹²

Minnie B. Morgan writes: "This church is constructed of stone and brick and is 90x42 feet. The auditorium is 60x40 feet, with a seating capacity of about 400. The height of the auditorium is 31 feet. The ceiling is circular in form and is artistically frescoed. The entire cost of the structure was about \$10,000, nearly all of which had been paid when the church was dedicated" [November 20, 1892].¹³

Reverend Joseph M. Desoulmier succeeded Father Raber. He cared for the parish at Central City until failing health caused him to resign in 1907. Reverend Julius Myer was the next pastor. He died in 1911. His successor was Reverend Bernard J. Houghton.

Central City now began to decline, and this decline brought bad times to the parish and to the school. By 1916 the six Sisters of St. Joseph had only seventy-two pupils enrolled. The great days of Central City were gone and in July, 1917, after their forty years of effort, the Sisters of St. Joseph gave up their struggle to keep the institution open.¹⁴

The church likewise suffered with the decline of Central City. The number of parishioners decreased rapidly until finally the parish could no longer support a permanent pastor. Mass was

¹⁰Howlett, *op. cit.*, 15. The Sisters of St. Joseph were from Carondolet, Missouri.

¹¹*Ibid.* This new church was built on a different foundation but upon the same site and was called St. Mary of the Assumption.

¹²Howlett, *op. cit.*, 15.

¹³Minnie B. Morgan, *Historical Souvenir of Central City, Colorado* (Central City, 1941), 23.

¹⁴Denver Catholic Register, July 9, 1936.

said for the few remaining Catholics as often as possible by a priest from a neighboring parish.

The old school stood vacant for almost twenty years. The old convent was a landmark that loomed up ahead of travelers going into Central City to announce that Central City was not far distant, but time, weather, playing children, souvenir seekers, and thoughtless vandals took their toll of the old building so that by 1936 it was necessary to tear it down, for it had served its purpose and had outlived its time.

The Church of St. Mary of the Assumption stands today in excellent condition. Mass is said regularly during the festival held every year since 1936 for the convenience of visitors and resident Catholics, but during the remainder of the year Sunday services are held irregularly. Mass is offered once a month by some priest appointed from the St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado.

Place Names in Colorado (I, J and K)*

Ibex, Lake County, was a gold-mining camp of the 1890s, named for the Ibex Mining Company, which operated here.¹ In 1899, the company employed more than 400 men;² today, nothing remains of the town.

Idaho Springs (2,112 population*), Clear Creek County, a mining and resort town, grew from the camp that sprang up at Jackson's Diggings, where George A. Jackson discovered gold early in 1859.³ The meaning of the name is controversial. One version has it that it was derived from an Indian word meaning "gem of the mountains"; another translates it as "rocks." It may have come from *Idahi*, the Kiowa-Apache name for the Comanches.⁴ In addition to Jackson's Diggings, the town has been known at various times as Sacramento City, Idaho City, and Idaho or Idahoe.⁵ The town was surveyed in 1860,⁶ and was incorporated November 15, 1885.⁷ It became popular as a health resort after 1870.

Idalia (198 population), Yuma County, a dry-farm hamlet, was settled and platted half a mile west of the present site by George

*Prepared by the Colorado Writers' Program.

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census. Unless otherwise credited, all information or data has been sent to the Colorado Writers' Program.

¹*Leadville, Lake County & The Gold Belt* (Manning, O'Keefe & DeLashmutt, Publishers, 1895), 75.

²Charles W. Henderson, *Mining in Colorado* (Washington: Government Printing Press, 1926), 153.

³Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, I, 188-89.

⁴*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 177.

⁵Information from Eilia N. Conwell, County Superintendent of Schools, Idaho Springs, Colorado, 1938.

⁶*Denver Times*, August 9, 1891.

⁷*Colorado Year Book, 1939-1940*, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

W. Means, Rice McDonald, Ben Bird, and John Helmick in 1887.⁸ It was named for Mrs. Edaliah Helmick, the change in spelling making for simplification. The town was moved to the present site in 1912.⁹ Previously, there had been a store on the old site, called Friend, for a town in Nebraska whence some of the settlers of the region had come.¹⁰

Ignacio (555 population*), La Plata County, headquarters of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation and site of an Indian school and hospital, was named for Chief Ignacio of the Utes. The town was platted in 1910, when whites purchased the land from the tribe,¹¹ and was incorporated July 7, 1913.¹²

Iles Grove, Moffat County, was named for Thomas H. Iles who settled in northwestern Colorado in 1874. Mr. Iles acquired large holdings by purchasing homestead titles from Civil War soldiers; at this time the law permitted the proving of patents by the planting of a specified number of trees annually upon the land. Iles patented his claims by simply planting all the trees in a single group. A gray granite monument on the edge of the grove honors this pioneer.¹³ A post office was established October 18, 1884.¹⁴

Iliiff (322 population*), Logan County, was founded in 1881, when the Union Pacific Railroad built through the region and established a siding here. It was named for John W. Iliiff, Colorado cattle king, whose famous L. F. Ranch embraced the town-site.¹⁵ The town was incorporated February 20, 1926.¹⁶

Independence, Pitkin County ghost town, was founded as a gold camp on July 4, 1879, by Dick Irwin and other prospectors, who named it in honor of the national holiday.¹⁷ It has had a wide variety of other names. It was incorporated as Chipeta, named for the wife of the famous Ute Chief Ouray, and was designated at one time by postal authorities as Sparakell, although the original name was finally re-adopted. Other names were Mammoth City, Farewell, and Mount Hope;¹⁸ and such variations as Farwell,¹⁹ and Sparkill, also were used. At intervals between 1881 and 1900, gold and silver mines were active here, but they have been closed since 1900.²⁰ Only crumbling ruins remain of the settlement.

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

⁸Information from E. A. Smith, Principal of Idalia High School, January, 1941.

⁹Information from Edith M. Finch, Postmistress, Idalia, Colorado, 1939.

¹⁰State Historical Society, Pamphlet 352, No. 3.

¹¹Information from Mrs. Morrill Turner, Ignacio, Colorado, April 3, 1936.

¹²*Colorado Year Book, 1939-40*, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

¹³*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State* (New York: Hastings House, 1941), 408.

¹⁴*Denver Republican*, October 23, 1884.

¹⁵Emma Conklin, *History of Logan County* (Denver: Welsh-Haffner Company, 1928), 166.

¹⁶*Colorado Year Book 1939-40* "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

¹⁷*Denver Post*, July 2, 1922.

¹⁸*Denver Weekly Times*, June 28, 1882.

¹⁹*Colorado State Business Directory, 1882*, 302.

²⁰Charles W. Henderson, *Mining in Colorado*, 45.

Independence, Summit County, was platted in 1879 by Wolfe Londoner, pioneer Denver businessman and civic organizer, who named it to commemorate the fact that an ancestor of his had fought in the War for Independence.²¹

Independence (80 population), Teller County, a near-ghost town, received its name from the famous Independence Mine here. The town was platted in 1894, but, lacking a city government of its own, it was incorporated within the limits of Goldfield, another camp a mile to the south.²² Its original post office was Macon.²³ The gold mine for which it was named was so titled because its owner, Winfield Scott Stratton, staked his claim on July 4, 1891; it produced almost \$24,000,000.²⁴

Indianapolis, Las Animas County, was situated about three miles east of Barela. The majority of those locating here came from Indiana and Ohio, and the settlement was probably named by the former group. The town plat was filed during March, 1887,²⁵ and the settlement boasted a population of 300 in 1888.²⁶

Indian Hills (100 population), Jefferson County, a summer resort, was established and named in 1925 by Associated Industries, a realty company.²⁷ The name was probably chosen for its picturesque quality. Earlier, the vicinity was known as Eaton Park.²⁸

Insmont (6 population), Park County, is a summer cottage resort. In 1900 the Denver Wheel Club, with Harry Insley as president, established a resort here for its members and called it Cycle Park. Insley later acquired most of the land and changed the name to Insmont.²⁹

Intake (4 population), Jefferson County, established in 1912, was named because of its position at a point on the South Platte River where water is diverted for the Denver water supply.³⁰

Iola (100 population), Gunnison County, was named by a nearby ranchman who thought the name had a pretty sound.³¹

Ione (100 population), Weld County, was established in 1890 by the Union Pacific Railroad. When an official of the railroad arrived here to deal for the purchase of the townsite he asked W. A. Davis, a resident, "Who owns the land to the south?" Davis

²¹Leadville *Daily Chronicle*, March 4, 1879.

²²Information from Harry Galbraith, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1939.

²³Victor *Daily Record*, March 16, 1899.

²⁴Harry J. Newton, *Yellow Gold of Cripple Creek* (Denver: Nelson Publishing Co., 1928), 22-26.

²⁵Denver *Colorado Graphic*, March 26, 1887.

²⁶Colorado *State Business Directory*, 1888, 364.

²⁷Information from Mort G. Jones, Postmaster, Indian Hills, Colorado, and a representative of Associated Industries, Inc., 1938.

²⁸State Historical Society, Pamphlet 354, No. 30.

²⁹Information from A. R. McGraw, Postmaster, Bailey, Colorado, January 14, 1941.

³⁰Information from George F. Hughes, Secretary, Denver Water Department, January 13, 1941.

³¹Information from John A. Steele, Vice-President, First National Bank, Gunnison, Colorado, January, 1941.

replied, "I own it." It was the same with the north, east, and west, and the reiterated statement suggested the name of the proposed station.³²

Iris, Saguache County ghost town, was settled in 1880 by prospectors in the Gunnison gold belt, and was named for the wild iris growing abundantly in the vicinity.³³ In 1896, it was still a flourishing camp.³⁴ Today, nothing remains.

Ironton (9 population), Ouray County, a once-thriving silver camp, was probably so-named because of the great iron deposits in the district. It was founded in 1883 and its plat filed March 20, 1884.³⁵

Irwin, Gunnison County ghost town, was founded November 20, 1879, and was first known as Ruby Camp because of the large quantities of ruby silver ore in the mines here. Later, it was renamed to honor Richard Irwin, one of the founders of the town. For three years, Irwin was one of the most promising camps in the state,³⁶ and in 1881 had a population of 3,000.³⁷

Island Station, see Henderson.

Ivanhoe, Pitkin County ghost town, was named for near-by Lake Ivanhoe, which was given its name by a Scottish settler because it reminded him of Loch Ivanhoe in his native country.³⁸ A post office was established here in 1888.³⁹

Ivywild, El Paso County, suburb of Colorado Springs, was owned and platted by Wm. B. Jenkins, and named by Mrs. Jenkins.⁴⁰

Jack's Cabin, Gunnison County ghost town, originally Howeville, was a popular starting point for hunting and fishing trips during the 1880s. It was named for Jack Howe, keeper of a tavern there. In 1881, it consisted of two hotels, two groceries, two saloons, and a post office—all contained in two buildings.⁴¹

Jacksonville, Montrose County ghost town, was a settlement on Cimarron Creek, named for a Captain Jackson, whose ruined cabin still marks the site.⁴²

Jamestown (190 population*), Boulder County, old mining camp, was once called Elysian Park because of its beautiful mountain setting. Galena ores were discovered here in 1864, and by 1866

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

³²Information from Howard E. Reed, Principal of Ione High School, 1938.

³³Information from Mrs. Edna Tawney, Grand Junction, Colorado, 1938.

³⁴Denver *Times*, May 26, 1896.

³⁵Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 255-56.

³⁶*Ibid.*, 150.

³⁷Denver *Tribune*, August 4, 1882.

³⁸Information from Arthur Ridgway, Chief Engineer, Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, April 25, 1941.

³⁹Denver *Weekly Republican*, August 30, 1888.

⁴⁰Colorado Springs *Evening Telegraph*, July 24, 1940.

⁴¹George A. Crofutt, *Crofutt's Grip-Sack Guide of Colorado* (1881), 109.

⁴²State Historical Society of Colorado, Pamphlet 357, No. 104.

the town, with 600 population, had been laid out; three years later, most of the excitement had died.⁴³ The post office, established in 1867, was called Jamestown,⁴⁴ but the camp seems to have originally been known as Jimtown.⁴⁵ The town was finally platted in 1883.⁴⁶

Jarosa (150 population), Costilla County. The name is a Spanish word, meaning "bramble covered."⁴⁷

Jefferson (50 population), Park County, was originally (1861) two settlements, Palestine and Jefferson, which soon united under the latter name.⁴⁸ The town was named for near-by Jefferson Lake and Jefferson Creek, both of which honor President Thomas Jefferson.⁴⁹ The town became quite prosperous after 1879, when the now-abandoned Denver & South Park Railroad was extended into the region.⁵⁰

Jimmy Camp, El Paso County, was an early day trading camp established by Jimmy Hayes in 1833. Hayes was the first white settler in the region. He traded with the native tribes, who were his great friends, and when he was finally murdered by Mexican outlaws, the Indians tracked down his slayers and avenged his death.⁵¹

Jimtown, Mineral County, was founded at the time of the Creede mineral boom (1890-91). It was built by the overflow from the upper town, the plat being filed November 1, 1891.⁵² Jimtown later became a part of Creede. The town was known variously as New Town, Creedemoor, Jimtown, and Gintown. The last name was bestowed upon it by Upper Creede people, who claimed that nothing but gin was sold there.⁵³

Joes (45 population), Yuma County, was established in 1912 by C. N. White and Joseph White. Among the settlers were three men named Joe, and the place was originally called Three Joes, later shortened to its present form, probably when the post office was established here in 1912.⁵⁴

Johnstown (961 population*), Weld County, was laid out in 1902 by Harvey J. Parish, who named it for his son, John. A post office was established in 1903, and the town was incorporated in 1907. Johnstown is the site of the Great Western Sugar Com-

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

⁴³*History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys* (O. L. Baskin & Company, Publisher, 1880), 429-30.

⁴⁴*Rocky Mountain News*, January 31, 1867.

⁴⁵*Denver Times*, July 7, 1897.

⁴⁶Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 307-308.

⁴⁷State Historical Society of Colorado, MSS. XI, -14e, 181.

⁴⁸*Rocky Mountain News*, March 20, 1861.

⁴⁹Information from Lyle W. Spoelstra, Jefferson, Colorado, 1940.

⁵⁰Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 267.

⁵¹*Ibid.*, III, 341-342.

⁵²*Ibid.*, IV, 225.

⁵³State Historical Society, MSS. XXV, 28h.

⁵⁴*Yuma County Directory*, 1934, 30.

pany's beet refinery, where, by the barium process, the molasses by-products of the company's other factories are converted into sugar; it is the only refinery of its type in the world.⁵⁵

Juanita (35 population), Archuleta County, a Spanish-American settlement retaining much of the old Spanish atmosphere, was named by a local priest, Padre Francisco, for a woman of his acquaintance.⁵⁶ The name translates as "little Juana" (little Joan).⁵⁷

Julesburg (1,619 population*) seat of Sedgwick County, is the last of four towns of that name. The original Julesburg was established as a stage station at the ranch and trading post of Jules Beni (Reni), one mile east of the mouth of Lodgepole Creek, on the south side of the Platte River, in 1859.⁵⁸ This occurred when the Jones & Russell Stage Company abandoned its former line and established a new route following the old military road from Fort Kearny to Denver. One of the most important points on the great overland route, being a "home" station, a junction, and having a telegraph office, it was also regarded as the toughest town between the Missouri and the Mountains, so that after Ben Holladay came into possession of the stage line he attempted to change the name to Overland City.⁵⁹ The second town, a mere camp, was four miles east of Fort Sedgwick, just outside the military reservation.⁶⁰ The third town, on the north side of the Platte (location of present Weir), was laid out when the Union Pacific Railroad reached there in 1867, and was a "red hot" frontier town, made up largely of tents and board shanties. At one time it boasted several thousand inhabitants, numerous saloons, gambling houses, and dance halls. Lots sold as high as \$1,000 each. In the old cemetery, it is said, lie the bodies of no less than "a hundred victims of violence and vigilantes."⁶¹ Present Julesburg, farther east, grew up when the Union Pacific built a branch line to Denver. It was incorporated as Denver Junction in November, 1885, and as Julesburg in 1886.⁶²

Junction City, Summit County, was a short-lived camp established on the proposed line of the now discontinued Colorado Central Railway. Its name derived from its position at the point where a branch line to Leadville was expected to cut off from the main line.⁶³

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

⁵⁵Information from Mrs. Frances Nichols and Mrs. Ruth A. Walker, Johnstown, Colorado, 1941.

⁵⁶Information from Emma G. Wilson, Pagosa Junction, Colorado, 1941.

⁵⁷"Place Names in Colorado," M.A. Thesis by Olga Koehler, University of Denver, 1930.

⁵⁸*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 178.

⁵⁹Frank A. Root and William E. Connelley, *Overland Stage to California* (Topeka, Kansas), 213.

⁶⁰*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 178.

⁶¹Root and Connelley, *op. cit.*, 215.

⁶²*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 178.

⁶³*Rocky Mountain News*, February 22, 1879.

Juniper Springs (3 population), Moffat County, was settled in 1905, and was named for the mineral springs bubbling from the side of Juniper Mountain at this site. The mountain was named for the heavy growth of juniper upon its slopes.⁶⁴

Kalous (15 population), Weld County, a sheep and cattle raising community on North Pawnee Creek,⁶⁵ was named for the original settlers, the Kalous family, who started a country store here about twenty-five years ago.⁶⁶

Karval (70 population), Lincoln County, was homesteaded in 1910 by G. K. Kravig and family, who with other settlers petitioned for a postoffice, which was established in 1911. Postal authorities selected the name Karval, derived from the family name Kravig (often pronounced "Cravic"), changing the form to avoid any error in spelling. Mr. Kravig was the first postmaster.⁶⁷

Kassler (300 population), Jefferson County, the site of a filter plant on the South Platte River, was named for E. S. Kassler, president of the Denver Union Water Company (1915-1918).⁶⁸

Kearns (30 population), Archuleta County, founded in 1908 by the Navajo Lumber Company, was named for Mr. Kearns, a member of the firm.⁶⁹

Keenesburg (284 population*), Weld County, was originally known as Keene, and was merely a telegraph office and a side-track for loading livestock on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quiney Railroad. A postoffice was established in 1907, and Mrs. Fannie Evans, postmaster, suggested the present form of the name, which was accepted by the postal department and later by the railroad. The homestead of Henry Bowles was platted into a townsite,⁷⁰ and Keenesburg was incorporated in May, 1919.⁷¹

Kelim (20 population), Larimer County, was founded in the early 1900s by German immigrants who had a knowledge of sugar beet culture and aided in the development of this new industry.⁷² The townsite was platted February 8, 1907, by Lee J. Kelim, for whom it was named.⁷³

Kelly (20 population), Logan County, was named for W. C. Kelly, one of a number of settlers who homesteaded here in 1886-1887.⁷⁴

An asterisk () indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

⁶⁴Information from Olive S. Smalley, *Juniper Springs, Colorado*, November 23, 1940.

⁶⁵*Colorado Business Directory, 1930*, 703.

⁶⁶Data from Nada Turner, Weld County, Colorado, November 19, 1940.

⁶⁷Data to the State Historical Society, February 8, 1935, from Albert Kravig, Karval, Colorado.

⁶⁸Data from W. W. Duncan, Board of Water Commissioners, Denver, Colorado, March 11, 1941.

⁶⁹Data from Lawrence Villarreal, Kearns, Colorado, January 20, 1941.

⁷⁰Data to the State Historical Society, March 6, 1935, from Ethel M. Beggs, Keenesburg, Colorado.

⁷¹*Colorado Year Book, 1937-1938, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns,"*

⁷²*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State*, 319.

⁷³Town Plats, Larimer County.

⁷⁴Emma Conklin, *History of Logan County*, 180.

Kendrick (19 population), Lincoln County, is a postoffice village named in honor of a Dr. Kendrick, an early settler and sheep grower. The postoffice was established about 1900.⁷⁵

Kenosha (4 population), Park County, is situated at the top of Kenosha Pass, which has been an important route to South Park since early days.⁷⁶ The Kenosha are a gens of the Chippewa Indian tribe.⁷⁷

Keota (34 population*), Weld County. The site was homesteaded by Mary E. Beardsley, who sold to the Lincoln Land Company in April, 1888, and the town was platted June 12 of that year.⁷⁸ Keota was incorporated April 17, 1919.⁷⁹ The name is an Indian term meaning "gone to visit," or "the fire has gone out."⁸⁰

Kersey (307 population*), Weld County. With the building of the Union Pacific Railroad through this district in 1882,⁸¹ a section house and station were erected on the site of Kersey, and called Orr, in honor of James H. Orr, first colonist to pay the \$155 fee for Union Colony land. The station name was so often confused with Orr, California,⁸² and Carr, Colorado, that it was renamed in 1896, by Roadmaster John Kersey Painter, for his mother, whose maiden name was Kersey.⁸³ The first real settlement was made by H. P. Hill and D. E. Gray, about 1887, and the town was incorporated December 3, 1908.⁸⁴

Keysor (20 population), Elbert County, a farming village, originated in 1904 when a store was opened by the Keysor brothers on their ranch. A postoffice was established in 1906.⁸⁵

Keystone (9 population), Summit County. The site was used by the Colorado and Southern narrow-gauge line as a loading station for ore and lumber, and was named by the railroad.⁸⁶

Kezar (6 population), Gunnison County. The original townsite containing forty acres was owned by Mr. G. H. Kezar, and sold by him to the Kezar Town Company.⁸⁷ The plat was filed August 16, 1881, by Mr. Kezar, as president of the company, and

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

⁷⁵Data to the State Historical Society from Representative John P. Dickinson, Hugo, Colorado.

⁷⁶*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State*, 393.

⁷⁷"Place Names in Colorado," M. A. Thesis by Olga Koehler, University of Denver, 1930.

⁷⁸Information from Robert C. Fate, Superintendent of Keota High School, Keota, Colorado, October 17, 1940.

⁷⁹*Colorado Year Book, 1937-1938, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns,"*

⁸⁰Henry Gannett, *Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States* (1905), 174.

⁸¹Data from Engineers' Office, Union Pacific Railroad, Denver, July 31, 1941.

⁸²Information from Donald White, Field Worker, Greeley, Colorado, 1938.

⁸³Data to the State Historical Society, November 8, 1935, from Mrs. E. J. Mickel, Kersey, Colorado.

⁸⁴Data from Roy D. Farthing, Superintendent of Schools, Kersey, November 28, 1940.

⁸⁵Information from Mrs. Ruth Keysor, Kiowa, Colorado, November 28, 1940.

⁸⁶Information from Ada Sperry Miller, County Superintendent of Schools, Breckenridge, Colorado, November 14, 1940.

⁸⁷*Gunnison Daily Review*, June 19, 1882.

an amended plat filed June 24, 1882.⁸⁸ The postoffice, originally known as Stevens, was established as Kezar in June, 1882, with Mr. Kezar as postmaster.⁸⁹

Kim (200 population), Las Animas County. A small farming village was established here about 1893, but because the settlers knew little of dry-farming methods the project failed, and for twenty-five years the site was grazing territory only.⁹⁰ Olin D. Simpson started the present town in 1918, when he built a post-office-store on a corner of his homestead. The name is that of Kipling's famous boy hero.⁹¹ In 1920, a group from Springfield, Colorado, formed the Kim Townsite and Development Company, and platted the site.⁹²

King, Park County, once a busy coal-mining camp, probably was named for C. W. King, bookkeeper for the South Park Coal Company. King had extensive holdings near Tarryall, and was much interested in the development of the country.⁹³

Kings Canyon (42 population), Jackson County, was originally a ranch and stopping place for freighters and occasional tourists, owned and operated by W. W. King, for whom it was named.⁹⁴

Kinsey City, Grand County, see Kremmling.

Kiowa (195 population*), Elbert County, once known as Middle Kiowa, was made the temporary county seat at the organization of Elbert County in February, 1874.⁹⁵ It was named for the noted Indian tribe.⁹⁶ Kiowa was incorporated December 30, 1912.⁹⁷

Kirk (100 population), Yuma County, was founded in 1883 by A. Nekirk; the town's name is an abbreviation of his.⁹⁸ A postoffice was established four miles north of the present site in 1888. Two years later, when Reuben Kline was appointed postmaster, the office was moved to his homestead, its present site.⁹⁹

Kit Carson (333 population*), Cheyenne County. The original town was three miles west of the present site, on the banks of Sand Creek, and as the terminus of the Kansas Pacific Railroad was a flourishing frontier settlement.¹⁰⁰ By 1869-70 there was a population of 1500 to 2000 people,¹⁰¹ with numerous buildings finished,

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

⁸⁸Frank Hall, *History of Colorado*, IV, 153.

⁸⁹*Denver Tribune*, July 6, 1882.

⁹⁰Information from Victor L. Waters, Trinidad, Colorado, in 1938.

⁹¹*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State*, 330.

⁹²Information from Victor L. Waters, Trinidad, Colorado, in 1938.

⁹³*Denver Times*, December 31, 1895.

⁹⁴Information from Mrs. George J. Bailey, Walden, Colorado, January 29, 1941.

⁹⁵Information from Loyd L. Moreland, County Clerk and Recorder, Elbert County, November 15, 1939.

⁹⁶Leadville, *Carbonate Chronicle*, January 8, 1940.

⁹⁷*Colorado Year Book, 1937-1938*, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

⁹⁸*Yuma County Directory, 1935*, 30.

⁹⁹Data from Elizabeth Amy, Postmaster, Kirk, Colorado, 1939.

¹⁰⁰The State Historical Society, Pamphlet 355, No. 7.

¹⁰¹Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 89.

and a large number of tents and dugouts, the great scarcity of wood necessitating the construction of the latter.¹⁰² "Old" Kit Carson was distinguished as the point where the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia tarried to hunt buffalo, in January, 1872.¹⁰³ The town was named for the famous western scout and guide.¹⁰⁴ It was not incorporated until July 13, 1931,¹⁰⁵ although a postoffice was established at the present site in March, 1882.¹⁰⁶

Kittredge (350 population), Jefferson County. The settlement was established in 1920, when the Kittredge Town Company purchased the old Luther Ranch of some 300 acres. Mr. Charles M. Kittredge applied for a postoffice in 1921, suggesting that it be called Bear Creek. There was already an office of that name in Colorado and postal authorities decided to name the place for the Kittredge family, which had lived in the vicinity since 1860.¹⁰⁷

Koen (150 population), Prowers County, was named for Festus B. Koen and his brothers, early settlers, who were promoters and builders of many of the present irrigation systems, and owned much of the land in this area before it passed into the hands of the American Crystal Sugar Company.¹⁰⁸

Koenig, Weld County, was platted as a subdivision, July 9, 1910, by Emma Koenig, legal guardian for Charles R. Koenig, a minor.¹⁰⁹ Edward Koenig was postmaster in 1920.¹¹⁰ The settlement was undoubtedly named for this family.

Kokomo (101 population*), Summit County, the highest incorporated town in Colorado (10,618 feet altitude),¹¹¹ was founded by A. C. Smith, July 8, 1878,¹¹² and is said to have had a population of 2,000, with 250 homes established, when but six months old.¹¹³ The postoffice was established during the week ending May 3, 1879.¹¹⁴ In October, 1881, the town was destroyed by fire.¹¹⁵ At this time there was a small village, Recen, in the valley just below Kokomo, and after the fire the two villages were merged under the latter name.¹¹⁶ Kokomo means "young grandmother," and was the name of an Indian village on the site of the present Indiana city for which the Colorado town was named.¹¹⁷

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

¹⁰²*Colorado Tribune*, December 23, 1869.

¹⁰³*Colorado, Resources of State*, Union Pacific Railway, July, 1906.

¹⁰⁴George A. Crofutt, *Crofutt's Grip-Sack Guide to Colorado* (1881), 113.

¹⁰⁵*Colorado Year Book, 1937-1938*, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

¹⁰⁶*Denver Tribune*, March 16, 1882.

¹⁰⁷Data to the State Historical Society, January 28, 1935, from Charles M. Kittredge, Kittredge, Colorado.

¹⁰⁸Data from Mrs. Bernice Wilmoth, County Superintendent of Schools, Lamar, Colorado, November 16, 1940.

¹⁰⁹Town Plats, Weld County.

¹¹⁰*Colorado Business Directory, 1920*, 622.

¹¹¹*Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State*, 206.

¹¹²Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 332.

¹¹³*Denver Daily Tribune*, June 11, 1879.

¹¹⁴*Denver Daily Tribune*, May 15, 1879.

¹¹⁵*Lake City Mining Register*, October 21, 1881.

¹¹⁶Data to the State Historical Society, 1936, from Mrs. N. G. Miller, Postmaster, Kokomo, Colorado.

¹¹⁷"Place Names in Colorado," M.A. Thesis by Olga Koehler, University of Denver, 1930.

Kremmling (567 population*), Grand County, had its beginning in 1881. At that time it consisted of a general merchandise store owned and operated by Kare Kremmling, and a few other buildings, all located on the Dr. Harris ranch, on the north bank of the Muddy River. In 1888 John and Aaron Kinsey had part of their ranch platted, calling the townsite Kinsey City. Mr. Kremmling moved his store across the river to the new site which soon became known as Kremmling.¹¹⁸ The town was incorporated May 14, 1904.¹¹⁹ Even after the advent of the railroad in 1905, letters for the settlement were sometimes addressed, "118 miles west of Denver."¹²⁰

Kuner (20 population), Weld County, settled in 1886 by W. A. Loloff,¹²¹ was not platted and recorded until June 18, 1908. The Kuner Pickle Company had a receiving station here and the settlement was named for the company.¹²² The townsite was officially vacated June 4, 1936, and is now farm land.¹²³

Kutch (38 population), Elbert County, a postoffice village founded in 1904, was named for Ira Kutch, cattleman. The postoffice was formerly three miles south of the present site.¹²⁴

ADDITIONAL TOWNS ON WHICH MATERIAL IS LACKING

Ida, Gunnison Co.; Idaho Creek, Weld Co.; Idaville (Freshwater, Guffey), Park Co.; Ideal, Huerfano Co.; Idledale (Starbuck, Joyland), Jefferson Co.; Idlewild, Park Co.; Ilium or Illium, San Miguel Co.; Iliam (Pleasant Park), Jefferson Co.; Ise, Custer Co.; Ise, San Miguel Co.; Imogene Basin, Ouray Co.; Independence, Adams Co.; Independent, Clear Creek Co.; India, La Plata Co.; Indian Agency, La Plata Co.; Indian Creek Park, Douglas Co.; Ingleside, Larimer Co.; Inland, Boulder Co.; Inman, Kiowa Co.; Interlaken, Lake Co.; Intermediate, Summit Co.; International Camp, Routt Co.; Ionia, Mesa Co.; Iowa Lake, Lake Co.; Irelands or Ireland Spur, La Plata Co.; Iron Camp (Hauman), Saguache Co.; Iron City, Chaffee Co.; Irondale, Adams Co.; Ironhill, Lake Co.; Iron Mountain, Custer Co.; Iron-Silver Junction, Lake Co.; Iron Springs, Otero Co.; Irvine, Douglas Co.; Irvings (West Portal P. O.), Grand Co.; Irvington, Weld Co.; Irwin Canyon, Las Animas Co.; Isabella, Teller Co.; Ives Station (Antlers), Garfield Co.

Jack Pot, Teller Co.; Jackrabbit, Moffat Co.; Jackson, Pueblo Co.; Jackson, Gunnison Co.; Jacksons, Alamosa Co.; Jack Spring Ranch, Larimer Co.; Jacot (Jacott), Summit Co.; Jalien, Logan Co.; Jake-mans, Pitkin Co.; Jamie Lee, Lake Co.; Janeway, Pitkin Co.; Janson, Las Animas Co.; Jarosos, Las Animas Co.; Jason, Lake Co.; Jasper (Cornwell), Rio Grande Co.; Jays, Ouray Co.; Jefferson, Jefferson Co.; Jefferson, Teller Co.; Jefferson (Gamble Gulch), Gilpin Co.; Jennison, Hinsdale Co.; Jennison, San Juan Co.; Jenny Lake, Grand Co.; Jerome

Park, Pitkin Co.; Jersey, Denver Co.; Jerryville, Las Animas Co.; Jessum, Weld Co.; Jewell, Las Animas Co.; Jewetts, Fremont Co.; Jobal, Huerfano Co.; Johnson(s), Jefferson Co.; Johnson, Weld Co.; Johnson, Larimer Co.; Johnsons, Summit Co.; Johnstown, Adams Co.; Joker, San Juan Co.; Joliet (Arlington), Kiowa Co.; Jones Pass, Clear Creek Co.; Jones Ranch, Pueblo Co.; Josephine, Gunnison Co.; Josie (Naomi), Summit Co.; Joy, Pueblo Co.; Joys, Saguache Co.; Joy Coy, Baca Co.; Joyland (Starbuck), Jefferson Co.; Jual, Dolores Co.; Juaniata, Custer Co.; Juanita Junction, Delta Co.; Juchem, Jefferson Co.; Junchen, Custer Co.; Junglewood, Jefferson Co.; Junction (Franceville Junction), El Paso Co.; Junction, Boulder Co.; Junction City (Garfield), Chaffee Co.; Junction City (Coalview), Routt Co.; Junction City (Ridgway Junction), San Juan Co.; Junction House, El Paso Co.; Junction House, Jefferson Co.; Junction House (Junction City), Morgan Co.; Junction Hotel (Boodford Junction), Jefferson Co.; Juniper, Fremont Co.; Juniper, Routt Co.

Kadrew, Las Animas Co.; Kahler, Weld Co.; Kahnah, Mesa Co.; Kaiserheim (Grovemont), Park Co.; Kalbaugh, Fremont Co.; Kane, La Plata Co.; Kanes, San Juan Co.; Kannah, Gunnison Co.; Kant, Las Animas Co.; Kanza, Elbert Co.; Karl, Prowers Co.; Ka Rose (Resort), Grand Co.; Katchout, Gunnison Co.; Kauffman, Weld Co.; Kazan, Las Animas Co.; Kearney, Denver Co.; Kearns, Gilpin Co.; Keating, Custer Co.; Kebler Pass (Kebler), Gunnison Co.; Keefe, Las Animas Co.; Keelder, Lake Co.; Keene, Chaffee Co.; Keene, Weld Co.; Keesee, Bent Co.; Kelker, El Paso Co.; Keller, Bent Co.; Keller, Huerfano Co.; Kelloggs (Kellogg Siding), Gunnison Co.; Kelly Town, Douglas Co.; Kellyville, Gilpin Co.; Kelso, Clear Creek Co.; Kendall (Lamara), Kiowa Co.; Kendrick, Lincoln Co.; Kenesaw, Logan Co.; Kenmuir, El Paso Co.; Kennedy, Hinsdale Co.; Kenneth Mine, Las Animas Co.; Kent, Eagle Co.; Kentucky Flats, Summit Co.; Kenwood, Arapahoe Co.; Kenwood (Kenwood Mine), Fremont Co.; Kepner, Las Animas Co.; Kerns, Larimer Co.; Kerby, Grand Co.; Kerr, Fremont Co.; Kessler, Park Co.; Kester, Park Co.; Kevigs, Lake Co.; Keysport, Boulder Co.; Keystone, Douglas Co.; Keystone, Garfield Co.; Keystone, San Miguel Co.; Kiggins (Kiggins Spur), Garfield Co.; Kilburn, Kiowa Co.; Kilburn, Larimer Co.; Kilton, Fremont Co.; Kimbrell, Saguache Co.; Kimbrellville, Gunnison Co.; Kincaid, Huerfano Co.; Kinesaw, Weld Co.; King, Douglas Co.; King, Montezuma Co.; King Center, Crowley Co.; King Mine, San Juan Co.; Kings, Montezuma Co.; Kings Ferry (La Junta), Otero Co.; Kingsley (Kingston, Lansing), Yuma Co.; King Solomon, Summit Co.; Kings Ranch, Gunnison Co.; Kingston, Gilpin Co.; Kingsbury (Midland), Gunnison Co.; Kingsville, Alamosa Co.; Kinkel (Burnt Mill), Pueblo Co.; Kinnikinik, Larimer Co.; Kiowa (Kiowa Station), Adams Co.; Kiowa Springs, Cheyenne Co.; Kipling, Kit Carson Co.; Kirberville, Saguache Co.; Kirkland, Weld Co.; Kirkpatrick, La Plata Co.; Kirkwell, Baca Co.; Kitourn (Kilburn), Kiowa Co.; Kiva, Fremont Co.; Klieson City, Baca Co.; Kline, Archuleta Co.; Kline, La Plata Co.; Kline Ranch (Kline's), Prowers Co.; Klink, Adams Co.; Kluber, Logan Co.; Knapps, Rio Blanco Co.; Knight, Eagle Co.; Knights Ferry, Otero Co.; Knob Hill, El Paso Co.; Knowltons, Gunnison Co.; Kobe, Lake Co.; Kobe, Mesa Co.; Koen, San Miguel Co.; Koen, Prowers Co.; Koenig, Weld Co.; Konantz, Baca Co.; Kornman, Prowers Co.; Kortz, Chaffee Co.; Kraft, Chaffee Co.; Krain, Chaffee Co.; Krammes, Otero Co.; Krauss, Weld Co.; Kremic, Otero Co.; Krenes (Krenis), Otero Co.; Kreybil (Kreybill), Bent Co.; Kromer, Routt Co.; Kubler (Kubler Spur), Gunnison Co.; Kuhn's Crossing, Elbert Co.; Kutch, Lincoln Co.

An asterisk (*) indicates that the population figure is from the 1940 census.

¹¹⁸Middle Park Times (Hot Sulphur Springs), June 20, 1940.

¹¹⁹Colorado Year Book, 1937-1938, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

¹²⁰Colorado, A Guide to the Highest State, 279.

¹²¹Data from J. H. Kinkade, Kersey, Colorado, January 3, 1941.

¹²²Information from W. H. Lininger, Greeley, Colorado, January 3, 1941.

¹²³Data from Walter F. Morrison, County Clerk and Recorder, Weld County, Colorado, November 14, 1940.

¹²⁴Information to the State Historical Society from Ruth Dennis, Kutch, Colorado.