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## Recollections of the Early Theatre

As Told by ELIZA LOGAN BURT to MR. and MRS. JAMES R. HARVEY

I was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1857, the first child of my parents, George Burt and Agnes Harrison Burt, both of whom were well known to the theatre world of that period. The love of the stage was simply born in me, for mother was a direct descendant of the famous Clifford family of England. The Cliffords of England had always followed the stage: at first with wagons, gypsy fashion, they went from holiday to fete day, across the country with their puppet shows, dancing, juggling, and giving dramatic readings. Finally they forsook the wagon for the tent, then the theatre; and it was during this sixth generation of Cliffords that P. T. Barnum, who was always combing the world for stage attractions, discovered my grandmother, Agnes Clifford, and brought her to America. Here she danced until she was no longer young, when her daughter, Agnes, my mother, carried on.

Mother was brought up on the stage, just as I was in my turn. There were no schools for actors in those days—one simply grew up in the atmosphere of the stage. It was as natural to act as to breathe. Mother played many well-known stage characters. She was one of the three original Topsyies; she took the part with Junius Brutus Booth, and that of Albert in "William Tell," with Edwin Forrest. In 1853, in Detroit, she played with Lawrence Barrett, when he was nothing but second utility man.

In the season of 1853-54, in Detroit, mother did her first important work on the stage; when Olive and Celia Logan failed to show up for work, mother was given the juvenile lead and played Clara in "Money," in place of Olive Logan. During this time mother and father were married; father was a good actor—an excellent comedian, and he excelled as an artist, in the painting of stage scenery. Mother could handle the heavier parts very well, but she, too, preferred comedy. Father was a handsome man. In Cleveland he and Samuel Clemens were often mistaken for one another.

In 1857 father and mother were playing in Leavenworth, Kansas, when father decided to put up his own theatre there. He met with a great deal of opposition from the church people, but father was a determined person. He announced he would open that theatre or die. Finally the theatre was all furnished and ready to open.

That night it was crowded, but with an element which did not appeal to father, who was himself a strict, conventional man. Men were shouting to one another, running here and there, and making a wild place of it in general. Father stepped out on the stage with his cupped hands heaped with twenty-dollar gold pieces. When he started speaking, everything became still. He said: "Gentlemen, I know this is the first theatre to open here in Leavenworth—but you've got the wrong idea of it. You are not in a hurdy-gurdy; I intend to give refined shows here and make this a pleasant place to go for cultured amusement. If this does not meet with your approval, please step out and you will be handed one of these gold pieces as you leave." He did not have to part with a single gold piece, and his theatre became popular at once.



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE BURT

My birth, here in Leavenworth, was the signal for great rejoicing. As soon as father learned of my safe arrival, he closed the show, and with the whole cast, drove all about town shouting: "Eliza Logan has come to town!" I was the first of fourteen children. By the time the last baby arrived, father's exuberance had cooled—somewhat.

I loved the theatre world from the very first and went poking about into everything. I started my stage career at the age of three and one-half years. When not acting or dancing, I was placed on a small chair beside the official prompter, in the wings, and told to stay there—which I rarely did. My first vivid recollection is that of a trip east in April, 1865, with mother and father, who had a theatre engagement in New York City. We stopped off in Washington, D. C., to see Laura Keene, a wonderful actress and a good friend of

mother's, who was playing at the Ford's Theatre in "Our American Cousin." We went to her dressing room in the theatre although it was almost time to ring up. I was always a fragile, delicate child, and when Laura Keene looked at me she said to mother, "Agnes, that child is too puny, give her a little beer, it will do her worlds of good." Mother sent out at once for some beer; I hated it.

When the first act was called, we all went up. I stood in the wings beside the prompter. The curtain was called and Laura Keene was going on the stage, when a shot rang out. Booth had just shot Abraham Lincoln. I saw Booth jump over the balcony and make for the stage exit, where the people at the door let him out. I sensed the terror in the faces about me and clung to mother's skirts as she and Laura Keene rushed up to Lincoln's box. Laura knelt down and took the head of Abraham Lincoln in her lap. She looked up at mother and shook her head, then she lifted the folds of her full skirt and tenderly wiped the blood from his face. Lincoln's wife was just crazy—I wondered why she screamed so. Afterwards, down in the dressing room, mother helped Laura remove her blood-stained dress. She handed the dress to mother and said, "Here, Agnes, take this, I don't want to see it again, ever." Mother kept this dress folded away for years, but finally yielded to the pressure of friends who wanted pieces of it, and tore it up. I have just presented to the State Historical Society a piece of the dress, stained with the blood of Abraham Lincoln; with it is a picture of my sister wearing the dress before mother tore it up.

The next morning we resumed our journey to New York City, where we found everything in confusion; people were running here and there; the tall buildings were draped in black from top to bottom; men would go to the top story, drop a whole bolt of black material out of the window and let it unwind as it fell. All the talk was of Booth, and the fact that he had not yet been apprehended. We did not play that night, for none of the theatres were open.

Mother had played with the elder Booth; she said he was a charming gentleman, beloved by all, a great actor and a delightful man, but, unfortunately, a great drunkard. Mother had played with John Wilkes Booth, also, as one of his support in Nashville, Tennessee, in the winter of '64. There she had attended a banquet given him by the officers of the Union Army stationed at that point. They presented him with a magnificent sword as a tribute to his genius. No one imagined him to be so bitterly Confederate in his sentiments; this he kept hidden in his heart. At that time he was a man of thirty, brilliant, handsome, and as good an actor as his father, the elder Booth, although lacking in his experience. My parents, as well as all the theatrical people who knew him, were astounded at his act, for nothing in his previous life, or his conversation had given

them any grounds for expecting such a deed on his part. However, mother often said that she believed his devotion to the Southern women may have prompted his act, as he was a great "ladies' man."

We traveled all over the East, and even below the Mason and Dixon line. I was taking my place on the stage now, dancing, and doing small speaking parts. We would remain from two days to two weeks in one place. Father painted all the scenic effects, and mother was a wonderful actress, so we were seldom out of a job. We traveled by trains some, but mostly by coaches—the very word still makes me feel ill—they rocked so from side to side, all the time, and I was almost always sick during the whole journey.

One incident that occurred when we were playing in a small Southern town during the Civil War lives in my memory as if it were but yesterday, so strongly did it impress me, a little girl of six years. Everyone had been warned to leave the town that morning, for the Union Army was moving in to occupy the place. We were all rushing out to get places in a large carry-all that was just leaving. A Southern officer had given me a white rocking horse, with black dots on it; I cried loudly as I was rushed from the hotel, because I could not take my horse with me. There was a young Southern woman, bitterly Confederate in her sentiments, who climbed into the seat next to me, holding her baby over her shoulder. We were late leaving town, and even as we started, we heard firing, and saw the Union boys coming on the run, with flags unfurled. The horses were going at top speed, and mother cried frantically for me to get down on the floor. We all crouched down between the seats except the young mother; she sat erect with the baby in her arms, declaring bitterly that this was her home, and that her place was in the South. In the fusilade of shots, she and the baby were both killed.

It was in Leavenworth, Kansas, that I made the acquaintance of Wild Bill Hickock, and we became fast friends. People often said we looked alike, for we had the same long yellow hair, and blue eyes. In fact, Wild Bill once sent back East to have an outfit just like his made for me, that we might attend a party dressed alike.

Wild Bill was always in fear of his life and had always to be on his guard against enemies. One morning when I was playing on the landing in the hotel, I noticed Wild Bill lying down in a small room at the head of the stair. Hearing me, he jumped up, but when he saw it was I, he came out in the hall. He buckled his gun belt about me and said, "Now, you are my body-guard. I shall trust you to take care of me this morning while I get some much-needed rest." I tip-toed about outside his door all morning, determined to guard him with my life, but nothing exciting occurred.

My small brother and I were walking down the street one day when we met Wild Bill. He noticed that a lock of my brother's

hair was protruding through the crown of the old hat he was wearing. Laughing, Wild Bill seized my brother by that lock of hair, and tied a five dollar bill to it, saying, "Here, Sonny, buy yourself a new hat."

Once, in Abilene, Kansas, we were on our way to the circus. Wild Bill passed us, with his long hair tucked up under his hat, and he did not answer father's greeting. With him was a short, overgrown boy, Bob Carson, who always acted as his body-guard. Rumors were abroad that someone was "out to get" Wild Bill at the circus that night. He stood outside until all the seats were taken, then entered boldly with Bob Carson right behind him, a gun in each hand. There was suddenly a dead silence. I opened my mouth to shout at my friend Bill, but father hushed me rather forcibly. The two men walked entirely around the canvas, and out again, and never a shot was fired.

I was now playing speaking parts; I played Topsy often, also Willie, in "East Lynne." I was the first Mary Morgan in "Ten Nights in a Bar-Room." I was the Banner Child actress of that period, received a good salary and drew the crowds. One night when I was playing Willie in "East Lynne," I had a terrible cold. All the actors worked together to keep me from having to do much. Mother told me to keep my cough down as much as possible; I was supposed to be sick, anyway, in the last act. As the leading lady leaned over me near the end of the play and said, "Willie, I am your Mother," I gritted my teeth and held my breath for I knew I dare not cough after I was supposed to be dead. The leading actor, a surly old fellow, cut down his lines and signaled for the curtain, then he came and leaned over my crib. He said to mother, "The baby made *me* cry tonight. She's a great trouper."

When Charlie Ross was kidnapped it threw a great scare into all parents of small children. My parents were particularly worried, as I was quite a "valuable" child and much in the public eye. They agreed that while off stage in the theatre I must stay beside the prompter, and when on the street father would hold my hand on one side, and mother on the other. One day when we were proceeding down the street in this fashion, mother and father were discussing a "row" at the theatre. The discussion developed into an argument—they argued a great deal—and an actor can scarcely argue without using his hands. Soon they both dropped my hands and I was free to follow my own inclinations. When I stopped to peer into the window of a jewelry store, a lady beckoned me to come in. I did. She was a nice old German lady, a great admirer of my acting, and taking a tray of rings from the case, she lifted me to the counter and told me to take my choice. I picked out a ring and a

necklace, and just as she kissed me, and set me outside the door, my frantic parents came back. We all stayed to dinner and had a great time.

I played in Central City when I was twelve years old. In Denver we played in the old People's Theatre on Fifteenth and Glenarm Streets; also in the Tabor Theatre. We saw the Tabors often. Father was a stern, puritanical man, and he forbade me to even look at Baby Doe. However, I often sneaked into the wings to gaze at her in the Tabor box—she was so dazzling to a small girl—then I would run for fear father would catch me there. Augusta used to come to the theatre and just stand outside, sometimes without even a hat, crying there alone, waiting to see Tabor enter the theatre. I felt sorry for her and, somehow, a little disgusted.

I received little formal education; whenever we were playing in Denver, I attended the Arapahoe School. We were rarely more than two weeks in one place, so father taught me—when he felt like it. He was a highly educated man, and a very strict one. He held the family reins in a firm hand. I never had any spending money, like the modern young girl. Father bought my clothes and paid my board bills at the hotels, but I never had any personal liberty.

One time while we were playing in Denver, father was taken suddenly ill. However, the show must go on, so mother took me to the theatre for the afternoon performance. As soon as possible, we started home. We were staying in a small place called the Highlands, above Coors brewery, and it was necessary to cross the Platte on the ferry to get home. When we reached the river the ferry was out of order. The river was swollen from rains, and the ferry, having been repaired, was being taken across on a trial trip by the four men who were working on it. Mother shouted to them to wait, as she was going over, only to be informed that she could not possibly do so. Mother was a decisive woman. She simply threw me over the rail, climbed over herself, and we went across on the trial trip, for one one seemed to know just how to stop us. It was a good thing we did, for we found father unconscious.

We were making a trip to Central City when I was fifteen; as usual, I grew ill and weak from the rocking of the coach. Father reached into the lunch basket and handed me a small bakery pie he had bought for me. I stood up to take it from him just as the driver reached the top of the divide. He cracked his whip with a great flourish and down we went, full speed. I fell forward and threw that pie right in the face of a bashful young man sitting across from me. I never heard the last of it; every actor I met would say, "Eliza, want some pie?"

In spite of our nomadic life, mother bore a family of fourteen children. I was the oldest, and my brother William P. Burt, now

living at 1159 Corona Street, Denver, was the youngest. Our continual moving about did not permit of a normal family life, and when one of the children fell ill with smallpox, we were quarantined in one room. Seven of mother's fourteen children contracted the disease and died in that little room. She took it like the real trouser she was. Of the seven remaining children, six became troupers, only one boy showing no desire to act.

In Denver, father opened the old People's Theatre, near the present site of Daniels and Fisher's, with a stock company of traveling stars; among them were John Stetson, the king of melodrama; Joe Murphy, the Irish minstrel; and Eliza Logan. My brother Willie and I did a number of songs, dances, and impersonations. When the theatre burned, father was forced to take to the road again with his family. We went to Central City and the surrounding mining camps.

Two years later we were back in Denver, with father managing a theatre in what was known as the governor's Guards' Hall, at Fourteenth and Curtis Streets. Father had the building remodeled, painted all the scenery himself, and prospered for a time with stock company shows.<sup>1</sup> Some time later he went to Kansas City and had charge of the Walnut Street Theatre there.

In the meantime, one evening in Denver, after the show, I had met a very interesting young harness-maker by the name of Martin. Father objected seriously to my friendship with Mr. Martin, merely on the grounds that the young man was not of the theatre world. I was afraid to tell my father of our engagement, so one day we eloped and were married. To father, an elopement was as disgraceful an affair as divorce. He never spoke to me afterward.

Father died of a paralytic stroke in 1882. Mother lived in Denver until her death.

I had three children. Jack was a lieutenant in the army during the World War and lives with me now in Denver at 2407 West 32nd Avenue. My daughter is dead. My son Jim lives in Texas and travels for the Lone Star Gas Company. It has always been my secret sorrow that none of my children showed any talent whatever for the stage. I found the theatre an interesting, exciting world and often longed for it during my later life.

<sup>1</sup>The *Rocky Mountain News* of November 19, 1873, describes the new Guards' Opera House in Denver, and gives an account of its opening. The article lists George Burt, Mrs. George Burt and Miss Eliza Burt as members of the new troupe. On May 28, 1874, a performance was given by the "Prairie Flower Minstrels," a home talent organization, at Guards' Hall, Denver. It was a benefit for the sufferers of the Central City fire. The *Rocky Mountain News* of the next day, in telling of the affair, said: "Miss Eliza Burt convulsed the people present with her grotesque impersonations. All the vocal and instrumental music was decidedly good, and the receipts of the entertainment will unquestionably gladden the hearts of the people of Central who suffered so severely by the recent fire."

## Fort Amity, the Salvation Army Colony in Colorado<sup>1</sup>

DOROTHY ROBERTS\*

The Amity Colony, established by the Salvation Army in Prowers County in 1898, was one of the most perfectly planned and executed of the many agricultural colonies planted in Colorado between the years 1854 and 1900.

General William Booth of London, founder of the Salvation Army, had long cherished a plan of systematic colonization, whereby the underprivileged laborers in the slums of the larger cities could become independent land owners, and provide a more wholesome life and greater opportunities for their families. This plan, carried out by his daughter, Consul Emma Booth-Tucker, and her husband, Commander Booth-Tucker, in the colonies which they founded in California, Ohio and Colorado, proved to be very successful, with the exception of Amity Colony, which project failed because of unforeseen physical conditions.

About one thousand acres of farming land, located a few miles west of Holly, was chosen by the Army as a colony site. This land, including parts of Sections 1, 12, 13, and all of Section 14, was selected because it had priority water rights to the Buffalo Canal.

Under the capable leadership of Colonel Thomas Holland, the first colonists arrived in April, 1898. This group, coming from Chicago and parts of Iowa, contained about thirty families, and one hundred and twenty individuals,<sup>2</sup> chosen with care from the long list of applicants eager to try this experiment. Only married men of good character were selected,<sup>3</sup> and all the trades necessary to build a village were represented.<sup>4</sup>

The hardships of camping, during very bad weather, upon the open plain and in the large abandoned building (originally a stage station and trading post), which they found at Yankee Bend on the Arkansas River, were cheerfully borne by the colonists, who set to work with a will to provide temporary shelters, and to break up the prairie sod.<sup>5</sup> Eighty acres of cantaloupes were grown the first year. These, however, were all killed by early frost.

\*Mrs. Roberts, of Denver, has been doing considerable research work upon Colorado colonies. Most of the data here used was gathered by workers on the Historical Society's W.P.A. Project.—Ed.

<sup>1</sup>In addition to the specific references that follow, we are especially indebted for data to the following persons, interviewed by the writer: Eleanor Hargreaves Ingram and Catherine Smith (daughters of Staff-Captain and Mrs. Joseph H. Hargreaves), Mrs. Bartlet and Mrs. E. Baldwin—all members of the Fort Amity Colony; to Colonel J. Dee and Mrs. Bessie Gavlor, Salvation Army Headquarters, Denver; and to Mr. A. J. Davy of Lamar and Staff-Captain Joseph H. Hargreaves, interviewed in January, 1934, by M. Merrill for the State Historical Society (Staff-Captain Hargreaves died during the spring of 1934).

<sup>2</sup>Lamar Register, April 23, 1898.

<sup>3</sup>Denver Times, April 7, 1905.

<sup>4</sup>Lamar Register, February 22, 1899.

<sup>5</sup>American Review of Reviews, November, 1902, p. 561.

Each family was given ten acres of land, material with which to build a house, sufficient livestock and poultry to stock their farm, and implements necessary to care for their acreage. Their railroad fare and the transportation of their goods to Amity had been paid, and the total of these expenditures was charged against each family



UPPER: FORT AMITY COLONY BROOM FACTORY.

MIDDLE: WASHINGTON AVENUE, LOOKING SOUTH. THE SECOND SCHOOL HOUSE AT FORT AMITY AT THE LEFT.

LOWER: THE FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE AT FORT AMITY.

by the Salvation Army. The Army had borrowed money to finance this project, and the colonists were charged six per cent interest, and allowed from ten to fourteen years in which to repay these loans.

The colonists were not put into good houses and furnished money on which to live, but were grubstaked by the Army and set to work making indispensable improvements; constructing fences and irrigation ditches; and were paid two dollars a day, the current wage rate in this region. Half of this was credited to their debt, the other dollar being sufficient for living expenses. They lived in shacks until they were able to build houses of their own.<sup>6</sup>

During the first years the Salvation Army purchased livestock for the colony from the stockyards in Chicago and Kansas City. Upon receipt of a shipment at Amity, the men of the colony gathered in the village and drew lots for their horses and cattle. This same procedure was adhered to in the distribution of wagons and implements.

In April, 1902, the first colonist discharged his entire debt to the Army. He had arrived in Fort Amity in March, 1899, and his entire savings of the preceding ten or twelve years of married life had been a team of horses and a few household goods. In Amity he acquired 20 acres of land, a neat stone cottage, livestock and poultry, all free from incumbrance. His debt to the Army had been \$900.<sup>7</sup>

In a short time many of the farmers became so prosperous that ten acres of land was not sufficient. The Army rented them ten additional acres each and finally gave them this land. A few of the colonists acquired as much as forty acres and many well-built houses were erected. Most of these homes were built of stone, quarried a few miles from the settlement, and were erected by community effort, neighbor aiding neighbor. The land, purchased by the Army for about \$25 an acre in 1898, and sold to the colonists for \$30 or \$40 an acre, had a market value of \$100 to \$200 an acre in 1903.<sup>8</sup>

Mr. A. J. Davy of Lamar, who came with the colony in 1898 as superintendent of the irrigation project, said: "Water was taken from the Buffalo Canal. Laterals and ditches had to be built for each of the farms, and big fill ditches had to be made to carry the water across the low land. This project took nearly a year." The Farmers' Institute of the Agricultural College was held at Amity several years, and on April 7, 1905, H. Rider Haggard came here at the instigation of the British government to inspect the colony. Consul Booth-Tucker made several trips to the colony, the last in 1903. At that time she was perfecting arrangements with the railroad to handle the colony produce, as it had previously promised

<sup>6</sup>Denver Republican, June 28, 1903.

<sup>7</sup>Denver Republican, October 25, 1903.

<sup>8</sup>Denver Republican, June 28, 1903.

but failed to do. She, also, was planning to bring twelve or fifteen more children to the Home. It was while returning from this trip that the Consul was killed in a train accident.

Amity, or Fort Amity, as it was called by the colonists, was named by Commissioner Booth-Tucker. Amity means good will, for which the Salvation Army stands.<sup>9</sup> The town grew to include a lumber yard, blacksmith shop, post office, several stores, bank, hotel, print shop, depot, two school buildings and two churches. A small newspaper was edited by a Mr. Coolidge, a young school teacher, the colonists having subscribed money to buy a second-hand press and start the paper. Later, Mr. O. A. Brakeman published the *Amity Optimist*.<sup>10</sup> In 1905, the population of Amity was three hundred and fifty.<sup>11</sup>

Members of the colony were not required to join the Salvation Army, yet this organization, naturally, was foremost in the religious life of the community. All of the meetings of the Army were held in the school house, which served as a community center for the entire colony.<sup>12</sup> By order of the Salvation Army, no saloons were opened in Amity.

Eva Amity Baldwin, born in August, 1898, was the first white child born in Fort Amity. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin, who, with their thirteen children, came with the first group of settlers in April, 1898.

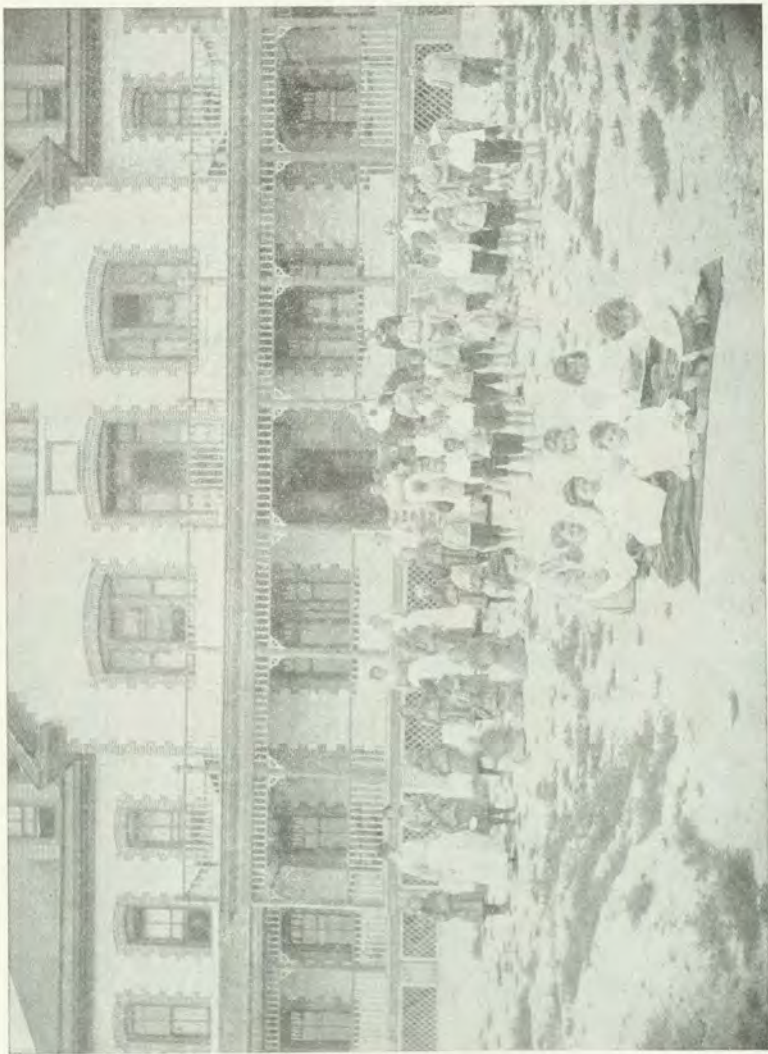
In 1902, the Salvation Army built the Cherry Tree Home for children, at a cost of \$20,000. This stone building, 100 feet long and 45 feet wide, contained a full length basement and attic and thirty-three rooms. The Home opened in 1902, and about fifty children, orphans and children of delinquent families, given into the care of the Army by court order, were brought from New York by Captain and Mrs. Hargreaves. Under the management of Staff-Captain Benjamin, the Home developed rapidly. Soon Captain and Mrs. Hargreaves were put in charge and Staff-Captain Benjamin devoted her time to raising funds for the orphanage. In this she was very successful. Contributions came from the East and Middle West, and the towns in Prowers County contributed cash and furniture. The Home grew to a capacity of sixty children, and a staff of from eight to ten workers was necessary to care for them. The grounds were landscaped, gardens made, and stock purchased. Everything possible was done to make the Home self-supporting and to give the children practical training in farming and stock raising. The children had a school of their own, in charge of Miss Alice Long, this making three schools in the colony. Later, the two schools in

<sup>9</sup>Frank Waite, Lieutenant Colonel Salvation Army, Denver, Colorado (deceased).

<sup>10</sup>Lamar Register, September 16, 1903.

<sup>11</sup>Colorado State Business Directory of 1905.

<sup>12</sup>American Review of Reviews, November, 1902, p. 564.



CHILDREN AND THEIR ATTENDANTS IN FRONT OF THE CHERRY TREE HOME, FORT AMITY

the village of Amity, supported by the county, were consolidated with the Holly school system.

Perhaps the most exciting event in the life of the colony was the robbery of the Bank of Amity. The bank, established in 1904 or 1905, with Mr. A. J. Davy as manager, was entered on July 9, 1908, by Kid Wilson and Henry Starr, a noted Oklahoma desperado. Davy was forced to open the safe and all of the money was taken. Then Davy, together with all witnesses to the crime, was marched at pistol point across the railway track south into a pasture, where the robbers mounted their horses, and with a "Goodbye, boys," rode away.

Starr, the husband of Belle Starr, one of the most noted women outlaws of the southwestern frontier, was caught a year later in Arizona, returned to Lamar for trial, and sentenced to the penitentiary for from four to seven years. He returned to Holly after his release and ran a restaurant for a time, but soon took up his old criminal life, and was shot while robbing a bank a few years later. Wilson was never located.<sup>13</sup>

The Army, unfortunately, had chosen the wrong location for the colony. The first year the crops were good and, one year, more beets were shipped from Amity and the surrounding territory to the Rocky Ford sugar factory than from any other station except Newdale. Soon, however, the soil began to show the devastating effects of seepage and the resulting alkaline deposits. The land was low—the water-level high. Even during the first year, water could be seen standing in the low places in the section east of the settlement. Crops failed, orchards withered, the land which had produced from fifteen to twenty tons of sugar beets an acre, and two and one-half tons of alfalfa hay would not produce any crop. The seepage even caused the larger buildings to settle. After a few years, this condition became so bad that, one by one, the colonists began to leave the desolated region.

The Salvation Army spent thousands of dollars in a vain effort to reclaim the land and to save the colony. Experts were brought to Amity to look over the situation. A drainage ditch was built, but it was not large enough to clear the land.

The children were moved from the Cherry Tree Home to California, a piece of property near Lytton Springs having been given the Army for this purpose. The buildings of the Home at Amity, cared for by Staff-Captain Hargreaves for nineteen years, finally were razed.

In 1907 or 1908, Mr. J. S. McMurtry of Holly bought the land, almost in its entirety, and the colony was abandoned. The colonists were aided by the Army in transporting their families and goods

<sup>13</sup>Lamar Register, May 25, 1933.

to any desired location, and in securing employment. After the Cherry Tree Home was razed, this land also was sold to Mr. McMurtry.

The Salvation Army suffered a loss of \$60,000 to \$70,000 on the Fort Amity Colony, while a profit of nearly \$12,000 was realized on the colony in California.<sup>14</sup>

In later years the effects of the drainage project became apparent and the land was again put under cultivation. This improvement came too late, however, to benefit the Fort Amity colonists, or to preserve their unique and interesting settlement.

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<sup>14</sup>Letter of Colonel Post, Salvation Army Headquarters, San Francisco, California, to Colonel J. Dee, Denver.



subsequently became quite proficient as a Spanish and English scholar, married a Spanish woman, was elected a county recorder, and while serving in that capacity, he commenced corresponding with the recorders of Utah, which resulted in finding the whereabouts of his elder brother (Hans Jensen of Hals, Denmark), who resided in Manti (Utah), and paying him a visit, with his family, where they also embraced the gospel and provided themselves with our Church works, and he, being ordained an Elder, returned to his former home and commenced a quiet missionary labor among the Spanish Catholics. He translated into Spanish some choice selec-

## The Founding of Mormon Settlements in the San Luis Valley, Colorado

ANDREW JENSON\*

Apostle Erastus Snow, of the Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Church, wrote the following from Nephi, Utah, under date of May 4, 1877:

“In the summer of 1875, I baptized L. (Lawrence) M. Petersen and his wife and their Spanish muleteer, in company with many others at Manti, who at that time were renewing their covenants. The three named were visitors from the southern border of Colorado and enquirers after truth.

“There is a bit of romance connected with this man, Petersen, not altogether devoid of interest. He was a Scandinavian by birth, but Spanish-American by education. When eleven years old, in the summer of 1854, he strayed from an emigrant camp of the Saints near Kansas City, Missouri, while they were waiting for Elder William Empey, our emigration agent for that year, to procure their teams and outfits for Utah.

“His father and mother had both died during the voyage to America, and the rest of his family and friends, after a fruitless search, gave up young Petersen as lost to them forever and wended their way to Utah, while the lost boy fell in with some Spanish traders from New Mexico, who enticed him home with them, where he

\*Mr. Jenson, Assistant Historian of the Mormon Church, is a pioneer in his own right. He was born in Denmark on December 11, 1850, and at the age of fifteen emigrated to America with his parents. They crossed the plains and mountains to Salt Lake City by ox team in 1866. In 1876 he began his literary work, translating a Life of Joseph Smith into the Danish language. Since then he has written and published extensively in both English and Danish. His writings are largely biographical and historical. Since 1891 he has served as a historian for the Mormon Church, traveling widely to gather ecclesiastical history. (Data gleaned from a sketch prepared by Edward H. Anderson.)—Editor.



COURTESY OF SENATOR J. W. SHAWCROFT  
MR. AND MRS. LAWRENCE M. PETERSEN  
(This was the second Mrs. Petersen)

tions from our works, and with the aid of these and the Spanish translation of the Book of Mormon, he succeeded in baptizing about forty persons and awoke the wrath of the Spanish priests and editors.

“He writes from Las Tijeras, Colorado, April 14th, 1877, to his brother in Manti, that he expects to start with his new converts in twelve or thirteen wagons for the Little Colorado, where they intend locating with our new colonists.”<sup>1</sup>

On November 25, 1877, a company of seventy Latter-day Saints from the southern states arrived at Pueblo, Colorado, in charge of



COURTESY OF ANDREW JENSON  
ELDER JOHN MORGAN, COLONY LEADER

Elder John Morgan, President of the Southern States Mission, to seek a location for a colony. Until a suitable place should be found, some barracks built of lumber were erected on an island in the Arkansas River, about a mile below the center of the city of Pueblo. Here the little company, in charge of Elder Daniel R. Sellers, was organized as a branch of the United Order—a Mormon plan of community ownership. Several of the brethren found employment in Pueblo and vicinity and the means thus gained was used for the benefit of all. President Morgan went back to the southern states and did not return until the spring of the following year.

In the spring of 1878, when President John Morgan returned to Pueblo, he brought with him Elder James Z. Stewart, who had previously filled two missions to Mexico, and had been appointed by

President John Taylor to preside over the Saints in the San Luis Valley.

Taking with him three of the colonists from Pueblo (an old man, a middle-aged man and a young man), Elder Stewart journeyed on to the San Luis Valley. There they purchased from Spanish-Americans two ranches, one of which was near the town of Conejos. On May 19, 1878, several of the settlers arrived and located temporarily near Los Cerritos. Among these was Elder Lawrence M. Petersen and some of his company mentioned at the beginning of this article. President John Taylor had previously consulted with Elder Petersen in regard to a suitable location for a settlement for the Saints from the southern states and Elder Petersen had recommended the Conejos River Valley as a suitable place.

At a quarterly conference held at Manti, Sanpete County, Utah, August 18, 1878, Bishop Hans Jensen (brother of Lawrence M. Petersen) was called to take charge of the Conejos Mission and several missionaries were called to accompany him and assist in the establishment of the colonists. Upon his arrival, a meeting of the colonists was held at the home of Brother Lawrence M. Petersen, about half a mile south of the village of Los Cerritos (across the Conejos River from Los Cerritos).

Here a branch organization was effected, at which John Allen and Soren C. Berthelsen were chosen as counselors to Bishop Hans Jensen; Lawrence M. Petersen was chosen as clerk and recorder and Daniel R. Sellers and William A. Cox as leading teachers.

As usual, these colonists at once commenced work, making a canal, erecting small houses and cultivating the land. A Mexican school house immediately east of the village of Los Cerritos was rented as a place for holding meetings.

On Sunday evening, February 3, 1879, it was decided to found a town to be named Manassa, in honor of one of the sons of Joseph, of ancient Israel. It was to be on the state lands lying on the north branch of the Conejos River, about three miles northwest of the village of Los Cerritos. The name was suggested by Lawrence M. Petersen. Bishop Hans Jensen, John Allen and Lawrence M. Petersen were appointed a committee to make arrangements for the purchase of this land, and President John Taylor, as Trustee in Trust for the Latter-day Saints Church, sent \$300 to the Saints in the San Luis Valley to assist them in their projects.

Soon after the founding of the settlement of Manassa, in the spring of 1878, some Mexicans, under the instigation of religious opposition, dammed up the north fork of the Conejos River, which passed within a short distance of the new town, in order to deprive the Mormons of water and thus make the proposed settlement an im-

<sup>1</sup>*Deseret News* (Salt Lake City, Utah), XXVI, 250.

possibility. At first the colonists tried to reason with the Mexicans, but since this did not bring the desired result, Bishop Hans Jensen, who had become righteously angry, ordered the brethren to tear out the dams and obstructions which had been placed in the stream. This was done, and when the Mexicans found that the Mormons would not submit to such imposition, they were willing to settle the matter amicably. At first some of the older settlers had looked upon the Mormons as thieves and robbers, consequently guards were appointed in the respective Mexican villages in the valley to protect property against the newcomers. Learning, however, that their new neighbors were a different class of citizens from what they had been reported to be, the guards were soon discontinued as unnecessary.



COURTESY OF ANDREW JENSON

BISHOP HANS JENSEN, OF THE CONEJOS MISSION

Saints from the southern states continued to arrive and, through the local Church officials, secured land and homes. By 1883 there were 744 souls (147 families) in Manassa.

In the summer of 1879 another townsite was surveyed by the Saints in Conejos County. This town was named Ephraim, in honor of the other son of Joseph. But, owing to its location in swampy ground, it lasted only a few years. The first settlement took place in 1881 and it was vacated in 1888. The settlers had, however, constructed a canal tapping the Conejos River. There were 14 families, or 57 souls, in Ephraim in 1883.

In the fall of 1881, some of the residents of Manassa desired to locate in the vicinity of La Jara, in a beautiful tract of country which had been overlooked for settlement, as it was considered impossible to bring water to the location. But Brother Thor M. Peter-

sen, a surveyor, with his spirit level found that this was a possibility. At this some of the inhabitants of La Jara exclaimed in derision that the Mormons thought they could make water run up hill. By the end of the year 1881 the ditch was completed and water was available in the following spring for crops. Two families spent the winter of 1881-82 on this first site of Richfield. In 1882 a new townsite, containing 240 acres, was surveyed and to this the people moved and several houses were erected there that fall. Thor N. Petersen was in charge of the settlement and a meeting house was built. Seeing the success the little body of Saints were having with their canal, others organized canal companies and constructed ditches in the vicinity. In 1900 the Richfield Ward had 294 souls (46 families).

The present site of Sanford was noticed by President John Taylor and other church leaders when visiting the Saints in San Luis Valley, and advice was given to the colonists to make a settlement there. A townsite was surveyed in the fall of 1885 and named Sanford, in honor of Silas Sanford Smith, President of the San Luis Stake of Zion at that time. To this location most of the settlers of Ephraim and many of those from Richfield moved during the years 1886 to 1888.

Anders Mortensen of Sanford was the first settler in what later became the Eastdale Ward. In 1890, he and his brother, Ephraim, who had recently returned from a mission, commenced work on a canal and reservoir. That year about thirteen men with teams worked on this canal and reservoir and organized the Eastdale Land, Canal and Reservoir Company. About 1,200 bushels of grain were raised in the infant settlement in 1890. This year (1890) the Eastdale townsite was surveyed. The people struggled hard to meet the annual payments on their land, which they had purchased from the United States Freehold Land and Emigration Company. Ephraim Mortensen presided over the settlement. About 5,000 bushels of grain were raised in 1892. But in spite of the work done by the first settlers to secure water, a wealthy company deprived them of most of their water rights, so that in 1909 the settlement was vacated.

The Morgan Branch is located in a section of country nine miles northwest of Richfield, eight miles northwest of La Jara and fifteen miles southwest of Alamosa. John Whitfield Hunt, a member of the Mormon Church, located in the vicinity in September, and John Douglas Westbrook, another member, in December of the same year. Other settlers came and an irrigation ditch was made, which watered the crops raised by the settlers in 1886. Artesian wells were dug, also, nearly every family having such a well. Among the first settlers was Joseph Elliott Samples, who in 1887 was appointed a counselor to Bishop Jens Jensen of Richfield and was also appointed to preside over the Saints of the Morgan Branch, which was attached

to that Ward. The name Morgan was given to the district in honor of President John Morgan of the Southern States Mission, who, with some Saints from the Southern States, established the first Latter-day Saints colony in the San Luis Valley. A log meeting house was erected in 1890 by freewill donations; this building was also used as a school house. In 1893 there were 17 families (80 souls) in the Morgan Branch.

A Stake of Zion, an ecclesiastical division comprising several Wards or Branches of the Church, was organized in the San Luis Valley on June 9, 1883, with Silas S. Smith as president. This Stake still exists and comprises five Bishop's Wards and one Branch, namely Alamosa (Eulys Ross Guthrie, Bishop); Manassa (Winfred S. Haynie, Bishop); Richfield (J. Howard Shawcroft of La Jara, Bishop); Romeo (Albert R. Hawkins, Bishop) and Sanford Ward (Renold C. Johnson, Bishop), and Morgan Branch (A. Warren Combs, Presiding Elder). The membership of the Stake numbered 2,436 in December, 1938.

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## Our Lady of Guadalupe at Conejos, Colorado

CLAIRE McMENAMY\*

In 1855 a small colony of Spanish-Americans settled on the northern bank of the Conejos River. One of their first undertakings was to build a small chapel. This chapel was to be dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patron of the new settlement. The first Mass to be offered in this small church was read in 1856 by Reverend P. Gabriel Ussel, then pastor of Taos, New Mexico.<sup>1</sup> Father Ussel later died while pastor at Walsenburg and the work of visiting this mission was given to Reverend Jose Miguel Vigil. The first official document we have of the place states:

“Father Jose Miguel Vigil visited the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe and administered Confirmation on the eighth Sunday after Pentecost \* \* \*”<sup>2</sup>

At the time Confirmation was administered the church was not yet completed. The walls were about twelve feet high and were well constructed. The work on the edifice moved along very slowly, due to the fact that there were very few parishioners and these were so scattered and poor they could give little help.

Father P. Montano was the first permanent pastor of this little

\*Miss McMenemy is a member of the Machebeuf History Club of St. Mary's Academy, Denver.—Ed.

<sup>1</sup>*El Reine de Dios A La Parroquia de Conejos en sus Bedas de Diamante*, 9. Copy in the historical files at St. Mary's Academy, Denver, Colorado.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, 9. The year is not recorded, but tradition has it as 1857.

parish, which had been formed on June 10, 1858.<sup>3</sup> In January, 1860, the church was completed and rectory for the priest purchased. The church was blessed by the Archbishop of Santa Fe, John Baptiste Lamy, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 1863.<sup>4</sup> Father Montano remained six years and was succeeded by Reverend Miguel Rolly, who remained here from 1863 until 1871.

On August 24, 1871, Bishop Machebeuf wrote to Reverend Donoto M. Gasparri, S.J.,<sup>5</sup> urging him to accept the parish of Conejos, Colorado. On December 9, 1871, Reverend Salvador Persone, S.J., arrived to take over the parish at Conejos, which at this time extended to Saguache (about 120 miles to the north), to Los Pinos on the south, to Las Cruces on the east, and to Mesitas on the west. On February 1, 1872, Reverend Alexandre Leone, S.J.,<sup>6</sup> came to assist Father Persone with his parish duties at Conejos.

Bishop Machebeuf paid an official visit to this little parish in July, 1872. Father Persone went to meet him with a group of men in wagons and about 100 men on horseback. The reception pleased the bishop, whose interests were very much with the missions and missionaries of Colorado.

A group of representatives from the parish met in April, 1876, and decided to erect a convent so that they might be able to have a school for the children of the parish. When the Jesuit Fathers had applied to Bishop Machebeuf for a school he advised them to provide the convent and he would see that a colony of sisters would be secured to teach the school. About this time Reverend Donoto M. Gasparri, S.J., gave a retreat in the parish. At the end of the retreat he suggested that a memorial of this retreat be the building of a house for the sisters. The sincerity of the people was shown in the prompt response to this suggestion, and just as the bishop had promised, the sisters did come, three in number—Sisters Vincenta Gonzales (the superior), Mary Fara Maloney and Ophelia Conell, all Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross. The Sodality of Christian Mothers of the parish had provided the sisters with an abundance of the necessary things of life. This enabled the Sisters to begin their work in the school in September, 1887. The affairs in the school and the parish moved along without serious difficulties until January 15, 1878, when Sister Mary Fara Maloney became the victim of the smallpox plague then raging in the city. After her death Bishop Machebeuf said, “She offered herself as a victim to appease divine justice and obtain a cessation of the plague.”<sup>7</sup> The

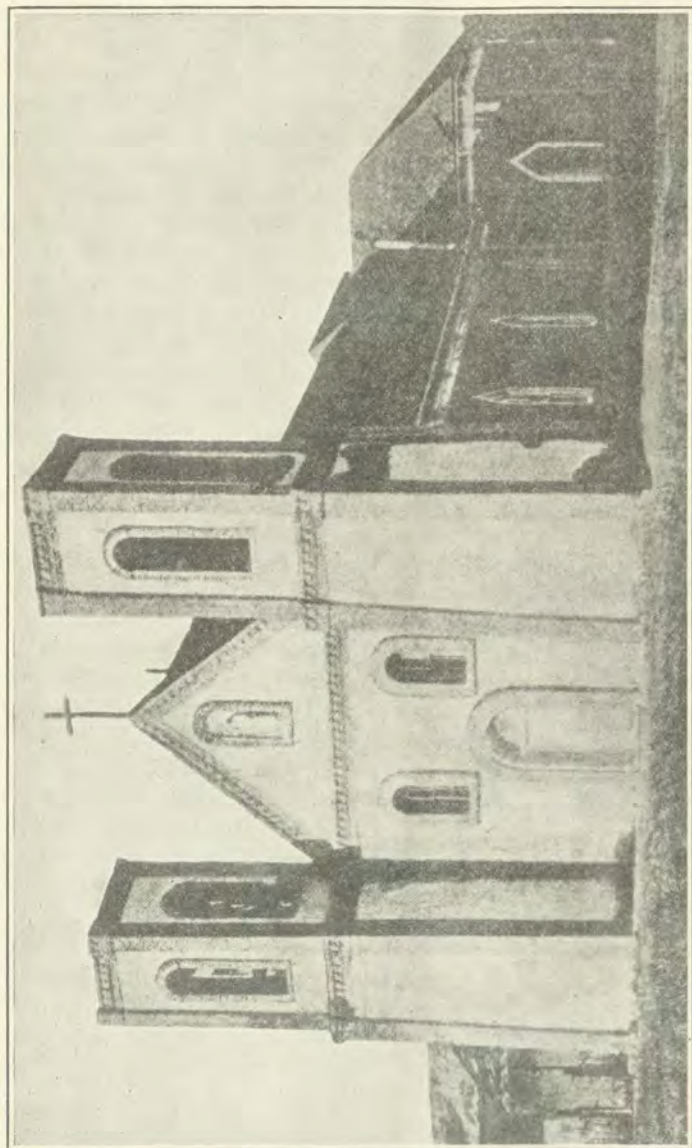
<sup>3</sup>*Church Record Book, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Conejos, Colorado.*

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, 10.

<sup>5</sup>*Diario de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Conejos, Colorado*, 9 vols., 1871-1920, Regis College Archives, I.

<sup>6</sup>*El Reine, etc., op. cit.*, 10.

<sup>7</sup>Howlett, *The Life of Bishop Machebeuf*, 385. See also Sister M. Lilliana Owens, S.L., “The History of the Sisters of Loretto in the Trans-Mississippi West,” Chapter VIII, “Colorado and Nebraska Missions.”



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, FIRST CHURCH IN COLORADO

Sisters of Loretto found no human consolation at Conejos, many hardships had to be endured, but their work there was truly done for the love of Christ. Reverend Mother General Praxedes Carty, S.L., made several attempts to close the school, but at the request of Bishop N. C. Matz and of the Jesuit Fathers the Sisters of Loretto remained here until 1918.<sup>8</sup>

The Jesuit Fathers controlled the little parish at Conejos until August, 1920, when the Theatine Fathers came to take charge. The first priests of this community to function here were Reverend John Bonet and Bartholomew Caldentey and Joseph Alavedra. A short time after their arrival they commenced to remodel the interior of the church. The walls were repainted; a new metal ceiling was put into the church, as well as electric lights and stained glass windows. In 1922 new pews were installed in the church and in 1924 a bell was purchased from a Protestant church in Monte Vista and placed in the church tower. On Ash Wednesday of 1926 a fire destroyed the church and convent.

Nothing was left of the church save the walls. There was much debate as to where the new church should be located. It was finally decided that it should be built on the same site as the old one. The building of the new edifice began in September, 1926. This church is of Roman style, spacious, with stained glass windows, and the walls are of concrete blocks. It measures ninety-five feet in length by fifty-five feet in width. It was blessed on December 12, 1927, by his Excellency, Most Reverend John Henry Tihen, now deceased. A temporary altar was placed in the church and was used until April, 1928, when it was replaced by the one now in use.

When Bishop Machebeuf asked Father Gasparri, S.J., to accept the parish of Conejos he was not thinking merely of the parish, he was also dreaming of a Jesuit College.<sup>9</sup> There is no record in the Conejos diaries of any attempt to open a college in Conejos in 1872, or at any later date. This college merely remained the "Dream College of Bishop Machebeuf."<sup>10</sup>

The present boundaries of the parish are to the north, the La Jara and the Alamosa rivers; to the south, Tres Piedras, New Mexico; on the west, Cumbres, or the summit of the Conejos Mountains; and on the east, the Rio Grande.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup>See Correspondence on file in the Archives at the Loretto Mother House, Loretto, Kentucky, and Correspondence in the Chancery Archives, Diocese of Denver, Colorado.

<sup>9</sup>See Howlett, *op. cit.*, 371.

<sup>10</sup>See "History of the Jesuit Colleges of New Mexico and Colorado, 1867-1919," an unpublished manuscript in the St. Louis University Library, St. Louis, Missouri, by Ed. R. Volmar, S.J.

<sup>11</sup>See Reverend W. J. Howlett, "The History of the Diocese of Denver," an unpublished manuscript in the Chancery Archives, Diocese of Denver, Colorado.

## Letters of George M. Willing, "Delegate of Jefferson Territory"

With an Introduction by LEROY R. HAFEN

George M. Willing, resident of St. Louis and a physician by profession, joined the Pike's Peak gold rush in the spring of 1859. He left western Missouri about the middle of April, traveled the Arkansas River route and reached Denver June 13, 1859. His diary of this trip was published in the *Daily Missouri Republican* of St. Louis on August 9, 1859, and was republished with introduction and notes by Dr. R. P. Bieber, in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XIV, 360-378.

During the summer of 1859, Dr. Willing engaged in mining in the Central City area. He early interested himself in politics,<sup>1</sup> as is evidenced by a letter written from "Rocky Mountains, New Nevada, Base of the Snowy Range, Territory of Jefferson, July 22, 1859." From this letter, published in the *Missouri Republican* of August 29, 1859, we quote: ". . . my paper is getting scarce, and before I can forward you another letter, shall be compelled to recruit the stock at Denver. Intending to be at the Convention to be held in Denver on Monday, 1st of August, for the purpose of forming a State Constitution, I may whilst there, give you the proceedings of that body.

"A word about political aspirants. We have no less than three Richmonds in the field for congressional honors—Mr. Matthews, of Illinois, and two other gentlemen whose names I have either forgotten or did not learn, and the same electioneering dogmas which characterize the canvassing for office in the States, are enacted here. Hobbies are raised even in so new a country, to allure and misguide the people, and 'speechifying' done up to small crowds, here and there, courting popularity. All of the aspirants for office that I have heard of, go in for a Territorial government instead of a State. I think that we have sufficient population, and that our resources for maintaining our independence are of a reliable nature, to warrant us in knocking at the doors of the next Congress for admission as a State in the Union. Free and untrammelled from the political intrigues of the day, we desire no government appointments to rule over us, where political aspirants add strife upon strife. We want it a State at once, and to that end all of my feeble efforts will be bent."<sup>2</sup>

The Convention, unable to agree as between the advocates of

<sup>1</sup>An earlier interest in politics by Dr. Willing or perhaps by his father, is indicated by this note found in the *St. Louis Reveille* of June 27, 1844: "George M. Willing is a candidate for Justice of the Peace, for the Sixth Ward."

<sup>2</sup>Another of his letters "From the Gold Diggings" was published in the *Missouri Republican* of July 11, 1859. It is signed "George M. Willing, Jr."

Statehood and those favoring a Territory, submitted the question to a vote of the people on September 5th. The State proposition was defeated.

In the *Rocky Mountain News* of September 29, 1859, under the heading, "Announcement of Candidates: Five Dollars in Advance," George M. Willing is listed as a candidate for Delegate to Congress from Jefferson Territory.

In the same issue the *News* gives a short description of the seven candidates for Delegate. Of Dr. Willing it says: "G. M. Willing, M. D., late of Missouri, has been mining for some months past in the 'Goose Pasture' diggings, near Gregory's. He is a practicle [sic] miner, good geologist and a most polished gentleman. Mr. A. [sic] is now canvassing the country, and the people will have an opportunity of seeing and hearing him."

The election was held October 3, 1859. In giving the results, the *Rocky Mountain News* of October 13, thus reports the votes cast for the two leading candidates: Willing, 1835; Williams, 1345. But some of the returns were questionable. In its issue of the following week the *News* stated that the votes reported for Dr. Willing from the "Big Blue" (728 votes) and from "Little Snake Diggings" (841 votes) and those for R. W. Steele from "Bay State" (697 votes) "were thrown out by the Board of Canvassers as illegal, a fact apparent to every one who looked at the returns, and we are pleased to learn that both those gentlemen appeared before the Board and disclaimed any complicity in the fraudulent voting, and did not wish the votes in question to be counted in their favor. We are glad of this because we instinctively look upon the man who will participate in an election fraud, either as principal or accomplice, as a fit associate only for the pickpocket and horsethief. We earnestly hope that ballot-box stuffing, and all other kinds of fraudulent voting, will never be tolerated in the Territory of Jefferson." The certificate was given to Williams, his official vote being 1911; that of Willing was 265.<sup>3</sup>

Apparently, Willing did not consider the count as authentic, or the certificate necessary, for he proceeded to Washington and claimed to be the duly elected Delegate. He and Williams were presently joined by "Governor" S. W. Beall, formerly of Wisconsin, who went to the national capital to represent the interests of the Denver City Town Company. They all lobbied in Congress to secure the creation of a Territorial Government for the Pike's Peak gold country. From the national capital Beall wrote as follows on March 21, 1860: "It gratifies me to say that Mr. B. D. Williams, as also Dr. Willing—who is here with his family—are extremely active and energetic; and whatever is done, will be mainly due to

<sup>3</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, October 20, 1859.

their efficient industry. Your humble servant can only lend them what little of tact or influence he may possess.<sup>4</sup>

The letter presented to Secretary of State Lewis Cass by Dr. Willing was recently found in the Department of State Territorial papers for Colorado, in the National Archives, by Dr. Nels Anderson. A photostatic copy was procured for the library of the State Historical Society of Colorado. The document follows:

"Locust Grove, Frederick County, Maryland, Dec. 28th, 1859.

"Hon. Lewis Cass, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

"Sir:

"I have the honor to lay before your department, as the legally elected delegate to Congress from the Territory of Jefferson—

"The following for the favorable consideration of your department and through you to be communicated to the President.

"In the fall of 1858, at the mouth of Cherry creek in the vicinity of Pikes Peak (Rocky Mountains), a discovery of gold was made which caused an emigration to that point, of our people to the number of six hundred. But very little was then known of the extent and richness of the new mines.

"As early as May, 1859, this small emigration was augmented by some fifty or sixty thousand persons—who crossed the plains, in high expectation of making sudden fortunes—a majority of whom returned to the States, from disappointment and otherwise, leaving in the mountains about twenty thousand persons and about six thousand in the vallies.

"Since the discovery of the Gold in the mountains on the eastern slope, and the rich deposits on the Western Slope, constant emigration has been going on until the cold of winter set in and put a stop to travel for the present.

"Large placers have been opened, and worked successfully during the months of September and October—among which may be enumerated, Gregory, Russell, Nevada, Jackson, Boulder, Jefferson, Platte, Spanish Bar, Cache La Poudre, Clear Creek, Osgoods, Bear creek, Little Snake, Big Bloos, Spauldings, Yampah, and the Tarry-all diggings. These placers extend from the Medicine Bow Mountains to the Sierra Madre—the Golden Belt, crossing the main divide of the Rocky Mts. at the Southern rim of the Middle Park and penetrating the Sierra San Juan—continuing a southwest course it loses itself in the rugged steeps of the Sierra Madre.

"Throughout this vast region of over six hundred miles, a belt of positive gold deposits had been found to exist—consisting chiefly of Quartz Lodes, with the usual surface diggings accompanying such deposits. They are proven to be more numerous and richer in the precious metals, than the gold fields of California, and it is confidently expected by competent miners, that the coming season

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, April 18, 1860.

will be attended by astonishing yields, especially when proper machinery is put in force to crush the quartz, large bodies of which have been taken from the mines, ready for undergoing the process of crushing.

"Our population is variously estimated from twenty to fifty thousand. Over thirty thousand mining claims in the districts named above, have been recorded, a majority of which have been worked this season.

"From the above facts, the reliable nature of the mines and their vast extent—with the amount of arable land, estimated at over (5,000,000) five million of acres, susceptible of a state of cultivation adapted to most all species of crops, the extensive coal fields of a superior quality, inexhaustible forrests of all the different species of fir. I am advised of an emigration that will reach the mines by the first of May of over fifty thousand—and by the twentieth of June, our population cannot fall short of two hundred thousand souls.

"The present population is so large, that our people, disliking to have the revolver and *Bowie Knife* to be the supreme law—have made (ad. interim, to a Territorial form of government by the Congress of the United States) a provisional government, for the better security of life and property, and confidently look forward to a speedy organization, that will relieve them from their self constituted power, and also from the difficulties that must necessarily arise from the sudden and immense emigration of the coming year.

"Unfortunately for us, a part of our people are in the Territorial limits of Kansas, Utah, New Mexico and Nebraska. The great distance from any part of the proposed Territory of Jefferson—to any of the above mentioned Territories, is sufficient to put at defiance all law, and crimes are and will be perpetrated, with impunity.

"The nearest point to our people in Kansas limits—in order to seek redress for any civil or criminal action—is between six and seven hundred miles, across an almost desert at present void of any communication save that of private enterprises—at a great expense.

"To Utah, to any settlement that has Judicial Powers, six hundred miles, over a mountain region impracticable in winter, or five months in the year.

"From Omaha in Nebraska Territory five hundred and fifty miles—and from Taos in New Mexico, two hundred and ten miles from the South park.

"The proposed limits of the New Territory of Jefferson, are between the parallels of Lat. forty-three (43) north, and (38) thirty-eight south and Longitudes East and West one hundred & two (102) and one Hundred and seven (107).



“Our population must be such from our vast resources, both in minerals, agriculture and the natural productions of material for economical uses, as to have the majority in all elections, and preponderate over either of the Territories mentioned in this connection, to be united with either would produce serious difficulties. To place us to Kansas Territory, additional territory to that already large state—will have to be added, taking our proposed limits, the consequence of which would result in serious difficulties, and sectional feeling, making it actually necessary for a double set of officers, one for the east and one for the west. Whilst on the other hand to attach our people to Utah, would be distasteful, and not submitted to under any considerations whatever. With all due respect—I as the representative and mouthpiece of the people of Jefferson make the declaration—and with all due respect to the Mormons—Knowing that the sentiments of that people do not accord with us either in our ideas of morals or religion, which is sufficient to being attached to that Territory.

“With Nebraska and New Mexico the same may be said as regards Kansas.

“Whilst the establishment of a separate Territory, out of the four above mentioned Territories now in existence, cannot interfere with either, inasmuch as our proposed limits are so widely separated by deserts that cannot be inhabited. The actual necessity of a separate Territory is readily perceived.

“We are exposed to the attack of disorganizing men, who have but little care or thought for the privileged rights of others; such as the common law of the land give to them, \* \* \* and Our people have been murdered and plundered by the savage tribes of Utah Indians.

“The astonishing rapidity with which cities and towns have sprung up—the establishment of manufactures, the opening of farms—in so short a period, far exceeds the settlement of any other part of the public Domain.

“It cannot be expected that we can protect ourselves against lawless persons and the incursions of savages, with a provisional Government, whose officers do their work without any pay whatever, and whose patriotism and sense of duty to our Common Country makes it an onerous duty to perform.

“Desiring that our people may have your favorable cooperation in obtaining a form of Government I have the Honor to be Sir

“Your Most Obt. Servt,

“GEO. M. WILLING

“D. from Jeff. Ter.”

Jefferson Territory, as is well known, was not recognized by Congress, and the aspirants to the Delegateship received no remuneration for their services. Dr. Willing returned to the Colorado region in the summer of 1860.<sup>5</sup> Of his subsequent career we have scant record. From Mrs. Rosemary Winchcombe Taylor of Tyrone, New Mexico, comes some data as to Willing's connection with land grants, about which Mrs. Taylor is making a special study. In a letter of June 28, 1934, she says that Dr. Willing “had quite a lot to do with the notorious Peralta Grant. I think he was an innocent dupe in the matter, however. Because he was unwise enough to talk about it is the reason he was killed in Prescott, Arizona, on March 13, 1874.”

<sup>5</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, August 22, 1860.

## Place Names in Colorado (D)\*

*Dacono* (275 population), Weld County, came into existence in 1901, when C. L. Baum opened a coal mine here. As coal production increased, a settlement grew around the mine. In 1905, Mr. Baum named the village Dacono, a word coined from the first two letters of his wife's name, Daisy, and from the corresponding letters of the names of two of her friends, Cora Van Voorhies and Nona Brooks.<sup>1</sup> The town was incorporated in 1908.

*Dailey* (150 population), Logan County, was once known as Daily.<sup>2</sup> In June, 1914, the Burlington Railroad put up a siding on the site of the town, giving it the name of Dailey, for James Dailey, trainmaster, who was originally from Lincoln, Nebraska.<sup>3</sup>

*Dallas* (6 population), Ouray County, is today a flag station (6,909 altitude) on the D. & R. G. W. R. R. In 1879, when it was known as Dallasville, it was a station on an early-day stage line. The original name for this point was an Indian word, Unaweep.<sup>4</sup> The name was changed, and in 1885, when the camp was known as Dallas City, a newspaper spoke of it as "a new mining camp at the forks of Dallas Creek, with a population of 50." The name lasted until 1889, when the name was shortened to Dallas. In 1898 the name was dropped from State directories. The name honored

\*Prepared by the Colorado Writers' Project and the State Historical Society's W.P.A. Project. The population figures, following the names of towns, are taken from Rand McNally's *Index of Cities and Towns of Colorado* (1938). The figures therein are from the Federal Census of 1930 and from Rand McNally's estimates.—Ed.

<sup>1</sup>Interview by State Historical Society with Mrs. Carson Smith, daughter of C. L. Baum, 1439 Gilpin St., Denver.

<sup>2</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1915.

<sup>3</sup>Information from Val Kuska, Colonization Department, Burlington Railroad; also Emma Burke Conklin, *History of Logan County*, 174.

<sup>4</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado* (1895), V, 254.

George M. Dallas, vice-president of the United States, 1845-49.<sup>5</sup> There is also a Dallas Divide (in San Miguel County) a few miles southwest of here. It, too, is a flag station, on the crest of the Uncompahgre Plateau; its altitude is 8,970 feet.

*Davidson*, Boulder County. In 1874 this, a new town, had one store building completed, and a blacksmith shop, saloon, and depot in course of construction. The business and residence buildings numbered twelve.<sup>6</sup> The town, which came into existence in 1874, was named for William Davidson, station agent and postmaster.<sup>7</sup>

*Deadwood* or *Deadwood Diggings*, Gilpin County. In January, 1859, B. F. Langley discovered rich gold placers in a gulch on South Boulder Creek. The gulch was strewn with fallen timber, and the name Deadwood Diggings<sup>8</sup> was given to the camp that soon sprang up; later it was known as Gamble Gulch.<sup>9</sup>

*Dearfield* (12 population), Weld County, the only all-Negro agricultural colony in the State, was founded in 1911. Its name was suggested by Dr. J. H. Westbrook, a Denver physician, and refers to the surrounding fields as being very "dear" to their owners. O. T. Jackson, a messenger to the governor of Colorado (1909), laid out the townsite here. A descendant of slaves, Jackson came to Colorado in 1887. While farming west of Boulder, he found it difficult to hire labor. Later, while he was in the governor's office, he was inspired by Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery*, and conceived the idea of a Negro colony. In 1921, 700 people lived in Dearfield; but lack of good crops caused the colony to dwindle.<sup>10</sup>

*De Beque* (347 population), Mesa County, was named for Dr. Wallace A. E. de Beque,<sup>11</sup> who settled in this locality in 1883, coming from Fairplay, Colorado, where he had been a practicing physician.<sup>12</sup> The first post office in the vicinity, on Roan Creek, was Ravensbeque, established and named in September, 1885; Mrs. Marie de Beque was postmistress. In 1887 the de Beques moved to the site of the present town, and the new post office was named De Beque in May, 1888.<sup>13</sup> The Curtis Town and Land Company laid out the townsite November 12, 1889.<sup>14</sup> It was incorporated January 13, 1890.

*Decatur*, Summit County ghost town. In 1868 Stephen Decatur established a mining camp at the foot of Argentine Pass, about thirty miles west of Georgetown. In 1880 the town—still a mining

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup>Boulder News, March 20, 1874.

<sup>7</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 305.

<sup>8</sup>Charles W. Henderson, *Mining in Colorado*, 7.

<sup>9</sup>*The Trail*, II, No. 7, 12.

<sup>10</sup>Special edition, *Weld County News*, November, 1921.

<sup>11</sup>De Beque *New Era*, August 7, 1909, p. 4.

<sup>12</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1882.

<sup>13</sup>State Historical Society, Pamphlet 364, 20.

<sup>14</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 222.

camp—was named for him; later the name was changed to Rathbone<sup>15</sup> (100 population in 1882), but existed for only about three years. Decatur, a former professor in a New York university, was born Stephen Decatur Bross and was a brother of Governor Bross of Illinois. He was a pioneer of Georgetown in the '60s and '70s, having abandoned his family in the early 1840s to come West. Georgetown contemplated erecting a statue to him after his death, but this was never done.<sup>17</sup>

*Deckers* (50 population), Douglas County, was formerly known as Daffodil.<sup>18</sup> The name was changed in 1912 to Deckers, for Steve Decker, who many years before had come to this locality on the Platte River, opening a general store and saloon. Later it grew into a well-known summer resort. After the death of Mr. Decker, the name was changed; his wife was postmistress at the time of change of name.<sup>19</sup>

*Defiance*, Garfield County, was the former name of Glenwood Springs. Because of the location of a number of hot water springs here, the name was changed in 1883 to Glenwood Hot Springs<sup>20</sup>—later shortened to Glenwood Springs. The same year the first house was built; previous to this time the inhabitants lived in tents and dugouts.<sup>21</sup> Defiance probably took its name from Fort Defiance (six miles west of Glenwood Springs), a stockade of pine logs built by prospectors in 1879 on Ute reservation land.<sup>22</sup> Another early settlement in this county, a contemporary of the old fort, bore the name of Defiance. This mining camp was at the head of Grizzly Creek, thirty miles within the Indian reservation<sup>23</sup> and some fifteen miles northeast of present Glenwood Springs.

*De la Mino*, San Juan County, was founded in 1883, and was an "unpacking point" for the burro pack trains that carried ore from the mines in the vicinity. From this camp, the ore was carried to Silverton by wagons. The name is a corruption of a Spanish term, meaning "to the mine."<sup>24</sup>

*Delcarbon* (300 population), Huerfano County, a coal-mining town, is owned by the Calumet Fuel Company and Utah Fuel Company of Salt Lake City, Utah. Prior to the present ownership, it was the property of a Mr. Turner and was known as Turner. When the Calumet Fuel Company purchased the property, the name was changed to Delcarbon, a Spanish phrase meaning "of the coal."<sup>25</sup>

<sup>15</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 332.

<sup>16</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1882.

<sup>17</sup>*Georgetown Courier*, January 28, 1920.

<sup>18</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1913.

<sup>19</sup>Data from Arch Curtis, Clerk, Douglas County.

<sup>20</sup>*The Denver Tribune*, May 20, 1883.

<sup>21</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 129.

<sup>22</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup>Fossett's *Colorado* (1880), 576.

<sup>24</sup>*Lake City Mining Register*, August 24, 1883.

<sup>25</sup>Letter to State Historical Society from George W. Nesbit, postmaster, Delcarbon, Colorado, January 24, 1935.

*Delagua* (1,021 population), Las Animas County. This coal-mining town was named in 1903 by the Victor-American Fuel Company. The name, Spanish for "of the water," refers to the town's location on Delagua Creek and in Delagua Canyon.<sup>26</sup> Delagua was the scene of one of Colorado's greatest coal mine disasters, when more than seventy men were killed in a mine cave-in here.

*Del Norte* (1,410 population), Rio Grande County. In the 1860s, only Mexican farmers lived in this vicinity; but following the gold discoveries at Summitville in 1872 a group of ambitious Americans founded a company, and named the prospective town Del Norte. The name is from *Rio Grande del Norte*, Spanish for "great river of the north," the present Rio Grande that flows through the town.<sup>27</sup> At the time of its founding, Del Norte was in Conejos County, but the town grew so rapidly that a move was made to organize a new county, with Del Norte as its seat. On April 13, 1874, the first county election was held at Del Norte, Rio Grande County.<sup>28</sup> The town was incorporated in November, 1885.

*Delta* (2,938 population), seat of Delta County, was formerly known as Uncompahgre, for the near-by Uncompahgre River, mountain range, and plateau. It was laid out by the Uncompahgre Town Company, George A. Crawford, president, in April, 1882.<sup>29</sup> The later town of Delta took its name from its location on the delta at the mouth of the Uncompahgre River.<sup>30</sup>

*De Nova* (26 population), Washington County. The name, Spanish for "new," sometimes "again," is supposed to have been given to the town by Congressman Charles B. Timberlake (1915-1933).<sup>31</sup>

*Denver* (287,861 population), capital of Colorado. Although fur traders had visited the region for many years, real settlement on the site of Denver did not begin until 1858. Some placer gold was discovered in the vicinity by the Russell party from Georgia in July. Early in September a party from Lawrence, Kansas, who had spent the summer prospecting around Pikes Peak, was drawn north by reports of the Russell discoveries. The Kansans built several log cabins on the eastern bank of the South Platte, at what is now West Evans Avenue, naming their settlement Montana City (Spanish for "mountain"). Some of the Lawrence men considered the mouth of Cherry Creek, where the road from New Mexico to Fort Bridger crossed the Platte, to be a more suitable site, so joining forces with the Indian traders, John Smith and William McGaa,

they laid claim to a town site on the east side of Cherry Creek, and on September 24, 1858, organized the St. Charles Town Association. After forming their town on paper, these men set out for their homes in Kansas. On November 1, 1858, remnants of the Russell and the Lawrence prospecting parties were joined by newcomers and formed the Auraria Town Company. The town, on the west side of Cherry Creek, took its name from Auraria, Georgia, home town of the Russell brothers, pioneer prospectors. General William Larimer and a party from Leavenworth, Kansas, reached the mouth of Cherry Creek, November 16, 1858. They jumped the site of St. Charles and on November 22, formed the Denver City Company, naming their town for James W. Denver, Governor of Kansas. Most of the St. Charles stockholders were given shares in the Denver company. Rivalry existed between the two towns until April, 1860, when the two were consolidated into one municipality under the name of Denver.<sup>32</sup> There are fifteen other towns in fourteen states with the name of Denver.<sup>33</sup>

*Deora* (4 population), Baca County, received its name when the post office here was established, May 20, 1920. The name, suggested by Ethel Falk, the postmistress,<sup>34</sup> is composed of two Spanish words, *de* and *oro*, meaning "of gold."

*Dicks* (110 population), Las Animas County, was named when George B. Dick, president of the Dick Coal Company, opened a mine here in 1921. The town was named Dix in his honor, but as there was already a post office with that name, the spelling was changed. It was abandoned in 1936.<sup>35</sup>

*Divide*, Chaffee County. As early as 1882 this was a station on the Denver & South Park Railroad, with a population of forty. The Colorado Midland Railway also passed through the town. Divide, also called Dolomite, was formerly known as Chubb's Ranch, and was a celebrated stage station long before the coming of the railroad.<sup>36</sup> There was also a small settlement called Divide in Weld County.<sup>37</sup>

*Divide* (30 population), Teller County, was founded in the early 1890s and was named for its location on the divide of the Front Range, highest point on the route of US 24, between the drainage basins of Fountain Creek and the South Platte River.<sup>38</sup> Here was the terminal of a toll road into the Cripple Creek mining district.

<sup>26</sup>J. C. Smiley, *History of Denver*, 187-223. The original records of the St. Charles, Auraria, and Denver town companies are in the library of the State Historical Society of Colorado.

<sup>27</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, September 9, 1936.

<sup>28</sup>Letter to State Historical Society from Melvin L. Falk, Deora, Colorado, January 26, 1935.

<sup>29</sup>Letter to State Historical Society, October 7, 1935, from George H. Lake, Principal, Bon Carbo.

<sup>30</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1882.

<sup>31</sup>H. H. Bancroft, *History of Nevada, Colorado and Wyoming* (1890), 638.

<sup>32</sup>Information from Mamie Wells, Clerk, Teller County, Colorado.

<sup>26</sup>*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 174.

<sup>27</sup>*Colorado Magazine*, IX, 174.

<sup>28</sup>Frank Spencer, *The History of the San Luis Valley*, 62.

<sup>29</sup>*Colorado Magazine*, IV, 175.

<sup>30</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 113.

<sup>31</sup>Letter to State Historical Society, October 24, 1935, from Mrs. R. A. Kinnison, De Nova, Colorado.

*Dolores* (557 population), Montezuma County. Originally the town was about one and a half miles down the river from its present location and was known as Big Bend, so named because at this point the Dolores River makes a sharp curve from almost due east and west to almost north and south.<sup>39</sup> In 1892, with the coming of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, the present townsite was established and the name of Dolores, for the river, was given the town by John Harris. The full Spanish name of the river, given by Father Escalante in 1776, was Rio de Nuestra Senora de las Dolores (River of Our Lady of Sorrows).<sup>40</sup>

*Doosenbury City*, Jefferson County. In 1858 David Kellogg passed through Auraria (later Denver) on his way to the foothills. He recorded in his diary that after returning from a trip up Clear Creek Canyon to where a table land juts out from the mountain on the north side of the creek, he found a stake set up claiming the ground for a townsite. The site he described as being in a fine grove of cottonwoods with a level space for a city, but no people. He and his partner stopped, dug a hole, then planted a large stake. They marked it "Doosenbury City, Six Miles Square."<sup>41</sup> The mountain referred to is probably Table Mountain, and the site may have been that of present-day Golden.

*Dora*, Custer County ghost town, was a mining town about six miles northeast of Silver Cliff. On the morning of June 2, 1879, according to newspaper dispatches, there were just two shanties and one tent in town; that evening there were six houses in different stages of completion.<sup>42</sup> Dora was named for an English settler of that name.<sup>43</sup> This "small, quiet, pretty place," built up around the Chambers' Concentrator, changed its name to Gove in 1885;<sup>44</sup> it was in existence until 1892.<sup>45</sup> Near-by were the remains of an early fort, said to have been built by Kit Carson to repel Ute Indians. The site of Dora is now covered by the Grape Creek (DeWeese) Reservoir.

*Douglas* (17 population), Douglas County, platted in July, 1880, derives its name from Douglas County (one of the 17 original counties), which was named for Stephen A. Douglas, who died in the year of the creation of the county (1861).<sup>46</sup>

*Dove Creek* (120 population), Dolores County, derived its name from the near-by stream. An early freighter traveling between Dolores, Colorado, and Monticello, Utah, named the creek for

<sup>39</sup>State Historical Society, Pamphlet 360, III.

<sup>40</sup>*Colorado Magazine*, V, 60-62.

<sup>41</sup>"Diary of David Kellogg," *The Trail*, January, 1913, p. 6.

<sup>42</sup>*Denver Daily Tribune*, June 25, 1879, p. 4.

<sup>43</sup>State Historical Society files. Data from Mrs. Georgiana Kettle and Ranger Roy M. Truman, U. S. Forest Service.

<sup>44</sup>*History of the Arkansas Valley* (O. L. Baskin & Co., Publisher, 1881), 720.

<sup>45</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1892.

<sup>46</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 336.

the flocks of wild doves in the vicinity. In Dove Creek are the ruins of a cabin once inhabited by Zane Grey, and it is said that much of his *Riders of the Purple Sage* was written here.<sup>47</sup>

*Doyle* (*Doyleville*) (100 population), Gunnison County. This cattle and sheep-raising town, formerly known as Crooksville, was re-named in 1885<sup>48</sup> for Henry Doyle,<sup>49</sup> pioneer of 1875, who was responsible for settlement in this mountainous region when he established a stage line here.<sup>50</sup> In 1882, while it was still known as Crooksville, it was already becoming known as Doylestown.

*Drake* (60 population), Larimer County. Named in honor of Senator Wm. A. Drake, who represented this district (1903-07) and was instrumental in securing the legislation necessary to establish a post office here, at the junction of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River with the Big Thompson. Mr. Frank Bartholf, a pioneer in the region, cooperated with the senator in establishing the post office, and it was he who gave the name of Drake to the new office, opened about 1901. Locally, Drake is more commonly known as The Forks.<sup>51</sup>

*Dudley* (also known as Dudleyville), Park County ghost town, was located one mile above Alma.<sup>52</sup> It was named for J. H. Dudley, one of the organizers of the Moose Mining Company, which built an ore-reduction plant here—the reason for the town's existence.<sup>53</sup> In 1880 this town, having a population of 100, received its first and last listing in a State directory.<sup>54</sup>

*Duffield*, El Paso County ghost town, came into existence during the mining period of the 1890s, when it was a station on the now-abandoned Colorado Springs-Cripple Creek Railroad. The railroad was abandoned because of the decline of mining operations, and the town was deserted. Duffield is believed to have been named for the Duffield brothers, who had a cabin in the area in the 1870s.<sup>55</sup>

*Dumont* (43 population), Clear Creek County, was named in 1880 for John M. Dumont, owner of the Whale, Freeland, and other mines, who undertook the revival of the town and its neighboring mines. Dumont was founded in 1860 as Mill City, so named because of its location at the delta of Mill Creek, and was a log settlement with many ore-crushing mills.<sup>56</sup> When the town was rejuvenated, and postal facilities had been restored, it was found there was

<sup>47</sup>Information from W. E. Larrance, postmaster, Dove Creek, Colorado.

<sup>48</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1885.

<sup>49</sup>*Gunnison News-Champion*, November 14, 1929, p. 12.

<sup>50</sup>Information from Edna Tawney, Grand Junction, Colorado, Field Writer, Colorado Writers' Project, 1937.

<sup>51</sup>Letter to State Historical Society from Norman R. Dickinson, Supt. Big Thompson Consolidated School, January 5, 1936.

<sup>52</sup>Fossett's *Colorado*, 194.

<sup>53</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 266.

<sup>54</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory* of 1880.

<sup>55</sup>Data from U. S. Forest Service, Region II, Denver, Colorado.

<sup>56</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 315.

another camp in the State with the name of Mill City; so the name was changed. Its population at the time (June, 1880) was 100.<sup>57</sup>

*Dunkley* (40 population), Routt County. When the post office here was first established, the name of Argo was suggested; however, there was a post office of that name in Arapahoe County, two miles northwest of Denver. The name of Dunkley was finally chosen (1894), for the Dunkley family of 14 children who had settled here.<sup>58</sup>

*Durango* (5,400 population), seat of La Plata County, was laid off as a town site and settled September 2, 1880.<sup>59</sup> It appears to have been named for Durango, Mexico, by former Territorial Governor A. C. Hunt, who had recently returned from there.<sup>60</sup> The origin of the word Durango is not Spanish, it is said, but Basque, and was the name of a principality and town in the Basque Province of northern Spain. The word in ancient Basque is Urango, and signifies in Spanish, Villa de Aqua, or simply, "water town." The addition of "D" shows the Spanish influence.<sup>61</sup> Durango was incorporated April 13, 1881, and became the county seat in November of the same year.<sup>62</sup> Previously the county seat had been at Parrott City, a gold placer-mining camp, and most of the 25 people who were in the county lived there.<sup>63</sup> In 1882, H. A. W. Tabor was proprietor of the Pioneer Stage Company here.<sup>64</sup>

*Dyersville*, Summit County ghost town, about ten miles north of Breckenridge, was named for "Father" John L. Dyer,<sup>65</sup> Methodist missionary, called the "Snowshoe Itinerant." Dyer, who in 1861 preached and carried mail through the mountains to mining camps, stopped to preach wherever men would listen. During two months he traveled more than 500 miles, his collections amounting to only \$43.<sup>66</sup> Dyer spent the years 1881-1882 in this locality, known as the Warrior's Mark District, in developing his mining property.<sup>67</sup> The town's decline set in during the years prior to the turn of the century, after which only a few buildings remained standing.

*Dyke* (10 population), Archuleta County. A post office was established here in 1918,<sup>68</sup> and was named for William Dyke, rancher and early settler.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>57</sup>W. B. Vickers, *History of Clear Creek & Boulder Valleys* (O. L. Baskin & Co., Publisher, 1880), 296.

<sup>58</sup>Letter to State Historical Society from Merritt Hutton, Mt. Harris, Colorado, June 29, 1936.

<sup>59</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 175.

<sup>60</sup>*Colorado Magazine*, VII, 85.

<sup>61</sup>*Gunnison News-Champion*, November 14, 1929, p. 6.

<sup>62</sup>*Colorado Magazine*, VII, 85.

<sup>63</sup>Pamphlet 362/27, State Historical Society.

<sup>64</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory of 1882*.

<sup>65</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 330.

<sup>66</sup>J. L. Dyer, *Snow Shoe Itinerant*, 137.

<sup>67</sup>Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 330.

<sup>68</sup>*Colorado State Business Directory of 1918*.

<sup>69</sup>Information from Mary Harmon, Archuleta County Superintendent of Schools, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

### Additional Towns on Which Material Is Lacking

Dabneys, Mineral Co.; Daffodil, Douglas Co.; Daily, Clear Creek Co.; Dailey, Garfield Co.; Dake, Park Co.; Dale, Fremont Co.; Dale-rose, Las Animas Co.; Dallas Divide, San Miguel Co.; Dallasville (or Aurora), Ouray Co.; Damascus, Lincoln Co.; Dana, or Danaville, Lake Co.; Dancing Camp, Routt Co.; Daniels, Jefferson Co.; Daniels, Pueblo Co.; Dante, Teller Co.; Darlington, Archuleta Co.; Darlow, Adams Co.; Davenport, Saguache Co.; Davenport, Boulder Co.; David Wells, Lincoln Co.; Davies, Pitkin Co.; Davis, Las Animas Co.; Davis Spur, Weld Co.; Dawkins, Pueblo Co.; Dawson, Routt Co.; Dawson, Jefferson Co.; Dayton, Gunnison Co.; Dayton, Bent Co.; Dayton, Chaffee Co.; Dayton, Kiowa Co.; Dayton, Lake Co.; Dayton, Summit Co.; Dead Pine, Teller Co.; Dean, Fremont Co.; Dean, Las Animas Co.; Deane or Deansburg on boundary of Jefferson and Douglas Cos.; Debs, Hinsdale Co.; Debois, Gunnison Co.; DeBusk, Las Animas Co.; Decker, Weld Co.; Decatur, Baca Co.; Deen, Eagle Co.; Deep Channel, Moffat Co.; Deep Creek, San Miguel Co.; Deer Creek, Jefferson Co.; Deer Park, Routt Co.; Deer Park, Boulder Co.; Deer Run, Garfield Co.; Deer Run, Mesa Co.; Deertrail, Arapahoe Co.; Deer Valley, Park Co.; Deering Well, Cheyenne Co.; Deforest, Jefferson Co.; Del Dorita, Gunnison Co.; Delite, Prowers Co.; Delhi, Las Animas Co.; Dell, Eagle Co.; Del Mine, San Juan Co.; Dempsey, Pueblo Co.; Denel, Weld Co.; Dent, Weld Co.; Dennison, Jefferson Co.; Derby, Adams Co.; Derrick, Rio Grande Co.; Deti, Ouray Co.; Deuel, Morgan Co.; Deveraux, or Devoreaux, Garfield Co.; Devine, Pueblo Co.; Deviny, Jefferson Co.; Dexter, Grand Co.

Dick, Weld Co.; Dickey, Summit Co.; Dickson, Huerfano Co.; Dillingham, Washington Co.; Dillon, Summit Co.; Dinsmore, Pueblo Co.; Disappointment, Dolores Co.; Diston, Kiowa Co.; Ditchfield, Dolores Co.; Dix, La Plata Co.; Dixie, Otero Co.; Dixon, Larimer Co.; Dixon Mill, Boulder Co.; Dodd, Morgan Co.; Doddsville, or Dodsonville, Las Animas Co.; Doll, Garfield Co.; Dollard, Gunnison Co.; Dolomite, or Divide, Chaffee Co.; Dolores, Dolores Co.; Dome Rock, Jefferson Co.; Dominguez, Delta Co.; Dominion, Boulder Co.; Dood, Morgan Co.; Dora, Custer Co.; Doran, Park Co.; Dorcas, Fremont Co.; Dorchester, Gunnison Co.; Dornick, Chaffee Co.; Dorsey, Sedgwick Co.; Dotsero, Eagle Co.; Double Dobe, Crowley Co.; Douglas Wells, Routt Co.; Dover, Weld Co.; Dowds, Eagle Co.; Dowling, Bent Co.; Downer P. O., or Monarch, Boulder Co.; Downer's Station, Boulder Co.; Downing, Las Animas Co.; Downieville, Clear Creek Co.; Doyles Mill, Pueblo Co.; Drago, El Paso Co.; Drake, Gunnison Co.; Drennan, El Paso Co.; Dresden, Huerfano Co.; Drew, Gunnison Co.; Druce, Las Animas Co.; Dry Diggings, San Miguel Co.; Dry Gulch, Clear Creek Co.; Dry Ranch, Pueblo Co.; Dubois, Gunnison Co.; Duer, Prowers Co.; Duff, or Magnolia, Arapahoe Co.; Dugans, Eagle Co.; Dulchtown, Teller Co.; Duncan, Delta Co.; Duncan, Las Animas Co.; Duncan, Saguache Co.; Duncans, Boulder Co.; Dundee, Pueblo Co.; Dune, Saguache Co.; Dunkins Rancho, Garfield Co.; Dunton, Dolores Co.; Dunul, Rio Grande Co.; Dupont, Adams Co.; Durham, Mesa Co.; Dutchtown, Grand Co.; Dutchtown, Teller Co.; Dwyer, Park Co.; Dwyer, Summit Co.; Dyer, El Paso Co.; Dyer, Jackson Co.; Dyes Spur, Lake Co.