

The Genesis of Fort Logan

ROBERT PFANNER*

The small, isolated military posts that were scattered about the country west of the Mississippi no longer served any military purpose after all the Indian tribes had been settled on reservations. Therefore, as a measure of economy and efficiency, the War Department adopted the policy in the 1880s of concentrating the troops in a few, large, new establishments. The city of Denver, then booming as never before, promptly took advantage of the new policy; and sometime early in 1886, a movement was initiated to secure one of the proposed new posts. A large military establishment would increase both the business and prestige of the town.

It is not altogether clear how this movement began, but there is some reason to believe that the idea originated in the Denver Chamber of Commerce or with a group of its members acting in an unofficial capacity.¹ Whatever the case, on May 19, 1886, a bill was introduced in the United States Senate by the Hon. Henry M. Teller of Colorado. This bill (S.2477) called for an appropriation of \$250,000 to establish and erect a military post near the city of Denver. It was read and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.² When the committee reported back to the Senate it recommended passage of the bill, and in support of its recommendation submitted a letter from William C. Endicott, Secretary of War.³ In this letter the Secretary called attention to the new policy of abandoning the smaller posts and of concentrating large forces at strategic points of railroad intersection; and further, that such a policy would prove advantageous to the service and result in greater economy. He concluded with the recommendation that Denver be selected as one of these points of concentration, and that the following posts be abandoned: Fort Lyon and the cantonment on the Uncompahgre, in Colorado; Fred Steele, Wyoming; and Fort Union in New Mexico.

With his own letter the Secretary of War inclosed a report from Philip H. Sheridan, Lieutenant-General of the United States Army; it was dated at Washington, June 8, 1886. In it the General

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¹The organization's name is never mentioned in the press in this connection, but it is a significant fact that all of the men who were active in the military post movement were members of the Denver Chamber.

The statement is made by Frank Hall (*History of the State of Colorado*, IV, 36 f.) that full credit for securing the post should be given to Major W. S. Peabody who "forwarded the movement . . . from its inception to the final consummation." According to this writer, the Major not only aided in drafting the bill but was influential in securing its passage through the Lower House of Congress. We have been unable to find any other authority for this statement. The Major's name, however, has been mentioned in connection with the establishment of Fort Lewis (see *The Trail*, VI, No. 2, p. 28).

²*Congressional Record*, Vol. XVII, Part 5, p. 4660.

³*Senate Reports*, 1st session, 49th Congress, 1885-86, Vol. XI, No. 1483.

gave his reasons for supporting Senate Bill 2477: (1) that Denver was approximately at the center of population of Colorado; (2) that it was at the base of the Rocky Mountains, and was "noted for its picturesque beauty and healthfulness"; (3) that it was a railroad center, and thus "strategically answers all the conditions of speedy transfer of troops in all directions"; (4) that a post at Denver would be inexpensive compared with other posts, and that such posts as Lyon and Union had outlived the wants of the country surrounding them.

At a late hour of the night on July 26, Senator Sewell (New Jersey) of the Military Affairs Committee secured the passage of the bill;⁴ two days later it was laid before the House, read, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.⁵ When the bill was finally returned to the House during the winter session (Jan. 11, 1887), the Committee recommended a number of vital amendments. Most important was the reduction in the proposed appropriation from \$250,000 to \$100,000, and the insertion of a clause that would guarantee to the War Department exclusive jurisdiction over any site selected. In this form (see text below) the bill was brought before the House at a special evening session on February 1, 1887, and without opposition, was passed.⁶

On February 2 the *Denver Republican* published a dispatch from its Washington correspondent in which these words were used: "Judge Symes [Colorado's Representative] . . . succeeded after a heroic struggle in securing passage of the bill establishing a military post at Denver." If there were any "struggle" involved, it must have been carried on in the Congressional cloak-rooms or elsewhere—certainly, there was no struggle in the House, according to the record. We surmise, therefore, that the *Republican's* correspondent got the story from Judge Symes, himself, or from one of the opponents of the bill, for opponents there were. There was also a very "hot" story.

At the same session at which the Denver bill passed the House, and about thirty minutes earlier, a bill was called up to accept a donation of land from the Commercial Club of Chicago for use as a military post site. Although this bill had the support of the Secretary of War and the Commander of the Army, it was defeated by Representative James Baird Weaver, of Iowa, who raised the question of "no quorum."⁷ Mr. Weaver did not explain his opposition in the House, but he did explain it outside. He was afraid the purpose of this new concentration of troops

⁴*Denver Republican*, July 28, 1886.

⁵*Congressional Record*, Vol. XVII, Part 8, p. 7649.

⁶*Congressional Record*, 2d session, 49th Congress, Vol. XVIII, Part 2, p. 1255 f. (See also *House Reports*, 2d session, 49th Congress, Vol. I).

⁷*Congressional Record*, 2d session, 49th Congress, Vol. XVIII, Part 2, p. 1253 f. (See also *House Reports*, Vol. I, No. 3543).

near the large cities was to "over-awe" the Knights of Labor.⁸ The period from 1880 to 1886 was one of the stormiest in the history of the labor movement in America: in 1886 the Knights were 700,000 strong; there were strikes everywhere; the eight-hour day was a burning question; and in May of '86 there occurred the Haymarket riot and bombing in Chicago. Business men were "jittery." Nevertheless, labor had strong advocates in the House, and Mr. Weaver of Iowa was opposed to the use of U. S. troops in the settlement of labor trouble. In considering this bill for a military post at Denver, Mr. Weaver would recall the strike at Leadville in 1880, and the one in the Northern Colorado coal-fields in 1884. He would also recall the strike in the Union Pacific shops in 1884, which began in Denver and spread outward. He might also have been familiar with the fact that in May, 1886, the General Manager of the Union Pacific Railroad sent the Acting-Governor of Wyoming the following message: "If the local authorities cannot do this [i.e. offer protection of property] do you think we should make an application to Washington?" The Acting-Governor replied: "the condition of affairs does not justify calling for U. S. troops."⁹ The troops, of course, were not called out, but the incident indicates the trend of thought then current. It explains the fears of the opponents of those military post bills. It indicates the basis of that "heroic struggle" of Judge George G. Symes, Congressman from Colorado. Before the Judge could gather adequate support for the bill, he had to reassure the opposition that the Denver post was not wanted for the purpose of "over-awing" labor. Since Mr. Weaver had nothing to say when the Denver bill came up, he must have felt reassured. The argument attributed to Mr. Symes was a curious one. He maintained that these troops were wanted near Denver "whence they could be ordered to suppress Indian troubles."¹⁰ The Indian menace, of course, no longer existed, especially in Colorado; and it was precisely the settlement of the Indian problem that had made it feasible to abandon the small scattered posts in the West. It is interesting to note Senator Teller's opinion on this matter, although it was delivered in connection with a different bill.¹¹ "It is not desirable," he said, "to resort to a standing army for police purposes. . . . Violence in the States should be put down by the people of the States."

On the day following its passage by the House (Feb. 2), the bill for a military post at Denver was called up in the Senate by Senator Henry M. Teller, of Colorado. Following a motion that

⁸*Denver Republican*, February 2, 1887, p. 1.

⁹*Denver Tribune-Republican*, May 8, 1886, p. 1.

¹⁰*Denver Republican*, Feb. 2, 1887, p. 1.

¹¹*Denver Tribune-Republican*, Mar. 30, 1886. The bill in question was the Logan bill to increase the standing army. Its opponents asserted its only purpose was "to put down local troubles."

the House amendments be concurred in, the bill carried without opposition. On February 17, 1887, it was approved by President Cleveland. It reads:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War, be and he is hereby authorized and directed to establish a military post near the city of Denver in the State of Colorado, at some suitable site to be selected by the Lieutenant-General of the Army, and approved by him: *Provided*, That a good and sufficient title, to be approved by the Attorney-General of the United States be first made to the United States free of cost of not less than six hundred and forty acres of land in a compact body including the site so selected.

Sec. 2. There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War in the commencement of the work of constructing the necessary buildings, quarters, barracks and stables for the post to be established under the provisions of this act: *Provided*, That no part of such money shall be expended until the State of Colorado shall have ceded to the United States jurisdiction over the tract of land which may be selected under the provisions of this act.¹²

On February 3, 1887, immediately after the passage of the act, the *Republican* gave Congressman Symes and Senator Teller full credit for securing its passage. The paper also took a little credit for itself for the part it had played in repeatedly urging Denver citizens "to use their influence with members of Congress by writing letters to them asking them to support the bill." No mention, however, is made of Major Peabody who, according to historian Hall,¹³ acted "as the agent of the Chamber of Commerce and the syndicate of Denver capitalists who purchased the site and donated it to the government."

In the meantime, while the bill was getting through Congress, Denver citizens had not been idle. When General Sheridan was visiting in Denver during the week of October 4, 1886, he was asked by a reporter if his visit had anything to do with the proposed military post. His answer was, "No, sir." Nevertheless, there must have been some discussion of the matter with Denver business men. The General was entertained at the Denver Club, at the home of H. R. Wolcott, and at that of Senator N. P. Hill;¹⁴ and on February 17, 1887, the *Republican* declared editorially that the members of the local committee were familiar in a "general way" with the views of Sheridan, "having discussed the question with him during his recent visit."¹⁵

¹²*The Statutes at Large of the United States of America*, Vol. XXIV, p. 405, Chap. 135.

¹³Frank Hall, *loc. cit.*

¹⁴*Denver Tribune-Republican*, October 4, 1886, p. 5; October 6, p. 4.

¹⁵Subsequent events proved that something vital in the General's views had escaped the committee's notice especially in the matter of location.

In the same issue of the *Republican* (p. 5), we find the following notice:

The committee of citizens who have had in charge the matter of procuring a site for the proposed military post . . . desire parties who have propositions to make as to the sale or donation of land for that purpose to send the same either to Mr. D. H. Moffat, Chairman of the Committee, or to C. S. Morey, Secretary. . . .

The purpose of this committee, of course, was to canvass the available sites, and to find the means for financing the site when finally selected.

On January 24, 1887, the *Denver Republican* had called upon the Colorado Legislature, then in session, to act quickly in granting the required jurisdiction over any land to be selected for the post; and in little more than a week the Legislature acted. On February 3, the Senate Committee on Military Affairs introduced a report on S.B. 287, the military post bill, and forwarded a copy to Senator Teller for approval by the Attorney-General of the United States. Included in the report was the statement that a member of the committee had introduced a second bill that provided for the sale of a "certain school section near Denver, and ceding jurisdiction over same to the United States."¹⁶

On March 22, while General Sheridan was in town looking over the proposed sites for the post, Senate Bill 287 was read for the third time and passed without opposition. This bill was An Act—

To cede to the United States jurisdiction of the State over a site for a military post at or near the city of Denver, in the State of Colorado, and to release the same and other property of the United States from taxation.

Section 1 dealt with the matter of jurisdiction and title, but reserved to the State the right to serve civil and criminal process (the Governor's deed, provided for in this section, was turned over to the War Department on June 14, 1887). Section 2 exempted the United States government from taxation. Section 3 recognized an emergency and stated that the act was to take effect at once.¹⁷

That "certain school section" mentioned above lay next to Sloan's Lake, and reference to it crops up again and again. This particular site appears to have been desired by everyone locally—the citizens, the committee, the Legislature; and on March 4, 1887, the *Denver Republican* printed a long article on behalf of this site. The writer tries to prove that if the post were placed very close to the city, it would be easier to keep away the saloons and other nuisances than if the post were at a distance. The writer also visualizes the post as something "in the nature of an extensive and

¹⁶*Denver Republican*, February 4, 1887, p. 2.

¹⁷*Session Laws of Colorado for 1887*, p. 339; see also *Denver Republican* for March 23, 1887, p. 2.

well-kept park." The social and educational advantages to Denver are emphasized, as well as the pleasures of listening to a "brilliant military band." An ardent plea is then made for the Sloan's Lake site.

General Sheridan arrived in Denver on March 20, 1887, by special train from Cheyenne, in company with General A. E. Baird, his Chief of Staff, Colonel Michael Sheridan, his brother, and Henry R. Wolcott, of the Denver Committee. On the following day the General's party, in company with several members of the committee, set out in carriages to examine the proposed sites. On the same day the *Republican* editorially hoped that the General would give "full consideration to the wishes of Denver people in the matter of location" since they were donating the ground. According to the editor, the people wanted the post within four miles of the city, and he hoped that the General's line of duty would run "closely parallel with the wishes of the citizens of Denver."¹⁸

The committee first took the General to the favored site, the one adjoining Sloan's Lake. The party then visited a tract near Green Mountain, about seven miles southwest of the Lake; then a site near the ranch of W. S. Ward; then a section on the south side of Bear Creek about nine miles from Denver. On the following day the General visited various other sites, including one on Clear Creek. Eleven tracts in all were examined. Then, on March 24, General Sheridan left for Washington without naming his choice.¹⁹

Not until March 30 did the General make public his choice of a site for the military post. The land was located on the Morrison branch of the South Park road, about seven and one-half miles south of Denver, and was known as the "Johnson Tract," or "Johnson's Ranch." Bear Creek ran through the northern part of it.²⁰ Part of it lay in Arapahoe and part in Jefferson counties. This was not the tract that the members of the local committee desired—it was too far from town—but the beauty of the site was conceded by everyone.

On the evening of March 29, Denver citizens who were interested in the project, met at the Windsor Hotel to hear the report of the committee which had been appointed to guide General Sheridan about the proposed sites. The opening words of this report expressed the committee's keen disappointment at the General's selection:

The committee felt that there was a general desire on the part of the citizens of the State that the post should be located on the

¹⁸*Denver Republican*, Mar. 21, 1887, pp. 1 and 4.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, Mar. 22, 23, 25, 1887.

²⁰The post section included the following properties: 160 acres owned by Robert J. Spotswood, old stage coachman and freighter; 160 acres owned by J. M. Strickler; 160 by E. S. Johnson; 80 acres by Mary Yolden; and 80 by Henry Wormington.—*Denver Republican*, Mar. 30, 1887.

school section adjoining Sloan's Lake . . . every effort was made to induce General Sheridan to accept that as a satisfactory location, but without success. He was very decided in his determination to locate the post at a greater distance from the city. . . .

The report then recommended that immediate steps be taken to secure the land on which, with various other tracts, short-term options had already been taken. The report was signed by Henry R. Wolcott, Scott J. Anthony, C. S. Morey, J. B. Grant, and J. K. Choate.²¹

The statement has often been made that a small group of men, including N. P. Hill, H. R. Wolcott, D. H. Moffat, and a few others, offered to donate a tract of land for the garrison; but nowhere have we found any evidence that they ever made such an offer. On the contrary, at the meeting of the local committee on March 29, plans were adopted to finance the land by subscription; and to this end two committees were appointed to canvass the city of Denver and the surrounding country.²² The idea was even suggested that the county commissioners be urged to purchase the tract and donate it to the government.²³ On looking over the published report of the Military Post Fund, we find that the financing of the land for what eventually became Fort Logan was a fairly democratic affair—contributions are listed from 104 different firms and individuals.²⁴

The most interesting item on the report of the local committee was a letter from General Sheridan in which he outlined his reasons for selecting the "Johnson Tract."²⁵ These were: (1) that there was a "never-failing stream of clear and pure water" running through it; (2) that there was a railway on the northern edge, which would be advantageous for building the post and for connecting with the railroads at Denver; (3) that the tract included "a beautiful plateau of ground of sufficient area to give room for a large parade and accommodate all the buildings necessary for the post"; (4) that "it has the mountain range to the west for a background, with a beautiful view to the east across the Valley of the Platte River"; and (5) that it was at a "convenient and proper distance from the city."

It is an interesting side-light on the character of Phil Sheridan that he was as much impressed by the beauty of the site selected for

²¹*Denver Republican*, Mar. 30, 1887, p. 2.

²²*Ibid.*

²³*Denver Daily News*, Mar. 30, 1887, p. 6.

²⁴*Denver Republican*, Oct. 23, 1887, p. 4.

Heading the list with a contribution of \$3,000 was the Union Pacific Railroad; the D. & R. G., the A. T. & S. F., and the Burlington came next with \$1,500 each; J. E. Grant followed with \$2,000; eight donors of \$1,000 each were: C. B. Kountze, H. R. Wolcott, N. P. Hill, D. H. Moffat, W. S. Cheesman (the men who heretofore have received all the credit for financing the post site), Daniels & Fisher, the Hazard Powder Co., and the South Denver Real Estate Company. There were twenty-one subscribers of \$500 each. The balance of the subscriptions ranged from \$10 to \$250.

²⁵*Ibid.*, Mar. 30, 1887.

the post as by its practical advantages. A colorful description of what that site looked like in 1887 will be found in the *Denver Republican* for October 26, 1887:

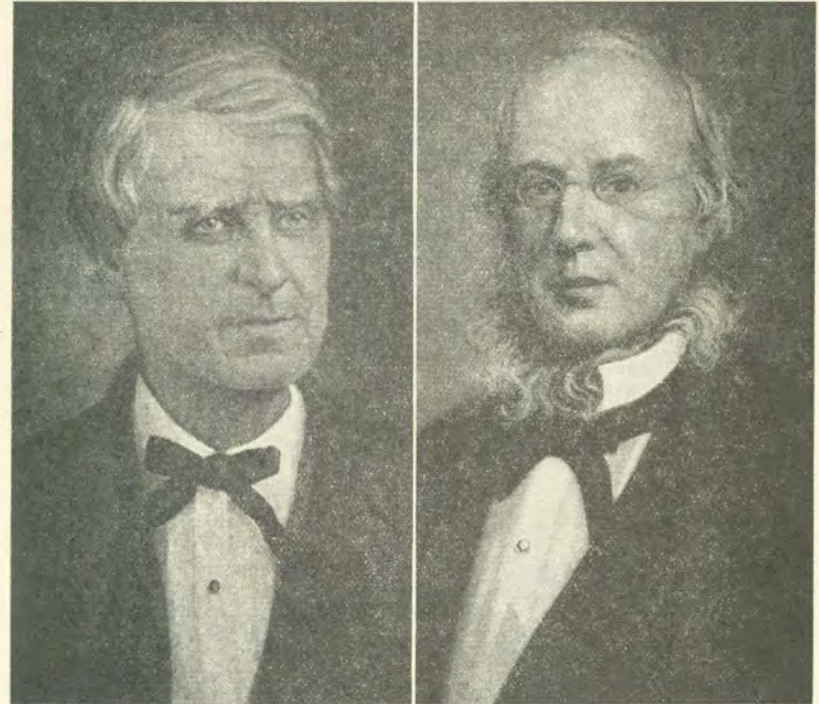
Take a spin out southward along Broadway, passing Rosedale and Idlewild and Petersburg; cross Willow Creek and then turn sharply westward under overhanging limbs of graceful trees, following Sheridan Avenue to and across the Platte; then speed your bays across undulating swells of ground, over the railroad tracks and by Bear Creek Junction, and, after an exhilarating ride of eight miles, pull the reins on as sightly an eminence as could be wished for—and you are where the Stars and Stripes will wave from graceful buildings in another year, Sheridan Post, U. S. A. . . .

You are in the center of a level plateau of eighty acres, from which slope gently away on every side 560 acres more. . . . To the east the Platte River winds and twists between verdure-covered banks. . . . To the northeast can be seen the tops of the highest structures in the city, while steeples shine in the sunlight. . . . To the west and south are the inviting little groves which line Bear Creek. . . .

On October 13, 1887, the first United States troops arrived at what the War Department designated as “Camp near the City of Denver.” There were two companies of the Eighteenth Infantry, commanded by Captain J. H. Baldwin of Company E—the first (though temporary) commander of what would soon be Fort Logan. The tents, twenty-six of them, were pitched by the side of Bear Creek on property owned by Mason W. Howard. Earthen stoves were cut into the side of the river bank, and the cooks soon had their kettles boiling. As the men of the Eighteenth Infantry began this, the first bivouac on the site of Fort Logan, the wind was whistling across the prairies and snow was falling.²⁶

²⁶*Ibid.*, October 26, 1887, p. 6. The building and the naming of the fort will be discussed in a subsequent article.

reprints parts or all of twenty-nine letters. Thus he omits seventeen of the following letters, and naturally fails to print such letters as have a national rather than a purely local interest. Such letters as are printed have many errors: eight have errors in the dates—Nos. 10 and 17 omit the day of the month; No. 14 has Thursday omitted from the date; No. 22 is dated October 10 instead of October 20, 1871; No. 24 is dated November 5 instead of November 3, 1871; No. 30 is dated February 5 instead of February 25, 1872; and Nos. 32 and 33 are dated November instead of March.



NATHAN C. MEEKER (Left) AND HORACE GREELEY.
From paintings by Juan Menchaca. Owned by the State Historical Society of Colorado.

Letters of Horace Greeley to Nathan C. Meeker

With an Introduction and Notes by O. M. DICKERSON*

INTRODUCTION

The following letters of Horace Greeley to Nathan C. Meeker, founder of the Union Colony of Greeley, Colorado, mainly speak for themselves. The originals are all in Greeley's own handwriting, and none of them in the handwriting of a secretary.

It is probable that most of these letters were seen by David Boyd when he was writing his *History of Greeley and the Union Colony of Colorado*. He states (p. 295) that "some forty letters" had been put in his hands by Mrs. Meeker and in chapter xxii he

*Dr. Dickerson is Professor of History and Political Science, Emeritus, Colorado State College of Education at Greeley.

The originals of the letters here reproduced are in possession of Fred A. Rosenstock of Denver, who kindly consented to their publication.—Ed.

1872. Letter number 33 is reproduced in *fac simile*, showing plainly March 23, yet it is described as Greeley's last letter to the colony written on November 23, 1872. Superficial reading can easily mistake Greeley's "Mar." for his "Nov.", but the abbreviation for March is as clear on this letter as on others where the date is given correctly. Context of letters 32 and 33 should have warned that they could not have been written in November. At that time, Greeley probably was in no condition to write letters of any kind.

Greeley's handwriting is not easy for a novice to read, but is reasonably legible to one who has become accustomed to its peculiarities. In the letters printed by Boyd, some have been garbled and others seriously changed in meaning. He spells out months where Greeley regularly abbreviated and signs most of the letters "H.G."—and others "H. Greeley"—signatures that Greeley never used in this correspondence. The most hurried letter is always signed "Horace Greeley." Some of the letters written after he became a candidate for president are marked "private" and the last one "very private" in Greeley's handwriting. Boyd omits all such notations.

Boyd also speaks of and quotes notes on certain letters allegedly made by Mr. Meeker. There are no such notes on the letters now. They must have been on the envelopes or upon other paper, if they actually existed. They seem genuine, as Boyd prints them, but the manuscript is not available for verification.

Some of these letters contain most revealing phases of Greeley's habits and philosophy, and especially his amazing promptness in answering his correspondence. The tragedy in the last three letters is too obvious to need comment. As a whole, these letters are of more than local interest, and they deserve publication for national circulation, as they reveal much of the intimate character of one of our great Americans. Every effort has been made to make the present transcription faithfully accurate, even in the case of a few passages that are really difficult to decipher.

1. New York,
Feb. 18, 1850.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 12th. I can easily persuade a house in this city to publish your book on the basis of your offer. I think it will require \$200 to stereotype and issue it, and whenever you shall send me a draft for that amount, with your M. S.

I shall prefer a house of minor notoriety or business, like Dewitt & Davenport, Stringer & Townsend, &c., to one of the great houses, who would get out an edition of your book, but never really *publish* it. A small house would try to sell your book. A large one would never think of it. I think Townsend & Stringer would do as well as any other.

It would be idle to proffer you any better suggestions until I know more of the proposed character of your work.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.
Euclid, Ohio.

2. New York Tribune
New York,
Jany. 31, 1870.

Friend Meeker:

I think well of sugar as an *ultimate* crop in Colorado; but you will recollect that a new colony there must be five years in get-

ting ready to grow *any thing* beyond the supply of its own current wants. Building, fencing, breaking up, irrigating, &c., are to command every energy for at least five years. It may be well to locate with a view to ultimate sugar working, but bread and shelter are everything that can be looked to at present.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

3. New York Tribune
New York,
Feb. 19, 1870.

Friend Meeker:

You will have heard that we have a large sum of money for the colony—I believe nearly \$30,000. I understand that it has nearly done coming.

I doubt that your visit to Salt Lake will pay. Mormon irrigation is a very crude affair—nothing that you cannot easily imagine. And I much doubt your finding in all Utah so good an opportunity to combine irrigation with Power as in Colorado, where the Boulder, Thompsons and Horse Creek issue from the mountains. I have seen nothing equal to this except on Carson River, though I hope you may find its equal in the source of the Arkansas. I would like to hear that you had settled where corn will grow, peaches ripen and where grapes are not impossible. Still the region just north of Boulder Creek is fine for grass and I think for winter grain and roots also.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.
Denver, Colorado.

4. New York Tribune
New York,
July 10, 1870.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 2nd inst., instructing me to invest the colony's funds so that they will draw interest, but not advising me where or in what to invest them. I dare not take any risk, as without more specific instructions I should. Please instruct me promptly *in what* to invest them. I believe the Trust Company pays 4 per cent subject to draft at sight. Should I put the money there? or in U. S. stocks? or in what?

I am still too sick to attend to business. This is my first letter in weeks.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Agent.

5. New York Tribune
New York,
Aug. 25, 1870.

My dear Mr. Meeker:

Sickness and hurry have prevented my answering your letters as I would gladly have done. And then I have nothing to say but that I have faith in your energy and rejoice in your prosperity.

Did Ralph¹ or any one, ever hold out an expectation that those who were sickly or dissatisfied, or any thing of the sort, might have their \$150 returned on application? I cannot believe that any one ever made so suicidal a promise—certainly not in authority. And yet it is pretended, as will be seen by the enclosed.

At all events I urge that all these lame ducks be bought out even on their own terms. They give trouble and create ill feeling. Suppose I were to buy a few shares at \$150 each, could I not sell them soon for \$200? I am sure every share must be worth more than cost. I would prefer that the colony should buy; but if that is not best, let us devise *some* way to stop the mouths of the grumblers. They can never help the colony except by leaving it.

I hope to see you about October 10th. My health is improved, but not restored. I am just down from a visit to the Adirondacks.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

Prest. U. C.

Greeley, Colorado.

6. New York Tribune

New York,

Aug. 31, 1870.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 25th inst. I must answer hurriedly.

I think I can lend you \$1,000 in October if you want it. Or I might buy out some of your investments to that amount and thus give you the money you need. I presume there is little doubt that I shall be able to do one of these.

As to the Tribune, your compensation must depend upon the amount and value of your services. This cannot be determined beforehand. I expect the Tribune to pay *me* for what I *do*, not whatever sum I may need. And the rule is the same for all.

I think you ought to visit soon the new silver development in the mountains 40 miles or so southwest of you, and describe it for the Tribune.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

Greeley, Colo.

7. New York Tribune

New York,

Sept. 9, 1870.

Friend Meeker:

I shall let Mr. Edward Bookeman severely alone for the present. But I think the Colony should arrange to locate the shares of non-resident members, so that they may share in its growth and prosperity. You don't want to hurry their migration to you at present. Is your sawmill at work or ready to work when it can get timber? Don't you want a tin smith, white-

¹Ralph Meeker, son of N. C. Meeker, and secretary of the original colony organization. He found work on the New York *Herald*, was on its editorial staff in London, its war correspondent in the Russo-Turkish war and a prominent newspaper man. Boyd, *History of Greeley and the Union Colony of Colorado*, 361, 371.

smith, baker, waggon-maker, wheel-wright, &c., &c., some or all of these? Please indicate your needs in your next.

Now as to Tom Beecher. He is the dearest, sweetest soul on earth, but utterly lacking in stability of purpose and clearness of cerebration. At Elmira he is a pretty good cooperationist; with you he would soon be just the other way. He revels in paradoxes and is the captive of every passing sophistry. I wish you had him as a wheel-wright or engine builder—for he has a mechanical genius—but as a preacher, he is likely to do more harm than good. Get him and see!²

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

Greeley, Colorado.

8. New York Tribune

New York,

Dec. 26, 1870.

Friend Meeker:

I have not seen Ralph for several days; but I have spoken to Reid² repeatedly to give him a place if possible. I think he is not in our employment. He came here just after election when business was closing up and our need of reporters diminishing. I guess he is at work at Newark under an old friend, but I do not know it. He has not called on me for weeks and I think he would have done if in the city.

I feel more hopeful of *The Greeley Tribune*. The first No. that arrived and the last that reached me (No. 5) was good, and I noticed it accordingly. I had not the heart to say anything of No. 6.

We have had a "Colo. snow" here. I guess you had it first. It is now moderating and threatens a storm.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

9. New York Tribune

New York,

Jan. 15, 1871.

My dear Sir:

Presuming that my lot lies where it can be irrigated, I ask you to have some good man there to plow it as deeply as possible, at as early a day as may be. Then, if it be safe from marauding cattle, I want it planted or sowed with tree seeds in the Spring—with Locust, well scalded, at all events; but I wish I could find a bushel of Hickory Nuts and another of White Oak Acorns that would germinate. I would like also to sow White Pine seed if they could be had in a fit condition. I do not want to *plant trees*—that would cost too much—but simply to sow seeds of the best

²The reference is to Thomas Kinnicut Beecher, son of Lyman Beecher and a half brother of Henry Ward Beecher. He was almost as spectacular a figure as Greeley. He was pastor of the Independent Congregational church in Elmira from 1854 until his death in 1900; was always interested in mechanics; ran a column of his own in the local newspapers; built the first church with a gymnasium, library, lecture rooms etc.; organized one of the first Sunday schools with graded lessons and carefully prepared teachers; was as careless of his dress as Greeley; and frequently ran for office but was never elected. *Dictionary of American Biography*, I, 136, 137.

³Whitelaw Reid, managing editor of the *New York Tribune*. Don Seitz, *Horace Greeley*, 361.

varieties for your soil and climate. If we cannot find any that are just right but Locust, let us sow that and let a part of the land be sowed to grain or roots till next fall when we can get White Acorns and Hickory Nuts.

If you have time to think of the matter, please make any improvement on my idea that may suggest itself. I may send on some one to occupy my land next spring, but for the present it seems to me that I can do best by putting it promptly into forest trees.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

Nathan C. Meeker, Esq.
Greeley, Colorado

10. New York Tribune

New York,
Mar. 18, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have your long, cheerful letter of the 13th—only five days old.

I am in no hurry about the plowing of my lot, but I want it seeded (or set) *thick* with trees. We can then cut and trim up hereafter, but I want the trees to keep down the weeds. Time will tell which trees to cut out and which to let grow.

I never feared that our town would not have traffic enough. I *did* fear that too many would cling to the village and to shop-keeping, when bounteous production is (after shelter) the first need of every settlement. I know the obstacles to this—lack of fences, water, teams, &c., &c.—still I want to see that our 1500 people have 15,000 acres growing something before 1871 is closed. I know I shall not hear anything like this; but I do not the less that fewer people will sell tape and candy and more take their places between the handles of the plow. I don't know where a man looks better. Do let me hear of 500 farms started before June. I took up and paid off the share of Miss Mary L. Price, Planesville, Pa. as I wrote you yesterday, sending the original receipt to you. She would not have been any help to the colony. I hope you will buy up about ten shares from grumblers and stop their noise. They do the colony all the harm they can.

Let us have all the money devoted to fencing the north side so soon as may be. Our big ditch will never pay interest till that is done.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

Nathan C. Meeker,
Pres't the Col.
Greeley, Col.

11. New York Tribune

New York,
April 5, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have yours of March 30th this moment. I rejoice in your continued prosperity and wish more of it were drawn from the earth outside of your village. I judge that \$100 made by growing potatoes will last longer than \$1000 made by speculating in corner lots.

I enclose \$50 to pay for work on my lot. If you choose to pay six months interest on your note for \$1,000 by such work, I

will endorse it whenever you give me notice. Do see that my lot is well seeded or planted to trees. I enclose herewith the last letter (just at hand) sent me from a share holder who wants to sell. If authorized to buy, I would make short work of these people, whose grumbling injures the colony more than their money can possibly benefit it. I doubt that there are twenty of them in all, but they make noise enough for fifty. I have bought out two of them only, and then halted for instructions. I wish you would have Ralph or Pabor⁴ write this man on behalf of the Colony.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

Nathan C. Meeker,
Pres't Union Colony,
Greeley, Colorado.

12. New York Tribune

New York,
April 25, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have yours of the 20th with accounts of my planting. I send you \$25 on account. I do not yet know that water has been let on my trees, nor do I know that they are all included in your ring fence, but I will presume both, till I hear otherwise.

I do not consider the Denver paper's account of your Colony any better than mine (condensed from your issue of the 12th) that appeared in Saturday's daily and which I hope to squeeze into this week's Weekly.

Don't let my trees suffer from drouth or general neglect. I hope to see them one of these days.

I go to Texas next month.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.
Greeley, Colorado.

13. New York Tribune

New York,
June 9, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I wrote you from Memphis on the 3rd asking that you draw on me at sight for what I owe the Colony—\$753, I believe. I thought I left this so it would be done in my absence, but it seems I was misunderstood. Do not delay to draw for the money. I want to close the account.

As to the loss of Evergreens, I guess we mistook in ordering them. And I am sure there was mistake in not hurrying the water on the north side. The main ditch was in grade but dry when I visited you, and might have been running full by January. Had it been, 10,000 acres might have been well soaked by May. But we only live this life in order to know how to do better in the next. We must realize that *all our land cannot be irrigated in April and May*, and so plow and let on water from October to May, in preparation for next year's crop.

Now, please if my Evergreens mostly fail, ask Ralph⁵ to stand by me next Fall, and get me a bushel each of White Oak

⁴W. E. Pabor, at this time clerk of the Greeley Colony.

⁵Ralph Meeker.

Acorns, Hickory Nuts and Chestnuts planted in rows on my lot next November.

Send a bill after me for what I owe on my lot; and don't let my trees go to ruin more than they must.

I am home two days, but have hardly slept and am very weary. I hope you will have no bad luck, but I tremble at the thought of collecting water rents (to keep the works in order) of all your occupants. Your water reaches you too cold, and you need a great pond or reservoir above your dam in order to warm it.

My wife is in London, suffering less, but no news of recovery.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.
Greeley, Colorado.

14. New York Tribune

New York,
Thursday, June 29, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have been very sick, and sorry I could not promptly answer yours of the 21st. But I have not been able till now.

I am sorry my trees are lost, but better luck next time. Let us plant at least half a bushel each of White Oak Acorns and Hickory Nuts on that piece this fall. I wish you would charge yourself with finding them if I do not, and see them planted in alternate rows—say three feet apart, nuts one foot apart in the rows—in November next. They can be covered with a plow, I presume. As to the sub-ditch that supplies my lot, I presume you will plan to manage it this summer. You will probably have to board the sides if not the bottom also.

This year's experience is not too dear if it learns you to raise your dams, and irrigate your lands in Winter, not just early in Spring. Of course if all waits till seeding time, there must be neglect and consequent loss. Plow in the fall; sow winter grain; let on your water; and don't depend on the Spring for every thing.

When you told me irrigation water would not be needed till June, because it rained enough throughout the Spring months, I should have known better. But we are always wise tomorrow. Let us be sure not to make it next day. Another set back would shake the Colony.

I guess we may as well keep out of endorsing any other colony till this one gets fairly on its legs.

I repeat the request in my last that I be allowed to apply \$155 now on my hands (for a new certificate) to redeem and cancel one issued long ago to Upsilman L. Bobby, Detroit, Mich. (I think). He duly made application long ago, but my letter in reply failed to reach him, because not properly sub-directed by my clerk.

I am better, but not well. The climate and dining at the South *did not* agree with me.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

Nathan C. Meeker,
Pre't. U. Colo.
Greeley, Colorado.

15. New York Tribune

New York,
July 1, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have yours of the 27 ult.

I believe you never wrote an article for the Tribune that was not printed therein; and I do not see why this should cease to be so. But if you write about the Pike's Peak Colony,⁹ it must be clearly understood that you are to write what you see and judge—the whole of it—and not as a paid advocate. Whatever you thus write is not likely to be ruled out.

Better state facts, and let readers draw their own inferences.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.
Greeley, Col.

16. Sinclair Hotel

Bethlehem, N. H.,
July 22, (Friday) 1871.

Friend Meeker:

Yours of the 15th inst. reached me here today, making very good time. I am among the White Mountains, 2000 feet above the sea, and the air does me good; but I can only remain a few days.

I am still feeble, and troubled with Rheumatism, Sciatica, &c. The Fever and Ague still lingers in my voice, but does not break out of late with fever.

I hope to visit you in October.

Your letter gives me no directions about the Colony's money. You directed me to invest it so that it should bear interest. I asked for explicit directions *in what* to invest it, and *how much*. I stood ready to obey orders, but feared to invest and be accused in case of any disaster. All values are disturbed by the European War, so that it is hard to say who or what is surely solvent.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

17. New York Tribune

New York,
Aug. 18, 1871.

Dear Sir:

Your "Dangola" letter will appear, though not (perhaps) directly. It is quite long, and can wait.

I look to you to see that my lot is sowed with Hickory Nuts, White Oak Acorns and Chestnuts this Fall. You must get the nuts in due season and charge me therefor. I would put in a bushel of each kind if I were doing it myself, plowing the ground lightly in October and dropping the seeds about six inches apart in every third furrow, to be covered by the next. That would be *my way*; you are at liberty to improve upon it. If there be nuts to spare, plant them more carefully in a bed in your garden, and set them out where those in the rows fail to

⁹Fountain, developed into Colorado Springs. General Cameron of Greeley had been employed as Superintendent of this colony at about this time and was doing what he could to promote its development. David Boyd, *History of Greeley and Union Colony of Colorado*, 385.

come up next Spring. I would plant the seeds in every third furrow so that we may plow between rows to extirpate weeds next summer.

I don't like your Grist Mill—I mean I don't like your engine to run it by water. I reckon you will want all the water in your river for irrigation six months in each year. You must take a good part of it for 1000 acres of crops now, then, for 30,000?

I guess that you have out 1,000 acres of crops this season. Can't you make it 10,000 next year? To secure this, vast tracts should be broken and irrigated this Fall.

I fear I shall not see you this year. Work crowds me awfully.

Who else are planting timber? And how many of my Evergreens survive? They must be taken up when you plow again.

Keep fighting for more tillage. Your carpenters and masons having overbuilt your village, should build themselves dwellings on the 5-acre lots, break up, irrigate, plant shade and fruit-trees, then sell out and start again.

I spend September in the North West, speaking.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

18. New York Tribune

New York,

Sept. 1, 1871.

Dear Sir:

Ida cannot leave her mother, and her mother is unable to travel by rail more than one day if at all. They (including Gabrielle)⁷ are now in London and the girls would like to come home in October, but I do not know that they can. Kate Field's loss of her mother on her way over has frightened Ida, and she may decide to remain in Europe. Her mother did quite well on Isle of Wight last Winter and may conclude to try again.

You may hold on to the \$1000 another year and pay the interest in getting my trees started. I would like to set out an acre of Locust this Fall if you are *sure* the kind is right and that they will grow. I suppose you can't buy young Hickories unless at a ruinous rate, or I would set a thousand of them—rows not more than 30 inches apart (just so they can be plowed between) and trees about one foot apart in the rows. I would plant nuts rather closer, or⁸ two in a place. Have I *any* Evergreens living?

\$8000 for a mill race and perhaps \$20,000 for a reservoir in the mountains—be careful that you do not get on too much steam.

Explosions are epidemic. I want to hear of 10,000 acres in crop next year. That big ditch is not paying interest. Creep now and stand by-and-by. Yes stint, if you will.

I go North-West to speak on Tuesday night. Am sick now, yet must travel 800 miles right off; then speak and take another slow trip of 300.

Please write me at Chicago.

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

⁷The reference is to his two daughters, Ida and Gabrielle.

⁸This is the way the original reads. Evidently "one" was omitted.

19. New York Tribune

New York,

Sept. 3, 1871.

Dear Sir:

I have your note and Ralph's, with Foster's⁹ account. He certainly is not to blame for the trees dying if he did his best for them.

Please settle with him, pay him whatever is right, and charge me. If he owes anything for ground planted in potatoes, he should account for that.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker,

Greeley, Col.

P.S. How many will break up this Fall for next year's crops? And will all who need water have it?

20. New York Tribune

New York,

Sept. 7, 1871.

Mr. Meeker:

I forgot to include Mr. Foster's bill in my letter last night. I herewith enclose it.

Yours,

Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker, Esq.

Greeley,

Colorado.

21. New York Tribune

New York,

Oct. 16, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have yours of the 11th today.

I am poor as a crow; everybody asks me to lend and nobody ever seems ready to pay; but you must not break for want of \$500; so tell me how to send it. If you prefer to draw on me, give me three days notice and fix it that way. If you want it remitted, advise me.

But I don't like your feeling so poor in behalf of the Colony. I don't like the Colony's going into debt and mortgaging its property. Couldn't you sell lands to the requisite amount? Cooperative debts are bad.

Your Grist-Mill is all right, but it ought to run by steam. You can't always spare the water, if you can now. You ought to have made a steam mill at the start. I am afraid your race will be in the way of irrigation, and I guess your pond, if you have one, will impair the health of your town. Your running too much water in your streets is the cause of your fevers.

I hope your new Railroad will go ahead and I am very glad that the colonists do not have to put money into it. Railroads are good for everybody but those whose money builds them.

Look out for fires. Let those who can insure. A fire might discourage you. Nothing else ought to. Your potatoes will all

⁹Obviously, this was J. Heron Foster, who attempted to develop a nursery business in Greeley, but failed. Boyd, *op. cit.*, 394-395.

be roasted; you ought to have grown more Wheat. Do push on my forest trees and all other people's forest trees.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

Nathan C. Meeker,
Greeley, Colorado.

22. New York Tribune

New York,
Oct. 20, 1871.

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 13th today.

I don't believe the Colony could borrow \$10,000 here, and I doubt the wisdom of so doing. I dread debt in coopération as I do poison. It always breeds trouble. And I am confident you could advertise at Denver, Cheyenne, Omaha, &c. and sell your lots and tracts at cost or over, and so raise the money you need. Bear in mind that a mortgage paper closed might bring in other settlers. I would rather sell too cheap than borrow and mortgage.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

N. C. Meeker.

23. New York Tribune

New York,
Oct. 30, 1871.

Friend Meeker:

I have today your draft and note, and have endorsed the former bond. So that is done with.

I rejoice that you have almost concluded *not* to borrow. Better sell all the land still owned by the Company, even though you buy it back when you need it. I have a horror of debt. If I can ever get out, I will never more go in. And I am only in on account of others. Do try to sell lands—in small tracts, if possible—and keep out of debt.

Yours,
Horace Greeley.

Nathan C. Meeker.

(To be concluded in the next issue.)

learned my trade—that of carpenter and contractor. In the fall of 1881, I was thirty years of age, and impatient at the narrow limits placed upon my work by the small town of six thousand people. I felt that I had advanced as far as I could here and longed for a larger field. Then I remembered that I had an aunt, Mrs. Sarah Rist, who had gone out to Denver in 1859. So I wrote and practically invited myself out to visit Aunt Sarah; then anxiously awaited a reply, hoping and praying that the Indians had not scalped my poor aunt in the intervening years.

In a short time I had an enthusiastic letter from my aunt telling of the vast amount of building going on in Denver, and of the golden opportunities opening up for young contractors like myself.

So in 1881 I came out to Denver. I immediately found lots of work; I helped construct a number of the well-known old time residences, for example the C. B. Kountze house at Sixteenth and Grant Streets. I helped build the old East Denver High School at 19th and Stout Streets. We thought it a beautiful building, so modernistic, and so well constructed that it would never need to be replaced, but where is it now? I doubt if many even remember what it looked like; but that is progress.

My wife's health was never very good here in Denver, so we decided to return to the East. The next nine years we spent in Ohio, where I had charge of a number of large construction jobs. But the smell of the sage was in my nostrils—I longed for Colorado. So when I received a letter from my brother telling of a new town that my brother-in-law and he planned to lay out over in Western Colorado, and asking my assistance, I jumped at the chance. I had just finished building a \$100,000 opera house in Salem, Ohio, and was feeling rather rich. I knew I needed a vacation, especially after re-reading a paragraph in my brother's letter about the abundance of game and fish in this new country. So I boarded a train for Colorado in December, 1890.

My half-brother, Willard Tegarden, and my brother-in-law, W. H. Tucker, were in business in Glenwood Springs but were not making much of a success of it. With the building of the Rio Grande railroad, Glenwood Springs was getting to be quite a town. My brother, while looking around for a new business venture, heard of Moffat County. It was still a wild and woolly place, with few people, lots of sage-brush, and wild game. They decided to start a town on one stretch of land they thought particularly suited to the venture. They were flat busted, so they talked Baird Craig and Mr. Hill into putting up the money to buy the land. They named their new town Craig. W. H. Rose had a ranch that joined the townsite of Craig.

Recollections of Craig, Colorado

As Told by A. S. ROBINSON to MR. and MRS. JAMES R. HARVEY

Alexander S. Robinson, the first Mayor of Craig, now ninety years of age and residing in Denver, tells the following story of the development of northwestern Colorado from the time when he first saw Craig as "just a sage ranch," until he retired and came to Denver in 1919:

I was born in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in the small town of Connellsville, December 26, 1851. Here I grew up and

I spent the winter in Craig. It was the wildest country I had ever seen. Compared with the East, the life these early settlers lived seemed unendurably hard and comfortless. But I stuck it out, and with each succeeding week I found the country was creeping into my blood—the limitless stretches of unfenced land, the smell of the sage, the deep, deep silence unbroken by bell or whistle—I learned to love it all so much that when spring came I sent for my wife, fully decided to make our future home in Craig, if she liked the country as much as I did.

That first winter I spent in Craig (1890) was a memorable one. The biggest thing about the town was its name. Mr. Tucker had just abandoned his old one-room log cabin, to move into his new five room house; it was the best house on the town-site. Then there was the first town-hall, and a small notion store where my sister, Mrs. Rosella Breeze, sold women's furnishings. The Hugess store was just being built. That was Craig as I first saw it.

I found work at once, constructing the store building for J. W. Hugess. Subsequently I handled all the construction work for the Hugess Company, putting up stores at Craig, Hayden, Rifle, Clifton and Pagoda¹, in course of time.

That winter was a hard one. The temperature dropped and kept on dropping. The snow was deep. We made a trip to Glenwood Springs in December, with a team and wagon. It took us five days, and we drove early and late. We would start at dawn and buck snow-drifts until ten o'clock at night. We were always welcome to spend the night at any ranch we were near, and if no one was home the door was never locked. Any traveler was free to enter, help himself to food and a bed. But the unwritten law was, "wash your dishes."

At Glenwood Springs I mailed a long letter to my wife, telling her how much I liked this country, and asking her to come out for the summer. I told her to go to my aunt, Sarah Rist, in Denver and I would write when to come on to Glenwood Springs.

About the tenth of May, my brother and I made a trip up to a small mining camp, Defiance. We stayed up there for about ten days, looking after our mining interests and hunting. Of course we didn't bother to shave, for the grouse were plentiful and just in their prime. We flagged the train at Dotsero and boarded it, grouse, overalls, beards, guns, and all. We looked more like Mexican bandits than good Moffat County residents.

Leaving our grouse in the baggage car we walked through the train. When we entered the day coach, carrying our guns, we heard a gasp run the length of the car and realized the passengers

¹Pagoda, Routt County, was founded in 1890 by Senator H. H. Eddy, State Senator from Garfield County, 1887-1889.

were surreptitiously concealing watches and purses. I stopped by my wife's seat; she was dreamily watching the Grande River. She glanced up, then down again quickly. When I inquired, "Is this seat taken, lady?" she replied, "Yes it is!", in an emphatic tone of voice. However I sat down beside her, and endeavored to strike up a conversation. She didn't like it a little bit, but when I accidentally said, "Annie," she looked up at me quickly, exclaimed, "Oh, Alexander!" and threw her arms about the "bandit's" neck, much to the relief of the entire coach.

We spent the summer in Craig, and what a summer that was! We hunted and fished, rode horse-back, went berrying, climbed mountains, and camped out beside clear rushing streams. Wild game? My, oh my, it is unbelievable the amount of game in Moffat County at that time. I have seen at least three thousand antelope in one band; one would glance up to find deer and elk watching him in every small clearing, and fishing required no skill at all, for the streams abounded in trout—not eight inch stuff either, but big sparkling beauties. Often I would hear a rustling of leaves, and glimpse a mountain lion or a coyote slinking off through the bushes; or perhaps a bear would make for cover with his funny shuffling run. Of course there were sage-hens, grouse, geese and ducks in abundance.

That summer convinced my wife that this was the place where she wished to live; so she went back East that following winter to settle up our estate there, hire a freight car and move our furniture out to Colorado. After a trip to the Chicago exposition in 1893, we settled down to some real living in Craig. We built the first brick house in town. At this time there were about fifty people in Craig, with a few large ranches, scattered about. The rest was country open to homesteading. Settlers now began to drift into Moffat county. These men all came in poor, with a team and wagon, a wife, and a couple of kids. They would locate a piece of land that could be irrigated easily, build a small cabin, and start to run a few cattle. It was a small beginning but during my lifetime in Craig I saw many of them build up fortunes, big ranches, and large herds of thorough-bred cattle. Some of these prominent cattlemen were: Pat Sweeny (his boys are still there), Pat Sullivan, Lyons, Adairs, Judge R. W. Finley, Isles; these old-timers that went into Moffat County in the early nineties, had, by 1915 to 1920, built up cattle ranches worth fifty to one hundred thousand dollars. The depression, later, broke some of them who had expanded too much, but many of their families are still enjoying the fruits of the labor of these early cattlemen of Moffat County.

The first school in Craig was a little, one-room, log building, where we held our literaries, spelling-bees, and box socials. The

first teacher was Joe Tower. Other early teachers were Charlie Ranney and Mrs. Peck. In 1892 we out-grew this building, so we built a four-room school. Only two rooms were used for quite a while, but eventually the school grew to occupy the entire building.

The first church services were held in the school house. Joe Tower was not really a minister but he preached anyway. But in 1891 J. L. Ellis came to town and was our first ordained minister; he held church in the town hall for two years. My brother-in-law, who was greatly interested in religious affairs, had persuaded Ellis to come to Craig; he sent a team out to Glenwood Springs in the spring of 1891 to bring in Ellis, his wife, and two small daughters. With them came Ellis' brother-in-law, Clarence Bronaugh, a young fellow of twenty-three years.

Clarence Bronaugh, a printer by trade, brought with him a small printing press, and announced his intention of starting a paper in Craig. There was no place for a paper, no vacant building in the town; so my brother Willard and I pitched in and built a shack, twelve by twenty feet, of rough pine boards. Clarence installed his printing press in the front, and made up a bunk in the back. And our first paper, the *Pantagraph*, was off the press in the summer of 1891.

In the fall of 1893 my sister and brother brought about the building of the first church, the Christian Church. It was a very nice building, but it burned to the ground in 1900. The population had increased to the point where we now could support two churches. The same year, the Congregational and the new Christian churches were built. Will Taylor constructed the Congregational and I put up the Christian church. They were both frame buildings, and are still in use in Craig, today.

Our town was growing now, nice people were coming in, an exceptionally well educated class; we had some excellent musicians, and we took quite an interest in literature and the stage. Our friends from the East used to write asking, "What ever do you do in that backwoods place for entertainment and amusements?" Well, I'm sure no one ever enjoyed themselves more than we did. In the summer, three or four families would often go camping over on Williams Fork, to fish and gather raspberries. Our annual fall hunt was a great event. And in the winters we had all sorts of entertainments.

Having no adequate place in Craig in which to hold our social gatherings, we decided to build a hall. We all contributed what we could in the way of cash and work. Every cow-poke in the whole country contributed his ten dollars in order that he might have a place to dance. We gave our first play in 1891. After

that we gave two plays a year. But in 1895 our hall burned to the ground.

So in 1896 we all again dug down in our pockets to help build a new hall. We over-extended ourselves this time and built a real opera-house. I had just built a \$100,000 hall in the east, so I knew how to put a nice one in Craig. The Craig paper carried long articles about "our beautiful new opera house." We sent to Chicago for our drop curtains—three of them—a water scene, a street scene, and a woods scene. We even had foot-lights; we purchased kerosene lamps from Hugess's General Store, bent sheets of tin about them, and obtained a very effective stage lighting.



THE THEATER AT CRAIG
Orchestra and cast directed by A. S. Robinson (at left side of stage)

We had our opening on New Year's day. We played to a packed house; people were there from all over the country, even from Steamboat Springs, and Hayden. The play we presented was "Nevada." After that we gave two plays each year. For over twenty years I managed and directed these plays.

Moffat County was, primarily, a cattle country. Rifle at this time was one of the greatest shipping points in Colorado; it was convenient to the White River Country, as well as to the country around Craig. Each fall the cattlemen converged upon this railroad center from all directions, drifting their herds in slowly over the mountain passes, grazing them on the way, and

taking several weeks to the trip in order that the cattle might be shipped in good condition. These annual fall round-ups were the only source of income of the cattlemen; this money must be made to last the year out; the greater part of it was invested at once in a winter supply of food and clothing; if these supplies fell short by summer, they could always receive credit at the J. W. Hugess line of stores. There were sixteen of these, in the various small towns of the country.

We were 110 miles from Rifle; 110 miles from Rawlins; 125 miles from Glenwood Springs. Of course, there were no telephones, and no telegraph. We did get a daily paper but it was always three days late. However it was just as good as our daily now, and we didn't mind if the news was a trifle stale.

Every fall, the men would take a four-horse team and drive to Rawlins to haul in goods for the winter. Although Rifle was just as close to Craig, we never used it as a freighting center, for there were three high mountain passes to cross and it wasn't easy to pull a heavily loaded wagon up these grades. So Rawlins was the most logical place for us to have our freight sent. We loaded our wagons to the limit for we knew we could get no further fresh supplies from September to May, due to the severity of the winters, and the depth of the snow. Most of us ran bills at the store and paid up once a year, in the fall. Our relatives in the east could not understand how we could exist so far from a railroad; "prices must be prohibitive," they would say. But prices really were not so much higher; in fact we lived much more cheaply than they, for we did not buy meat. I believe that for the first fifteen years we were in Craig, fifteen dollars covered our meat bill. We had antelope in the spring; deer in the summer and fall; and elk in the winter. And we varied the menu with fish, grouse, sage chickens, ducks, geese, and bear. Of course we didn't buy bread, potatoes, or vegetables we could raise. Taxes were low. Shoes, and clothing were not much higher than in Denver, just the cost of freighting in from Rawlins to Craig being added to the Denver prices. A keg of nails would run one dollar higher; flour, in proportion, and so forth. We had our own butter and eggs; and if we had no cow, we followed the example of the large cattle ranches and bought canned milk.

Routt County, which then included Moffat, was 150 miles long, and sixty miles wide. When it was laid out as a county, the county seat was located in a small adobe house just above where Craig sprang up. During an Indian scare the books were moved up to Hahn's Peak, for safety. This was a settlement of prospectors and the biggest one in the county, and here the seat of the county stayed for more than thirty years. It was high and snowy, remote

from most of the county and difficult of access. As the county settled up and there was more business to be transacted at the county seat, a movement was put on foot to move the seat down into the center of the county. But Steamboat Springs, Hayden, and Craig each felt their town was the proper location for it. Every year, for fifteen years we held an election and voted to move the county-seat—each, to his own town. We could never get a majority; so the county-seat stayed at Hahn's Peak and we made long cold trips up there to transact our legal matters. At last, in 1911, some of the prominent men of the county went to Denver while the legislature was in session and succeeded in getting the county divided. The line ran seven miles east of Craig; we called our county Moffat; the other was called Routt County.

Throughout our whole county the silence was unbroken by a bell or whistle. So about 1895 we decided to put a bell on the new schoolhouse. It would cost \$100. We took up a collection, all putting in what we could. The school children did their bit. The girls helped with the house work to earn a little; the boys did chores for the ranchers; and one little codger even blacked boots for the cowboys. Finally I had enough money to put up the belfry; and we sent East for the bell. The first morning the school bell sounded across the valley, the excitement was great. That was the only topic of conversation: "Did you hear the bell?" "Did you hear the school bell?" "Why I heard it clear across the river!"

When the railroad started to build in 1902, we were all highly elated. We were sure it would be a through line, to the coast, and would put Craig on the map. We built railroads around the stove for winters and winters, while we waited for the promised road. By 1905 the railroad had been pushed through as far as Hot Sulphur Springs, here it was blocked for some time; however, by 1908, it reached Steamboat Springs. There it stopped. It made Steamboat Springs a hustling little town; we had all our freight shipped in there, and spent the night, going and coming, so hotels flourished.

We were all so anxious to have the railroad run on through to Craig. In 1912 we held a meeting with railroad officials; they promised that, if we would furnish the right-of-way, the railroad would be in Craig by fall. Purchasing the right-of-way involved a great deal of work and considerable money. Everyone donated what they could; I put down \$100; then another \$100, and others did likewise. We managed, at last, to purchase the right-of-way, and in the fall of 1913 the railroad came into Craig and stopped there; it is there yet. Our through line was a pipe dream.

It was an exciting day when the first train came into Craig. We all gathered at the station for the great event; we were truly

proud of that railroad station. When the train came chugging and whistling to a stop, we all boarded it, walked around it, examined it thoroughly. I found my wife studying the rear platform in a puzzled manner. When I asked what was wrong, she asked, "Where is the baling wire?" Everyone shouted, for we all knew the folly of starting on a long trip with a team and wagon, without that bundle of baling wire tied to the rear end-gate.

Some of the early Moffat County settlers were: W. H. Rose, a surveyor, the first settler to locate on a ranch there. Fred Ross was the saddler and harness maker; he made beautiful saddles. Charlie and Art Seymore came from Leadville to take charge of the Hugess Store. Art was manager of the store at Craig, while Charlie was general manager for the whole line of stores. Henry Templeton was another old-timer—never did anything startling, but was just a good solid citizen. W. H. Tucker and W. F. Tegarden were the founders of Craig. McLaughler ran a saw-mill. Thomas Isles established a large cattle ranch in Axial basin. Ezekiel Shelton and the Adairs, John and Sam, were some of the early cattlemen. The Haley outfit was one of the largest. At one time they ran over 20,000 head of cattle. Bennet was our first doctor in 1893; he couldn't stick it out, so Dr. Downs came in; he stayed. I had the honor of being elected the first Mayor in 1908.

One of our unique characters was Amos L. Bennet. He acted as guide for the Winchester Arms people when they came out from the East to try out their arms. Amos never had much use for horses; he always rode a bicycle. Early in the morning one might see him start out for the hills with his rifle strapped to the handle bars. At night he would come peddling wearily home with a deer fastened on to the back of the bicycle. The Winchester Company presented him with one of their rifles for his services as guide. Later I traded him out of it, and still have it.

John Leadford was a very prominent citizen. He was a Georgia moonshiner who came early to Colorado, raw-hided around for a while, then settled down to running a saloon in Craig. He was well liked for all he was a saloon man, and his establishment was a well-run, orderly one. He served as game warden, and as sheriff.

Ezekiel Shelton was another of the old timers and was a particular friend of ours, as he came from the same part of Ohio as we did. He was a civil engineer and did lots of the surveying in and about Craig.

The Walkers, two brothers and their father, had numerous land holdings near Hayden.

The Big Bottom ranch, seven miles east of Craig, was owned originally by a man named Hunt. It was a large ranch and a

nice one. It changed hands several times and was finally purchased by George W. Wood, a two-time millionaire from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was tubercular and always said our country was "good for him." Be we thought *he* was good for our country, for he certainly had lots of means and was not niggardly with it. He spent the spring, summer and fall on the ranch but retreated before the severity of Craig winters, to his residence in Denver. I did a great deal of building for him; I worked several summers putting up bunk houses, granaries, an ice house, and an addition to the ranch house. He employed over thirty cow-pokes, who soldiered upon him shamelessly. Wood didn't make much of a success at the cattle business, probably because of his ignorance of it; he finally grew disgusted and sold out five years later.

Riley and Tom Hamilton were among our foremost citizens and were quite wealthy before the depression.

Before Craig was founded, the Taylor brothers, Dan, Dave, and Will, came into the valley and took their pick of the ranches. Will Taylor was, also, a carpenter and did some of the building in Craig.

Three brothers, all bachelors, Frank, Charlie, and Lowden Ranney took up ranches adjoining the town-site of Craig; they were not spectacular, but good, ordinary citizens. Frank sold his ranch for \$16,000 and felt enormously rich for he had never had anything and came into that country with just a team and wagon.

There were three early settlers who had located across the river, when I came to Craig; they were Lem and Louis Breeze, and Clark Tilton.

When Colorado was brought into the Union as a State in 1876, the southern and western counties were more or less given over to the Ute Indians. The clash of the Indians and the whites here culminated in the Meeker Massacre in 1879. The government then moved the Utes to a reservation in Utah, but every fall they drifted back in bands of from fifteen to twenty, bringing their papooses, wives, horses, dogs, and tepees. They claimed they had reserved the right to hunt in this country when they consented to move to the reservation. They would make camp among the cedars in the western part of our county and hunt; nobody lived there as yet, so their presence was not always known for a time. These wandering, small bands made great depredations upon the game, sometimes killing thousands of elk and deer. It was permissible for them to hunt during the open season, but they never knew when to stop. They used what meat they could, dried some, and utilized the hides for tepees and clothing. Nobody knew when they came; some rancher might happen upon them and notify the game warden.

He had to write to the state warden in Denver, for there were no telephones; letters were slow; so, by the time the warden arrived the Indians had usually slaughtered a lot of game.

In 1897-98, this led to serious trouble. A man by the name of Wilcox was then district game warden at Steamboat Springs. He was the fiery, important type, and seemed to consider the position of game warden next to that of governor of the state. That fall a number of Indians were camped among the cedars on Cross mountain, at the junction of the Little Snake and Bear rivers. The few scattered ranchers learned of their presence and, fearing they might resort to mischief, burn ranch buildings, or kill cattle, they notified the state game warden, who in turn ordered Wilcox to go down and persuade the Indians to go home. Wilcox considered this a highly important mission; he enlisted several deputies at Craig, among them was Jack White, Al Shaw, and Ed Brotherton. The posse located the camp on the west side of Cross Mountain. They left their horses back in the cedars, and, at Wilcox's command, they drew their guns and marched up to the tepees. The Indians came out and stood grouped in front of their tepees; Wilcox ordered them to go home. Receiving only non-committal grunts in response, the game warden got rough and threatened to arrest them; of course this was absolutely without authority. When the squaws came out carrying rifles, he lost his head entirely and started shooting. Seven or eight Indians were killed, among this number were two squaws. The posse then took to their heels, and escaped on their horses. From Henry Templeton's ranch they sent a runner to Craig for reinforcements. This was a ride of sixty-five miles; sixty men prepared at once to answer the summons, but it took the better part of a day and night to get organized and pack grub, bedding, and so forth. When they arrived at the scene of battle, the Indians had pulled out, leaving no trace of their retreat. A government investigation was conducted but it was all hushed up, and we heard no more of it. A week later Dan Diamond, the Craig photographer, went down and took some pictures of the battlefield; I have several of them.

The same trouble arose when John Leadford was sheriff; he was sent to chase the Indians out of Moffat, and Rio Blanco counties, west of Meeker. He deputized me to accompany him. We rode through a big country with no one in it. It was an interesting trip. We found five different Ute bands camping and hunting. However we had no trouble for John was quite a hand with the Indians; he jollied them along and persuaded them to go home.

In 1915 we out-grew the old four-room school and built a new

one of eight rooms. We had a high school; in a few years we built a junior high school.

Craig was growing fast now. We organized a commercial club; our meetings were held in our new hotel and bank building.

For over thirty years I built the caskets for all the funerals around Craig. Hugess Brothers kept the trimmings, so I could get up a pretty good outfit for them.

When I was sixty-two years old, I felt that I was growing old for my trade of carpenter and contractor. So John Leadford and I went into partnership and bought 320 acres of deeded land. We worked it for four years, put in alfalfa, and got it into good shape; then we each homesteaded 320 acres adjoining. That gave us 960 acres, and subsequently we purchased 240 more acres, so that in time we held, jointly, a ranch of 1200 acres. In 1919 my wife and I decided we had accumulated enough to enable us to retire comfortably. This was during the boom and land values were high, so we sold out and came to Denver to live out the rest of our lives here in the West.

On October 23rd of last year (1941) we celebrated our 68th wedding anniversary. We have had a long, rich life together. We have played hard, and worked hard, and have learned to love this western country. We gave to it our youth; and it, in turn, gave back to us a comfortable, secure, old age. I am ninety years old, but the history of Craig, every name, place, date, is actually clearer to me, than the present in a war-torn world.*

*Since the above was written, Mrs. Robinson has passed on. She died January 19, 1942, and was buried at Craig.—Ed.

Place Names in Colorado (N)*

Namaqua, Larimer County. In 1858 Mariano Modena came here from the San Luis Valley with his Indian wife, Marie (whom he called "John"), five children, servants, and livestock. He staked out a squatter's claim and built a cabin¹ near the forks of Buckhorn and Dry creeks, about four miles west of the present town of Loveland.² Later he erected a stone building, which he called his fort.³ The settlement that grew up here was known as Namaqua, a word that, contrary to general opinion, is not Indian,

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

Incorporation dates are from the *Colorado Year Book, 1939-40*, "Gazetteer of Cities and Towns."

¹Ansel Watrous, *History of Larimer County*, 167, 168.

²Nell's Map of Colorado, 1883.

³Watrous, *op. cit.*, 168.

but of African origin. It is the name of a long-tailed African pigeon (Great Namaqualand is in Southwest Africa). It is not definitely known who bestowed this fanciful name upon Modena's settlement,⁴ although Hiram J. Tadder, the first postmaster, has been so credited.⁵ In 1862 Namaqua became a station on the Overland Stage Line.⁶

Nantz (Nantes), Weld County, see *Gilcrest*.

Nathrop (40 population), Chaffee County farming settlement. The original town, about a mile and a half above the present site and known as Chalk Creek,⁷ was one of the main stations on the old stage line between Bale's Station and Leadville. It moved south in 1880 when the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad reached here. The site of the new settlement was owned jointly by Charles Nachtrieb and the Denver, South Park & Pacific and the Denver & Rio Grande Railroads,⁸ and was named in honor of Nachtrieb (Nathrop being a corruption of Nachtrieb), pioneer merchant and freighter,⁹ who crossed the plains in 1859. In 1868 he erected the first grist mill in Lake County, and in 1870 built a toll road over Poncha Pass.¹⁰ He was murdered at Nathrop in 1881.¹¹

National City, Routt County ghost town. After the discovery of rich placers in this region in 1862, Joseph Henne—or Henn—led in a party of prospectors,¹² who soon divided into two camps, about two miles apart. The camp in Way's Gulch was called National City by its founder, a Mr. Farwell, but the miners soon dubbed it Bug Town, because the "big bugs," a number of Eastern capitalists, lived there.¹³ Poverty Bar, as the other camp was called, later became Hahn's Peak. (See also *Bug Town* and *Hahn's Peak*.)

Nederland (384 population*), Boulder County mining and resort town. The early history of Nederland, known as Brownsville in 1870,¹⁴ later as Middle Boulder, and now often referred to as Tungsten Town, was closely associated with the Caribou silver mines (see *Middle Boulder*). It was upon silver bricks from the Breed Mill at Nederland that President Grant walked from his stage coach to the door of the Teller House in Central City,¹⁵ on his second visit to Colorado, in 1873.¹⁶ The townsite was sur-

⁴Alvin T. Steinel, *History of Agriculture in Colorado*, 177.

⁵State Historical Society, Pamphlet 353, No. 6.

⁶Watrous, *op. cit.*, 168.

⁷*Rocky Mountain News*, November 3, 1880.

⁸Louisa A. Ward, *Chalk Creek Colorado* (J. Van Male, Publisher, Denver, 1940), 15.

⁹Data from Elizabeth Kuhn, Nathrop, October 11, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

¹⁰State Historical Society, Pamphlet No. 346, No. 26.

¹¹*Rocky Mountain Sun* (Aspen), November 2, 1881.

¹²*Colorado Magazine*, XVIII, 142.

¹³*Out West Magazine* (San Francisco, California), June, 1922.

¹⁴Data from Geneva Meyring, Nederland, June 1, 1941.

¹⁵State Historical Society, Pamphlet 622, B. 11625.

¹⁶*The Trail*, I, No. 10, p. 9.

veyed in May, 1877, by Carrie F. Morse, owner of the tract, and the plat was filed in June of that year.¹⁷ Three years earlier¹⁸ the name had been changed to Nederland by the Dutch capitalists who had purchased the Caribou mines. Nederland, meaning "low land," was selected because the mill was built some four or five miles below the Caribou mine.¹⁹ Incorporated November 15, 1885.

Nepesta (Napesta) (10 population), Pueblo County. John W. McDaniel, New Englander, founded and named the town when he came to Colorado in 1876.²⁰ In 1878 or 1879 a post office was established, with Mrs. Mary McDaniel as postmaster. Nepesta also had a railroad station (Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway) at this time, a distinction few neighboring towns could boast, and by the middle 1880s the place was an important trading center.²¹ Its name is derived from *Rio Napeste*, or *Napestle*, as the Arkansas River was known to the Indian tribes and to the earliest Spanish explorers. One of these, Juan de Ulibarri, in 1706, noted the Arkansas River under this name when he crossed it near present Pueblo.²²

Nevada, Nevada City, or Nevadaville (25 population), Gilpin County, some two miles above Central City, is hardly more than a ghost town today, although an occasional group of miners still work the old lodes. Beginning its career in the summer of 1859, it was soon a bustling combination of gold-mining camp and business town.²³ The Nevada Convention, called in January, 1864, to consider consolidation with Central City, reported, "We neither want nor will have it."²⁴ The post office was named Bald Mountain by the Government, but the name was never accepted by residents, who always referred to their camp as Nevada or Nevada City²⁵ (see also *Bald Mountain*). Nevada is a Spanish word meaning "snow-clad," or "snowy land." The town was probably named for the mining town of Nevada City, California.

New Castle (484 population*), Garfield County, now important as a farming, stock-raising, and coal-mining center, was known as Grand Butte in 1866, and as Chapman in 1867. It was re-named by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company in 1888, after the discovery of large bituminous coal fields,²⁶ for New Castle, England, famous coal mining center.²⁷ Incorporated February 27, 1890.

¹⁷Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, III, 366.

¹⁸*Boulder News*, February 27, 1874.

¹⁹Data from O. C. Zingg, Assistant County Superintendent of Schools, Boulder, Colorado, July 9, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

²⁰*Pueblo Chieftain*, March 12, 1922.

²¹*Pueblo County History*, issued under the sponsorship of the Pueblo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

²²Ulibarri's report, quoted in A. B. Thomas, *After Coronado*, 65.

²³Jerome C. Smiley, *Semi-Centennial History of the State of Colorado*, I, 264.

²⁴*Daily Mining Journal* (Black Hawk), January 25, 1864.

²⁵State Historical Society, MSS, XI, 14-2.

²⁶Data from Charles J. Flinger, New Castle, November 25, 1940.

²⁷Data from Tom Allen, State Coal Mine Inspector, in 1935, to the State Historical Society.

Newcomb (50 population), Gilpin County. From 1881 to 1887 Daniel E. Newcomb, Sr., was postmaster at the Newcomb ranch.²⁸ Newcomb is the old Denver & Rio Grande Railroad station name for East Portal,²⁹ at the entrance to the Moffat Tunnel (see also *East Portal*).

New Haven, Logan County ghost town, some eighteen miles southeast of Sterling, was settled and named about 1909 by a group of men coming here from the East to regain their health. A post office was established in February, 1911.³⁰

New Hereford, Weld County, see *Hereford*.

Newport, San Miguel County ghost town, about two and one-half miles southeast of Telluride, was named for Newport, Kentucky, and was a rapidly growing camp in 1881.³¹ Because of another Newport (now a ghost town) in Colorado, the name was changed to Pandora in August of the same year.³²

New Raymer (Raymer) (254 population), Weld County, in a farming and stock-raising district, was surveyed October 15, 1888, and the plat filed December 21 of that year, by the Lincoln Land Company.³³ Most of the district was vacated between February, 1893, and January, 1894, but the site was platted again in July, 1909. The Lincoln Land Company named the town Raymer on both plattings, but postal authorities called it New Raymer, to avoid confusion with Ramah.³⁴ The name honors George Raymer, assistant chief engineer of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad.³⁵

New Town, Mineral County, see *Jimtown*.

Nigger Baby Hill, Dolores County ghost camp, was so named because of the large amount of black oxide of manganese (economic ore of manganese used in steel making) found in the outcrop.³⁶

Night Hawk, Douglas County, some fifteen miles west of Castle Rock,³⁷ was an active camp in 1896. It was named for the region in which it was located.³⁸ Not even the site of Night Hawk is known today.

Ninaview (300 population), Bent County agricultural settlement. A post office was established about 1916 at the ranch of T. B. Jones, some six miles north of the present town. It was requested that the name Nina, honoring the wife of Mr. Jones, be

²⁸State Historical Society, Pamphlet 367, No. 2.

²⁹Data from Ed. Sorengren, Chief Draftsman, Denver & Salt Lake Railway, Denver, March 13, 1940, to the State Historical Society.

³⁰Emma Burke Conklin, *History of Logan County*, 181.

³¹*Denver Times*, July 27, 1881.

³²*Ouray Times*, August 20, 1881.

³³Frank Hall, *op. cit.*, IV, 341.

³⁴Data from C. R. Graves, New Raymer, November 16, 1940.

³⁵Data from H. A. Aalberg, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 14, 1939.

³⁶Henry Gannett, *Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States*, 225.

³⁷Flower's Map of Colorado, 1878.

³⁸*Denver Times*, February 11, 1896.

given the office; postal authorities added "view," forming the present name.³⁹

Niwot (175 population), Boulder County, was founded in 1872 by W. T. Wilson, and was first called Modoc.⁴⁰ The name was changed to Ni-Wot in March, 1879,⁴¹ for the near-by Ni-Wot mine and mill.⁴² *Ni-Wot* is the Indian name for Left Hand Creek, honoring Left Hand, chief of a band of Arapaho Indians, who was much esteemed by early settlers for his honesty and friendliness.⁴³ (See also *Altona* and *Modoc*.)

North Pella, Boulder County, see *Hygiene*.

Norwood (412 population*), San Miguel County stock-raising settlement, was founded in 1885 by L. M. Copp, who named it for his home in Missouri.⁴⁴ Incorporated August 20, 1903.

Nucla (361 population*), Montrose County, was established in the autumn of 1904 by the Colorado Cooperative Company as a socialistic colony. The name, suggested by C. E. Williams, is a corruption of nucleus, "a center,"⁴⁵ and was selected by the colonists because they believed that the socialistic form of government would spread over the entire country and that their town would be the center of the movement.⁴⁶ Incorporated March 4, 1915.

Nunn (190 population*), Weld County agricultural town, was named in honor of Tom Nunn, homesteader, who prevented a serious train wreck by flagging a train after he had discovered a burning bridge a short distance from Pierce. The Union Pacific Railroad built a house for Mr. Nunn as a token of its appreciation; later (about 1904), when a switch was built by the railroad, John Peterson, the section foreman, suggested that it be named for Mr. Nunn.⁴⁷ The town previously had been known as Maynard, having been laid out by Murray and Bancroft of Denver, on Maynard Flats.⁴⁸ Incorporated March 23, 1908.

Nutria, Archuleta County ghost town, was about three miles south and eight miles west of Pagosa Springs,⁴⁹ on a now-abandoned narrow-gauge branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.⁵⁰

³⁹Data from Mary E. Warren, Ninaview, January 26, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

⁴⁰*Boulder County Year Book, Directory, 1935*, 112.

⁴¹*Colorado Transcript* (Golden), March 19, 1879.

⁴²George Crofutt, *Crofutt's Overland Tourist, 1878-1879*, 66.

⁴³Frank Hall, *op. cit.*, III, 304.

⁴⁴Data from John A. Maxwell, Superintendent of Schools, Norwood, December 2, 1940.

⁴⁵Data from C. E. Williams, Grand Junction, Colorado, February 14, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

⁴⁶Data from L. R. Rist, Forest Supervisor, Uncompahgre National Forest, in 1935, to the State Historical Society.

⁴⁷Data from Marie E. Entwistle, Postmaster, Nunn, February 11, 1935, to the State Historical Society.

⁴⁸Data from Elsie A. Kent, Nunn, January 28, 1941.

⁴⁹U.S.G.S. Topographic Map of Colorado, 1913.

⁵⁰Data from C. M. Lightburn, Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, February 26, 1941, to the State Historical Society.

Nutria is the Spanish word for "otter," although Escalante (early Spanish explorer) used it in his diary to mean "beaver," mentioning the damming of a river by the animals.⁵¹

[Data on additional place names or any corrections would be welcomed by the Colorado Writers' Program or the State Historical Society, State Museum, Denver.]

⁵¹"Place Names in Colorado," M. A. Thesis by Olga Koehler, University of Denver, 1930, 33.

Narraguinnep Fort

AVON DENHAM*

In 1885 stockmen using the country north of Dolores, Colorado, had difficulties with the Indians of the region, whom they accused of butchering the white men's cattle. The affair reached a climax in June, 1885, when the stockmen killed eleven Indians in what was known as the Beaver Massacre. Immediately the Indians retaliated, killing several settlers in the Montezuma Valley.

A number of cattlemen banded together at Narraguinnep Spring and constructed a fort for their mutual protection. The fort was made of large pine logs, approximately three feet in diameter, with the walls three logs high. Port holes were chopped in the crack between the first and second logs on all sides. The roof was made of pine poles with dirt on top. The fort was used for about two weeks, until the Indian scare subsided.

The fort was located in Narraguinnep Canyon, on the road from McPhee to Glade Park, and about twenty-five miles northwest of the town of Dolores. Today it consists of walls only, which are from one to two logs high, the top logs having rotted away. The fort, which is in the Montezuma National Forest, is to be fenced and signed by the Forest Service. The sign gives the names of the stockmen, date of construction, and use made of the fort.

The defenders of the fort were the following: Jud Pearce, George Robinson, Ben Robinson, Bert Robinson, John Bowen, John Spalding and family, R. B. Dunham, James Moore, John Trimble, Sam Todd and Jack Leslie. Mr. Dunham, one of the builders of the fort, is still very active, despite his eighty years. He runs cattle on the Trimble Allotment, only a few miles from the fort.

*Mr. Denham is Supervisor of the Montezuma National Forest, with office in Cortez, Colorado. The above article was supplied through the kindness of Fred R. Johnson, Chief of Information and Education, Rocky Mountain Region Forest Service, Denver.—Ed.