

# THE COLORADO MAGAZINE

Published by  
The State Historical Society of Colorado

VOL. VIII

Denver, Colorado, March, 1931

No. 2

## Early Days in Alamosa

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It was in the famous centennial year 1876 that the thriving little city of Alamosa, Colorado, began her existence. A hopeful land company, a little log school, an embryo church, and a few rude huts marked the beginning. It was the hope that it might become the terminal point of the much heralded Denver and Rio Grande railroad that kept this budding little settlement at the southerly bend of the Rio Grande River alive.

This railroad had stretched its tiny steel rails and narrow gauge track as far as Pueblo in 1872. When Colorado was admitted as a State, it had reached the little hamlet at the eastern base of the magnificent Sangre de Cristo Range, La Veta.

It was at this time that some of the promoters of the road became interested in the townsite at Alamosa and held out the promise of a terminal point at the site of the struggling village. Two years later the road was completed to Garland City at the western base of the mountains, and a few miles above the famous old fort of that name.

At this time the great inland tableland known as the San Luis Valley was a very sparsely settled region. In fact, the Ute Indians, on account of the procrastination of the government in making settlement with them, were still wandering over its great meadows clinging to the forlorn hope that this might once again become their homeland and hunting ground.

A few fairly thriving settlements had been made around the margin of this vast area. Some were agricultural, others were due to the rich minerals which were beginning to be opened up in the surrounding mountains.

From the Spanish settlement founded by Carlos Beaubien in 1852 at San Luis, on the Culebra, little colonies had spread to the Costilla and Trinchera.

From the northern settlement made by Major Head at Guadalupe or Conejos in 1854, colonists had gone to the La Jara, La Loma, to the Lucero plaza on the Rio Grande, to the mouth of the La Garita and to Saguache in the extreme northern part of the valley.

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There was also a colony of Iowa stockmen on Rock Creek, and another of Swedes who had taken up lands north and west of where Monte Vista now stands. Del Norte had become a wide-awake village supplying the nearby mining and agricultural communities, and was basing great hopes of becoming a metropolis as the gateway of the San Juan region. On the eastern side of the valley, near the headwaters of Sangre de Cristo Creek, the mining community of Placer was flourishing in the belief that this was the region of the fabulously rich Spanish "diggings" of the sixteenth century.

Some of the discharged officers and men of the famous First Colorado Volunteers had established "squatters' rights" in the valley. Captain Kerber, of Company D, with some friends, was located a few miles above the present Villa Grove, Henry Backus on the Rio Grande just northwest of Alamosa, Peter Hansen three miles below the town, and James Shultz at the mouth of the Conejos. Such was the condition of the valley when the railroad reached its eastern border in the spring of '78.

It is told that when the surveying crew came first in view of the wide expanse of the valley, the chief of the construction gang came to the camp. Taking the transit to a prominent point, he said: "See that hill on the west side of the valley in line with the bend of the river. Well, run your line as straight for them points as the Lord Almighty will let you." And so the line ran straight as the arrow flies to the bend of the Rio Grande.

It was on the fourth of July of the year 1878 that the first train came rumbling across the newly constructed bridges carrying several of the prominent officers of the company. A hastily prepared, but not less sincere, reception awaited them.

It was a motley throng which gave voice as well as other louder and more reverberating indications of their joy at the breaking of their long isolation. Indians in their gaily colored blankets, cowboys from the Zapata and Medano ranches in their holiday togs, miners recently returned from the hills, Spanish and Anglo-Americans from the remote settlements, and last, but not least, the promoters of the newly mapped city, who in anticipation of its future greatness had plotted into blocks and lots a half section or three hundred and twenty acres of land. Surely they cannot be accused of lacking vision or optimism. It was a remarkable reception. Somewhat wild and raucous, but well suited to the temper of the populace of the city at the end of a railroad.

The first train carried other things of interest besides its human freight. Perched upon flatcars were two hotels and a saloon which had served their purpose admirably in Garland City, but whose owners saw greater things in the new terminal town. Thus it happened that the Occidental Hotel and the Broadwell House,

which had served breakfast to their patrons in Garland City, after being transferred bodily to Alamosa, were able to serve dinner to their guests in a brand new setting. The same was true of the Gem Saloon, which dispensed refreshment to the miners of Garland City in the morning and was able to quench the thirst of the denizens of the newly laid out burg. These buildings continued as landmarks in Alamosa for years, although the name of the Broadwell House was changed to the Victoria Hotel, which, in a new location, persists today.

The building of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad into the valley and beyond was a marvel of pluck, optimism and engineering skill. Great credit must be given to General William J. Palmer, the builder, whose far-seeing vision, tremendous energy, and unbounding optimism made this undertaking possible. He not only possessed these qualities himself, but he had the rarer gift of conveying them to others.

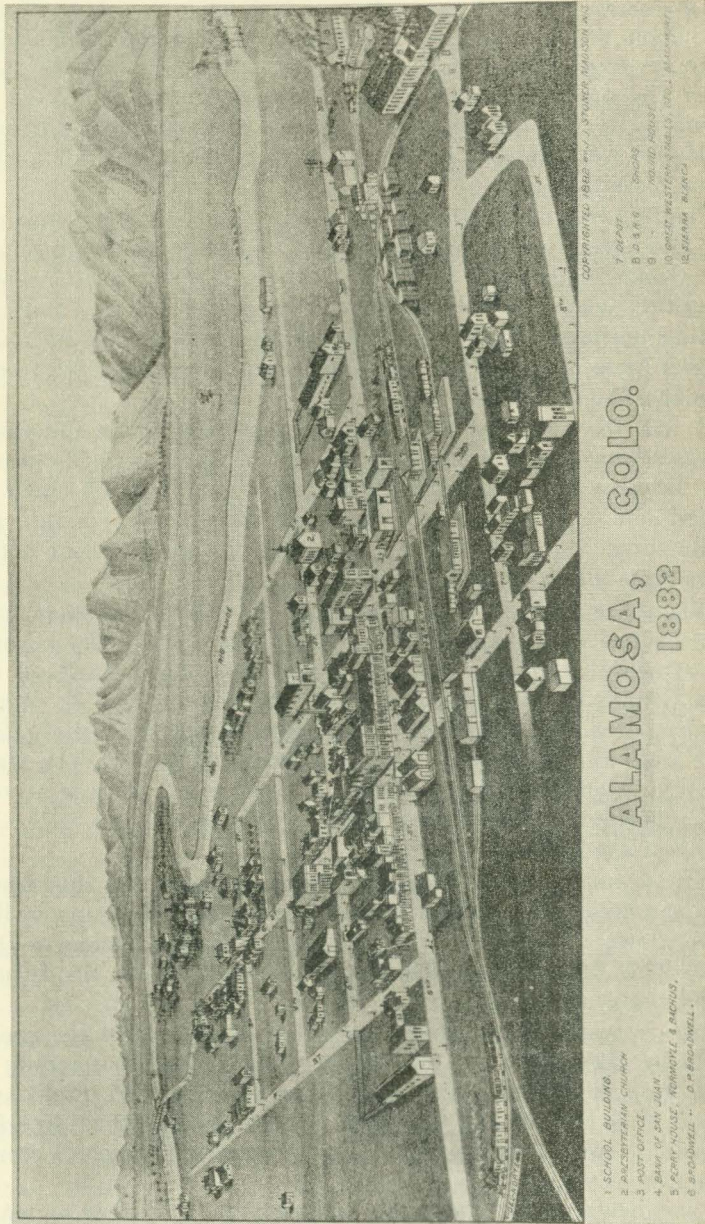
It was the first real mountain road to be built in Colorado, and was a wonder of engineering daring and skill—with its gradient of 211 feet per mile, its sharp muleshoe curves which clung to the shoulders of the dizzy mountains like the strand of a spider's web, its threading of narrow ravines made it the marvel of noted visitors from all parts of the world.

When the railroad was completed to Pueblo, a stage and freighting line was established from this place to Lake City beyond the continental divide by way of Walsenburg, La Veta Pass, up the Rio Grande to Del Norte, Antelope Park and Clear Creek. When the railroad reached Walsenburg, that town became the initial point for the stage and freighters. The same held true for La Veta, Garland City, Alamosa and Del Norte in their turn. It was a constantly shortening trail which finally came to an end with the building of the railroad to Creede.

It was known when Alamosa became the terminal that there would be a breathing spell before the lines were pushed up the Rio Grande, down the river to Santa Fe and over the divide to Durango. This fact decided the destiny of Alamosa as the future railroad center of the valley.

Two forwarding companies were formed to freight the goods brought by the railroad to this point to their final destination in the mining camps of the San Juan region. These were Field and Hill and F. S. Struby and Company. In addition to their freighting business, which was enormous, they conducted general stores in Alamosa as well.

The stage company under the management of Barlow and Anderson established offices and the boom was on. Several firms which had established themselves in Del Norte now saw it would be to their



advantage to cast their lot with the new town. Among these were Alva Adams, dealer in hardware, who had for his enterprising clerk, Billy Adams; the Schiffer Brothers, pioneer bankers of the valley; Theodore Emperius with his meat market; and C. R. Ottoway, who established a dairy and livery stable. The railroad made Alamosa a division station and established shops, which assured the town of a large and permanent payroll.

Like practically all towns which by force of circumstances catch the stray elements, the riffraff and lawless that follow a new railroad, Alamosa had to pass through its period of border ruffianism and toughness. It became the rendezvous of many shady characters. It, as may have been expected, had many stirring days during those early years. At one time the saloons, gambling dens and dance halls outnumbered the legitimate business houses. Here came the cowboys from the great cattle ranches, after long weeks of riding herd or fence riding, to drown their loneliness and pent-up feelings in an orgy of dissipation, which was only satisfied when they had shot up the place. Also the miner drifted here to shake off the despondency of long disappointment, or to celebrate in primitive fashion newly found riches. Then, too, there were the soldiers of the nearby fort who came to squander their pay among the bright lights—. Here, too, were the professional gambler and bad man, who preyed upon their fellows.

It is not to be wondered at that many died with their boots on. One of the most notorious of these lawless characters was a woman, China Pete, a Mongolian, who in the guise of a storekeeper hatched up more devilry than any man.

Mob violence was quite in evidence, meting out sometimes justice, but often, like such sporadic efforts, going astray. Once a rather worthless saloon loafer in his drunken meanderings molested one of the popular women of the town. The next morning his body was swaying in the breezes, while over him was placed a placard reading: "Alamosa perthecks her wimmen." It was probably a good riddance anyway.

As is always the case in such an environment, cattle stealing raids, stage robberies, and other crimes were planned in the dens which abounded in this "Hell's Half Acre." One of these deserves mention. A one-armed gent having been "cleaned" by the card sharks of the place decided to recoup his fortune in a rather novel and daring manner. He had learned that the stagecoach would that night carry quite a large amount of gold from the mines, as well as some of the wealthy owners. He might easily have enlisted help in his plan from the company about him, but his late experience had put him at "outs" with them, so he determined on putting on the job alone. This is what happened:

The stagecoach was traveling at a brisk pace along a rather lonely stretch of the road not far from Alamosa when the driver suddenly noticed a barricade across the way; bringing his coach to a stop, he was about to reconnoitre when he found himself looking into the muzzle of a long rifle and heard the gruff command, "Everybody hands up and get down offen there." By the light of a small fire at the side of the road, it could be seen that several rifle barrels were resting over a log and aimed directly at them. The masked bandit, covering the driver, yelled, "Keep 'em covered, fellows, while I go through the bunch." With such odds against them, the driver and passengers readily handed over their valuables.

When the belated stage reached Alamosa, a posse was hastily gathered and was soon galloping up the road to the scene of the holdup. The barricades were still there and the fire still burning. The rifles were apparently well aimed across the log. A more careful examination disclosed the fact that the deadly rifles were only round willow poles blackened in the fire.

It must not be supposed from the foregoing that the entire population was made up of such desperate or lawless characters. On the other hand, Alamosa, in that earlier day, could boast of more citizens who were or were to become noted in the annals of the State than any town of its size in the State. Mention has been made of Alva Adams, pioneer hardware merchant, afterward three times inaugurated as governor, and his clerk, Billy Adams, who has just been inaugurated for his third term. It is certain that this record has not been equalled in Colorado, and it is doubtful if it has been duplicated in any state. In the original land company was Ex-Territorial Governor A. C. Hunt and Dr. W. A. Bell, a prominent English surgeon and author. Later came Eugene Engley, who was elected attorney general of the State, and Arthur Strong, who held the office of State treasurer for a time. Another governor, Albert McIntyre, resided here for a time. Alamosa also furnished the State two members of the supreme court, Chas. D. Hayt and John T. Adams. In addition to these State officers, District Judge C. C. Holbrook made his home here for several years. There were many others who became distinguished in the affairs of the valley, but space will not permit the mention of these.

It will be seen that side by side with this turbulent element there was an intelligent, progressive, law-abiding majority which by their far-seeing, untiring efforts have builded a city which is the pride of all her citizens and an ornament to the State.

## A Preliminary Note on the Investigation of Indian Hair

GEORGE WOODBURY

Several months ago the attention of the archaeological department of the State Historical Society of Colorado was called to the rather singular appearance of the hair of a certain "mummy" reposing in one of the exhibit cases of the museum. The "mummy" forms a part of the extensive collection of material from the great cliff dwellings of the Mesa Verde, which are on exhibition. The hair presented an extraordinary appearance for the reason that instead of being black, straight and coarse as one is led to suppose is the case with all American Indians, it appeared rather brown, silky and with a distinct tendency to fall in waves. An investigation was made into the true nature of this individual's hair with the result that the appearance did not belie the fact as observable under the microscope. The cross section of a straight hair is round when seen under the microscope, that of a wavy hair is oval and a frizzy or "woolly" hair is kidney shaped. This microscopic method has proved to be one of great accuracy in determining the form of hair and resulted in this instance in showing that this particular "mummy's" hair was wavy, brown in color and as fine in texture as is generally the case with most white Americans.

The question which then immediately presented itself was whether the "mummy" under consideration was unique among his fellows in this respect or whether hair of this description was typical of the Cliff Dwellers of the Mesa Verde. Accordingly, all of the human remains in the museum that had originally come from the Mesa Verde were diligently examined for hair or traces of hair. In the end samples of hair from fourteen adult individuals were obtained, thanks to the extraordinary state of preservation of specimens coming from this region. When this series of hair samples were investigated it showed clearly that wavy, fine, brown hair was indeed the rule among the Cliff Dwellers and not the exception.

It may be well at this point to consider the subject of Indian hair as it is generally described. The prevailing view is that the hair of the American Indian is of the "Mongoloid" type, that is to say, black, straight and coarse in texture. This view, while not universally accepted, is held by perhaps the majority of anthropologists and appears very frequently in the present anthropological literature. The analogy between the hair of the American Indian and the hair of the Mongoloid peoples of Asia forms, in fact, one

of the main items upon which the hypothesis of the Indian's Asiatic origin rests.

It now became clear that a more far-reaching research would be warranted to discover what, if any, of the present living Indians had this Mesa Verde type of hair. The Indian agencies and schools throughout the country and several of the eastern museums have been most courteous and helpful in responding to what must have appealed to many as a most irrational request for samples of adult full-blooded Indian hair. It was interesting to note that many Indians, especially the older ones, were sensitive about parting with even the smallest lock of hair, no doubt a survival of the scalping days when such an action would have been fancied as most significant. The younger generation, on the other hand, responded with a considerable degree of curiosity and amusement to the request.

So far several hundred specimens have been measured and studied, but as yet the results have not been finally calculated. Until such time it is thought best to withhold any conclusions regarding this subject, except to say that Indian hair is not uniformly of the straight, black, coarse, "Mongoloid" type, even among the present living Indians.

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## The Counties of Colorado: A History of Their Creation and the Origin of Their Names

LEROY R. HAFEN

The history of a region is written in the names upon its map. Thus in Colorado, where converged various streams of national influence, the different elements have left their traces.

The musical Spanish names that cover the map of southern Colorado not only carry the enchanting flavor of old Spain, but recall and record the days of early Spanish exploration and conquest in the region. The few names of French origin indicate the lesser heritage from France. The Indian names distributed over all sections of the State are about all that remain today of the one-time lords of the realm. Certain Anglo-American names are reminiscent of the period of exploration and the days of the trapper, while the colorful days of the gold rush and the hectic days of prospecting and early mining have left their typical names, seasoned with humor and tragedy. These generalizations which apply to the names of streams, mountains and towns, do not apply with like fidelity to county names. But even the names of counties we shall find to be weighted with historical significance.

As the place names of the State reflect the story of exploration and settlement, so the creation of counties exhibits the de-

velopment of the State, indicating the time of settlement of various sections and faithfully reflecting the periods of growth. Let us trace first the creation of Colorado's counties and then examine the origin of the county names.

Colorado's first Territorial Legislature, which assembled at Denver on September 9, 1861, consisted of but thirteen members in the "House of Representatives"<sup>1</sup> and nine in the "Council."<sup>2</sup> One of the important duties confronting this pioneer legislative body was the division of the territory into counties and the creation of county machinery.

On September 12th the membership of the sixteen standing committees of the House was announced, the committee on "Counties and County Lines" being composed of Chilcott, Rankin and Steele.<sup>3</sup> The following day the President of the Council, E. A. Arnold, announced the thirteen standing committees of the Council, Messrs. Parker, Steck and Graham constituting the committee on "Counties."<sup>4</sup> Within three weeks the committee of the Council had its county plan formulated. Council Bill No. 25, "An Act to define county boundaries and locate county seats in Colorado Territory," was introduced on October 1st and on the 10th was passed by the Council. By amendment just before passage, the name "Larimer" was substituted for "Laporte" as the name for present Larimer County.<sup>5</sup>

The bill now went to the House and on October 16th was made the special order of the day.<sup>6</sup> The House adopted amendments changing the county seat of Douglas County from Oakes Mill to Frankstown and that of Clear Creek County from Idaho to Empire City. It proposed the consolidation of Costilla and Guadalupe counties. Other minor amendments were also adopted. An unsuccessful attempt was made to change the name of El Paso County to "Scudder County," Representative Scudder voting in the negative on this proposal to do him honor.

Not all the House amendments to the bill being accepted by the Council, and the House insisting on its amendments, a conference committee from each chamber was appointed. A compromise was effected, the bill was passed and became a law on November 1, 1861.<sup>7</sup> It divided the territory into seventeen counties and designated the temporary county seats. Representative Garcia introduced a bill

<sup>1</sup>The House was composed of the following members: Jesus M. Barela, Jerome B. Chaffee, George M. Chilcott, George F. Crocker, Victor Garcia, Charles F. Holly, J. H. Noteware, W. A. Rankin, Edwin Scudder, Daniel Steele, O. A. Whittemore, E. S. Wilhite, and Daniel Witter.

<sup>2</sup>The members of the Council were: E. A. Arnold, A. U. Colby, J. M. Francisco, H. J. Graham, C. W. Mather, H. F. Parker, S. M. Robbins, Amos Steck, and R. B. Willis.

<sup>3</sup>*House Journal*, first session of the Legislative Assembly of Colorado, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup>*Council Journal*, first Legislative Assembly of Colorado Territory, p. 18.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, 45, 64.

<sup>6</sup>*House Journal*, p. 192.

<sup>7</sup>*Session Laws*, 1861, p. 57.

to change the name of Guadalupe County to Conejos County, which readily passed the House and Council and was approved by the governor on November 6th.<sup>8</sup> The list of Colorado's original counties and county seats is as follows:<sup>9</sup>

Arapahoe County, Denver; Boulder County, Boulder; Clear Creek County, Idaho; Conejos (Guadalupe) County, Guadalupe; Costilla County, San Miguel; Douglas County, Frankstown; El Paso County, Colorado; Fremont County, Canon City; Huerfano County, Autubes; Jefferson County, Golden City; Lake County, Oro City; Larimer County, Laporte; Park County, Tarryall City; Pueblo County, Pueblo; Summit County, Parkville; Weld County, St. Vrain.

An interesting commentary on the fortunes of cities and towns in a new country is the fact that of the original seventeen county seats only six are county seats today, a number are no larger today than they were in 1861, while five have entirely ceased to exist. Five of those seventeen counties—Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson and Park—still retain their original boundaries, but the remainder have undergone numerous and far-reaching changes.

As regards the relation of county boundaries to Indian reservations the legislature was not entirely consistent. As is shown in the accompanying map, the Arapaho and Cheyenne Reservation on Sand Creek, in southeastern Colorado, was excluded from county boundaries, while in the western part of the State the counties were extended over the Ute lands embracing the whole of the western slope.

The years immediately following the creation of Colorado Territory in 1861 were years of discouragement for the pioneers of the new region. Although there had been heavy immigration to the "Pike's Peak Country" in 1859 and in 1860, a large proportion of the gold seekers had returned to their homes in the East. When Governor Gilpin had a census of the territory taken in the summer of 1861 it revealed a population of but 25,331—about half the size of the present city of Pueblo.

The population of Colorado remained about stationary during the next five or six years. The immigration was small, being greatly retarded by the Civil War and the Indian Wars on the plains. Perhaps the chief cause of stagnation, however, was the slump in mining. The placer deposits were largely exhausted and the ore on the gold lodes had become more and more refractory as the workings penetrated farther beneath the surface. Agriculture as yet had received but meager development. Under these conditions there was little demand for creation of new counties, and during

<sup>8</sup>*House Journal*, pp. 242, 307; *Council Journal*, p. 181; *Session Laws*, 1861, p. 143.

<sup>9</sup>*Session Laws*, 1861, pp. 52-57.

the decade of the sixties only two were added to the original seventeen. These two, Las Animas and Saguache, were created in 1866.

Las Animas County was formed from a portion of the original Huerfano County and the town of Trinidad became the county seat of the new division.<sup>10</sup> Saguache County was carved from Costilla and the new town of Saguache City became its county seat.<sup>11</sup> With the removal of the Cheyennes and Arapahoes to reservations outside of Colorado and the cession of their former reservation here to the United States, the territorial legislature in 1868 extended the boundaries of existing counties to include the land thus ceded.

The decade of the seventies was one of marked improvement for Colorado. The Civil War was over; the Indians had been removed from the central and eastern parts of the territory; smelting processes had been evolved for the treatment of refractory sulphide ores; the railroad had come; and agriculture and stockraising were finding their stride. These improved conditions were both cause and effect of increased immigration. During the decade of the seventies the population of Colorado increased almost fivefold, rising from 39,864 in 1870 to 194,327 in 1880. Naturally this great increase brought about a demand for increase of counties, and it resulted in the creation of thirteen new counties during the decade.

The eastern parts of El Paso and Pueblo counties, then reaching to the Kansas line, were cut off in 1870 and formed into Greenwood and Bent counties.<sup>12</sup> The town of Kit Carson, bustling with the freight destined for Santa Fe which was coming over the newly constructed Kansas Pacific railroad, was made the county seat of Greenwood County, and Las Animas became the county seat of Bent County.

The tenth legislature in 1874 created five new counties. One of these was Elbert County, formed from the eastern part of Douglas and the northern portion of Greenwood.<sup>13</sup> The remainder of Greenwood was added to Bent, and Greenwood County disappeared from the map after an existence of four years.<sup>14</sup> This is the only instance thus far in Colorado history of the abolishment of a county.

The great mining discoveries made in the San Juan country in the early seventies brought a great influx of miners and prospectors into this rich region and caused demands for cession of Ute claims and for county reorganization. The Ute Indians were induced to give up the San Juan rectangle through the agreement of

<sup>10</sup>*Session Laws*, 1866, p. 40. Act of Feb. 9, 1866.

<sup>11</sup>*Session Laws*, 1866-7, p. 54. Act of Dec. 29, 1866.

<sup>12</sup>*Session Laws*, 1870, p. 52. Act of Feb. 11, 1870.

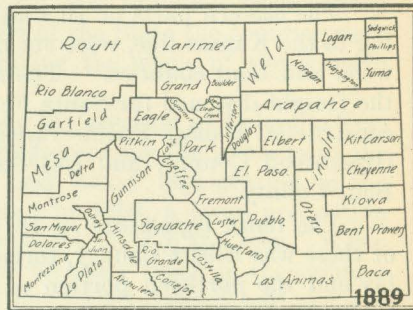
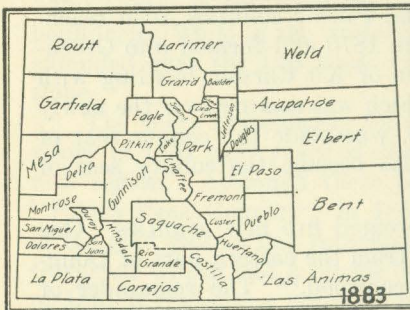
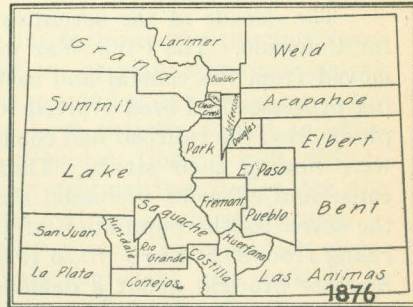
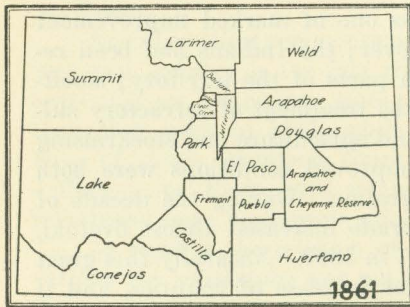
<sup>13</sup>*Session Laws*, 1874, p. 69. Act of Feb. 2, 1874. Middle Kiowa was named the county seat.

<sup>14</sup>*Session Laws*, 1874, p. 61. Act of Feb. 6, 1874.



September 13, 1873.<sup>15</sup> The original counties of Lake and Conejos, comprising the southwestern quarter of the State, were soon dissected into a patchwork of new counties. Rio Grande, Hinsdale and La Plata counties were created in 1874,<sup>16</sup> and San Juan was made from the northern part of La Plata in 1876.<sup>17</sup> The northern part of Summit County was formed into Grand County in 1874, with Hot Sulphur Springs as the county seat.<sup>18</sup>

Thus by the end of the territorial period Colorado's original seventeen counties had been increased to twenty-six. See map accompanying this article.



THE COUNTY MAP OF COLORADO AT FOUR SUCCESSIVE STAGES

But the creation of new counties was by no means at an end. At the first session of the State legislature the list was increased to thirty. Ouray County was created from the western part of San Juan,<sup>19</sup> and Gunnison County from the western portion of Lake.<sup>20</sup> The western and major part of Grand was cut off to form Routt

<sup>15</sup>C. J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs. Laws and Treaties*, I, 151.

<sup>16</sup>*Session Laws*, 1874, p. 66. Act of Feb. 10, 1874. The county seats were as follows: Rio Grande, Del Norte; Hinsdale, San Juan; and La Plata, Howardsville.

<sup>17</sup>*Session Laws*, 1876, p. 58. Act of Jan. 31, 1876. Silverton was made the county seat of San Juan County.

<sup>18</sup>*Session Laws*, 1874, p. 70. Act of Feb. 2, 1874.

<sup>19</sup>*General Laws*, 1877, p. 207. Act of Jan. 18, 1877.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 213. Act of March 9, 1877.

County, named in honor of the first State governor.<sup>21</sup> The southern part of Fremont was formed into Custer County by the same first State legislature.<sup>22</sup>

With the discovery of silver-bearing lead carbonate in Lake County during the latter seventies, the city of Leadville began its meteoric rise to world fame. Responding to the demands of the mounting population, the legislature divided the county, at first giving its north end the name "Carbonate." But two days later this name was discarded for Lake, and the southern end was given the name Chaffee.<sup>23</sup>

The rapid growth so noticeable in Colorado during the '70s continued unabated through the succeeding decade. Mines continued to give forth their wealth, and ever-extending farms produced the crops necessary to sustain the increasing population. According to the United States census figures, the value of assessed property in the state trebled during the decade of the '80s, the number of farms quadrupled, railroad mileage almost trebled, and capital invested in manufacturing increased sixfold. The population increased to 413,249, or well over 100 per cent for the decade. It is not surprising, therefore, that counties multiplied during the "prosperous eighties."

In 1881 Ouray County was divided in order to establish Dolores and from the northeastern corner of Gunnison the county of Pitkin was created.<sup>24</sup> With the removal of the Utes from the Western Slope to Utah in 1881, eager settlers rushed onto the lands of the former reservation and cities and towns sprang up as by magic. The legislature in 1883 took cognizance of this development and subdivided the large western counties. Summit was reduced to its present size, while Eagle and Garfield counties were erected from its former western portion.<sup>25</sup> Gunnison was likewise reduced to its present dimensions to give rise to Mesa, Delta, and Montrose counties.<sup>26</sup> A new county, Uncompahgre, was created from the eastern portion of Ouray County and from a part of old Gunnison, but three days after the passage of the law, the name was changed to Ouray and the name of former Ouray County was changed to San Miguel.<sup>27</sup>

The next legislature created Archuleta County from the western part of Conejos.<sup>28</sup> The eastern half of Weld County was

<sup>21</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 209. Act of Jan. 29, 1877.

<sup>22</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 211. Act of March 9, 1877.

<sup>23</sup>*Session Laws*, 1879, pp. 45, 48. Acts of Feb. 8 and 10, 1879.

<sup>24</sup>*Session Laws*, 1881, pp. 92, 89. Acts of Feb. 19 and 23, 1881. The county seat of Dolores County was located at Rico and that of Pitkin at Aspen.

<sup>25</sup>*Session Laws*, 1883, pp. 127, 130. Redcliff became the county seat of Eagle County and Carbonate that of Garfield County.

<sup>26</sup>*Session Laws*, 1883, pp. 133, 124, 136. The county seats were as follows: for Mesa County, Grand Junction; for Delta County, Delta; and for Montrose County, Montrose.

<sup>27</sup>*Session Laws*, 1883, pp. 139, 123.

<sup>28</sup>*Session Laws*, 1885, p. 40.

erected into Logan and Washington counties by the 6th General Assembly in 1887.<sup>29</sup>

We now come to the year 1889, and to the 7th General Assembly, which might well be called the "County-making Assembly." Thirteen new counties were created at this session. With the exception of Montezuma<sup>30</sup> and Rio Blanco,<sup>31</sup> all of these came into being in the eastern part of the State. This portion of Colorado was having a remarkable growth in the late eighties. Large irrigation projects in the valleys of the Platte and the Arkansas afforded farms and homes for a greatly increased population. A series of wet years in the middle eighties encouraged farmers to take up the land on the high plains. The building across this area of new railroads—the Burlington, the Rock Island, and the Missouri Pacific—encouraged the building of towns and the development of the region.

It was in this period of expansion and confidence, before the dry years of the early nineties had forced large numbers of the dry farmers to desert their homesteads, that the creation of these numerous counties was effected. The counties thus formed, with the dates of acts creating them, are as follows: Morgan, Feb. 19, 1889; Yuma, March 15th; Cheyenne, March 25th; Otero, March 25th; Phillips, March 27th; Sedgwick, April 9th; Kiowa, April 11th; Kit Carson, April 11th; Lincoln, April 11th; Prowers, April 11th; and Baca, April 16th.

There have been comparatively few counties created since 1889. The period of the nineties was in general one of depression for Colorado. The decline in the price of silver with its far-reaching consequences, the panic of 1893 with its aftermath of hard times, the thin years on the dry farms, all tended to cause a general depression which turned the thoughts of the citizenry to things other than the formation of new counties.

To this general situation there were two exceptions. Two brilliant mining districts sprang into being in the decade. The first—short-lived, being founded on silver—was Creede, whose boom induced the creation of Mineral County in 1893.<sup>32</sup> The other district, destined for a longer and brighter history, centered about Cripple Creek and her treasure vaults of gold. This mineral belt of El Paso and Fremont counties was formed into Teller County in 1899.<sup>33</sup>

Since 1900, during three decades that have witnessed the doub-

<sup>29</sup>*Session Laws*, 1887, pp. 247, 251. An attempt had been made in 1872 to create Platte County from the eastern part of Weld, but although the legislature authorized the change (Act of Feb. 9, 1872), the proposal was defeated by popular vote.

<sup>30</sup>*Session Laws*, 1889, p. 262.

<sup>31</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 325.

<sup>32</sup>*Session Laws*, 1893, p. 94. Act of March 27, 1893.

<sup>33</sup>*Session Laws*, 1899, p. 359. Act of March 23, 1899.

ling of Colorado's population, six new counties have been formed. Arapahoe County, after forty years of existence, with boundaries extending from the mountains to the Kansas line, was finally subdivided. In 1901 the General Assembly proposed a constitutional amendment, Article XX, to create the "City and County of Denver."<sup>34</sup> It also provided by statute that upon acceptance of this amendment the remainder of Arapahoe County should be divided into Adams County and South Arapahoe County.<sup>35</sup> These two counties accordingly came into existence on November 15, 1902. The next General Assembly added the eastern part of Adams County, an area formerly comprised in the original Arapahoe County, to Washington and Yuma counties, and changed the name of South Arapahoe to Arapahoe County.<sup>36</sup>

That part of Larimer County lying west of the Medicine Bow Range was constituted Jackson County by the legislature in 1909.<sup>37</sup> The General Assembly of 1911 created two new counties, Moffat being formed from a part of Routt, and Crowley being cut from Otero.<sup>38</sup> With the creation in 1913 of Alamosa County, from portions of Conejos and Costilla, the family of Colorado counties was brought up to its present number—63.

The improved roads and increased facilities for communication and transportation that have characterized the past two decades have to a large extent obviated the need for subdivision of counties. And now with the urge for administrative economy, there has come a demand for consolidation rather than division of counties. It would therefore appear probable, in view of the present situation and tendencies, that the number of Colorado's counties has reached its maximum.

Following is a list of Colorado's counties with the dates of creation and origin of the names:

**Adams County** (1902) was named in honor of Governor Alva Adams, who served two terms and sixty days as governor of Colorado.

**Alamosa County** (1913). *Alamosa* is a Spanish word meaning "cottonwood grove." Spanish pioneers gave the name to a creek within the present county. It was next given to the town and finally to the county.

**Arapahoe County** (1861) was named for the Arapaho Indians who long inhabited eastern Colorado.

**Archuleta County** (1885) was named in honor of Antonio D.

<sup>34</sup>*Session Laws*, 1901, p. 97.

<sup>35</sup>*Session Laws*, 1901, pp. 133, 138.

<sup>36</sup>*Session Laws*, 1903, pp. 169, 173, 165.

<sup>37</sup>*Session Laws*, 1909, p. 432.

<sup>38</sup>*Session Laws*, 1911, pp. 516, 277.

Archuleta, who was Senator from Conejos County when it was divided to form Archuleta County.

**Baca County** (1889) was named, at the suggestion of Senator Barela, for the Baca family of Trinidad. A member of this family had been the first settler on Two Butte Creek.

**Bent County** (1870) takes its name from famous Bent's Fort (located on the north bank of the Arkansas, midway between modern La Junta and Las Animas), and from the Bent brothers, who founded the fort, 1828-32.

**Boulder County** (1861) was named after Boulder City and Boulder Creek, which derived their name from the abundance of boulders in the locality.

**Chaffee County** (1879) was named in honor of Senator Jerome B. Chaffee (1825-86), who retired from the United States Senate in the year Chaffee County was created.

**Cheyenne County** (1889) took its name from the Cheyenne Indians, nomad dwellers on the plains when the settlement of Colorado began.

**Clear Creek County** (1861) was so named from the stream that traverses it. The creek was first called Vasquez Fork, but the present name was adopted by 1860.

**Conejos County** (1861). *Conejos* is Spanish for "rabbits." The name was applied to the principal river of the present county by the Spaniards of New Mexico long before the permanent settlement of the region began. The name was then adopted by the town and finally by the county.

**Costilla County** (1861). *Costilla* is Spanish for "rib" and for "furring timber." The Costilla River was named by the Spaniards before 1800. The town and then the county adopted the name.

**Crowley County** (1911) was named for John H. Crowley, who was Senator from Otero County at the time that county was divided to form Crowley County.

**Custer County** (1877) was named in honor of General George A. Custer, who, with his entire command, was exterminated by the Indians on the Little Bighorn, present Montana, in June, 1876.

**Delta County** (1883) took its name from the city of Delta, which was so named because of its location on the delta of the Uncompahgre River.

**Denver City and County** (1902) was named in honor of General James W. Denver (1817-1892), who was governor of Kansas in 1858. When founded, the city of Denver was in Kansas Territory.

**Dolores County** (1881) took its name from the Dolores River. The full Spanish name, reported by Father Escalante in 1776, was *Rio de Nuestra Senora de los Dolores* (River of our Lady of Sorrows).

**Douglas County** (1861) was named in honor of Stephen A. Douglas (1813-61), who died in the year of the organization of Colorado's first counties.

**Eagle County** (1883) took its name from Eagle River. This stream had been called Piney River by Fremont when he visited it in 1845.

**Elbert County** (1874) was named in honor of Samuel H. Elbert, governor of Colorado when this county was created.

**El Paso County** (1861). *El Paso* is Spanish for "the Pass." Ute Pass, west of Colorado Springs, was the famous pass referred to.

**Fremont County** (1861) was named for General John C. Fremont (1813-90), famous western explorer.

**Garfield County** (1883) was named in honor of President James A. Garfield (1831-81).

**Gilpin County** (1861) was named for Colonel William Gilpin, first governor of Colorado.

**Grand County** (1874) took its name from Grand Lake and Grand River.

**Gunnison County** (1877). The river, town and county were named for Captain John W. Gunnison, who explored the region in 1853 and in the fall of that year was killed by Indians in Utah.

**Hinsdale County** (1874) was named in honor of George A. Hinsdale, prominent pioneer and leader in southern Colorado, and former Lieutenant Governor, who died during the month preceding the creation of Hinsdale County.

**Huerfano County** (1861). *Huerfano* is Spanish for "orphan." The county was named after the Huerfano River, which was so named from Huerfano Butte, an isolated, cone-shaped butte in the river bottom.

**Jackson County** (1909) presumably was named in honor of President Andrew Jackson.

**Jefferson County** (1861) took its name from "Jefferson Territory," the extra-legal government that preceded Colorado. The name was adopted in honor of President Thomas Jefferson.

**Kiowa County** (1889) derived its name from the Kiowa Indians who frequented the region of eastern Colorado in years past.

**Kit Carson County** (1889) was named in honor of the great western scout, Kit Carson (1809-68).

**Lake County** (1861) took its name from the Twin Lakes, notable features of the region.

**La Plata County** (1874). *La Plata* is Spanish for "silver." Silver discoveries in the region by Spaniards during the 18th century fixed the name upon the river and mountains and it was subsequently given to the county.

**Larimer County** (1861) was named in honor of General William Larimer, a founder of Denver and prominent pioneer of Colorado.

**Las Animas County** (1866) derived its name from the principal river of the county. The full name of this stream, discovered and christened by early Spanish explorers, is *El Rio de las Animas Perdidas en Purgatorio* (The River of the Souls Lost in Purgatory).

**Lincoln County** (1889) was named in honor of President Abraham Lincoln.

**Logan County** (1887) was named for General John A. Logan (1826-86), who died shortly before the organization of the county.

**Mesa County** (1883). *Mesa* is Spanish for "table." The county took its name from the mesas, or tablelands, common in the region, and perhaps more especially from the Grand Mesa.

**Mineral County** (1893) owes its name as well as its existence to the mineral resources of the region.

**Moffat County** (1911) was named in honor of David H. Moffat, outstanding Colorado pioneer and railroad builder.

**Montezuma County** (1889) derives its name from the famous chief of the Aztecs of Mexico City, whom Cortez conquered. The prehistoric dwellings in Montezuma County were thought to have been built by the Aztecs.

**Montrose County** (1883) was named after the city of Montrose, which is said to have derived its name from Sir Walter Scott's *The Legend of Montrose* (1819).

**Morgan County** (1889) took its name from Fort Morgan. The original fort (1865-68), established as a protection against the Indians, was first called "Junction" or "Camp Wardwell." In 1866 it was officially christened Fort Morgan, in honor of Colonel Christopher A. Morgan, who died that year.

**Otero County** (1889) was named in honor of Miguel Otero, one of the founders of La Junta, and a member of a prominent Spanish family of southern Colorado and New Mexico.

**Ouray County** (1877) was named for Chief Ouray, distinguished Ute chieftain.

**Park County** (1861) derived its name from South Park, which was so named by the early fur traders and trappers.

**Phillips County** (1889) was named in honor of R. O. Phillips, secretary of the Lincoln Land Company, which organized a number of the towns of eastern Colorado.

**Pitkin County** (1881) was named for Frederick W. Pitkin (1837-86), governor of Colorado when this county was created.

**Prowers County** (1889) took the name of John W. Prowers (1838-84), leading pioneer of the Arkansas Valley.

**Pueblo County** (1861). *Pueblo* is Spanish for "town" or "village." The cluster of adobe houses built at the site of the present city of Pueblo in 1841-2 came to be called "the pueblo." The name was adopted by the present city and then given to the county.

**Rio Blanco County** (1889). *Rio Blanco* is Spanish for "White River." The county takes its name from the principal stream of the locality. Escalante, in 1776, named the stream "San Clemente," but the appellation did not persist.

**Rio Grande County** (1874) was named for the large river of the region. The original Spanish name was *Rio Grande del Norte* (Great River of the North).

**Routt County** (1877) was named in honor of John L. Routt (1826-1907), last Territorial and first State governor of Colorado.

**Saguache County** (1866). The name is a modified form of the Ute word meaning "blue earth" or "water at the blue earth." The name was applied first to the stream, then to the town, and finally to the county.

**San Juan County** (1876). *San Juan* is Spanish for "St. John." The name was given by early Spanish explorers to the river and the mountain range and subsequently was adopted for the general region and for this county.

**San Miguel County** (1883). *San Miguel* is Spanish for "St. Michael." The name was given first to the river and later to the county.

**Sedgwick County** (1889) was named from Fort Sedgwick (1864-71). This military post, located across the river from present Ovid, was christened in honor of General John Sedgwick, killed in battle in 1864. General Sedgwick had led Indian campaigns into the region of Colorado in 1857 and 1860.

**Summit County** (1861) was so named because of the mountainous character of its territory. The eastern boundary of the original county followed "the summit of the snowy range" (Act of November 1, 1861) from a point a little south of Breckenridge to the Wyoming line.

**Teller County** (1899) was named in honor of Senator Henry M. Teller (1830-1914).

**Washington County** (1889) took the name of President George Washington.

**Weld County** (1861) was named in honor of Lewis Ledyard Weld, first Secretary of Colorado Territory.

**Yuma County** (1889) took the name of the Yuma Indians, who lived near the mouth of the Colorado River.

In analyzing the names of Colorado's counties we may make some interesting observations. Thirty-six counties, over half of the total number, have been named in honor of men—explorers, pioneers, governors, generals, statesmen, prominent citizens, Indians, and Saints. Geography has left its impress in county names. Seventeen counties have taken the names of rivers or creeks, while nine are named from other physical and geographical features—lakes, pass, delta, butte, mesa, park, boulder, and summit.

Seventeen names are of Spanish origin. Three of these are family names, two are names of Saints, and the remainder are common and descriptive words. Six counties have names of Indian origin. One county is named for its principal resource, while another has a literary origin.

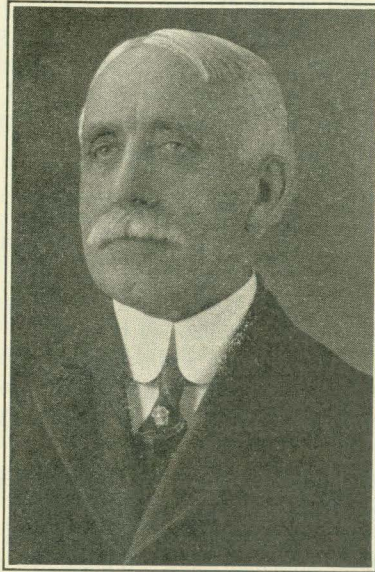
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## Arthur J. Fynn—Scholar, Ethnologist

ERNEST MORRIS

During the summer of 1889 Arthur J. Fynn arrived at Central City, Colorado, and accepted the position of assistant principal of the high school of that then thriving and populous mining community. The only institution of "higher education" of The Little Kingdom of Gilpin was situated in that pioneer city. He came direct to Colorado from his former home in Herkimer County, New York, located in the Mohawk Valley, where he had acquired a teaching experience. A graduate of Fairfield Seminary (Fairfield, N. Y.), and of Tufts College (Medford, Mass.), he brought with him to Colorado a fine knowledge of the elements of liberal education and the ideals of New England culture.

At the Central City High School, Mr. Fynn taught a large variety of subjects, including Ancient and Modern History, English Literature, Latin, German and Oratory. He was particularly well versed in the best works of English and American literature—both poetry and prose. There was hardly a poetic gem that he could not recite from memory and explain in a masterful manner. The writer had the privilege and honor of being under Mr. Fynn's instruction during most of the high school course, and now after the



DR. ARTHUR J. FYNN

passage of forty years can still testify that Mr. Fynn's teaching at Central City was of fine character and inspired the writer with a genuine love and appreciation of English and American poets, scholars and statesmen, and of their ideals.

In addition to his teaching, Mr. Fynn took a real interest in aiding to promote learning and culture among the citizens of Gilpin County. I can remember a course of lectures which he delivered in the little Presbyterian Church that stands in the shadow of the Teller House. There he eloquently discoursed upon such subjects as "The Canterbury Tales," "Daniel O'Connell" and "Wendell Phillips."

From Central City, Mr. Fynn went to Alamosa, where he served as principal of both the grammar and high schools. He had formed a warm attachment with his former pupils in Gilpin County. He returned as a visitor for the graduation exercises of

the Central City High School on June 3, 1892, and delivered a scholarly address. The *Gilpin County Observer* commented upon the event as follows: "The speech of A. J. Fynn showed him to be a master of language and was very humorous and eloquent. He was loudly applauded."

He prosecuted his teaching work effectively at Alamosa for six years. While there a friendship was cultivated between him and Hon. William H. Adams, who is now serving his third term as governor of our Commonwealth.

Although Mr. Fynn had obtained the degree of Master of Arts from Tufts College before coming to Colorado, he was eager to pursue further graduate work. He entered the University of Colorado, where in 1899 he was awarded the title of Doctor of Philosophy. During the period of his graduate course he was a member of the faculty of the State Preparatory School at Boulder.

Thereafter, at the invitation of the Superintendent of the Denver Schools, Mr. Aaron Gove, he became principal of the Twenty-fourth Street School; then in turn he occupied the position of principal of the Longfellow Technical High School (now the Opportunity School), the Gilpin School and the Valverde School, in all of which he performed his duties with honor and distinction. He rounded out an educational service to the people of the State of Colorado covering a period of approximately forty years.

For about twenty years he was also connected with the work of Denver University by lecturing to Extension Classes and in the Summer School of that institution. His work received the commendation of Denver University, which conferred the degree of Litt.D. upon him.

Dr. Fynn was also a distinguished author, devoting his studies and writings principally to historical and ethnological subjects. He was particularly interested in delving into the history and development of the American Indian tribes and their dealings and conflicts with the white man. Among his best known books are *The American Indian as a Product of Environment* (1907) and *North America in Days of Discovery* (1923). He dedicated the latter work to the Sons and Daughters of Colorado, "a large number of whose kindred experienced the vicissitudes of tragical frontier life and were necessarily thrown into many-sided relationships with surrounding natives." President Livingston Farrand of Cornell University wrote the introductory note thereto, wherein he expressed the following well-merited compliment to the author:

"Dr. Fynn is particularly well qualified to prepare such a review for the general reader. His life-long interest in his theme and his experience in presenting his material make any product of his pen worth-while. He has done a public service in the preparation of this book."

Nor was Dr. Fynn an arm-chair historian and ethnologist, for he collected much of his material from original sources and personally observed the environments which his pen described. Thus, he traveled throughout the length and breadth of the United States, Mexico, Central America and Eastern Canada; he personally visited and mapped out many of the Indian battlefields of the West, including Beecher Island, Sand Creek and Custer. For many years he traveled upon the American continent upon a bicycle and later by automobile, collecting much of the material which characterizes his writings. He contributed the chapter entitled "The Colorado Indians" to the *History of Colorado* which was recently published by The State Historical Society of Colorado in commemoration of the semi-centennial of the admission of Colorado to statehood.

For a decade and a half Dr. Fynn served that Society as a director and rendered invaluable service, not only in collating and preserving the history of our pioneers, but also in protecting and assembling for posterity the archaeological treasures of our Commonwealth. In appreciation of his long and valuable term of service the Board of Directors of the Society recently memorialized his passing, by appropriate resolutions, stating therein:

"Arthur J. Fynn was one of nature's noblemen; a scholar of rare attainments, he advanced the study of history and the sciences of archaeology and ethnology; a distinguished teacher, he promoted the progress of education in our Commonwealth; a noted author, he has enriched the literature of our times.

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"It is with deep devotion to his memory that this expression of our esteem is placed among the archives of the Society and a duplicate is delivered to Mrs. Rose Curry Fynn, the widow of our departed friend."

No sketch of the life of Arthur J. Fynn, however brief, would be sufficient without mention of the fact that he was the author and composer of the song, "The Land Where the Columbines Grow," which, by special act of the General Assembly in 1915, was adopted as the State Song of Colorado. Therein the author describes some of the natural wonders of our State, which:

"Is the purple-robed West, the land that is best,  
The pioneer land that we love."

Dr. Fynn, until the very day of his passing (December 30, 1930), had looked hopefully forward to participating in the commencement exercises next spring at his Alma Mater, Tufts College. In honor of that coming event he began the composition of a poem.

This he was not destined to complete, and it has become the "unfinished symphony" of his life, upon which he had worked on his last earthly afternoon, clothing and closing his last thoughts in the following rhythm:

"The earth, indeed, now wrapped in snow,  
Is desolate and drear,  
But soon again the birds will come, the ice  
Will disappear:  
So in this fleeting, changing year,  
Instinctively we see  
The symbol of a human life which  
Molds a destiny."



## Denver Fifty Years Ago

W. H. BERGTOLD\*

It was the sixth of August, 1881, when I first came to Denver, reaching the city by the (then called) Kansas Pacific Railroad. To one who had never before been west of Chicago the ride from Lake Michigan to Kansas City and to Denver seemed interminable; it took a great deal longer than it does today.

My most vivid impression of the ride after leaving Kansas City was the vastness of the prairie as it rolled ceaselessly past the coach windows while the train climbed to higher and yet higher altitudes. The cloudless, brilliant skies, the total absence of fences along the right of way (except at stations), the hourly sight of bands of antelope, coyotes, and jack rabbits, and the frequent mirages, all made an indelible impression on my receptive mind. The vast herds of buffaloes had disappeared north and south of the railroad, so the nearest that any of my family came to this fine animal was to eat some of its steaks at Fort Wallace the night before arriving in Denver.

My early home in western New York is not blessed with a climate about which one can brag, a fact much commented upon by visiting Colorado citizens. It thus fell out that many extraordinary impressions concerning Colorado's vaunted climate arose in my mind, and some very puzzling things came to my eyes soon after landing in Denver. It had been iterated and reiterated that rain rarely fell in Denver in the summer, yet I recall most definitely that there was a shower or a heavy rain in the city some time *every day* for nearly three weeks after August sixth. All good Colorado

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\*Dr. Bergtold, in addition to being an outstanding physician of Denver, has interested himself in the history and natural history of this section, and has won national recognition for his research and numerous publications on the birds of the Colorado region.—*Ed.*

boosters said it was so healthy in the State that no one ever died, they calmly "dried up and blowed away." So when, as frequently happened, a six-horse-drawn ore wagon was seen stuck hub deep in the mud at the corner of Larimer and Fifteenth Streets I felt sure that there must have been a mixup of ideas over Colorado's dryness. Nevertheless, its marvelous mountains strikingly stretching north and south, the wonderful clarity of the air, the prevailing scarcity of clouds, and the contrasts of temperatures in sun and shade promptly banished doubts over a booster's praise and judgment.

The city's architecture was so different from that of a similar sized town in the east that it compelled instant attention. While it is true that the city had a surprisingly large number of brick buildings, and a few of stone, there were enough frame buildings with "dicky" second story fronts to mark the town as a western one just shedding some of its youthful pretense and awkwardness. Many of the structures were built of bricks having a low clay and a high sand content, causing them to crumble easily under stress of rain and frost. I can still see the old brick Mint standing on the southerly side of Sixteenth Street a little below Larimer, for its bricks at the sidewalk level at the corner were disintegrated a foot or more into the wall from water and frost. The corner finally had to be protected by a facing of sheet iron.

I never saw, so far as I can recall, a stone sidewalk in all the residential part of the city in 1881; all were of 2x16 planks, or were just plain prairie dirt. The same conditions prevailed in the business sections, but to a lesser degree, though the principal thoroughfares in the business parts did have a few sandstone sidewalks. This is well fixed in my mind, as many of the flaggings had on the fracture surfaces an arborescent-like deposit of a dark mineral, making the flagging appear as though surfaced here and there with fern fronds.

Unless I am very much mistaken there was not a square yard of street pavement in all Denver at that time. Each street had a ditch on each side serving as a gutter and for irrigation purposes. All these ditches in the resident parts of the city were well banked, contained flowing water for a good part of each day, and were connected by laterals going into each yard, enabling the householders to irrigate and maintain lawns. The "downtown" districts were supplied by private water companies, the companies giving hydrant, domestic, and commercial service. There were two rival companies at this time, and a third, I am sure, in North Denver, then called Highlands. I do not know how West Denver fared in these matters at that time, but I do know from experience that the areas of the city north of Seventeenth Street along, for example,

Stout and Champa Streets, had no domestic water supply save that from a well or two in a block here and there. Many householders used ditch water for laundry purposes and the wells for potable water. It was quite a chore to keep a house supplied with drinking water only, to say nothing of bath water.

The very first electric lights I ever saw came under my observation in Denver at the time I am reviewing; they were all of the arc type, and were to be seen largely in private establishments. In those days the city outskirts had a unique system of general illumination. In place of lamps at street intersections there were tall towers located in several parts of the suburbs. These were towers much like today's radio masts, on the tops of which clustered a goodly number of high candle power arc lights with large parabolic reflectors behind each lamp.

These clusters shed a brilliant illumination for surprisingly long distances but gave, conversely, intensely black shadows in the dark sides. One kept to the lighted side of the street those times if out late at night. And one's nerves were not soothed by the hollow sound of footsteps as one walked over the wooden irrigating ditch bridges.

I recall the location of but a few of these towers: there was one in the block bounded by Champa, Curtis, 30th and 31st Streets; one somewhere in North Denver; another in West Denver, and one in East Denver, though the location of this last also eludes my memory.

The Capitol at Colfax and Broadway was not yet in existence in 1881, and our fine City Park had only been started a short while. Through its present site a small watercourse meandered, its upper end being somewhere in the neighborhood where the first lily pond is now located. Not far from this spot was a frame building used as a "pest house."

Street car service in Denver in my first year's residence was of an extremely primitive kind; the cars were horse drawn, seldom using more than one animal to a car, and each car was manned by a driver only, who acted also as the conductor. The car was entered through a door opening out from its rear end, the seats running lengthwise of the car. The floor space between these seats (aisle) had its surface covered in the winter with hay or straw for warmth, and to absorb moisture tracked in by the passengers. The hay unexpectedly served another end, in that it helped to conceal the filthy floor conditions caused by tobacco chewers. The car fare or ticket was deposited in a box back of the driver, a box located so that he could check up on the receipts. When the vehicle became crowded, the passengers would pass up the fares to the one nearest the cash box, the last one acting as a volunteer cashier.

I do not recall a single instance of a nickel going astray on its journey toward the driver. The people of Denver were an honest lot.

About this time there existed in Denver an electric street railroad, running up Fifteenth Street. It was the boast of Denverites that this railway was the second electric street car service in the world, the first then existing in Berlin, Germany. How well founded this prideful statement was I do not know. If I recall correctly there was no cable car service at this time in the city.

It might throw light on some things of moment if someone would gather data on the street names of Denver and the various mutations these names have experienced in the past fifty years. I always regretted that Holladay Street was renamed Market Street, because the former kept in mind one of Denver's early, active, and able supporters. I lived for a while on what was then termed South Fourteenth Street, now Acoma, if I mistake not. Later on I resided in one of a row of houses on Seventeenth Street, between Champa and Curtis; these buildings are still doing duty, but now as business places. These brick structures are mentioned because it shows how far down town even amongst business blocks the residences of the citizens extended, and yet 1881 was relatively late in the history of the new city.

During my first weeks in Denver I noticed that commercial dairies were not common, or at least did not seem so, which caused many households to keep milch cows. There was at this time an extensive vacant area east, northeast and southeast of the city still almost entirely virgin prairie, bearing the usual stand of nutritious buffalo grass. It was very natural that such fine free feed should be utilized by these households, hence the existence of "day herds." Each herd was made up of a varying number of cows gathered from their sheds each morning, taken to pasture, and returned to their respective homes at night. These day herds were handled by men who were third rate cowboys, or by a real puncher who wanted a change from the open range to the delights of the city. I recall both kinds very well. There must have been several of these day herds, yet I am unable to give even an approximate guess as to the number of those ranging east of the city.

Denver in those days not only gave evidence of its early pioneer days through its frame "dicky" front buildings and saloons, but in my first year in the city one occasionally would meet a chap who was, or aspired to be, a "bad man." I remember well one middle-aged man who then wore his hair to his shoulders, shaved his beard in such a way as to leave it uncut at the mouth corners, patches which coalesced with the mustache forming large, fierce mustachios. It gave him a decidedly savage mien. This man always packed a

gun and had a bowie knife in his boot; I had occasion to meet him several times in a business way and early became convinced that he was a plain bluff and a cheap imitation of the real thing. And he was! Later on he tried to browbeat a seemingly mild neighbor over a matter of irrigating water, tried a grandstand play with his gun, and was promptly punctured by his speedier-on-the-draw neighbor.

An elderly friend of mine and I frequently took lunch at a restaurant on Larimer Street near Sixteenth. The cashier had his desk just inside the entrance, so arranged that he faced the long aisle between the tables, which stood in a row against the walls of the long, narrow dining room. One noon as we were at lunch, my friend facing towards the cashier, a husky miner staggered past us on his way to the exit. In a second or two I heard a few angry words behind me, saw my friend's face grow tense while he pushed his chair from the table. In an instant he shot out of his chair and ducked under the table, while at the same time I heard a loud thump as if from a heavy body falling to the floor. Looking about, I saw several of the lunchers gathered about the cashier, meanwhile holding down the drunken miner. They soon hustled him into the arms of a policeman. The boozefighter had had a few words with the cashier and pulled a gun on him. He was too slow. The cashier put a straight right to his jaw, making him a more peaceful *hombre*. I got this advice from my friend who witnessed the whole affair: "When you see gunplay in a restaurant or a saloon, always get under a table, son," he said, when I twitted him for that trick, "it is the only safe place for the innocent by-stander."

In September, 1881, the "Tabor Grand Opera House" was completed and opened by a week's light opera, with Emma Abbott as the star. It was a great event in the life of the young city and everyone who had the price, myself included, attended. Martha was the opera I saw; it made a strong impression, for some of its refrains are still familiar in my mind.

Long before this time and long after, gambling was more or less openly a practice in the city, one place on Curtis Street having been well known all over the State, and well attended, for it was tacitly ignored by the authorities. Closing it up might hurt business.

Another thing which comes to mind as characteristic of those early days was the abundance of beautiful wild flowers which persisted as close to the city as civilization permitted. Many of the vacant spaces harbored these prairie flowers, while many such areas became densely overgrown with tall weeds. Some of my friends attempted to attend a wedding at a church on Twenty-third Street,

trying to save time by going "cross-lots" afoot after dusk. They lost their way in the weeds, and missed the wedding.

Notwithstanding the weeds, many hours were spent botanizing on the prairies in and out of town, much to my happiness, and to the pleasure of my botanical friends of the East, who were delighted over the new (to them) flowers I sent them from time to time. Fifty years ago it was not uncommon to see antelope on the prairies east of Denver, in the area, for example, now occupied by Fitzsimons Hospital. The fact that I saw three of these beautiful animals a year ago on the plains only about sixteen miles from the city limits is a striking commentary on the tenacity with which the antelope persists, despite the direst conditions of persecution and adversity, and emphasizes the well known fact that *efficient* protection would help materially in restoring our unique pronghorn to a measure of its old-time abundance.

There were no English sparrows in Denver in 1881; the city had a large population of native birds, embracing some lovely and most interesting species. There were many barn, cliff, bank, tree, and at times, violet-green swallows in the suburbs, the striking Bullock's oriole had spread from its pre-civilization habitat along the South Platte into the city, where it found suitable nesting places in the many cottonwoods, already grown to goodly size. The loveliest of the swallows, the violet-green and the tree, have all been driven from the city by the English sparrow, whose advent also spelled exile for our beautiful bluebird. Today one occasionally sees a violet-green swallow in the spring migration and a few bluebirds nesting in the outskirts. To all intents and purposes these fine birds are with us no longer. Our sprightly singer, the house finch, is our only native that has stood up against the invading sparrow and held its own.

It is a joy to say that, after careful investigation, the tables have turned, in the business districts, where in place of its former abundance, the English sparrow has practically disappeared, because the automobile has swept horses from the streets and with them the sparrow's most abounding food supply. This fortunately had no effect on the house finches, for they still come readily to one's office windows if given but a modicum of encouragement. In the early days of which I write the prairies immediately surrounding Denver had a numerous hawk population, practically all of great help and benefit to the farmer and truck gardener. Today this pristine population has almost disappeared, thanks to cheap guns and cheap ammunition in the hands of thoughtless and irresponsible men and boys who shoot an inviting target and hang it on a barbed wire fence. Great is the average "sportsman." Of course it is against the national and state laws to do this, but ineffi-

ciently enforced game laws, and educational indifference to the great value of birds to man and his activities can produce no other result.

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a cross on a target they bet the bystanders that young Dal could hit the center within an eighth of an inch. The first day it was always easy to draw the bets. This stripling seemed scarcely strong enough to bear his big target rifle and quite inadequate to carry out the bargain. But after one day of raking in the dollars, the wagers grew scarce and the young "gang" were forced to move to territory where Dal's fame had not spread.

When a young man Mr. DeWeese came West as an horticulturist, perhaps drawn by the possibility of big game hunting. He not only added to his collection everything that could be brought down by his prowess in this section but, as the years went on, joined big game hunters in the Northwest and in India and was sent by the government as a Smithsonian representative into Alaska.

For years this unusual collection hung in his own home, the spacious loggia with its balconies planned especially to show it to advantage. But his friends felt that it should be opened to wider inspection. When his hunting days were over, Mr. DeWeese offered his collection to Canon City, which he had called home for many years, if a suitable place for housing it was provided.

Realizing the worth of this collection, the comparatively small community voted \$60,000 to erect a municipal building to house the Museum, with one room devoted to the DeWeese collection. The building was completed early in 1928 and since that time more than fifty thousand visitors from every state in the Union as well as from foreign countries have shared the interest of the DeWeese display.

The outstanding honors in the collection are divided between the glorious moose head and the enormous Alaskan bear skin. For many years the moose head held the national record for spread of horns, which is sixty-nine inches. The head alone weighs fifteen hundred pounds.

On the walls of this room hang the other specimens of the DeWeese Collection—Elk, Deer, Chamois, all five varieties of the Big Horn Sheep that are found in North America, the Black Buck of India, tiny cow Caribou horns with less than a foot spread, which placed beside the male species, at least three feet from tip to tip, seem most delicate, and many others.

In the cases in the DeWeese Room are collections of gasbroliths (gizzard stones), found locally, and sixteen blue flint axes measuring five to ten inches in length, found in one cache in Grape Creek Canon by Mr. DeWeese. As no other such flints have been found in this section, scientists have not yet been able to determine to what age they belong. But they are savage looking instruments.

In the salon across from the DeWeese Room stands the Buffalo Exhibit. Three huge mounted specimens and a calf occupy one

## The Canon City Museum

JULIA NEWELL CHAPPELL\*

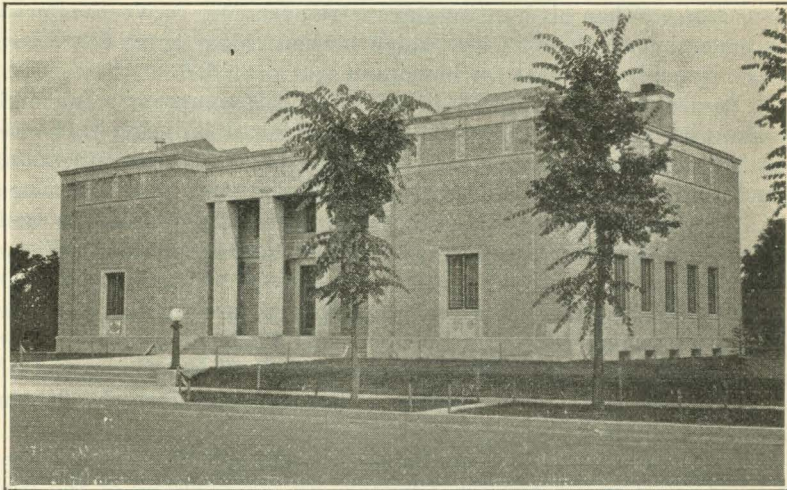
Every community has its relics and stories that should be saved to posterity, particularly in this new West. Few districts know how much of interest lies within its borders until it is gathered under one roof. Such was the situation in Canon City, and it is doubtful if the effort to build and maintain this Museum, of which the county is so proud, would have been made had it not been for one citizen, the late Dal DeWeese, who had an unusual collection to offer as a nucleus. The Dal DeWeese collection of mounted wild animals is known far and wide.

Dal DeWeese, who lived many years in Fremont County, was recognized the country over as a master hunter. As a boy in Ohio he was a crack shot. When a mere lad one of the favorite diversions of his "gang" was to visit the County Fairs. After drawing

\*Mrs. Chappell of Canon City is a student of the history of southern Colorado, and by her writing is popularizing the history and lore of this section.—Ed.

end of the room with a fitting background. These are the last buffalo killed in the State. As they were killed after the ban had been placed on their slaughter, the government confiscated them, afterwards selling the mounted specimens to Mr. Pete Mulloch of Leadville. Mr. Mulloch, realizing that these rare specimens should be in a museum, offered them to the town of Canon City at the price which he had paid for them. Public spirited citizens raised a fund to buy them, knowing that this was an unusual opportunity.

At the time the transaction took place Robert Amick of New York, a well known painter of western subjects, was visiting Canon City, his birthplace, for the first time in over twenty years. Mr. Amick generously consented to paint a mural background for the exhibit. It is most effective, showing, as it does, the native Colorado setting for the buffalo, with the Indian Signal Mountain (or Pisgah, as it is now called) in the distance.



THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM AT CANON CITY

It is astonishing how many articles of value have come from obscurity into the light of the Museum. Indian tepee poles brought from the foot of Black Mountain, where it is said still rest several hundred more, early Colorado Histories and Tourist Guides, long since out of print, a prized official invitation to Lincoln's funeral ceremonies, the issue of the *Canon City Times* published in 1872, Indian arrow heads, *metates*, and Indian pottery and implements found in the surrounding country, collections of native metals and minerals, buffalo robes of beauty, mounted mountain lions, guns used in defense of the pioneer on the overland trip.

One gun loaned by Dr. G. H. Graves from his extensive collection carries an interesting and gruesome story that breathes of the early West. The gun, made by a Canon City gunsmith in 1872, was sold to a stranger passing through the town on his way to hunt bears in the Collegiate Peaks. He was never heard from again but a few years later a cowboy while riding the range near the foot of the peaks found the skeletons of a grizzly and a human body in tangled embrace. Underneath them lay this rifle. The ramrod was gone, five inches of powder was pressed in the barrel with a bullet on top, the hammer at full-cock. Game hunters readily supplied the missing details—how the man mortally wounded the bear—how he hurriedly reloaded his rifle and prepared to put on the cap—how the bear charged him—and the hand-to-hand fight that resulted in the death of both.

The Smithsonian Institute and the Denver Natural History Museum exhibit skeletons of prehistoric animals found near Canon City. The Canon City Museum is not so fortunate, but it does display the femur of an *Atlantasaurus* found in Webster Park, a few miles north. This huge thigh bone, fully six feet long, is the size of a grown child's torso at the large joint. The animal was estimated by Professor Marsh, of Yale University, to have been over 20 feet high, 150 feet long and to have weighed 100 tons.

An interesting touch in the Canon City Museum is an exhibit of pictures of early scenes in the locality. This exhibit could be duplicated by any community. The Chamber of Commerce asked the loan of all old photographs, guaranteeing their protection and prompt return. The response was voluminous. These pictures were re-photographed and are now captioned and hung in the Museum.

Every community does not have a Dal DeWeese Collection as an inspiration. Every community cannot have a Museum as Canon City has. But every community in our West can search out and tabulate interesting mementoes of its early history. For these mementoes are no longer only of private interest. They truly belong to the succeeding generations and will inspire a growing admiration for the pioneers who established our State. If there is not in every community a safe and fireproof public building for display, there is in the State Capitol a State Museum which adequately answers that purpose.