

Greenland History

By Russell E. Higginson

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This far I have not said much about the town of [Greenland](#). It played a very important part in my life when I was a boy. You see this is the place we attended grade school and became acquainted with the people around there and several of them are still around and we see them at times.

There were the [Higbys](#), Lou and Carl then a brother Gene that helped with the ranch and the grocery store that they owned he lived at Monument. The Killians that lived East of Greenland, she was a sister of the Higbys as was Mrs. [Fred Noe](#) who lived west of Greenland. The Bowens lived S.E. of Greenland. Mrs. Bowen was a sister to Mrs. [Babcock](#) and they lived near the Fred Noes. Then there were the [Kinners](#), the Greeners, the [Allis](#), the Riggs that had a store across the railroad, the Romacks.

Here I will add a short history that was handed down to me.

Greenland History

Greenland was founded in 1872 or 1873. It was laid out as a 20 acre town site in 1876. At that time, the Rio Grande was going through from Colorado Springs to Denver. A narrow gauge track was used until 1878. The D. & R. G. depot was just across the track west of the present intersection. It burned in 1924. The Santa Fe depot was located west of the present Higby home. It was town down about 1931.

The town was named by Helen Hunt Jackson, an author and poet from the Colorado Springs area. It is told how she was going through on the train and noticed how green the flats and foothills looked, hence the name Greenland.

It soon became a thriving little village with three stores and other placed of business. Charles Riggs was depot agent for the D. & R. G., post master, and managed a general store. His store was built in 1896 and burned in 1924. Jack Allis was agent after Riggs. The Higby store was built in 1907 and operated until 1932. It is now used as a county road equipment garage.

[Joe Giles](#) came in about 1859 and had the stagecoach station. He took part in several Indian raids. The saloon, the building east of the present Greener home was operated by Mr. Giles. Later he had the post office.

The blacksmith shop was near the present Taylor home and operated by Lamar and later Burnside from 1890 to 1912. A large potato cellar was dug to take care of the potato crops raised to the east of Greenland. Later it was used to store milk for shipping. A warehouse built by Riggs was bought by Barrett and town down.

The [schoolhouse](#) was built northeast of the present site in 1892 by [John Geiger](#). It was moved to its present location about 1900.

Mary and Charles Riggs, before mentioned, were among the first settlers. Other pioneers were I.J. Noe, Daniels, who later was one of the founders of the Daniels and Fisher Store in Denver, [Nimerick's](#), M.N. Noyes, [S.L. Johnston](#), O'Brian's, Chambers, Blodgett's and Buck's. The Blodgett and Chamber homes still stand northeast of the schoolhouse. While not all of these families lived right in town, they lived near and contributed to its activities.

Some of the old time ranches were Hunt Ranch, which was assembled by Governor Hunt; the [Greenland Ranch](#) combined by I.J. Noe and C. B. Kountz, this ranch was also run by a Mr. Kirk at one time; and the Forbes Ranch. Mrs. Greener, the present mail carrier's wife, came to the vicinity as a little girl. Charles Allis and wife came to the community in 1894. They lived on other places other than one now occupied by the Alfred Allis family. They built the house on this ranch in 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Higby pioneers in this vicinity, were personally acquainted with Mr. Giles, previously mentioned. It is interesting to hear their story of a trip up Pikes Peak with a team of horses before the Cog road or highway were built. An Uncle of Mrs. Higby's, Sebastian Greenway, helped take the first fireworks up Pikes Peak to be fired from the top one Fourth-of-July. Pikes Peak is to the southwest.

Fred Noe was born on the Greenland Ranch and moved with his parents to his present ranch when seven years old. He attended Greenland School as well as all his children and some grandchildren.

Large quantities of lumber, grain, potatoes, milk and building stones were shipped out of Greenland. It is said that at one time there was more livestock shipped out of Greenland, than any other station between Denver and Pueblo.

Two rows of trees may still be seen along the old wagon road east of town where logs were hauled in to load on the railroad, to be taken to sawmills. Seeds from pinecones still on the logs shattered and grew.

The story has been passed down that the Nimerick's had a daughter who had tuberculosis. To be out in the fresh air, she climbed a mountain back of her home, now known as Nimerick Mountain. She started a rock pile on top, putting a few rocks on the pile each day until there was a marker about six feet in diameter and fifteen feet high. This marker can still be seen from quite a distance.

There is an old wagon road on Rattlesnake Mountain that was used in hauling out the building stone that was shipped on the railroad.

Spruce Mountain can be seen three miles south-west of the town. The top is long and flat. It was damaged on the south side by fire in 1939. Trees such as pine, cedar, spruce and aspen grow in abundance. Bobcats bear and mountain lions are sometimes seen on the mountain.

There are two caves on Spruce Mountain. A hermit was supposed to have lived in one of them about 1900. An army plane C42 crashed on this mountain in 1947.

Piles Peak looms up to the south-west. Palmer Lake, a resort town, can be seen from our schoolhouse door.

The road that followed the foothills through Larkspur was improved by paving about 1927. In 1948, a new two-lane highway was built just east of Greenland. At this time, the road that followed the railroad to Palmer Lake was abandoned. In the summer of 1956, another lane was completed making a four-lane highway between Colorado Springs and Denver.

It is good to live at Greenland where "purple mountain majesties rise above the fruited plains."