

TOWNS & COMMUNITIES OF

DIVIDE COUNTRY

"TAKE CARE OF THE LAND AND THE LAND WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU."



Larkspur Historical Society

...the voice of history for southern Douglas County and Divide Country

PREFACE...

Divide Country, as it was defined by the residents at the pioneering, covered portions of today's three Colorado counties of Douglas, Elbert, and El Paso. What tied these two Palmer Divide watershed areas closely together? That question can be addressed in many different ways, the simplest and covering most of the reasons was economics, social, and lack of transportation byways in the 1850 to early 1950s. Approximately, 80 percent of Divide Country was agriculturally based. Hence, the Divide Country motto, "*Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.*" In 1890-1891, that was a movement afoot to Divide County to form its own county. That movement never came to fruition.

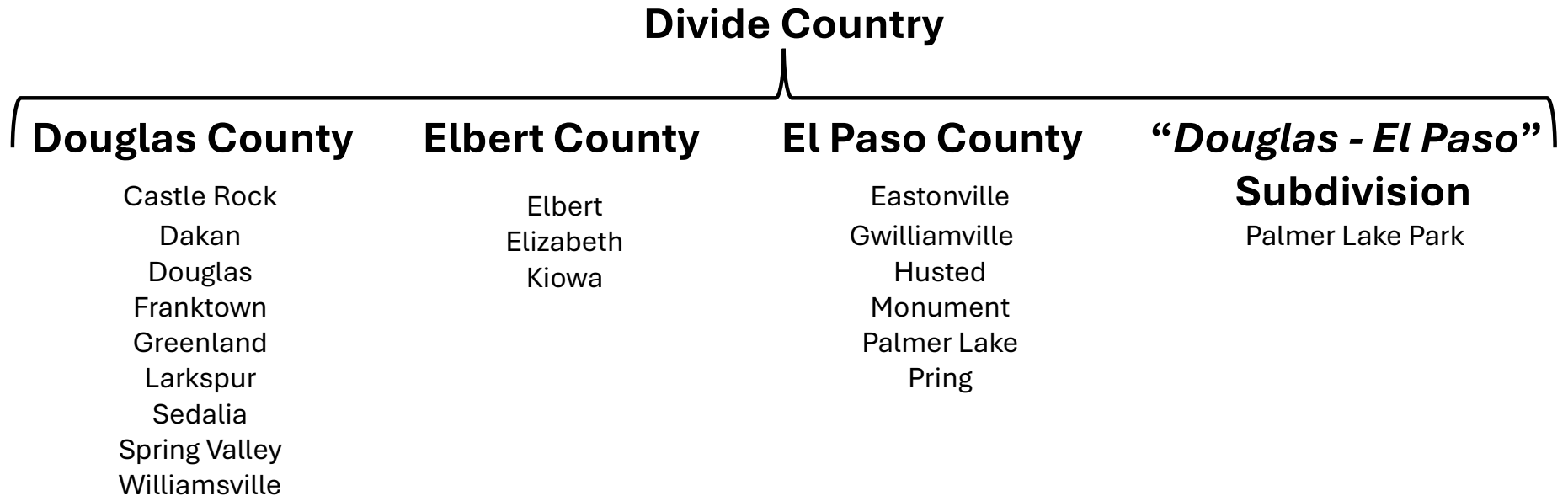
This document contains information regarding many of the towns and some of the communities in the west geographic area of the Palmer Divide which runs laterally from Palmer Lake, Colorado in the west to just west of Limon, Colorado approximately 75 airline miles to the east. Populations of many of the 19th century towns and communities had to be estimated from early census documents because of information taken from postal delivery areas of the day. The postal areas in the Divide's early years of settlement tended to change often, sometimes even in the same year they were originally established! Population numbers that indicate "estimate" are close estimates but may not be exact.

Surnames of settling and pioneering families from each area were taken from both early patent land maps, historic documentations, and census records of the Colorado counties of Douglas, Elbert, & El Paso. Consequently, some surnames within this document may have missed a family surname within the area described on the pages within this document.

There are historic small extinct towns and communities that are missing from this Divide Country document which accompanies the DIVIDE COUNTRY program produced by Larkspur Historical Society, simply because they were not pertinent to the presentation of the program.

BOOKLET PAGE STRUCTURE...

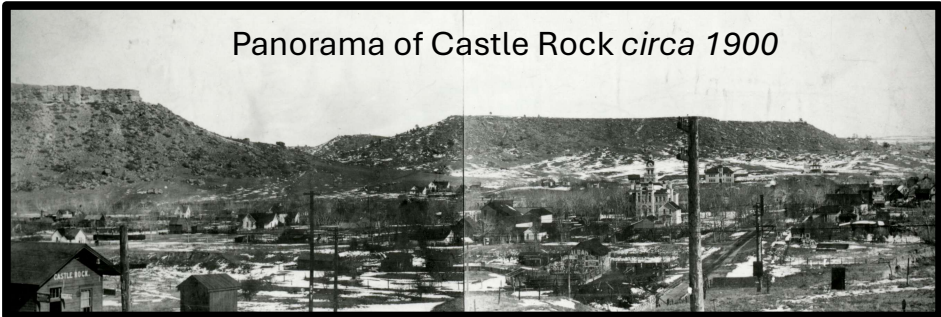
The distribution of the following town descriptions are listed alphabetically by county...





Castle Rock

(“Citadel” 1872: John Harris; New Memphis 1874-2 Miles N of Citadel: John and Thomas Harris) (Castle Rock 1872: Jeramiah Gould)



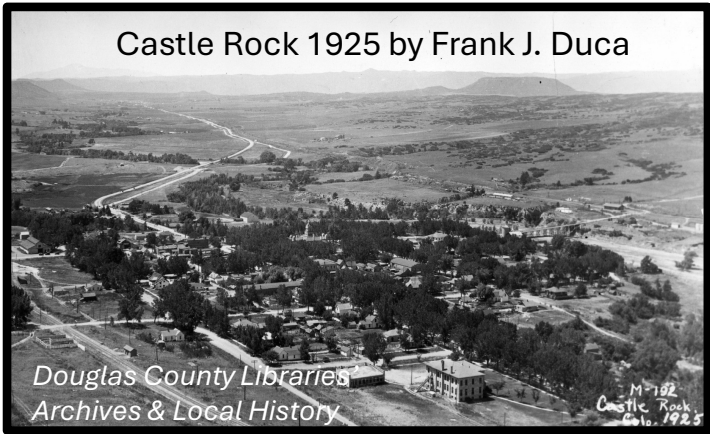
Douglas County Libraries’ Archives & Local History

Founded: 1874 **Founders:** Jeramiah Gould & John Craig
County Seat of Douglas County: March 31, 1874 by vote of the people of Douglas County

Railroads	Population
Denver & Rio Grande: 1871	1880: 88
Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887	2025 estimate: 86,500

Town Composition 1900

3 Hotels	Grain and Feed Store
3 Rhyolite Quarries	Newspaper
Madge, O’Brien and Santa Fe	<i>Douglas County News</i>
Blacksmith	House Painting Company
Barber	2 Physicians
Boots and Shoe Store	<i>Alexander & Pollock</i>
McFarland/Harris Carpenters	Benn’s Carpenter Shop
Drug Store	Plasterer
2 Mercantiles	Starr Saloon
Castle Rock O.K. Cheese Factory	3 Churches
Building Stone Company	Cantril School
	Creamery



Area Large Ranches
Miller Ranch Scott Ranch (Pine)
Metzler Ranch Wolfensberg Ranch

Naming “The Rock”
1843: John Fremont, second major explorer in the area
1859: The David Kellog party of the gold-seeking 59-ers camped at its base one night and called it “*Castle Rock*.”
1872: John Harris build a small home by it and called it “*Citadel*”

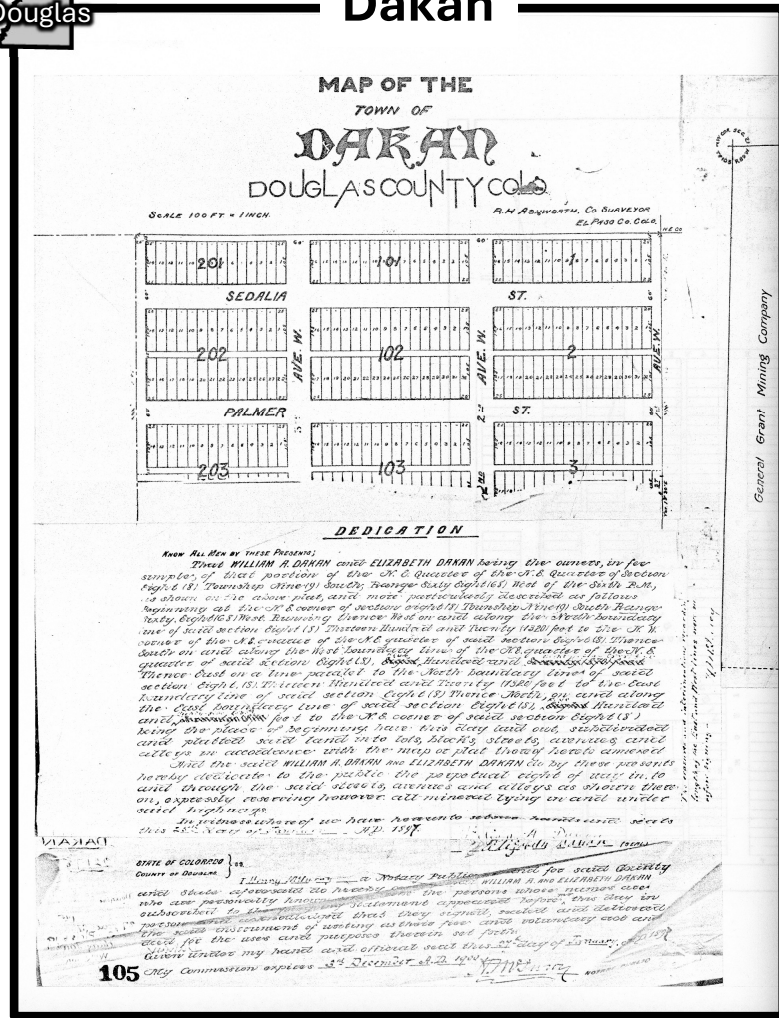
The Kellog party’s Castle Rock stuck!

Surnames of Early Castle Rock Families

Adams, Atcheson, Alexander, Bainbridge, Baldwin, Ball, Bean, Benn, Bill, Blunt, Briscoe, Brooks, Burke, Cantril, Carver, Clark, Clarke, Clifford, Colburn, Craig, Carmer, Curry, Cutris, Dakan, Dillon, Dryers, Ellis, Engl, Evans, Farland, Farrell, Foster, Geradehand, Giem, Girardot, Gould, Green, Gurley, Hambitzer, Hammar, Hancock, Harris, Hathaway, Heimann, Herb, Hierm, Hill, Holcomb, Howerton, James, Kehler, King, Lasley, Latemier, Lemon, Lipps, Lowell, Madge, McIntyre, Memem, Metzler, Miller, Misner, Moore, Morse, Mounty, Nelson, Nydogger, O’Brien, Olmsted, Owens, Pollock, Priest, Randel, Ratcliff, Roby, Russell, Schweiger, Sellars, Taylor, Thompson, Todd, Triplett, Van Wormer, Wells, Wilcox, Whitney, Wold, Wolfensberger, Woltzen, and Woodhouse.



Dakan



Population: Estimated in 1896 at 300 (Castle Rock Journal)

Founded: 1896 **Founder:** William Wanner, Prospector

Settlement William Wanner discovered gold and silver at the base of Dakan Mountain in the mid-1800s on the property adjacent to Allen Dakan's Ranch. After that news was reported, along with the ore worth of the ore shipment he made (\$35 per ore ton), the area exploded in what became known as Douglas County's "second gold rush." Allen Dakan donated 20 acres of his ranch for the Town of Dakan to be built.

Town Composition

Stoops Stage Line Station
U.S. Post Office, Dec 30, 1896
Grocery Store
8 other buildings were also reported on the townsite but usage is unknown.

Hotel
Restaurant
Saloon

Most of the "on-site" residents' quarters were tents

Gold & Silver Mines at Dakan

Wanner, George and Allen Dakan, and Marcus Victor (from Sedalia) were the first to file claims.

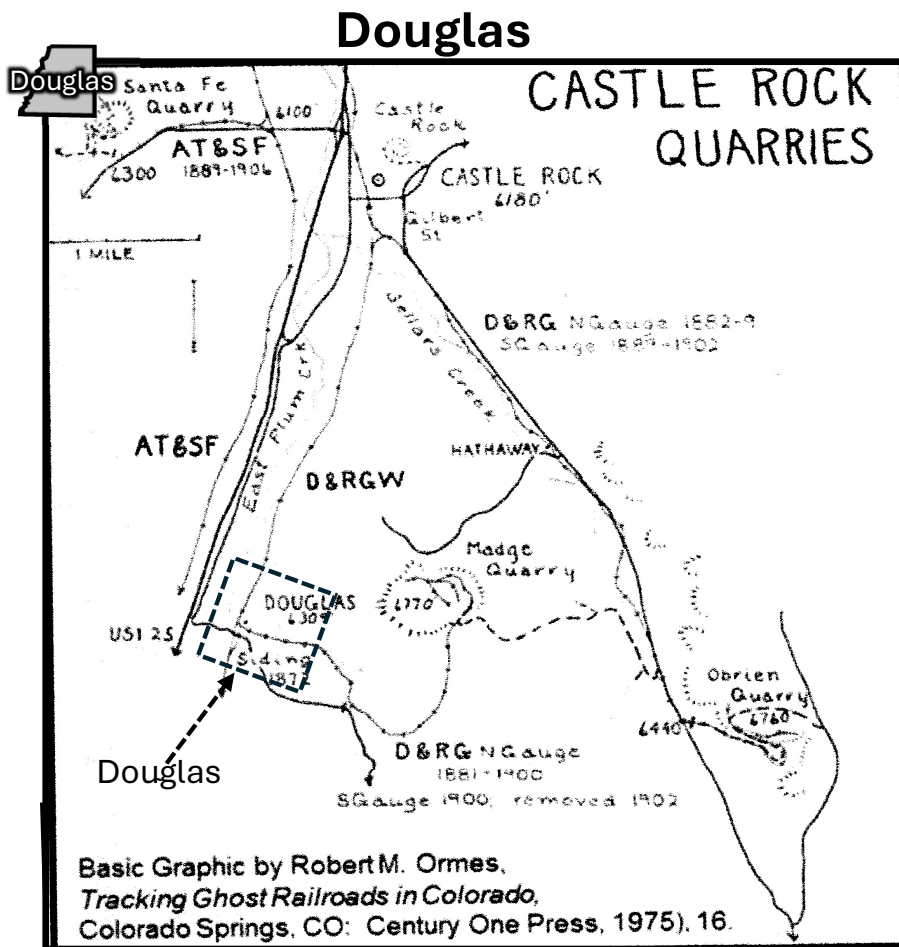
James Dennis's <i>Gracie D.</i>	Orin Triplett's <i>Grafton</i> and
Joe Wagner's <i>Chicago Girl</i>	the <i>Red Jacket</i>
<i>Lost Treasure</i>	<i>Black Cañon</i>
<i>Snow Hill</i>	<i>Kentucky Belle</i>
<i>Denver Belle</i>	<i>Mocking Bird</i>
<i>Allerton</i>	<i>The Daisy</i>
<i>Sappo</i>	<i>Lone Jack 1 & Lone Jack 2</i>
<i>Big Dyke</i>	<i>Florence and the Maud</i>
<i>Invincible Tunnel</i>	

Surnames

NOTE: The surnames for Dakan does not include most of the claim-stakers since they were from other communities or towns; e.g., Marcus Victor, who was purported to have staked the first claim, resided in Sedalia. The surnames that are listed below lived in the area continued residing in the area when their mines were abandoned or transferred.

Cantril, Coberly, Dakan, Dawson, Grout, Hammer, James, Kinner, Nixon, Radcliff, Smith, Stevens, Thompson, Triplett, Quick, Wells, Wolff

As most of other Douglas County' small area gold finds, the gold "petered-out." In August 1898, the United States Post Office closed and the town disappeared. Today, no evidence of the town exists ...just beautiful pastureland adjacent to the area's Spring Creek.



Founded: 1872

Founder: Silas Madge

Douglas was plotted by the National Land and Improvement Company and was recorded on July 1, 1880, by the County Recorder, Harry Jones

First Settler: William Garrison 1860

NOTE: Although Silas Madge founded the town of Douglas to support take advantage of the D&RG railroad that came past his farm in 1871, William Garrison was the first settler and built a trading post at the site in 1861 to serve the *Fifty-niners* settling in the area.

Population: No official recording. Estimated at 250-300
 NOTE: The 12 hour per day workers of the quarries were primarily Swedish, transient and number in the 800s. The transient workers are not counted in the population estimate of the town.

Town Composition

Madge Boarding House	Madge Merchandise Store
Fisher Saloon	Garrison Trading Post
Depot & Water Town	Hotel
Private School (Taught by Miss Wreck	Post Office
10 to 12 residential homes	Wagon Service to Castle Rock
	AT&SF Switch & Telegraph Office south of Douglas

Railroads

Denver & Rio Grande: 1871
 Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887
 The AT&SF Railroad built a 2 ¼ spur to serve the Madge, O'Brien, & Girardot quarries

Area Large Ranches

Silas Madge Ranch
 John Pleasant O'Brien Ranch
 William Garrison Ranch 1864
 Benjamin Hammar Sheep Ranch

Surnames

Anderson, Clarke, Craig, Ellis, Garrison, Girardot, Hammar, Madge, O'Brien, Lowell

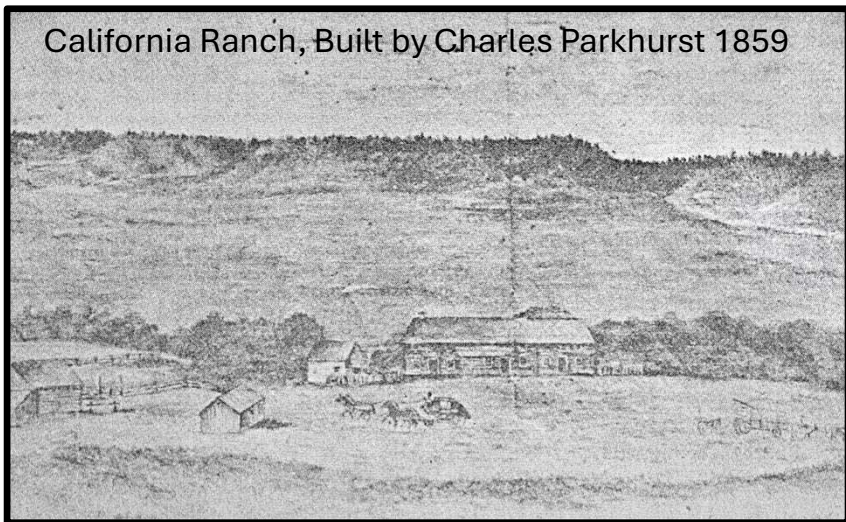
Other Mines: There was another rhyolite quarry in northeast Castle Rock area serviced by the AT&SF Railroad. The Douglas area also had a few clay pits.

NOTE: In 1864, prior to the Town of Douglas, the Tyson family (4) perished in the 1864 Flood. They were living close to East Plum Creek in a cabin rented to them by William Garrison.



Franktown (Frankstown)

California Ranch, Built by Charles Parkhurst 1859



Copy of Sketch in Josephine Marr's Douglas County A Historical Journey

Founder: James Frank Gardner

...known as the "Father of Douglas County"

Population

1860 Estimate: 23

2020 census: 409

Crossroads

Highway 83 (N&S) & Highway 86 (E&W)

7 miles east of Castle Rock, 7 miles west of Elizabeth

Town Composition

Post Office 1859 (California Ranch bought by James F.

Gardner was a hotel, general store, stage stop, and livery

School Dist 3

"Newsletter" ...first in Douglas County – Aug 1873

Schutz General Mercantile

Foster DeWitt Cream Station

Grocery Store

Saloon

Brinkley's Livery

Blacksmith

Noftz Stone Mason

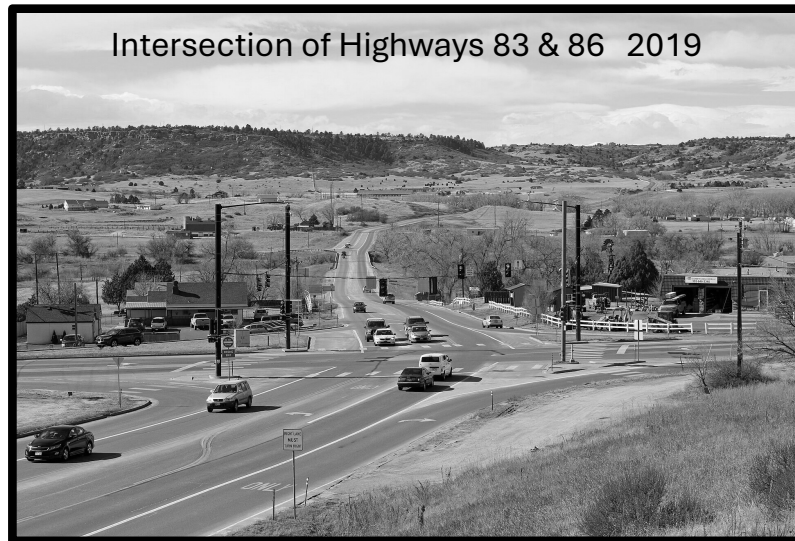
Grange 167

First Settler

Charles Parkhurst built the
California Ranch in 1859

And sold it to James F. Gardner

Intersection of Highways 83 & 86 2019



Wikipedia Photograph

Area Ranches

Gardner Ranch

Converse Ranch

Allison Ranch

Crofutt Ranch

Shutz Ranch

Welty Ranch

Engl Ranch (Lake Gulch)

Surnames: Allison, Bayaud, Beck, Blumm, Boggs, Bracket, Brader, Campbell, Chillcott, Congress Courts, Crofutt, DeWitt, Engl (Lake Gulch), Foster, Gardner, Havon, Hatler, Hipley, Jones, Kelly, Kelty, Kracaw, Liptrep, Metzler, Miksch, Moschel, Noftz, Paine, Parkhurst, Richardson, Schutz, Stone, Tallman, Welty, Wilcox, and Wheeler



GREENLAND

Named by Author Helen Hunt Jackson



Larkspur Historical Society

Established: 1872 **First Settlers** **Population**
Platted: 1875 Bazel Riggs family 1898: 25
 Platted by Fred Salomon Jack Allis family 1910 census: 50
 for the D&RG Railroad

Railroads

Denver & Rio Grande: 1871
 Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887

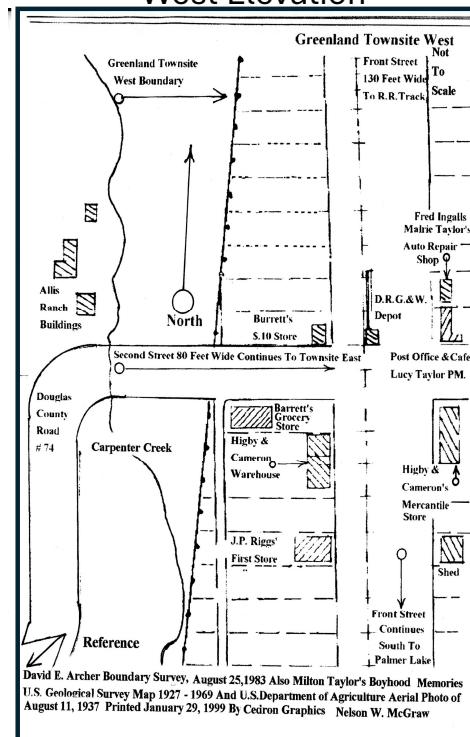
Town Composition

Bazel Riggs Boarding House
 Post Office
 Riggs Mercantile
 Higby Mercantile
 Livery
 Blacksmith
 Gray (Later Hobbs) Saloon
 Dime Store
 Wagon (Later Auto) Service
 Joe Giles Stage Stop
 School

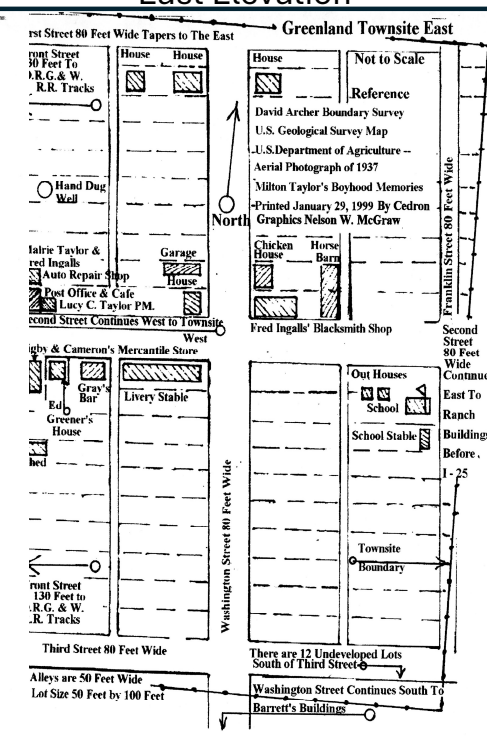
Early Industries/Crops

Crops: Early "Ohio" Potatoes
 and Root Vegetables
 Grain: Primarily Rye
 and oats
 Livestock: Beef Cattle, Dairy
 Cattle, Horses, and
 Chickens
 Lumber
 Building Stone
 Greenland Milk &
 Cattle Shipping
 (Largest Center Between
 Denver and Pueblo)

West Elevation



East Elevation



Larkspur Historical Society

Area Large Ranches

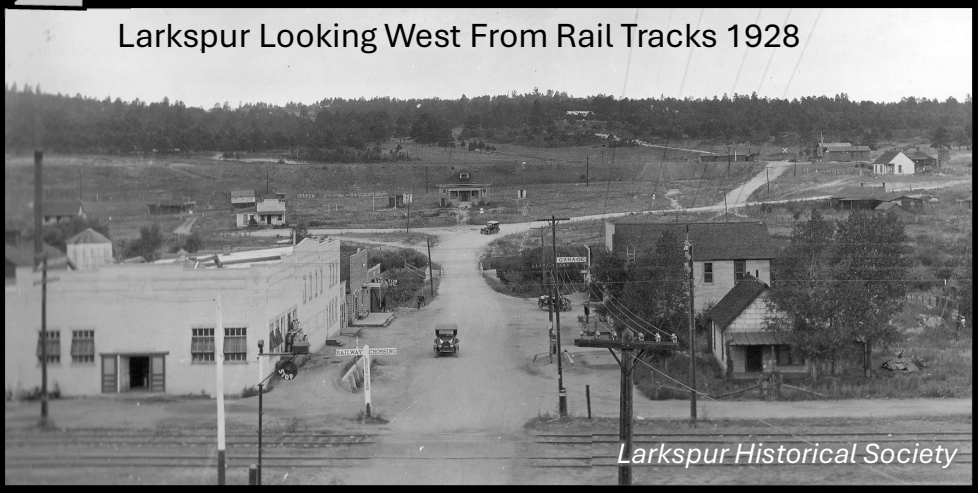
Ben Lomand
 (Higginson)
 Greenland Ranch
 (Kountz & Noe)
 Eagle Mountain Ranch
 Allis Ranch
 Higby Ranch

Surnames of Early Greenland Families

Allis, Anderson, Bennet, Best, Blodgett, Bucks, Chambers,
 Daniels, Forbes, Higby, Higginson, Johnson, Killins, Kountze,
 Lorraine, McMurtrie, Nimerick, Noe, O'Brien, Pollock,
 Quick, Riggs

Greenland Town today is a landmark townsite

Douglas Larkspur (Huntsville – 1 Mile to the North)



Larkspur was founded in 1869 by a man named Sloan with a sawmill that resided on land on which today’s Town Hall was built.

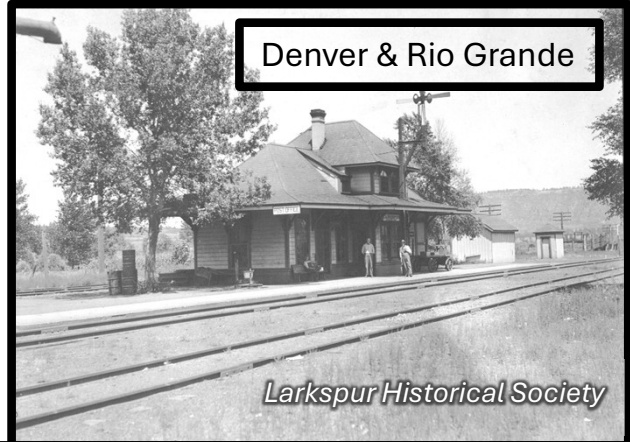
Founded: 1869
Incorporated: 1979
First Mayor: Anne Trueblood
First Settlers
William Crull (Huntsville 1860)
Daniel C. Oakes (Huntsville 1864)
Sarah Coberly (Huntsville 1864)
Alexander Cameron Hunt (Huntsville 1867, 4th Territorial Governor)
William Sloan (Larkspur)

Population
1890: 50 (Townsite only)
2020: 206 (Townsite only)

Railroads
Denver & Rio Grande: 1871
Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887

Town Composition
Depot
Post Office
3 Railroad Boarding Houses
1 Grocery
2 Mercantiles
2 Schools
Glen Grove Dist 6
Larkspur Dist 11
Confectionery/Cigars
Telephone Co 1905
Creamery
Chapel
Blacksmith
Wagon Builder
3 Hotels: Lounsberry, Pettyjohn, Hamilton
1 Feed and Grain

Early Ranches
Coberly Ranch Perry Ranch Starr Ranch
Brown Ranch Hunt Ranch Quick Ranch
Larkspur Railroad Depots



Surname
Arfsten, Bailey, Bardell, Blake, Boon, Berger, Brennan, Brown, Burke, Butts, Cantril, Carlson, Carr, Carver, Coberly, Conant, Crull, Dakan, Dawson, DeWitt, Dobberteen, Dodge, Edmonton, Eichelberg, Evans, Fosdick, Frink, Garlinghouse, Harris, Hamilton, Harvey, Hayhurst, Hunt, Ingals, Johnson, Kinnan, Kinner, Likins, Lounsberry, McClure, McConnell, Meunier, Moorefield, Murphy, Nickson, Noe, Oakes, Pettijohn, Perry, Potts, Quick, Reed, Reubel, Riggs, Roberts, Robinson, Ross, Saare, Simmey, Sloan, Smith, Starr, Stoddart, Swinney, Thompson, Upton, Wells, Wilson, Whitehead, Woodruff

Sedalia (Round Corral, Plum)

Sedalia Depot and Townsite *circa 1890*

Douglas County Libraries' Archives & Local History

John Craig built a large corral beside the confluence of East and West Plum Creek calling the site "Round Corral." In 1869, Jonathan House moved to the Round Corral and changed the name of the area "Plum" due to all the wild plum trees. In 1882, Henry Clay moved to the burgeoning town and changed the name to that of his Missouri hometown, Sedalia.

Founded 1865

Founder John Craig

Population

8 homes in 1875

2020 Census: 77

Railroads

Denver & Rio Grande: 1871

Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887

NOTE: The Town of Plum was platted by the D&RG Railroad

Early Major Road

Sedalia was on Colorado's first Territorial Road

Town Composition

Plum Station Building
(Post Office...P.M. Hendly
first postmaster)

Sunflower Grange 127

Weaver House Boarding

Barber

Drug Store

2 Depots (D&RG, AT&SF)

Stage Stop

Manhart General Store

Green's Grocery

Bennet Sawmill

Meat Market

Blacksmith and Waggoner

School

2 Liverys and Feed Stables

Kreutzen's Cigar Factory

Area Ranches

Mueller Ranch

Sunflower Ranck

Oatland Ranch

Victor Ranch

Lambert Ranch & Orchards

Keystone Ranch

Metcalf Ranch

Sedalia Weaver House and Livery

Sedalia Fire House Museum

Surnames

Atchison, Beeman, Blunt, Brener, Bryant, Burke, Craig, Cramer, Curtis, Frink, Green, Greenwood, House, Karacher, Kelly, Kreutzen, Lamin, Lambert, Lowell, Manhart, Nalim, Parman, Smith, Victor, Warner, Weaver, Williams

NOTES:

1. In the early 1860s, Round Corral was a booming place for military detachments, drovers, freight wagoners, and bullwackers with both the confluence of the East and West Plum Creek "watering hole" and for area cattle loading.
2. The gold rush in Westcreek (Southwest of Sedalia in the far southwestern corner of Douglas County), Sedalia was a great place for supplies and gold rush traffic.



Spring Valley, (Community and not a specific townsite)

Founder: George Redman **First Settler:** Joseph Gile
First to turn the soil in Douglas County

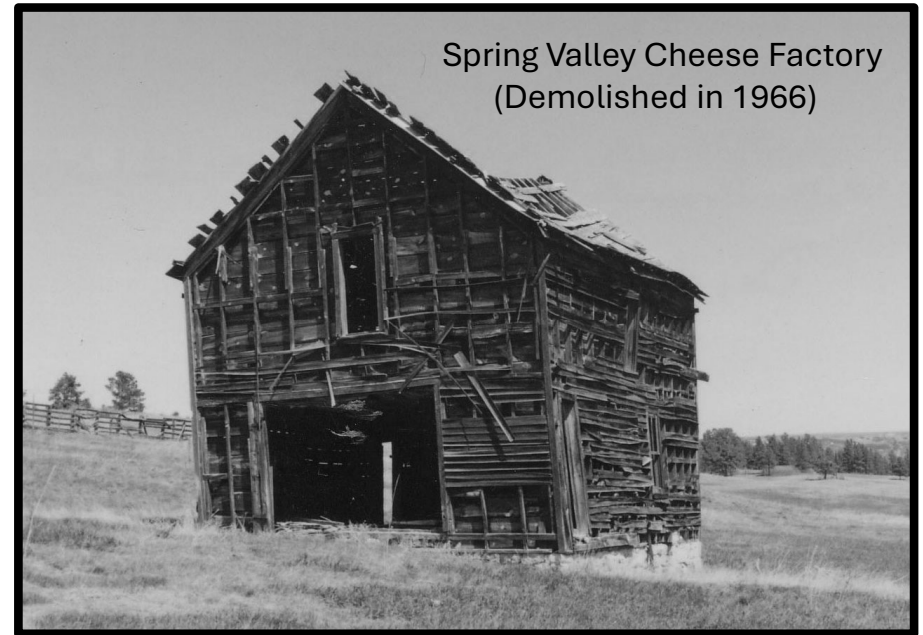
Major Crossroads: Lorraine & Spring Valley Road **Population:** 1860 Estimate: 168



Spring Valley School Grounds

Commercial Site around Crossroads

- Barnum & Company Stage Stop
- Livery Stable
- Spring Valley Cemetery
- Killin Chapel (Built at cemetery in 1966)
- Grange Store with room in back for lodging
(Managed by Jacob Geiger)
- Cheese Factory (Owned by Jesse Knowles and Newton Alderman)
- School (School and Grange held Methodist Church services ...Horace Reynolds Minister)
- John Irions Fort
- Post Office 1865 (Located at Grange, later moved to Greenland, Palmer Lake, and Monument)
- Many dairy farms in area ...milk taken to Larkspur and Monument



Spring Valley Cheese Factory
(Demolished in 1966)

Area Ranches

Lorraine Ranch	Killen Ranch
Gandy Ranch	Lincoln Ranch
Gieger Ranch	Reynolds Ranch
Alderman Ranch	McQuire Ranch

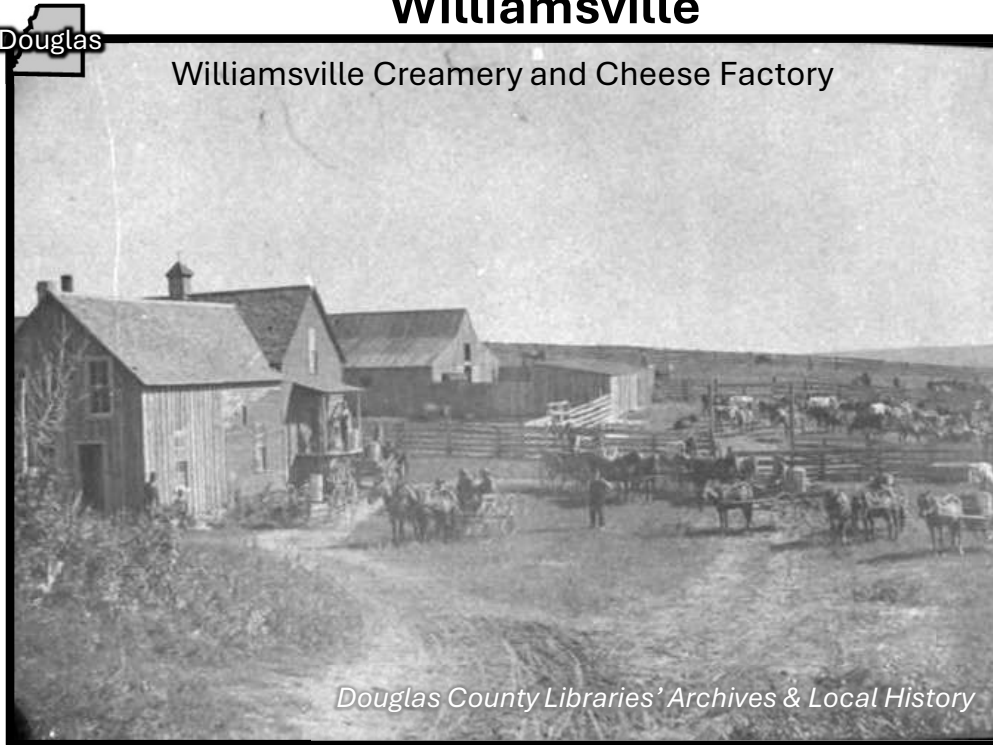


John Irion's Fort
Remains

Surnames: Alderman, Arfsten, Aubuchon, Best, Brown, Bucks, Dahlberg, Diebold, Donegan, Gile, Geiger, Gandy, Hagedorn, Holden, Irions, Jones, Killin, Lavelett, Lincoln, Lorraine, McGuire, Murphy, Pettigrew, Pollock, Pribble, Redman, Reynolds, Roberts, Wissler

Williamsville

Williamsville Creamery and Cheese Factory



Douglas County Libraries' Archives & Local History

First Settler & Founder

David and Elvira Williams
Family

Community Area Population

1875: 260

Area Farms and Ranches

Williams Farm/Ranch (1180 acres, bordered by Case and Rock Ridge Farm/Ranches and the Cherry Community/School to the south)

Community Composition

Creamery
Williams Cheese Factory
Pratt School (Cherry) Dist 20
General Store
Post office 1874

Community Area Surnames, Including Rock Ridge and Case

Anderson, Blehmege, Case, Cozad, Crowfoot, Dietrieh, Fletcher, Fredenthall, Gandy, Garrett, Gotlieb, Griger, Hagspiel, Harris, Helget, Hill,, John, Kampfer, Lamar, Lambert, Monaghan, Pratt, Ruppert, Schrieber, Smith, Walden, Whittier, Williams, Whitehead

Rock Ridge - Case

Rock Ridge Post Office at Whittier Ranch
1874 - 1887

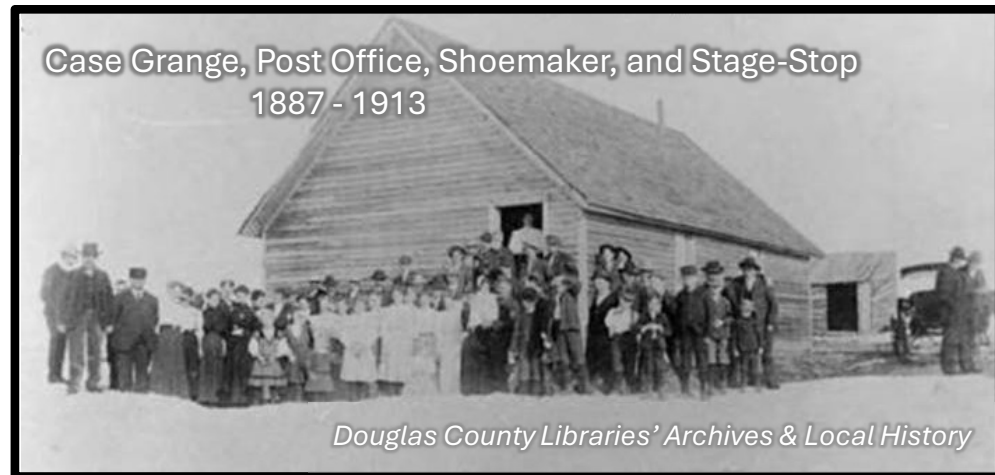


Douglas County Libraries' Archives & Local History

First Settler & Founder

Irving Whittier Family Circa 1870

Case Grange, Post Office, Shoemaker, and Stage-Stop
1887 - 1913



Douglas County Libraries' Archives & Local History

First Settler & Founder

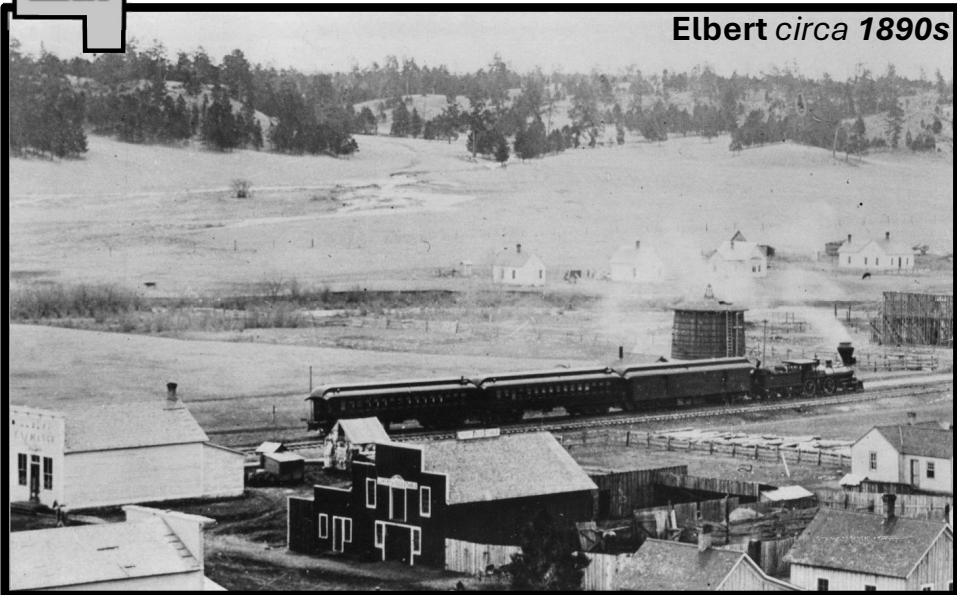
Jonathan Case Circa Late-1870

NOTE:

Cherry School and stage-stop was a short distance to the south of Rock Ridge/Case. After 1887, the Case Post Office was closed, and mail was transferred from Case to Larkspur, Greenland and Monument

Elbert

Elbert circa 1890s



Joe Martell, Elbert County Historical Society

Elbert was named in honor of territorial governor Samuel Elbert and has existed at two locations. The original Elbert Post Office was established in March 1875 and located seven miles southwest of the present town on the Charles Hutchings homestead. In addition to the post office, the settlement consisted of a gambling hall, store and saloon. Nevertheless, the post office was discontinued in 1880 and replaced by the neighboring Clermont Post Office the following year.

Meanwhile, construction crews for the Denver & New Orleans Railroad were quickly approaching their next planned town thirteen miles south of Elizabeth, to be called Comanche, in the picturesque Kiowa Creek valley. In early 1882 it was renamed Elbert, for Samuel Elbert who also happened to be former territorial governor John Evans' son-in-law and D&NO business partner. Later that spring the post office was closed at Gomers Mills, moved to Elbert, and assumed the name of the new town, all in a single day.

Railroad

Denver & New Orleans: 1882

Road

25-41 Road

Jacob Frick homesteaded north of the future townsite in 1866, and his double log cabin was on the north end of town when the railroad arrived in 1882. Later he donated additional land to the growing town. By 1883, Elbert had proved itself not only as an important, but also a lucrative stop on the D&NO line, with the railroad advertising special day-trip excursion trains to city dwellers and enticing them to spend a day out in the fresh country air. Railroad facilities included a depot, section house, tool house, coal bin, water tank and pumphouse, warehouse and livestock pens. Simultaneously, a construction boom took place with new residences and businesses springing up to include a boarding house and restaurant, community hall, general stores, churches, harness and saddle shop, cheese factory, elevator, hotel, livery stables, newspaper, saloon and pool hall, fraternal clubs, and schoolhouse. By the end of the century and early into the new one, Elbert would rival neighboring Elizabeth to emerge as the largest town in the county.

Thanks to Joe Martell, Elbert County Historical Society

Western Elbert County Surnames

Adams, Albus, Anderson, Aux, Bachman, Baldwin, Barron, Beuck, Blumer, Brazelton, Brockman, Brown, Burnside, Carnahan, Carver, Charman, Chenoweth, Clark, Clibon, Clow, Cole, Cook, Cort, Cornforth, Denney, Dietemann, Dietrich, Dittmore, Edinger, Elsner, Epler, Everitt, Fahrion, Frick, Gammon, Garland, Gates, Girardot, Gleason, Gomer, Green, Hames, Harper, Hertel, Hooker, Huber, Hungate, James, Jones, Kelton, Killin, King, Kruse, Kuhn, Liptrap, Lundy, Maguire, Maul, Mauldin, Mather, Matthews, McCausland, McVeigh, Melburn, Miller, Mobley, Mulligan, Myers, Nelson, Neuman, Oaks, Olson, Orsburn, Peterson, Phillips, Ramsey, Reed, Rinnert, Scherrer, Schillinger, Schindelholz, Seibert, Smith, Swan, Taggart, Wendling, Willard, Williams, Wood, Woodard

Elizabeth

Early Elizabeth 1885

Joe Martell, Elbert County Historical Society

Early Origin 1859-6

Incorporation 1890

First Settlers Webber Brothers

Population

1890: 200

2020 Census: 1,675

Beginnings Elizabeth's origin can be traced back to the Webber Brother's sawmill established on Running Creek as early as 1859-60, and for a time Milton DeLano and Phillip Gomer operated competing sawmills nearby. By 1880 Thomas L. Phillips owned and operated the Webber sawmill east of Running Creek. He donated a strip of land to the Denver & New Orleans Railroad being constructed along the west side of the creek, as well as some land for a townsite. His neighbor to the north, Charles Garland, did the same. Legend has it the new community was named after Elizabeth Hubbard, sister-in-law to former territorial governor and D&NO financier, John Evans. County Surveyor Joseph Huber surveyed the town in 1882, after which he purchased the first lots to build upon; and Mr. Phillips became the first postmaster that same year. Railroad facilities soon included a depot, three coal chutes, a railroad hotel, section house and water tank.

Thanks to Joe Martell, Elbert County Historical Society

Railroad

Denver & New Orleans: May 1881

Major Road

Highway 86

1910 Town Composition

Post Office
Town Hall
Graded School
Drug Store
Livery Barn
Weekly Newspaper
Saloon
2 Churches
Banks
Hotels
General Stores
Blacksmith Shops
Fraternal Societies
Other Retail Establishment
Numerous Homes

Western Elbert County Surnames

Adams, Albus, Anderson, Aux, Bachman, Baldwin, Barron, Beuck, Blumer, Brazelton, Brockman, Brown, Burnside, Carnahan, Carver, Charman, Chenoweth, Clark, Clibon, Clow, Cole, Cook, Cort, Cornforth, Denney, Dietemann, Dietrich, Dittimore, Edinger, Elsner, Epler, Everitt, Fahrion, Frick, Gammon, Garland, Gates, Girardot, Gleason, Gomer, Green, Hames, Harper, Hertel, Hooker, Huber, Hungate, James, Jones, Kelton, Killin, King, Kruse, Kuhn, Liptrap, Lundy, Maguire, Maul, Mauldin, Mather, Matthews, McCausland, McVeigh, Melburn, Miller, Mobley, Mulligan, Myers, Nelson, Neuman, Oaks, Olson, Orsburn, Peterson, Phillips, Ramsey, Reed, Rinnert, Scherrer, Schillinger, Schindelholz, Seibert, Smith, Swan, Taggart, Wendling, Willard, Williams, Wood, Woodard

Kiowa

Kiowa Townsite *circa 1890*

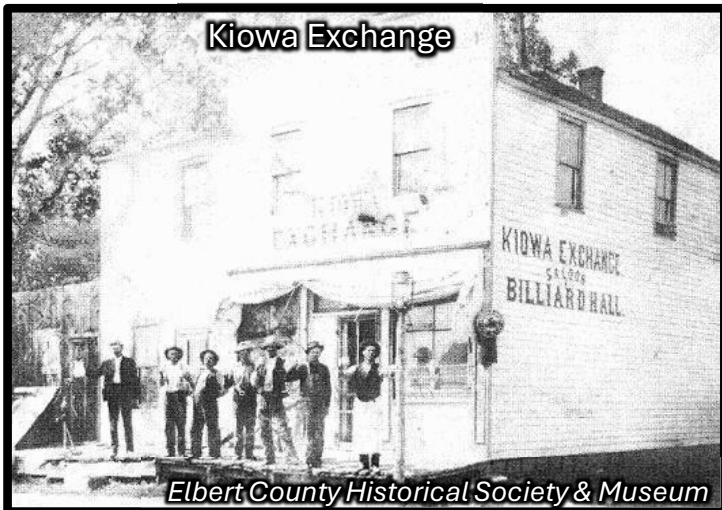


Founded: 1912 **Population**

1920 Earliest Recorded Population: 148

2020 Census: 725

Kiowa Exchange



NOTE: The Town of Kiowa was not included in the DIVIDE COUNTRY history program created by Larkspur Historical Society since the Town of Kiowa was outside of the Divide County study area. However, Kiowa was significant to the Divide County program since it was a noted stage stop on the Smoky Hill Trail at the time when the *Fifty-niner's* migrated (1859) into the Divide Country study area.

Kiowa and the adjacent creek were named after the Kiowa Indians who spent their summers hunting along the cottonwood-lined valleys. While still part of Douglas County in 1865, Kiowa originated as a stage stop on the **Butterfield Overland Despatch** freight and stagecoach line that ran on the Smoky Hill Trail's southern route. Homesteader Henry Wendling operated the Kiowa Creek Station and later became the first postmaster when the post office was established in February 1868. Bernard Killin homesteaded on the south side of the road, and a blacksmith shop run by Joseph Huber operated across from the stage station. Between Wendling and Killin, portions of both their ranches created the townsite. Throughout the 1860s and 70s, a small village grew up around the stage station and was known as Middle Kiowa because two other settlements along the creek were also called Kiowa, one upstream and the other further down near Bennett.

When Elbert County was established in 1874, Middle Kiowa was designated the temporary county seat, and a one-room building was moved into the center of town from Judge George Fahrion's ranch to serve as the first courthouse. That same year, four horse thieves were caught near Gomers Mills and brought to Kiowa to stand trial. The trial lasted three days before on the third night, the sheriff and his two deputies were overpowered by a group of masked men, who loaded the four thieves, shackled in twos, into the back of a wagon and drove them to a pine grove two miles southeast of town, where the men – still shackled together – were hung at a site thereafter known as Hangman's Point.

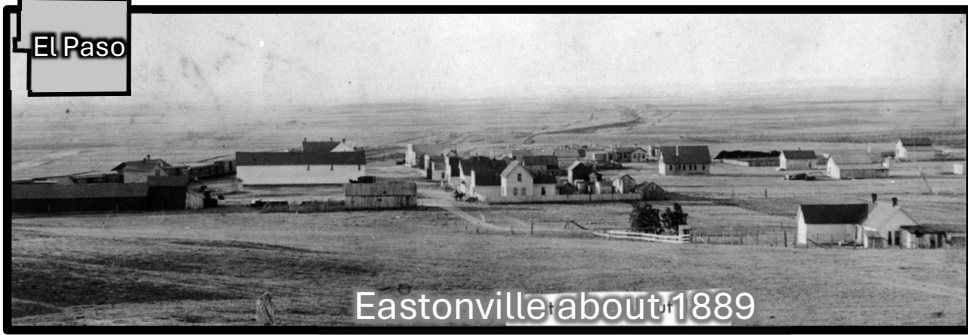
The arrival of the Kansas Pacific Railway into Denver in 1870 brought about the slow and eventual end to trail travel. Despite being the county seat, in 1881 Middle Kiowa was bypassed with the construction of the Denver & New Orleans Railroad in favor of Elizabeth, seven miles to the west. From then on, a daily freight wagon moved people, goods and mail between the two towns, and ranchers on the outskirts east of Kiowa would drive their herds west, through the town's main street to Elizabeth and the railroad stockyards.

In the early Twentieth Century, Kiowa experienced a building boom that saw the town flourish to include an array of commercial, institutional, and residential growth. After decades of disputes from rival towns questioning Middle Kiowa's designation as the county seat, the matter was finally settled in the courts in 1912. Later that summer construction finally began on a proper courthouse built of brick, and "Middle" was dropped from the name when the town incorporated.

Thanks to Joe Martell, Elbert County Historical Society

Eastonville

(1872 – Single-farm named McConnellsville, renamed as a town 1874)



Elbert County Historical Society

Town Composition

3 Boarding Houses

Rail Depot

Post Office May 6, 1872 - 1873

John Bazelton Mercantile

John & Orlin Gates Mercantile

Two-story – Upper level: Furniture Store

(Stores later run by John Higby for 12 years)

Blacksmith

Barbershop

Butcher Shop

Drug Store

Telephone Office

Church

School

Creamery – “Blue Hill” products

Newspaper

Race Track

Early Industries/Crops

Crops: Potatoes (Steppler)
and Root Vegetables

Feed Grains

Livestock: Dairy and Beef
Cattle

Shipping of Black Forest Lumber

Established: 1874

Named after settler John Easton

First Settlers

McConnells family

Railroads

Denver & New Orleans 1880

Later name changed to Texas & Fort Worth
and still later an ownership name changed
to the Colorado & Southern, nicknamed by
Travelers as: “**Crookedly Slow**”

Population

Estimated between 350 and 500

NOTE: of the Divide Country townships that
became extinct, Eastonville notably had the
largest population. Eastonville started deterring in 1900
and the Flood of 1935 washed out the railroad tracks
between Elbert and Eastonville,
leading to Eastonville’s final demise.

Area Ranches

KKK Ranch (6,000 acres)

(Kountz & Operated by

Twin brothers Charle and Frank Kirk
who later purchased the ranch

Whitman brothers’ Grandview Ranch
(2,100 acres)

Surnames

Andrews, Bean, Bennett, Boston, Brazelton, Campbell,
Cole. Dawson, Dickinson, Dittermore, Eubank, Evans,
Foster, Gates, Gates, Guy, Hiatt, Hobbs, Joubert,
Kessinger, Little, McCune, Moreland, Paul, Peterson,
Phillips, Ragsdale, Reffner, Rhudy, Schroeder, Skidmore,
Soule, Strohm, Ten Eyke, Tipton, Turner, Weels. Welty,
Whitmore

Gwillimville

Named after Gwilliam Rees Gwillim

El Paso



Colorado Community Media

Built in 1869 as a one room schoolhouse in Gwillimville. The building was moved to the Presbyterian Church in Monument in 1893. In 1920s-1930s moved again and is currently houses the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Established: 1869

Founded: 1872

First Settlers

Gwillim Rees Gwillim

Welsh and English Settlers

Intersection Location

Highways 105 and 83

Town Composition

Post Office 1878 – 1887

School Dist 11

Church

Separator/Creamery

Cheese Factory

Saloon

Major Historic Ranch

Bryn Maur (Byrn) Ranch 120 acres

Population

1898: 35

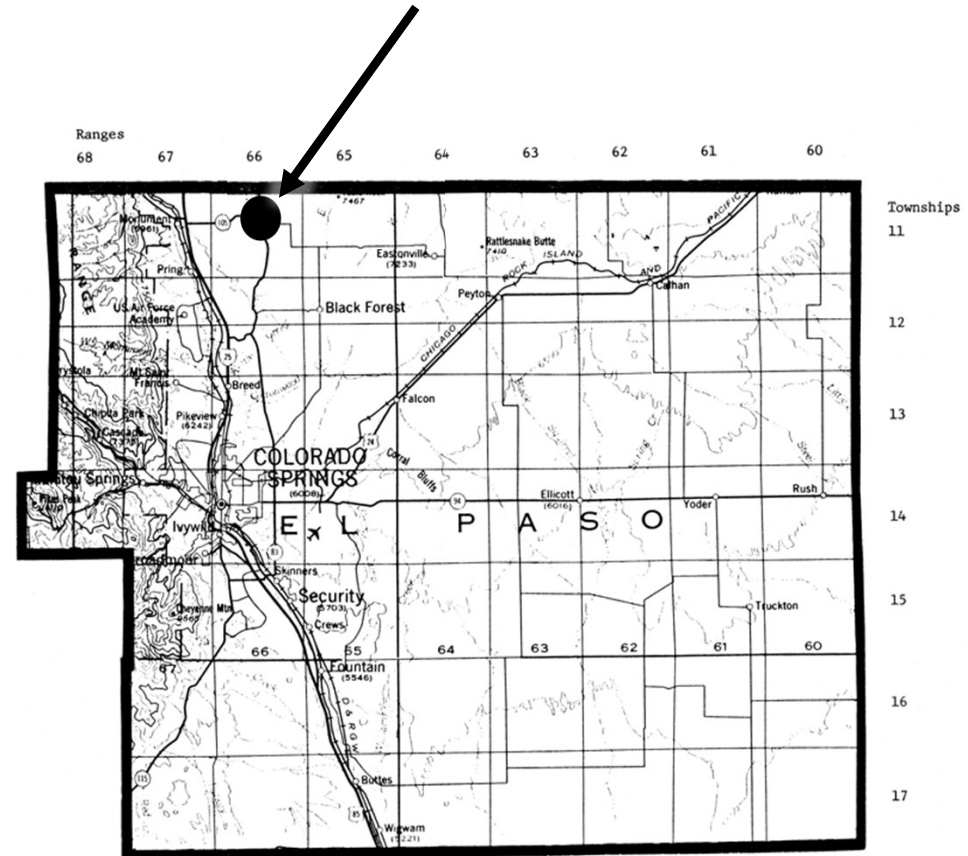
Early Industries/Crops

Farming

Cheese and Creamery

Products

Gwillimville



Gwillimville is no longer in existence

Husted

Named after Calvin R. Husted

El Paso



ATSF Depot –
East Husted

Photographs courtesy of [USAFA Special Collections](#)



Kinner Gas Station
– East Husted



D&RG Depot –
West Husted

Population

1898: 35
1940 Estimate: 165

Founded: 1878

Six miles south of Monument
Located just south of the
Air Force Academy
North Entrance Gate

Town Composition

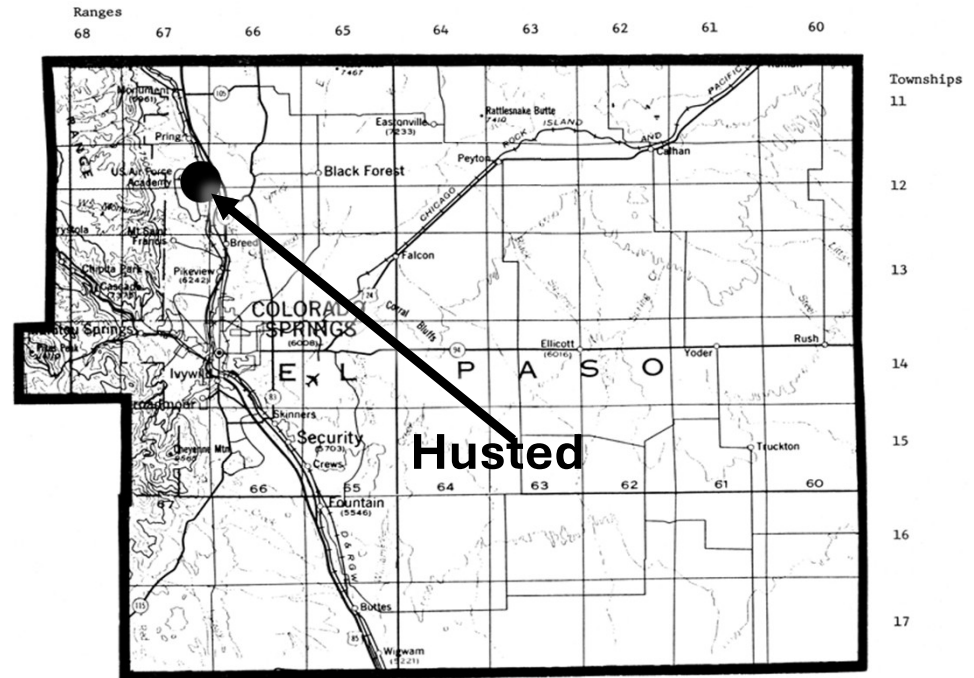
Post Office 1878-1920
Stores
Church
Restaurant
School
Saloon
Blacksmith Shop
(Later Gas Station and
Auto Mechanic Shop)
Round House (West End of
Husted)

Early Industries/Crops

Railroad
Farming
Lumber
Husted Sawmill

Close Ranches

Evergreen Ranch (Later: Allen
Ranch, Shamrock Ranch)
Welty Homestead



Surnames of Husted Families

Alvey, Anderson, Baker, Brown, Carver, Crandall, Crowes,
Doughty, Eagen, Geiger, Gossage, Greiner, Grimes, Hagen,
Harkins, Honald, Hubbel, Husted, Jones, Jule, Kinner,
Losey, Massey, McCarty, McKittrick, Morris, Mosely,
Neussell, Reynold, Riggs, Ross, Scott, Shoemaker, Stanton,
Walker, Welty, Wiley, Wissler, Young

Monument

Originally called Henry's Station

Named in 1872 after Monument Rock

El Paso



Courtesy Town of Monument Colorado

Incorporated: June 2, 1879

First Mayor: Henry Limbach

First Settlers 1865

John, Henry, Jacob, Joe, and David Guire
 Andrew McMasters
 C. E. Chaloner
 H. B. Walker
 David McShane
 Herman Swanbeck
 Karl Swanbeck (Name changed
 to Charles Adams)

Population

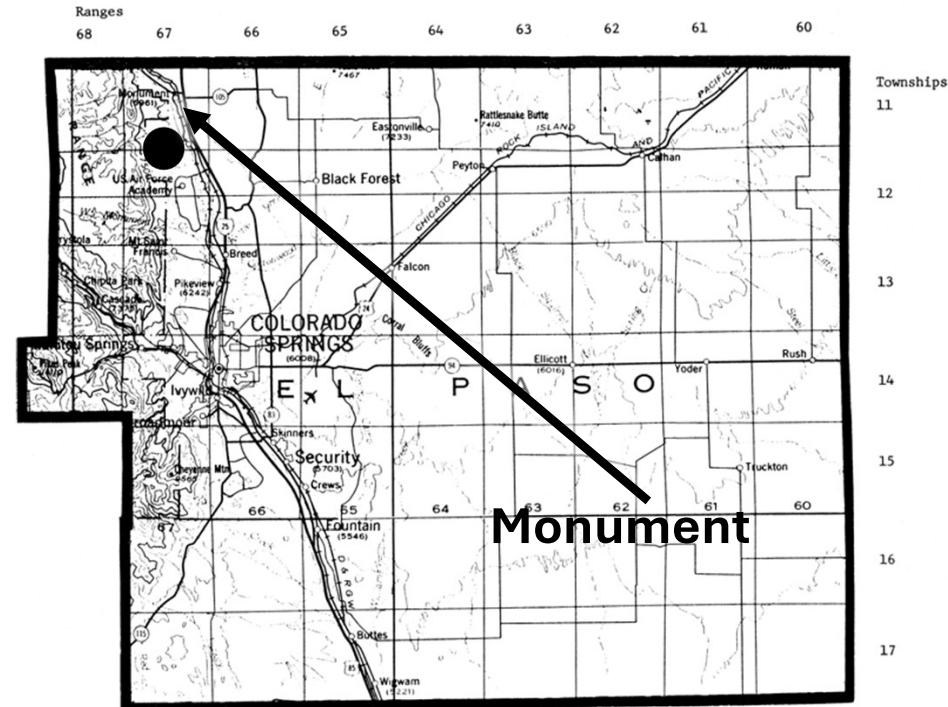
1880: 125
 2020: 10,359

Town Composition

Depot
 Post Office
 Stepler Mercantile
 Higby Mercantile
 Stone Fort (McShane
 Ranch)
 Creamery
 Cheese Factory
 Town Lake
 (Built by McShane)
 Hanks & Doyle Ice
 Company
 School
 Freight Wagons

Railroads

Denver & Rio Grande: 1871
 Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887

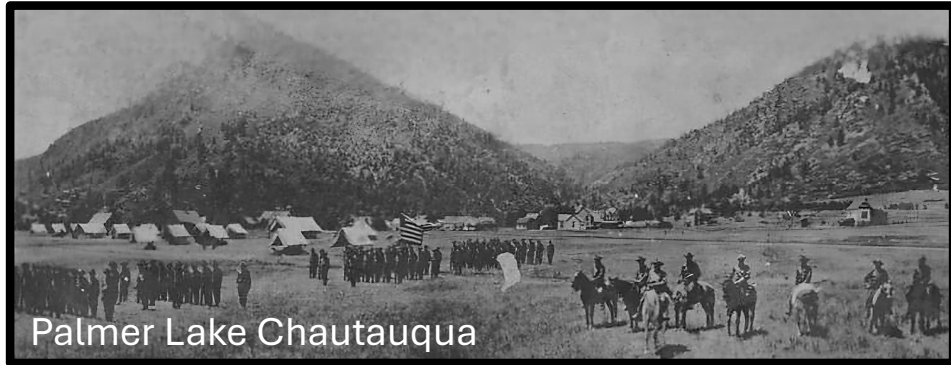


Surnames of Husted Families

Betz, Brown, Chandler, Davidson, DeMasters, Dolan,
 Faulkner, Ford, Guire, Higby, Jackson, Lavelett, Limbach,
 McConnell, McShane, Oldham, Roberts, Rupp, Schubarth,
 Schwanbeck, Shideler, Simpson, Teach, Walker, Watkins,
 Welty

Palmer Lake

With the D&RG Railroad build, Palmer called the area Summit Lake rail stop, later changed to the town name, Divide, followed by Weissport (named after Camillus Weiss), followed by Palmer Lake in 1883



Beverly and Bill Noe

Population

1890: 213

2020 census: 2,626

Railroads

Denver & Rio Grande: 1871

Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe: 1887

Town Composition

Post Office 1887

School 1888 (gift of Dr. William Thomson) Dist 33

2 Churches

Presbyterian and St. Joseph

Pillsbury Store

Higby Mercantile

Glen House Hotel (Palmer Lake Hotel)

Restaurant

Colorado Hotel and Sanitarium Company (1888)

Rocklands Hotel

Pine Crest (1908)

Mountain Utilities Company (1935)

Established: 1873

William Palmer formed an organization called Monument Farms and Lake Property to purchase 2,970 acres for the railroad and of which 1241 acres became Palmer Lake, in 1883.

Founder:

Dr. William Finley Thompson

First Settlers

Best Ranch (First homesteader)

Area Ranches

Ben Lomand Ranch

(Hiram Bennet and son, Higginson,
and today's Spruce Mountain Ranch

Best Ranch (First homestead)

Early Industries/Cultural Events

Railroad

Potato Farming (Hacket's Ditch)

Livestock: Beef & Dairy Cattle

Tourism (Palmer Lake, Picnicking
boating, and fishing

Building of Estimere (1887)

(Dr. William Thompson)

Chautauqua – started 1887

Pine Crest

Yule Log Festival – started 1934

Palmer Lake Star – 1935

(Colorado Historically
Landmarked)

Surnames: Agnew, Bennett, Curtis, Daniels, Dodge, Enders, Hackett, Judd, McClure, McDonough, Murat, Oakes, O'Connell, Pillsbury, Thompson, Vaile, Weiss, Younger

Pring

El Paso (Pring Station ...named after John Williams Pring)

No photograph relating to Pring could be found.

The location of where the small town was is the Sante Fe Trailhead at Baptist Road and the old Denver Highway, 3 miles south of Monument, Colorado

Railroads

Denver & Rio Grande 1890 Est 29
Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe

Population

First Settlers

John Pring
Family of 7

Town Composition

Railroad depot
Bunkhouse for rail workers
Railroad Section House & Toolshed
24-foot Water Tower
(When the water tower was no longer needed, it was moved to Monument)
School

Early Industries/Crops

Crops: Various Farm Crops
Livestock: Dairy and Beef
Cattle, Horses
Rail Shipping

Note: John Pring, an immigrant from England, bought is land site unseen. Pring also was a carpenter and miner, owning two mines in *Cripple Creek*, the *Bonnie Nell* and *Raven Hill*. Prings main livelihood was raising horses that he sold to now Fort Carson for the Calvary.

Surnames

Craig, Johnson, Kirk, McShane, Parrish, Pring, Waldron, Webb, Whittier, Woodworth

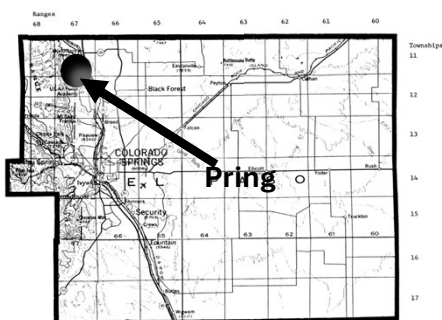


Table Rock

(Approximately 12 miles east of Monument, near Table Rock Mesa East Cherry Creek flowed through it)

El Paso

No photograph relating to Table Rock town could be found.

Established: 1873

First Settler

Patrick Murphy

Population

1900 Est 101 in the Table Messa area

Railroad

Denver & New Orleans 1874

Town Composition

Post office Dec 15, 1873 - 1893
General Store
School 1874 – 1951
1951 Consolidate with
into Monument
Creamery
Cemetery 1872

Early Industries/Crops

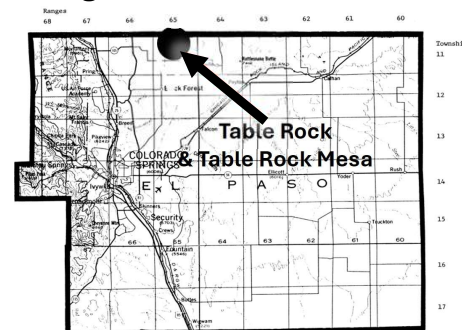
Crops: Various Farm
Livestock: Dairy and
Beef Cattle

Early Ranches/Farms

Norvell Ranch
Bar X Ranch
Roper Ranch

Surnames

Achord, Bishop, Brown, Crouse, Campbell, Cummings, Davidson, Dyer, Evans, Fraker, Hunt, Husted, Immers, Kirk, McConnell, Meek, Murphy, Nicholson, Norvell, Peterson, Roberts, Roper, Russell, Sinton, Smalley, Steppler, Taylor, Thomson, Tintle, Walker, Williams Younger





Palmer Lake Park



Original by an Artist Helen De La Poer Power; Dan Edwards donated the original oil painting to Douglas County

Palmer Lake Park was an El Paso County named location located in Douglas County. The black and white copy of the colored painting depicts the area. This “closeness” between the Divide Country families and cultures is truly portrayed by this subdivision ...literally being the first subdivision in 1890 in Divide Country. This park is best described by Beverly Higginson Noe in the article below.

A Brief History of the Palmer Lake Park

by Beverly Higginson Noe

The Palmer Lake Park subdivision was located near the southern Douglas County and El Paso County line. The subdivision was 160 acres located in Douglas County north of the town of Palmer Lake. This was on the west side of Perry Park Road (Highway 105) at the junction of Yarnell Drive. There were more than 750 lots available for sale.

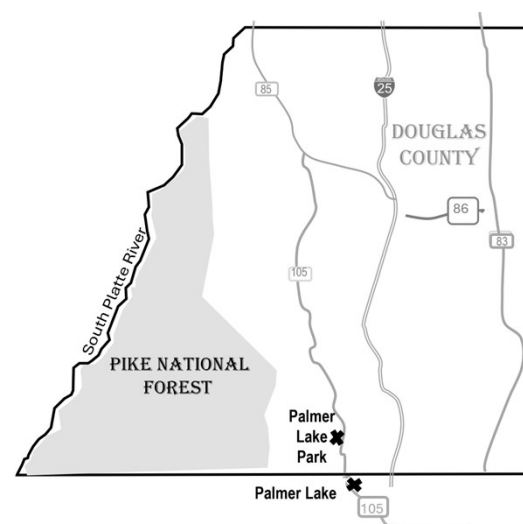
Palmer Lake Park was platted and filed with Douglas County by Harriet Wilson and her brother Frank in 1889. Harriet had built a house on the subdivision by the summer of 1890.

Unfortunately, the house burnt in 1891 along with an art collection that had been open to the public.

Palmer Lake Park became an artist community with many artists. They came to the area to paint the landscape scenes. During the summer they lived in some of the dwellings depicted in the painting. This painting was painted from a location East of the subdivision looking West showing dwellings in the subdivision. It shows the area from Hanks Canyon North to Butler Canyon.

In 1907 Harold Higginson and his brother Aurthur established a ranch which surrounded the Palmer Lake Park subdivision. Over time Harold and his son Russell Higginson acquired all the lots in the Palmer Lake Park subdivision. Today the trees have regrown and there are several homes on the land where Palmer Lake Park subdivision was located. Some of the land of the Palmer Lake Park subdivision remains in the Higginson family.

NOTE: The Russell Gold Mine was in the Southwest part of the subdivision.



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Elbert County Historical Society

Lucretia Vaile Library / Museum

Palmer Divide Trilogy (DVD)

Jim Sawatski 2021

Old Colorado City Historical Society

Larkspur Historical Society

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Colorado College

Fading Past

Susan Consola Appleby 1967

Pikes Peak Grange No.167

Colorado College

Fading Past

Susan Consola Appleby 1967

Pikes Peak Grange No.167

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Joe Martell, President, Elbert County Historical Society and Museum

Palmer Lake Chautauqua

Beverly and Bill Noe

Sedalia Fire House Museum

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Larkspur Historical Society

October 2025

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