

Cemeteries of Fremont County



FREMONT COUNTY HERITAGE GUIDE

Cemeteries of Fremont County, Colorado: Fremont County Heritage Guide

Fremont County cemeteries date back to 1865, 11 years before statehood in 1876 but four years after Colorado became a territory in 1861. Those who died before official cemetery records were kept may have been buried in family cemeteries, of which several are known in Fremont County but not listed here since they are on private property. Some cemeteries on private land are listed here due to their historic nature, but previous arrangements must be made prior to visiting. Contact information is included in the Fremont County Cemetery Heritage Resource Guide, prepared as part of this project, which is available at Museums and Libraries throughout Fremont County.

This Heritage Guide was researched and prepared by members of the Fremont County Historical Society and the County's Heritage Commission who have been deeply involved in caring for and preserving these important links to the pioneers that built this county. Contributors are identified at the end of each section and deep appreciation is due them for the time, knowledge and passion invested in this work. This Guide was published with the assistance of a grant from the Colorado Tourism Office in cooperation with the Fremont County Tourism Council. This all volunteer project included editing by Margaret Stiles Storm of the Historical Society; production coordination by Jim Nelson and graphics by Millie Wintz of the Heritage Commission; proofreading by Fremont County Commissioner Debbie Bell; and layout by Larry Hill of the Tourism Council. Published September 1, 2016.

ROYAL GORGE
REGION



Fremont County's development periods influenced the nature and location of cemeteries here. A brief review:

Pikes Peak or Bust! The Pikes Peak Gold Rush began in 1859 when this part of Colorado was still part of Kansas. More than 50,000 people were drawn to the region in 1859 alone. While the Gold Rush had largely ended by 1863, many stayed on in the area engaged in ranching, farming or other businesses.

The Civil War (4/12/1861 – 5/9/1865) significantly influenced the area, as well. The beginning of the war caused the area to empty out as men left to fight and the U.S. military withdrew troops from the west. While there was some military action in Colorado, most activity occurred in the east and southeast.

Post Civil War growth was caused by several factors: new gold and silver strikes, the Homestead Act of 1862, increased awareness of opportunities in the west and the ability of veterans to use their script and other benefits to move west. Both Union and Confederate Army veterans came here and became active in farming, ranching or practicing their trade.

Mining Camp Support activity was a key spur to Fremont County development as Leadville experienced a resurgence on mining activity in 1877 based on Silver this time, and Cripple Creek's Gold mines boomed after 1890 resulting in 1900s populations of 50,000. Fremont County communities grew the food, raised the cattle and generally served as a support and supply hub for precious metal mining in the mountains. Initial trails were made into roads or toll roads and the area prospered by serving the mining camps.

Coal, Oil, Cement & Railroads boomed in the 1870s and 1880s supported by Scotch, Irish, Welsh, Italian and other European immigration. The Florence area was the hub of much of this activity and also had refining works for mines in Cripple Creek. Rockvale, Coal Creek, Brookside and other area mining towns supported workers at more than 70 coal mines. The Florence Oil Field started producing in 1881 and continues production today, although the coal mines are closed.

Cemeteries of Fremont County

Eastern Fremont County

FC-01	Upper Beaver Creek	1883	Pg. 3
FC-02	Middle Beaver Creek/Callen	1895	Pg. 4
FC-03	Lower Beaver Creek	1865	Pg. 5
FC-04	Beaver Park/Penrose	1899	Pg. 5
FC-05	Garden Park	1884	Pg. 7

Florence Area

FC-06	New Hope	1870	Pg. 8
FC-07	Union Highland	1873	Pg. 13
FC-08	San Juan Bautista	1902	Pg. 16

Cañon City Area

FC-09	Greenwood	1865	Pg. 20
FC-10	Odd Fellows IOOF	1874	Pg. 22
FC-11	Lakeside	1901	Pg. 23
FC-12	Holy Cross Abbey	1938	Pg. 26
FC-13	Mountain Vale	1960	Pg. 28

Western Fremont County

FC-014	Oak Creek/Galena	1885	Pg. 29
FC-015	San Isabel View	1875	Pg. 30
FC-016	Cotopaxi	1882	Pg. 31
FC-017	Coaldale	1879	Pg. 33
FC-018	Howard	1874	Pg. 34
FC-019	Whitehorn	1899	Pg. 36

Cemeteries in the Guide are listed in the order shown above. Brief information on Symbols, Abbreviations and their meaning is included at the end of this guide.

Eastern Fremont County

Upper Beaver Creek cemetery consists of approximately one acre and was established around 1880. Originally called *Cemetery Hill* since it sits atop a small hill, the name was changed to *Beaver Creek*, then *Upper Beaver Creek* to distinguish it from the others.

It is located by going north on CR 67, Phantom Canyon Road, turning right on CR 123 then left on CR 132. It is about 8 miles north on this road. This is a private family-owned cemetery, and permission must be obtained to enter. The land for the cemetery was donated by William Hight, and the land surrounding the cemetery belonged to pioneer Dave Hall who, with his brothers, homesteaded a large part of this area. The old wooden corrals just east of the cemetery belonged to Dave Hall.



The first grave was that of an 18-year old girl named Johnson, with no record of her first name, who drowned in Beaver Creek – this remains an unmarked grave. The first recorded burial is of a 10-year old boy, Harvey H. Williams on 1/3/1883 – followed closely by Abraham Banta, who was 82 years old when he died on 3/15/1883. His wife, Elizabeth, died on 9/13/1890, and she is also buried here. Their headstones are of carved marble, are



ornate and still readable. Abraham Banta was a well-known hunter and trapper. Some of the headstones are hard to see, as they are located underneath large trees that have grown up in the many years since the burials took place. Several of the pioneer ranchers and their families are buried here in small, fenced family plots. Two of these pioneers include Fred and Mabel Hall. He was a prominent rancher (son of Dave Hall) and she was the author of several books on the area. There are 15 members of the Hall family buried here, and 14 members of the Lackey family.

Records indicate there are approximately 63 marked graves in the cemetery, plus several that are not marked. Others were moved to Union Highland Cemetery in Florence or Lakeside in Cañon City, since these cemeteries provide care and maintenance. Some of the headstones are



ornate, and some are not readable at all. A few were carved by hand and can still be read.



There are at least 12 veterans buried here; some from the Civil War, both Confederate and Union, plus World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars and several who served in the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army. One vet – James Williams – received a Purple Heart while serving in the U.S. Army. One Marine, Cpl. Claud Capraro, died in Vietnam in 1968 at the age of 19.

He was awarded the Silver Star posthumously.

George W. Lackey (1843-1922), who was a Confederate Soldier who served from 10/18/1862 to 6/15/1865 in Co K, 22nd North Carolina Infantry is buried here. While serving in the Civil War, he was wounded in the leg, and carried the bullet in his leg the rest of his life. He is buried in Upper Beaver Creek Cemetery and one of his great-great-great-grandsons, Tim Dorries a U.S. Marine, is buried next to him.



Same family, same devotion to country, different times.

This is a wonderful, true Pioneer cemetery sitting on a hill overlooking land that was homesteaded by many of those buried here.

Researched and written by Kathy Uhland.

Photos by Kathy Uhland

Middle Beaver Creek cemetery is also known by the names of Callen or Kelley. It is located one mile north of the Callen Ranch, is small – less than acre in area – and is on the edge of Fort Carson in Fremont County. This cemetery is on Federal land and it is not possible to visit. Records indicate that the land was probably donated by the Callen family.

There are at least 21 graves in the cemetery. Many



of the stones are unmarked, and some are misplaced. Due to the fact that so many graves are not marked and the condition of stones, it is difficult to locate graves here.

The first recorded burial was in 1895, and was that of Curtis C. Kelley. Other graves in the cemetery include:

- John Vance Callen (1/12/1825 – 8/16/1919), one of the earliest pioneers to settle in the Middle Beaver Creek area. Originally from Iowa, he settled in Colorado in 1864.
- Sarah Jane Moore Callen (1826 – 7/5/1899), John's wife.
- Anna B. McGowan Callen (2/14/1864 – 1/5/1908), Will and Anna Callen had 8 children; 7 died as infants and are buried in here. Will is buried in the Beaver Park Cemetery, Penrose.
- Lucinda Kelley (1858 – 1900)
- Curtis C. Kelley (1878 – 1895), the son of Lucinda Kelley, he was only 17 when he died. Most members of the Kelley family are



buried in the Lower Beaver Creek cemetery.

- Thomas Stuart (1832 – 1908). He had no known family, but was well liked in the area.
- Mary A. Rudd McGowan, (1824 -- ?). She was the wife of Joseph McGowan, the mother of Anna Callen and the sister of Anson Rudd, an influential Cañon City pioneer.

Researched and written by Kathy Uhland.
Photos by Dave Strom.

Lower Beaver Creek Pioneer Cemetery consists of about 3 acres, surrounded by wire fence on all sides. It is on top of a hill with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains. It is Located on Colorado Highway 120, but not easy to find. When heading east on Highway 50, turn south on Hwy 120, then turn left after ½ mile. Follow this road for several miles, past an old adobe building (once the Beaver Creek Store) until you see a dirt road heading up a hill on the right side. About 200 feet on this dirt road you will see a metal gate and a sign that says Lower Beaver Creek Cemetery.



Records indicate that there are at least 137 burials here; most are marked, but a few remain unidentified. The cemetery is arranged in blocks running north and south, and designated by letters A to K inclusive, 'A' being the block on the east side. Even with this information, it is difficult to locate some graves. Many of the headstones were made out of sand stone, which is soft and thus they are weathered and some are now unreadable.

The first recorded burial was that of Mary E. Toof in May 1865.

She was the wife of James A. Toof, whose family were well known pioneers in this area. The remains of the Toof home is at the mouth of Beaver Creek, which the great flood of 1921 demolished along with many others, including the McClure House at Glendale. The second recorded burial is James Henderson. He shot a bear, which then attacked and mortally wounded him; he died of his injuries several days later.



Three Civil War Union Army Veterans are in the cemetery – Henry K. Brown, John J. Klinger and Joseph M. Sapp.

There are many pioneer families who have several members buried here. The Toof family has 8, Hob-



son also has 8, Kelley family 6, Sapp family 8, and Brown family has 7. Some of the people buried here have relatives in other cemeteries in Fremont County; i.e. Zulia Lackey's husband Hamp is in Upper Beaver Creek Cemetery and her daughter Mary Lackey Canterbury is in Lakeside Cemetery.

Researched and written by Kathy Uhland.
Photos by Kathy Uhland.

BEAVER PARK CEMETERY: Penrose, CO

The first burial at the Beaver Park Cemetery (also known as



Penrose Cemetery) is H. Lionel Barnhart in 1899. Prior to this time, other cemeteries were used by the community of Beaver Park. One of



the first settlers to the area was John V. Callen and his family. John was encouraged by the rich soil and available water. He felt it was a good area to feed his stock and they started growing vegetables to be hauled to the mining camps. The Callens are buried in Middle Beaver Creek Cemetery, now on private ground.

One of John Callen's daughters, Mary Ellen, married Lafayette U. Coffman. Coffman came to Fremont County in 1860 and was a freighter to the mining camps at California Gulch. He also gardened in the Cañon City area until he enlisted as a Colorado Volunteer in the Civil War. He returned and continued freighting and mining. He had a ranch along Grape Creek when he married Mary Ellen in 1873. Coffman was also known for pulling a stiletto from the back of Henry Harkin, sawmill owner, killed by the Espinosa Gang. Harkin is buried on Highway 115 in Dead Man's Canyon. Lafayette is buried in Beaver Park Cemetery. Other family members are also here, including Pvt. Charles Coffman who served in Korea.

The Beaver Park Cemetery has approximately 652 burials with a few unmarked graves. There are five Civil War Veterans, including Lafayette Coffman, World War I, World War II and Korea. There are some who served in other branches of the service without being in any war. The cemetery was established in 1915. The first burial after its establishment was John Schaeffer in 1915. Some other recognizable names in

this area include Goodall, Gillespie, McDowell, Hollifield, Pooteet, and Biddix. George Goodall has an interesting quote on his grave stone reading, "It's nice to be important but more important to be nice."

Since the 1915 founding of Beaver Park Cemetery, controversy has surrounded this organization. In 1992, it was discovered that funds belonging to Beaver Park Cemetery and Beaver Park Water were embezzled. This occurred over several years but in the end, \$3,700 was reported as lost.

Beaver Park Cemetery is located in Penrose, south of US-50. There are rules and regulations reminders posted as you enter along with a board listing the names and locations of burials.



One of the most striking things noticed in this cemetery is the change from religious and fraternal symbols on the headstones to very personalized etchings on them. Definitely there has been a societal change reflected in our cemeteries.

The Jones plot has a mare and foal statuary as well as the stone reflecting a man and woman holding hands, trees, windmill with water tank, sheep, horses and cattle set before a mountain backdrop.

The Knight stone has a horse's head for Elmer while birds fly in a circle for Billie; double entwined rings with marriage date. On the Johnson headstone, Henry, born in Oslo, Norway, has two horses above his name while Mildred has a log cabin with



chimney to designate their home – the Lone Chimney Ranch; praying hands with marriage date is centered.



The Adkins' etching shows a tree, windmill, water tank, home, mountains, Hereford cows, their brand and the Cedar Ranch name. The Wilson's stone is more traditional with praying hands and 2 crosses against a drape. Each name with their dates are written in the book of life.



The Rathke tombstone is unique as it looks laser etched. There are snow-capped mountains, pine trees, a stand of aspen, a bull elk, stones along a river and clouds in the sky. As a footstone, one finds the inurnment niche.



The Sheridan stone is a block of red granite with carvings of a high mountain, a lone aspen tree with a branch of leaves along with Colorado columbine at each name.

Researched and written by Betsy Denney and Margaret Stiles Storm. Photos by Margaret Stiles Storm.

Garden Park Cemetery is located about 10 miles north of Cañon City on Garden Park Road – take Field Avenue or Red Canyon Road which turns into Garden Park Road (CR-9). After passing the Historic Garden Park School House, there is a small dirt road on the right side that leads to the cemetery. It is difficult to find, and there is no sign indicating its location.



There are approximately 70 burials in the cemetery – most are marked but a few are without headstones. The list of those buried in this cemetery includes many of the early families who settled in this region of Fremont County. Some of those ranchers in the area include the Canterbury family, the Dilleys, Nelsons and Freek families. So many of these people were instrumental in the settling of this area with their large herds of livestock and their crops.



The first burial recorded was that of Walter F. Sage (7/17/1884), who was the 8-month old son of A.S. and L. J. Sage, who are also buried here. Records also indicate that some of those buried here have family members in Greenwood, Lakeside and Upper Beaver Creek cemeteries.



Researched and written by Kathy Uhland. Photos by Kathy Uhland.

Florence Area

NEW HOPE CHURCH & CEMETERY: Wetmore, CO

According to the history handed down to descendants of the original Hard-scrabble Park, the church was built as a community house of worship by all the people in the community. The first meeting was on May 13, 1871, at the school house near Ira Porter's home for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. There were 110 members at this time and Elder S.B. Chastine was to serve as Pastor. Stephen J. Tanner, Ira A. Porter and William R. Crouch drafted the Articles of Incorporation on September 8th and they were filed on September 11, 1873, which makes the Church 143 years old (as of 2016), the second oldest Baptist church in Colorado.



The congregation built the church; the wood frame is assembled by mortised joints and wooden pegs. There are no nails used in the construction. The floor joists are hand-hewn lodge poles and pine logs with tongue and groove assembly. Square nails were used to attach the roof and siding. The pulpit and pews were hand-made by the members. Vinyl siding was put on in the early 1980's to help preserve the building.



It wasn't until November 1873 that the members voted to lay out ground for the cemetery; however, burials were made

there at least three years prior. Ira Porter donated two acres of land for the church and cemetery. Burials were free and the neighbors and friends hand-dug the graves. The earliest known grave is of Jason P. Vaughn, born 24 November 1869, died 7 February 1870 (2 months and 13 days old).

Initially, no records were kept of those buried in the cemetery; however, a record book has been compiled. Graves listed as unmarked have had a rock, wooden cross or something else identifying the site. Several of these sites have been identified by relatives and metal markers have been put on these graves. There are many handmade markers, some with just a rock set at the head and nothing more, some are cement markers hard to decipher due to erosion. There are still many graves that may never be identified, but at least their names are in the record book. The information of those buried at New Hope Cemetery came from old newspapers researched by the late Dorothy Breece.

Besides the unknown markers, there is one little girl (same name and date) who has two headstones in two separate areas. Another headstone for one reads Hammett, yet the newspaper said he was buried on J.W. Bowers' ranch, not sure where he is really. There are members of the same family that spell the last name differently. Also buried here is James Sears, thought to be the famous Jessie James.



Services were discontinued when the New Hope congregation started attending services at the new Wetmore Community Church completed in 1917. The Church was used by two groups, one in 1950 and the other in early 1980. Today, there are

620 known burials in the cemetery. Of those, 80 are Veterans who served in the Civil War, Mexican War, WWI, WWII, Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War.

The cemetery is located 2 miles north of Colorado Highway 96 on County Road 19 and is open year around.

New Hope Church

By Ethel May (Heath) Verrier Fast 1878-1951

It stands upon an eminence

This friendly church with open door,
And truly welcomes all who come.

Often times a sad and lonely one
Finds strength to sin no more.

Its bell rings out tis true, tis true,
That Jesus bore the strife's for you.

Atone, come home.

And as within its sacred walls,
I bring my burdens to his feet.
I seem to lose all earthy cares,
I find a peace that is very sweet.

I seem to hear the angels sing,
Tis true, tis true, that Jesus bore
The strife's for you.

Atone, come home

Jason P. Vaughn (1869-1870)
Jason P. "Pinky" Vaughn, 24 Nov. 1869 – 7 Feb. 1870, son of Lorenzo Dow Vaughn, 1848-1915, and Clara Elvira (Blakeslee) Vaughn, 1850-1903 were married December 3, 1868. Jason was their first-born and the first known buried at



New Hope Cemetery. Jason and Clara had 6 more children. Clara's father and mother were 1886 homesteaders.

Sarah (Parker) Betts (1847-1911) and Jacob Alexander Betts (1830-1909)



Jacob Betts came to Colorado in 1859 and he went into the cattle business with William Parker. He later sold his Red Creek Ranch and moved to Wetmore where he continued raising cattle. Jacob married Sarah Parker in 1866 and they had 9 children. They homesteaded in Wetmore in 1886 and the house is still standing. Both Sarah and Jacob are buried at New Hope Cemetery.



Jacob A. and Sarah E. Betts

Horatio Hall Chivington Breece (1834-1897) & Emma W. (Lester) Breece Neathery (1856-1910)



Sometime in 1869, Horatio Hall Chivington Breece came to the Hardscrabble area; he was one of the first 7 pioneers to settle what is now known as Trinity Ranch. Emma and HHC married in 1872 and raised 8 children, all born at home in a 1½-story, 3-room log house with an addition. The house is still standing today. He put in the first irrigation ditches to utilize the water of Four Mile Creek. He was the first to plant an orchard



in the Wetmore area and he also produced strawberries, raspberries and wagonloads of vegetables. He sold the produce in Pueblo, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe, Florence, Cañon City and as far northwest as Leadville. By occupation, HHC had been an engineer and machinist before turning to farming. He became quite adept at grafting and had an apple tree with several types of apples on one tree. HHC died at home in 1897 at age of 63; Emma remarried in 1902 and outlived her second husband. She sold the ranch in 1908 and moved to Greenwood, close to her youngest son. She passed away in 1910 at age of 54. All are buried at New Hope Cemetery.



HHC Breece



Emma Breece Neathery

Eben A. Snow (1851-1920) and Margaret E. (Webb) Adams Snow (1851-1934); Children - Margie (1882-1906) and Robert (1886-1934)



In 1879, Eben & Margaret were married. After living in Querida, CO; Rosita, CO; Maine, and Gardner, CO, they moved to Greenwood in 1899 and bought Charles

Royster's homestead. Then in 1911, Eben homesteaded an additional 80 acres in Greenwood where they raised Margie, Robert and Nettie. They all helped in raising Hambletonians, a breed of American trotting horse. Eben sold and traded horses as well as being a blacksmith and a Constable for the county. Eben & Margaret Snow and Nettie (Snow) Breece are buried at New Hope.



Ira Ryan Porter (1838-1921) and

Sarah K. (Kelly) Porter (1844-1901)



Ira Porter and Sarah K. Kelly were married in 1862; they had 7 children. Ira was a farmer and freighted for about 4 years. He then bought a ranch on Hardscrabble Creek and started farming. Sarah and Ira donated the land for New Hope Church & Cemetery. He was one of the original Trustees of

New Hope Church and Cemetery. Ira and Sarah are both buried at New Hope.



Ira R. Porter



Sarah Kelly Porter

Mary Jane (Scott) Royster (1827-1898) and Charles Royster (1820-1905)



Mary and Charles started their family in Indiana, then moved to Iowa. In 1880, they moved to Custer County and, in 1888, they homesteaded 160 acres in Greenwood, CO. They had 10 children and farmed the land. After Mary's death, Charles sold the homestead to Eben Snow. Charles died in Greenwood in 1905. Both are buried in New Hope Cemetery.

William A. Watson (1841-1922) & Mary Elisabeth (Crouch) Watson (1846-1929)

In 1863, the Watson and Crouch families came to Wetmore; the Watsons from Missouri and the Crouches from Illinois. William and Mary Elisabeth married in March 1866 on the Hardscrabble in the Crouch home, north of Wetmore. They had 9 children. William A. Watson proved up his homestead in 1888 while sons Joseph and Thomas proved up in 1895 and 1897 respectively. John T. Watson (1820-1882), William's father, and John E. (Buddy) Watson, (1878-1879), 1½-year-old son of William and Mary, are buried at New Hope Cemetery.



John E "Buddy" Watson



John T. Watson

Wetmore's Mystery Man

James Sears was a loner who never spoke much and kept to himself. Many stories have circulated in the Wetmore area concerning this man. It is believed that he may have been Jesse James. Ola Everhard says she is Jesse's 3rd cousin. She says that his death was faked, and that Missouri Gover

nor Thomas Crittenden and Bob Ford were in on it. Bob Ford actually shot Charles Bigelow, another outlaw who resembled Jesse. In return for Ford's part in the scam, he was set up in the saloon business in Creede, Colorado.

J. Frank Dalton, on May 19, 1948, at the age of 100, declared that he was Jesse James. His story was good; he did agree with Mrs. Everhard about the faked death, that Crittenden was in on it, Charles Bigelow being shot by Bob Ford, and Ford being set up in the saloon business. However, as a teenager, Jesse had accidentally shot off the tip of his left middle finger while cleaning his gun. Dalton had all his fingers.

James Sears arrived in Florence in 1895. He met Bill White Jr. at the railroad depot and demanded to be taken to the lumber camp. Bill White was about the only one that Sears talked to and trusted. Anthony Madonna knew Sears because he bought support timbers from Sears for his coal mine. Anthony described Sears as an elderly gentleman who looked well-preserved for his age, always wore a heavy beard, kept his hat pulled down close to his glasses and never took off his gloves or hat. White told Madonna that Sears once said to him, "Kid, someday I am going to tell you something."

Louis Draper, a longtime resident of the Wetmore area, remembers that Sears had good horses and always took care of them. For years he kept an old horse who was worthless; due to age it could do no work. When asked why he had not sold or killed the horse, he would give no reason. On Sears' deathbed, he told Bill White, "I kept old Twister because my horse back in Missouri was called Twist and that horse got me out of more scrapes than I can count. Twister looked just like Twist and I couldn't part with him." It is believed that Jesse's horse was named Twist. Draper was a friend of Fred Walters, the postmaster in Wetmore. Fred told Draper that he met a man by the name of Frank James in Wetmore. Frank was part of a vaudeville troop and was traveling in the Salida area at the same time that Fred met him.

For a time, Sears lived in a room at the Greenwood Hotel. He came to my Great Grandma Snow's house often as she

did his washing for him. He would sit in the barn door and watch the chickens but he would never come into the house; he loved to read and borrowed books from Grandma Breece. Aunt Margaret remembers when she was in first grade and going to school in Greenwood – across the road from Great Grandma Snow's house. All the kids were scared to death of Sears and would run past the hotel. Some of the school boys made a game of jumping onto the back of Sears's wagon as he returned from a delivery; the boys were afraid of Sears's mysterious character, so that made it a daring game.

At the time of his death, he was living in a dugout up the road behind the old Harmes place. He had pneumonia and wouldn't let anyone rub him down, but he was too weak and sick to argue with Mr. Harmes. Harmes reported later that his body was covered with scars from bullet wounds. Sears called Bill White to his bedside in the Cañon City hospital and told him of his true identity; he was Jesse James and he didn't want anyone to know until after he died.

Jim Sears died in 1931. From the Florence Daily Citizen, July 2, 1931: Aged recluse died Wednesday in Cañon City, James Sears, 74, of North Hardscrabble and old time resident of the district died at a Cañon City hospital at nine Wednesday evening. Sears lived in Wetmore district for about 25 years, but always a recluse little is known about him and as far as is known he has no relatives living. Several weeks ago he suffered a paralytic stroke at his home and was brought to a Cañon City hospital but failed rapidly and died last night. The body is being cared for at the Easton Mortuary. Funeral services will be held at the Wetmore church with Rev. JR Burchfield officiating, Friday afternoon at three o'clock. The burial will be at the New Hope cemetery in Wetmore.

Many people reported seeing lights in the cemetery one night. It is believed that his body was dug up and returned to Missouri by his family. It was also reported that officials from Denver dug up and reburied the body after taking pictures. Supposedly, Mr. Holt from the mortuary was in on this; he found papers that led to believing the body was Jesse James.

Note: March of 2016, the caretaker of the New Hope Cemetery, Peggy Martin, had grave dowser, Tom Monaco from Cañon City, go to the cemetery to check the grave marked as James Sears. According to Monaco, there is no body – the grave is empty. The mystery continues for eternity.



Researched and written by Peggy A. Martin.
Photos by Peggy A. Martin and Find A Grave.
Resources: Florence Citizen news articles; Wetmore folklore; Breece/Martin archives.

UNION HIGHLAND CEMETERY: Florence, CO



Societies and time leave poster marks on their historic buildings and cemeteries. Their thoughts, way of viewing the world and historic events are encoded in the shapes, symbols and carvings upon their artifacts. With a key in hand, great stories and profiles in history can be read by the informed that might otherwise be overlooked. For one with such a key, entire societal profiles shift from fundamental religious beliefs, through traditional forms, through legalistic, then paternalistic, then governmental, through secularism into individualism that can be traced through the stories on the markers.

Such is so with the Union Highland Cemetery in Florence, Colorado. The misreading of an ancient paternalistic symbol masked a long history that went back to 1676 and the creation of a Lodge of the Ancient Order of Free Gardeners in Haddington, Scotland. The Order shares a parallel history with the Masonic Order which sprang from similar roots and needs. Only 3 lodges of the Scotch Order managed to emigrate to the United States – New Jersey, New York and Maryland – which led to the Thistle Lodge of the Free Gardeners appearing in the booming Colorado town of Coal Creek in the 1880s.

During the 1880s this Order, in its Fraternal benevolent form, purchased numerous acres from Stephen Tanner, which included the original Tanner family graveyard. The Thistle Lodge #1 (an ancient traditional name) laid out roads named for the local coal towns, established plots and fenced in their Highland Cemetery. The town of Coal Creek was growing, too. Incorporated in 1882, it soon boasted 5,000 residents, 16 saloons, two drug stores, two hotels, many grocery stores, a lumber yard, macaroni factory, opera house, busy ball park and a railroad depot.

As with many western towns, Coal Creek was ravaged by a great fire on June 29, 1907. Starting in the boiler of the Alf Salmon Bottling Works, the fire was pushed by a strong wind out of the southwest which carried embers three blocks away. The fire destroyed half the town including the lumber yard, two hotels, several grocery stores, livery stable, 16 saloons, four churches and the opera house. The school and part of

the town were saved when dynamite was used to create a fire break. The loss was estimated at \$250,000.

Recovery from the devastation caused by the fire proved difficult. Together with the worldwide financial crisis of 1929 and changes to governmental support of social services, the base of support for Thistle Lodge #1 withered. The care of the cemetery was transferred to the smaller town of Florence through a Civil Ordinance on July 7th, 1930 and the name Union was added indicating a regional profile.

The cemetery is located at 541 Arrowhead Drive, west of Highway 67 going south from Florence. At the east gate to the cemetery, a green and white sign greets visitors with a short history of the site.



“The first burial in 1873 was a Mrs. Stephen Tanner, placed in a small plot near the center, then known as the Tanner Cemetery.

In the 1880s a considerable acreage was acquired by a Coal Creek Scottish fraternal order. It was the Thistle Lodge #1 of the Gardeners, whose symbol was the Square and Compass with Sickle. You will find this symbol on headstones in the old section of the cemetery.

Originally named Highland, the cemetery was renamed Union Highland Cemetery on July 7, 1930, when it was turned over to the City of Florence to be used by the city and surrounding communities.”

In the early years, before the cemetery was platted, the family usually selected a space and friends opened the grave. Mostly wooden markers or a wooden cross was placed at the head of the grave. After a few years the markers disappeared and the prairie grass grew over the grave. On many occasions when a new opening was made in the old section, the

remains of a former burial was found.

Of the 8,600+ burials, there are approximately 214 Fremont County coal miners who were killed accidentally while working. There are 85 of those who are listed as being buried here.

Charlotte Hoshaw was the first wife of Stephen Jennings Tanner; she drove cattle from southwest Missouri to Colorado Territory, where she met and married Tanner. She passed away in August 1873 and is buried in block 14 next to her husband and his second wife, Mary Smith Harris, block 9.

The oldest person buried here is Florence resident Ellen nee Leason Davis, 110 years old. She died in 1935 and is in block 7, lot 28N. Part Indian, she supported herself by weaving and selling blankets. She was reported to be a tobacco chewer.

Other notables buried here:

Jesse Frazer: born April 12, 1819 in St. Charles County, Missouri; he arrived in Colorado in 1859. Jesse helped write the code of laws, Claim Club Laws, for Cañon City. He was a County Commissioner and staked the first coal claim.



He had the earliest orchard in Fremont County with apples, pears and plums, grew vegetables and berries, raised bees for their honey and grew grains. His wife was Elizabeth Ash and they had one son. Both are buried in the Old Cemetery; Jesse died May 9, 1895 and his widow August 3, 1909.

Edwin Biel Lobach was born August 1, 1834 in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and had many adventures prior to settling in Colorado in 1870, locating on Hardscrabble Creek. He purchased a homestead from Stephen Frasier, a Civil War veteran, in Florence



and married Nancy Ann Crouch in 1871. Nancy came to the Hardscrabble in 1863 by ox wagon from Illinois along with the rest of the Joseph Elira Crouch family. They moved into their 2-story home in 1872 and together had 14 children (unfortunately not all survived to adulthood) who had a home tutor. Edwin was one of the founders of Florence. He was a horse, dairy, and hog raiser as well as grains. He had orchards and was instrumental in the oil industry. An astute businessman he also built a 2-story, double bricked mercantile on East Main Street. He served two terms as County Commissioner. Ed died in 1921 at the age of 86.



Nancy died at age 56 in 1908. They are buried in the family plot in the Old Cemetery.

Stephen Jennings Tanner, a Confederate soldier and deeply religious man, was born 1837 in McLean County, Kentucky; traveled to Texas and then to Florence in 1871. He and his father bought 400 acres of land for general farming, raised hogs, cattle and dairy cows, and helped with the Union Ditch Company. He sold much of his land to the oil interests. Stephen, a Mason, was County Commissioner, served many years on the school board and was one of the three original Trustees for the New Hope Church in Wetmore. In 1865 he married Charlotte Hoshaw, who died in 1873



leaving three children. Stephen then married Mary Harris Smith, daughter of Rev. William Smith, in 1874 and they had 11 children. Charlotte was the first to be buried in Tanner Cemetery. Stephen died in 1908 and Mary in 1937.



James Alexander McCandless is recognized as the founder of Florence, which had been called Frazierville, as he had the town surveyed and named it after his daughter Minnie Florence in 1872. The City of Florence was incorporation in 1887. James was instrumental in oil and gold refining, ranching, retail and the Florence Cripple Creek Railroad. He became a state senator and the first Florence postmaster. James came to Florence from North Carolina and married Sarah Franklin in 1853; she was a great-granddaughter of John Franklin, brother of Ben Franklin. Sarah was known as a local historian and had great strength of character. They had two children, James Wellington (1854) and Mary Jane (1856).



Sarah and James divorced in 1874; he then married Katharine Garrett who had already born his children starting in 1864. Sarah died in 1914 and is buried next to Mary Jane in block 8 of the Old Cemetery.



In 1872, Mary Jane married William D. White, who became a contractor for the toll road to Cripple Creek. He helped with the development of an Electric Railroad, which failed. They lost

their home and moved to a ranch in Paradise Park. William died in 1914 and Mary Jane in 1943; both are buried in the Old Cemetery.



Katharine Garrett McCandless, second wife of James McCandless. James was buried on his 86th birthday in 1922 in his large family plot in block 14.



Researched and written by Millie Wintz and Margaret Stiles Storm. Photographs by Margaret Stiles Storm.

Resources:

- Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center – news articles and minutes of Florence City meetings.
- Florence Historical Archive, Inc. – news articles and cemetery listings
- Family history scrapbooks
- Ludlow Cemetery Walk & Presentation by Millie Wintz and Margaret Stiles Storm, 2013
- Internet history of Ancient Order of Free Gardeners, 2016
- The archives of Beverly Kissell Harris, Rockvale.

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CEMETERY: Florence, CO



San Juan Bautista (Saint John the Baptist) Cemetery is located just south of Florence. Quit-claim deed #214958 between John Montour and the San Juan Baustista (spelling as on the deed) Association was made

April 3, 1940, with all oil, gas and other minerals reserved by the former owner, the Continental Oil Company. On March 27, 1940, the Oil Company had sold the land to Montour for \$5.00 and included 1.72 acres, by April 3rd he had transferred the land to the cemetery association for \$1.00. Thus began the official recognition of this unique cemetery south of Florence. A plat was never drawn up, so early graves were scattered.

John Montour (1865 – 1945), a member of the cemetery committee, was buried here. His brother Louis Montour (1872 – 1919) also rests here. John was a miner who came to Florence in 1883. After losing both legs below the knee in a railroad accident he began a desk job at the River Smelting and Reduction works in Florence.



The first burials here may have been those of *Los Hermanos Penitentes*, devout Catholics who lived in northern New Mexico and southern Colorado when the land was part of Spain and later Mexico. They had likely been using this land for burials for decades before records were kept. According to church records, the first burial was Petrolina Bassia who was killed by Marcisco Esparnaze in September, 1894. Between 1902 and 1920 there were 88 burials. During the 1920s, grave registrations numbered over 155. Many of the deceased were victims of influenza and pneumonia. According to the research by author Sherry Johns, burials in the 1930s numbered 65, 1940's saw 54, 1950's saw 21, and only 1 in the 1960's. There were no burials from the 1970's to 2000.

It is interesting to note that this sacred ground was established by Mexican Catholics. Folklore says this may have been because of prejudice by those who only wanted white Protestants buried in Union Highland Cemetery, the Florence cemetery. Some say the Penitentes wanted a place for their people. There are about 400 graves here, many of which are unmarked and the names never recorded. The white crosses

show only that some were buried somewhere within the cemetery boundaries.

Apolonio Becerra, born in Jalisco, Mexico in 1887, came here with his wife Eluteria in 1920 and worked for the Portland Cement Company. He died April 22, 1931 in Portland. In 1997, the San Juan Bautista Cemetery Association achieved status as a non-profit organization and became active collecting names and records of previous burials as well as replacing the decaying wood-



en crosses which marked graves with white cement. Most of these crosses were made by Apolonio's son, Emeterio Becerra and erected by Emeterio and his daughter, Antionette.

In 2007, the first non-Hispanic person, Gloria Atkins of Coal Creek, was buried here. Another non-Hispanic person, Father Vicente Paz en la Casa (born: Vincent Leo Jude Humfress) who died on February 7, 2012, was laid to rest here. Father Vicente was the Priest at St. Benedict's Catholic Church in Florence. He requested a simple grave in San Juan Bautista Cemetery and was given a place of honor just southwest of the main gate. From the St. Benedict's Parish History:

Fr. Vicente was born in Willington Quay, Northumberland, England, on the River Tyne, in 1941 during the Second World War. His earliest memories are of sirens, exploding bombs, and anti-aircraft guns. His family had a bomb shelter, dug in the back yard where his mother took him during the bombing raids. His father was a coppersmith in the nearby shipyards.

Fr. Vicente attended Catholic grade school until he was eleven years old. Catholic parochial schools in England are part of the Public School system. At eleven he began to attend a boarding school where he was taught by secular priests until he was eighteen. Inspired by an English priest, Fr. Tom McCormack, he decided to go to a major seminary to train to

become a priest. Fr. Vicente says, "Fr. McCormack seemed to have the most interesting and purposeful life of any person I knew at that time, and I wanted to live that kind of life too." He attended Ushaw College, Durham, where, in six years, he received a degree in Philosophy and a Master's degree in Theology. Later, after he arrived in the United States, he received an American degree in Philosophy from Regis University and a Doctorate in Preaching.

He began his life in the United States of America in 1975, serving as a priest in Assumption Church, Pueblo, and St. Francis Xavier Church, Pueblo. After that he was asked to go to St. Columba Church, Durango, and then was appointed pastor of St. Michael's, Delta, and St. Phillip's, Cedaredge. After nearly seven years as pastor, Fr. Vicente passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 1:00 a.m. following a heart attack on Friday, February 3, 2012.



A historical burial of note was that of Felipe Cisneros, who helped bury victims of the 1854 Fort Pueblo Massacre.

Fort El Pueblo was built in 1842 by a small colony of Americans who occupied the adobe-walled fort as a home and safe place for farming and trading. It became a rendezvous for traders, trappers and travelers, including Anglo-Saxon, French, Spanish and Indian. At the time, Apaches and Southern Utes were plundering and killing natives and U.S. troops in New Mexico, partially



Felipe Cisneros was aged nineteen when he helped bury victims of the Fort Pueblo Massacre in 1854. Picture above was taken at 701 Petroleum Avenue, Florence, Colorado, September 1907. (Photo courtesy Pioneers' Museum, Colorado Springs, Colo.)

due to broken treaties. An 1854 military campaign against Jicarilla Apaches and Muache Utes further angered the tribes and they joined in attacking Fort El Pueblo on Christmas Eve, 1854. Juana Maria Suasa Simpson, wife of George S. Simpson who was one of original builders of the fort, said 15 (others say 17) were killed, three were captured and three escaped from the attack by Chief Tierra Blanca and his Utes. Before destroying El Pueblo, the Indians went to Marcelino Baca's nearby ranch, but were refused entry. While their stock and horses were driven off, they escaped death that day. Fort El Pueblo was never reoccupied.

Felipe Cisneros, 19, a herder on the Baca Ranch, saw the approaching war party and hid in the brush. He died in 1908 in Florence and is buried in the San Juan Bautista Cemetery.

A few others buried here:

Jose Gonzales
 Birth March 19, 1885
 Death August 31, 1933,
 Fremont County



Manuel Lujan
 Birth November 6, 1855
 Death March 6, 1936, Fremont County



Luisita R. Solano
 Birth April 25, 1876
 Death August 7, 1938, Fremont County



Mary Zamora
 Birth May 21, 1920
 Death June 21, 1920, Fremont County



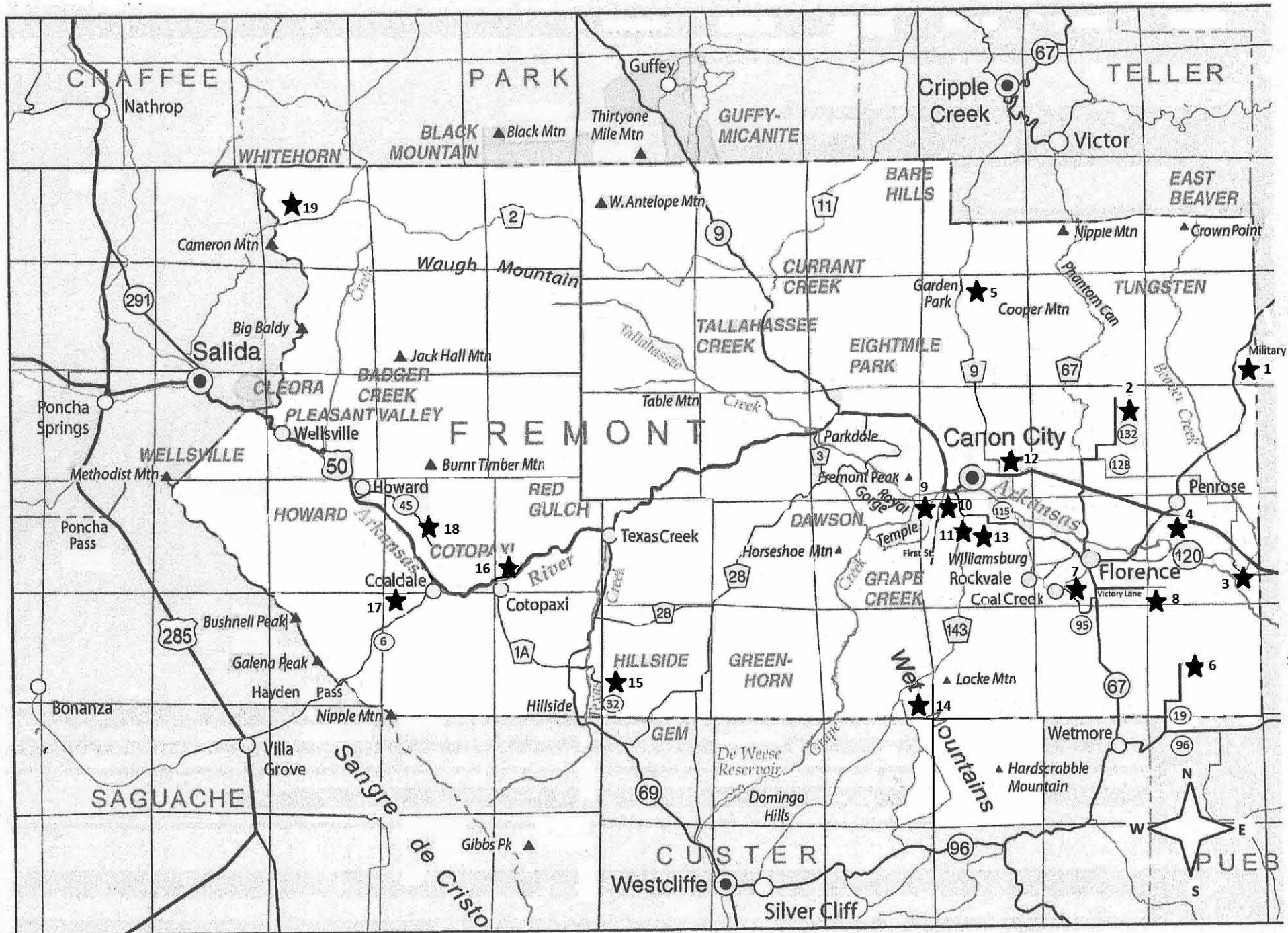
San Juan Bautista Cemetery is located just south of Florence off Colorado Highway-67. A sign marks the turn onto Victory Lane.



Researched and written by Margaret Stiles Storm. Photos by Margaret Stiles Storm.

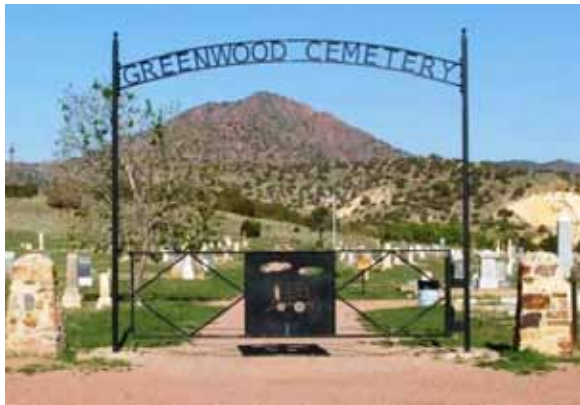
Resources:

- San Juan Bautista Cemetery by Sherry Johns, 2007, with her permission;
- Carol Fox Archives, Florence, Colorado, now housed in the Florence Archives, Inc.;
- Find A Grave on the Internet.



Cañon City Area

Greenwood Cemetery, Cañon City



Burial Register Kiosk



County & National Historical Site Kiosk

Greenwood Cemetery is the resting place for over 4,000 members of Fremont County's pioneer families. The natural environment of the cemetery is native grasses, dry soil and mountain vistas, overlooks the delta of the Royal Gorge, and is framed by the YMCA Mountain. Buffalo grass and wildflowers grow here along with roses, iris and cactus. The land is dry as the people knew it would be watered only by rain and snow. Many of the grave markers are of local stone and the original markers are made of wood. The first identifiers of the graves were iris plants and many of the existing plants are over a hundred years old.

The long history of the cemetery begins with the transfer of

property in 1876 recorded by the County Clerk John Wilson from William C. Catlin to the City of Cañon City. Catlin also sold property to the Masonic Lodge. Later a deed from Richard Houle completed the 10 acres which is now known as Greenwood Cemetery. Located on South First Street, the property is surrounded by hog wire fencing with large stone pillars at the gateway.

The first recorded burial was of W. M. Davis who died June 16, 1865; but, it is believed by historians that others may have been buried and not recorded. There are many unmarked graves and many gravestones have fallen into disrepair or to vandalism. Several wooden markers appear at gravesites but are unreadable.

Lying among the deceased friends he cared for is John Ulrich, who was born January 27, 1916, to a family who homesteaded nearby and is buried here; those with him include parents, grandparents and a baby brother. He began his caretaking at Greenwood and this volunteerism was noticed by the families of loved ones buried here and they began paying him to care for the plots. During these years, John dug graves, repaired headstones and watered plants and trees.

Among the gravestones are names recognized as the forefathers of this area and the first settlers in this valley: Griffins, Davises, Balmans, McClures, Hardys, Rockafellows and Peabodys. All were contributors to the growth and financial success of the area.

The southwest corner of the cemetery was deeded on December 20, 1933, by the City of Cañon City to the Department of Corrections for internment of inmates who died while incarcerated and is known as "Woodpecker Hill." There was always an open grave ready and waiting in this section. The last burial by the Department of Corrections was Luis Monge on June 2, 1967 in section 18, number 20354.

The oldest person buried in Greenwood Cemetery is Truman Blancett, born 1839 and died 1945. Truman was a pioneer, scout and mountain man and lived to the ripe old age of 106. Veterans are honored in the cemetery by a red, white and blue stake furnished by the Veterans of Foreign Wars; during

the celebration on Memorial Day the markers are fitted with an American Flag furnished by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Civil War Veterans graves have recently been located and counted by the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans of the Civil War.

The Grand Army of the Republic raised a stone memorial for the Union Soldiers of the Civil War. They used the stones found in the nearby river basin to build this memorial historically known as "The Mound." They also deeded Lot "R" to the Confederate Veterans and a beautiful obelisk was erected to their memory. In April 2001, a new flagpole was erected over the restored GAR Memorial Mound. Once again, the flag flies over veterans buried here. The Confederate section also has a flagpole, and the National Flag of the Confederacy is raised every day over that burial place.

In recent years, the cemetery has been taken care of by the Greenwood Pioneer Cemetery Committee, formed in 2000 by Cara Fisher, our Historian of note. At that time Cara, the curator of the History Center, gathered a group of people together to be responsible for the care of the Cemetery, since it had been vandalized and neglected for many years.

The Committee was interested in making sure our unique and artistic memorials were not in harm's way; and, through the City Parks Department and John Nichols, Director, a new gate was manufactured and installed at the main entrance. This one project has prevented wholesale vandalism for 18 years.

The Committee then set to work with the intention of making the ceremonies held on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day available to the public and appropriately respectful. Since 2002, ceremonies have been conducted with Honor Guard, Color Guard, enactors in costume, speakers, Daughters of the Confederate Veterans and others who have participated in honoring the Veterans and others who rest here.

In 2012, a project was initiated to list the Cemetery on the Register of National Historic Places. With the help of The Preservation Studio, Inc., Colorado Springs, and its owner Charise Boomsma, that was achieved in 2013. Work is also underway on a Master Plan, including an annual listing the cemetery's

needs so that it can retain its unique historical place in the community. This Master Plan was produced by 1,300 hours of volunteer workers in the cemetery and will be available in the Fall of 2016.

The Greenwood Cemetery, located at 1251 South First 1st Street, is now a public park, art gallery, genealogical resource, as well as being accessible all year-round to anyone who wishes to enter. The City opens the gates at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 2:30 p.m. most weekdays. If the gates happen to be closed when you approach, there are walkways on either side of the driveway gate, which welcome those who would like to stroll the grounds. For further information, contact: Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center, 719-269-9036, the City of Cañon City, 719-269-9011 or visit www.fremontheritage.com.

Noteworthy tombstones:



Benjamin Griffin, one of Cañon City's founders



John B. Russell – Department of Corrections (DOC) Fallen Officer, 1913



Assistant DOC Director with Color Guard at 2016 John B. Russell headstone dedication



John Davis – Medal of Honor Recipient



Joe Arridy – Innocent Man, Pardoned

Researched and written by Carol McNew.
Photos by Carol McNew, Margaret Stiles Storm and Cindy Smith.

Independent Order of Oddfellows Cemetery

The IOOF cemetery is located at 1225 South 1st Street, directly across the street from City-owned Greenwood Cemetery. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows purchased the site from W. C. Catlin, and his heirs, as well as John Gravestock; the deeds being dated 1874 and 1895. The Masonic Lodge also purchased a large portion of this same area for burial, and called it the “NEW MASONIC.” There are a total of five deeds for the area



that is the Cemetery property, correcting corners and describing the lot lines in more detail. Cañon City Lodge #7 of the IOOF was organized in the late 1800s, with the Grand Lodge of Colorado located at 1545 Phelps Avenue, Cañon City, CO. Burials here date from the 1880s.

The command of the IOOF is to “Visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan.” How this “duty” came to exist, and how relevant today? History tells us that the “duty” was extremely relevant in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1819 when North American Odd Fellowship was founded there. The city was in the grip of a severe epidemic. Sickness, distress, death and, as a result, orphans, were found everywhere.

Burying the dead was taken very seriously by early Odd Fellows, and most lodges purchased land and established cemeteries as one of their first activities in a new town or city. In many areas, all phases of burial (sometimes including services now provided by undertakers) were provided by Odd Fellows in the earlier days. Cemeteries were often open to the public, and plots were sold for a few dollars each.

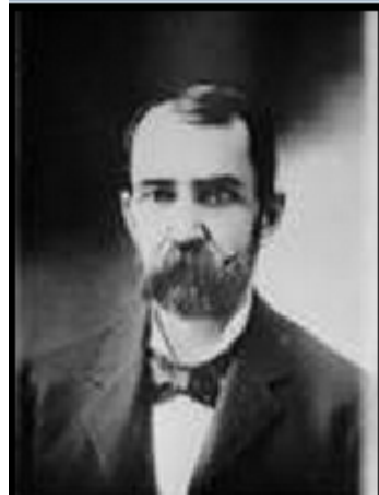
Odd Fellow Lodges continue to conduct funeral and memorial services for members when requested prior to their death, or by their families. This may be the only service, or may be in conjunction with a church service or with other organizations. In 2015, the Skyline Mennonite Church was gifted the remaining burial plots at the IOOF Cemetery by the Cañon City Lodge #7. The Masonic Section was not given to the Mennonite Church. Part of the cemetery has never been fenced in; it lies across the ditch.

The first burials were conducted by the Lodge. In 1881, Clide



Baer, a child, was buried in Lot 25, and later, his mother was laid beside him. The stone for the Baer child is extremely ornate and unusual.

Daniel Albert Bradbury was laid to rest here after his death on April 2, 1900 in Cañon City. Born May 2, 1849 in Griggsville, Illinois, where he was the youngest of 6 brothers. He graduated from the State University of Illinois and moved to Missouri in 1867 where he married Sophia Okey on November 24, 1887 in Pettis County, Missouri. He came to Colorado in 1874 and arrived in Cañon City in 1881.



A carpenter by trade, he was Superintendent of Construction at the penitentiary from 1887 – 1890 and studied architecture during that period. In 1890 he opened his own office and began preparing plans for local buildings and residences. As his workload grew he brought C. C. Rittenhouse in as a partner, who became the leading architect of the time in the area and designed numerous significant buildings. Bradbury served on the City Council from 1891 – 1892, was a Mason and belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen (AOUW), first of the fraternal benefit societies in the United States.

Deeds for the cemetery include:

- Deed #5: 5 Feb 1874 - John Gravestock and his wife.
- Deed #4: John Gravestock - deed to Oddfellows, July 5 1895.
- Deed #3: A portion of the cemetery was purchased from the Masons, who had the large plot which overlapped 1st Street. Undated. Signed by James Peabody and D. A. Bradbury, the secretary.
- Deed #2: January 1, 1931, between Thornton, Catlin, Thomas, Thornton. A lot line adjustment, apparently, and quit claim deed.

- Deed #1: May 20, 1932, from City Council of Cañon City; donated it to the Oddfellows Lodge. Signed by Mayor Guy James, attested by Robert H. Duncan.

Anecdote from Ray Pittman:

While trapping muskrats, Ray Pittman and Keith McNew trapped a skunk. Ray was in Junior High about that time. The skunk was alive, and I (Ray) said, now you leave that skunk alone, and when I get home I'll shoot that bugger, and we'll get him out of the trap. The McNew brothers could not wait for Ray to get home from school and proceeded to beat the skunk to death. The two brothers got drowned in skunk spray; they stunk so bad their mom made them strip outside and take a bath.

Researched and written by Carol McNew.

Photos by Carol McNew.

Resources:

- Raymond Pittman – source for information of Oddfellows Cemetery.

LAKESIDE CEMETERY, Cañon City

Located at 9th Street and Elm Avenue, this splendid cemetery was the vision of the 1901 cemetery committee appointed by the city council. The old cemetery (Greenwood Cemetery) had become inadequate and a new site was



secured after negotiations with Dall DeWeese. He offered 30 ½ acres of ground adjoining Lincoln Lake for \$6,000; terms \$1,500 cash and 3 yearly payments of \$1,500 each with 8 percent interest on the deferred payments. DeWeese agreed

to grade the main drive through the grounds, locate the corners of the land and raise the ditch.

The committee suggested borrowing \$1,500 from the water fund; replacing it with the proceeds from the sale of lots after the land had been platted. The report of the committee was accepted by the city council with the execution of terms to be immediate. This action arranged the purchase of the beautiful site, giving the city an attractive and long-needed cemetery. In March of 1901, council empowered the cemetery committee to sell one acre of land for \$400 to the county for the purpose of a potter's field. A pauper's area is kept to this date for those in need.

During the council meeting of the first week of April, 1901, the name "Lakeside" was adopted for the new Lincoln park cemetery. The July meeting, presided over by Mayor Peabody, awarded the Denver Wire and Iron Company the contract for fencing, gates and painting of same for \$875.

A January 1, 1875, burial is recorded in the official book maintained by the cemetery office, but no name is listed or its location. The first burial in Lakeside after the purchase from DeWeese was July 22, 1901; Mrs. Frances A. Pressey was interred at the age of 47, having died from tuberculosis, what was then the new name for consumption. During 1902, there were 65 burials while the old Greenwood Cemetery received 82 interments. 1902 saw 27 deaths from tuberculosis, 13 from typhoid fever, 9 pneumonia and 9 suicides, poisoned or accidental deaths.

January of 1941 brought the presidential approval for a \$24,211 WPA project for a grand improvement project at Lakeside cemetery, sponsored by Congressman J. Edgar Chenoweth and the city. The dry land area south of the DeWeese-Dye ditch was landscaped as well as the property west of the ditch to 9th Street. It was put into grass and shrubbery. There was grading and leveling of the land, construction of driveways, walls, gateway, irrigation ditches and installation of a water-line; which increased the value of the lots south of the DeWeese ditch. The WPA crews laid a 30-inch high rock

wall on the north and west sides of the cemetery using native stone, and built the ornamental gateway using iron letters with the wording "Lakeside Cemetery" across the top at the front entrance.

By the time 1943 rolled around, the old Greenwood cemetery had recorded 3200 burials and the new Lakeside cemetery had 4500. Added together, the "cities of the dead" had more population than Cañon City proper.

An interesting story from June 1, 1947, edition of the Cañon City Daily Record, has a headline *Prisoners' Coins Give Private Burial to Old Red Johnson Today* with the following details:

They buried old Arthur "Red" Johnson in Lakeside cemetery Wednesday.

The nickels, dimes and quarters donated by his fellow inmates at Colorado State Prison provided for the private burial.

The men who make up the prison population liked Old Red and they didn't want to see him tucked away in Woodpecker Hill. So, they dug into their funds and saw to it that he was buried good.

He was given the last rites of the Roman Catholic church. The mass was held at St. Michael's church with Father Justin McKernan, prison Catholic chaplain and Old Red's friend, officiating.

The Wilson mortuary provided a good casket. And, a few of Old Red's friends were there to participate. They went along to Lakeside cemetery for the burial.

He was the second-oldest inmate at the institution at the time of his death last weekend, having been received in 1903. He was given a life sentence for being an accessory in a saloon holdup. Two masked men held up the establishment and in the act a patron was killed. He was 76.

In 1906, the Cañon City council set aside three sections in Lakeside cemetery for military veterans. More space was requested in 1989 due to the large number of WWII veterans growing older. Additional spaces would provide burials until

2025. The council approved the request unanimously. However, another 400 spaces were approved in 1992.

There are soldiers from the Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish War plus WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam buried in the cemetery.

Dedicated in May, 1990, the memorial for the veterans' section is made of granite and commemorates all military service veterans – past, present, and future. Six round engraved medallions with the coat-of-arms of the five branches of the military – Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard – and the authorized Merchant Marines who served in WWII are at the top of the large inscribed stone. There are 3 flagpoles and lights so the flags can fly day and night. These spaces are for Fremont County veterans and spouses.



Although the Cañon City council has approved a Memorial Wall on two separate occasions, it has never been built. The Wall would have been a self-contained columbaria system made out of concrete blocks which would have had niches for the inurnment of ashes. Each block would have held two niches with granite cover plates and a security lock. Cremations are on the rise and the columbarium would have been an opportunity for Lakeside to get this medium.

Currently, 2016, the cemetery is approximately 60 acres in size. The City Charter requires the city to operate and maintain a perpetual care cemetery. There are dry land areas for use as well. The Benedictine Nuns, Odd Fellows & Rebekahs, babies and children, paupers and inmates are some of the burials within the various areas of the cemetery.



Notable Headstones:



George F. Rockefeller



Robert G. & Marjory Fredrickson



Domenico A. Moschetti crypt



David E. Gibson obelisk & plots

Researched and written by Margaret Stiles Storm.

Photos by Margaret Stiles Storm.

Resources:

- Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center
- Cañon City Daily Record news and special articles
- Cañon City Clipper
- Cañon City Times
- Cañon City web site & cemetery office records

THE HOLY CROSS ABBEY CEMETERY

“Novices dug a test hole in the orchard at a spot recommended by the Abbot and approved by most of the Fathers at home at the present.” July 2, 1938- Abbey Chronicles Vol. 6, p. 243.

The “orchard” was the huge acreage that had been owned by Benjamin

F. Rockafellow, a prominent Cañon City businessman and pioneer. This 90-acre property was sold to the Order of St. Benedict in 1923. Immediately the monks who were transferred to Cañon City started the task of building the Abbey Monastery, the farm and outbuildings and other necessary structures for their self-sufficient life-style. Initial construction was complete by 1925.

The cemetery is located just 100 yards East of the Monastery. It was laid out by Fr. Bernard Gervais. The first burial was Father Antonine Hintenach in July 1938, followed by Fr. Agatho Strittmatter who had been buried elsewhere but was moved to the new cemetery in October, 1938.

The continued burials of Fathers, Brothers and civilians who lived at the Holy Cross Abbey for many years has resulted in over 74 burials in the one-half acre site. The sign on the gate reads “Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his holy ones”. Ps. 115



Several of the especially interesting stories about the priests of this community who rest here are as follows:

- Fr. Harold Glentzner d. 1998, was the carpenter who made the caskets for the dead.
- Fr. Peter Hudson, d. 1994, and Fr. Justin McKernan, d. 1977: were present at many of the death house executions at the Colorado State Penitentiary, and saw many men die in that institution.
- Fr. Bernard Best (d. 2007), was the infirmarian and took care of any sick or elderly priests at the Abbey for years. He was well loved by the druggists in town for his humor. He was also the weightlifting coach at the Holy Cross Abbey School for Boys.
- Fr. Regis Barrett. (d. 1943). A chaplain during the First World War. Considered too old to serve in the Second World War, so he volunteered to accompany the troops. He was killed in Eritrea, but has a marker in the Holy Cross Abbey cemetery.
- Fr. Louis Mangus (d. 1985) and Fr. Innocent Mangus (d. 1973) were present during the building of the Monastery and recalled many times the KKK, which was active in Fremont County at the time, burned crosses on the front lawn.
- The first Abbot of the Holy Cross Abbey was Abbot Cyprian Bradley (d. 1965), followed by four more Abbots; the last was Abbot Bonaventure Bandi (d. 1984). The memorial markers for the Abbots of the Abbey are all in the central area under the huge 12-foot metal cross which marks the cemetery as a holy place.
- One of the last priests to reside at the Abbey was Fr. Bernard Gervais who died 2007 in Atchison, KS. He wrote a “final” letter in the Abbey Chronicles, which he kept, and lamented the fact that the Order had decided to cremate priests and bury them at the new Holy Trinity Ranch (near Wetmore). Fr. Gervais was not happy about being put elsewhere than where he had originally “laid out and placed the markers” as a novice in 1938. His letter, written in 2000, was a bitter testimony to his wish to be buried at the Abbey – and as it turned out – he was buried in the Atchison, KS cemetery where he ended his days.

Over the years, the Benedictine priests of the Holy Cross Abbey served the entire County, conducting services from every Catholic church from Florence to Rockvale to the Penitentiary grounds. They were admired and liked by the people of the community and mourned when they passed away. This small cemetery is indeed a very sacred and honored place for these “Men of God” who served so selflessly. They built a truly wonderful building and helped many young men into a life of meaning. A bench in the cemetery for contemplation and prayer is provided for those who visit.



Researched and written by Carol McNew.

Photos by Carol McNew and Betsy Denney.



MOUNTAIN VALE MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY, MAUSOLEUM, CHAPEL

Cañon City

Fremont Memory Gardens of Cañon City was established in the early 1960's as a privately owned cemetery by a firm that also owned a Monte Vista cemetery. The management was fraudulent in



their representation of perpetual care and absconded with funds promised to care for graves sometime around January of 1963. The cemetery represented an investment of thousands of dollars to hundreds of Cañon City residents.

The latter part of July, 1964, about 250 investors met with Bill Holt, Jr., and Cañon City attorney Bryan Whitehead to discuss what steps should be taken to restore the cemetery. A committee was appointed with Claude McCormick as chairman and Rich Jones and James Holloway as members. They were to discuss the problem with state officials in Denver.

At this point, more than 400 persons were interred in the cemetery. Colorado state law required perpetual care of cemeteries making it possible for promoters to sell the cemetery land and later declare mismanagement and leave the situation in the hands of the lot owners. Holt said state officials were investigating the fraudulent practices of the former owners.

By October of 1979, Mountain Vale was owned by C. Douglas and Tim Andrews, who also owned Andrews Funeral Home. They had a 3-phase development plan for the cemetery: 1) mausoleum to hold 280 crypts for burials, 2) 160 niches for cremains to be completed in 1979 and 1980, and 3) a chapel scheduled for 1981.

In October of 1995, Wilson-Almont Funeral Home dedicated

a granite bench in Mountain Vale Cemetery Baby Land to memorialize all babies interred throughout the community. Tim Andrews donated grave space while Mr. and Mrs. Mitch Pickens of Pueblo Classic Memorials donated the bench.

In 2005, an expansion request by Bill Holt went before the County Commissioners for a mausoleum, columbarium, crematorium, offices, storage and a caretaker's residence. The request was approved with the contingency that the applicant place "No Parking" signs near a private residence.

This cemetery is currently owned and operated by the Holt family. There are 1,879 burials. It is located at 1700 Chestnut just off Highway 115 in Lincoln Park.

Personages:

Flora Jean Snodgrass Embry was born June 10, 1890, in Kentucky and married Bedford L. Embry, September 7, 1885 – February, 1968, in Kentucky. He was a rancher in Custer and Fremont counties. They had four sons. Flora Jean was 102 years old when she died in 1993.



James P. Berry (5/2/1913 – 9/25/1991) was a farmer, rancher and government worker. He served in WWII as a PFC in the Army. James married Hattie R. MacLeod (10/11/1907 – 5/25/2001). Hattie Berry had a distinguished 40-year career in public education. Among the schools where she taught were Brush Creek, Colfax, Willows, Knuth, Wetmore and Westcliffe.



Marvin Sallee (7/11/1906 – 6/26/1984) and Nina Alice Horn Sallee (12/9/1909 – 1/23/1997) were married in Raton, New Mexico, in 1930. He was raised in Kansas and she in Texas. He was a farmer, rancher, and government worker. Together they had 3 boys and 2 girls.



Clarence J. Dolan (8/15/1894 – 1/12/1974) was from Chicago, Illinois; he married Jessie H. (7/8/1904 – 2/3/1995) and they had 4 children. Clarence was a rancher near Colfax for many years. During WWI, he was a PFC in the U.S. Army from Illinois. Jessie immigrated from England.



Researched and written by Margaret Stiles Storm.

Resources:

- Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center
- Cañon City Daily Record – news articles
- Find A Grave photographs

Western Fremont County

Galena/Oak Creek Cemetery, Yorkville area

In 1885, little Bessie Rhodes was buried by her family at the age of nine months in the community cemetery near Yorkville, on the headwaters of Oak Creek. Bessie joined others laid to rest here from the small mining communities along Grape Creek and Oak Creek that had sprung up with the promise of finding gold. Later, another grave was marked on a natural red stone only with the date of 1892.



The Cemetery at 15559 CR143, called the Oak Creek Grade, was part of the huge Payne Ranch for many years until it was sold and subdivided into the Big Horn Subdivision. The little cemetery plot of one and a half acres was designated an outlot, and not included in the subdivision. Later, a tax deed was issued for the acreage to George Papps, who discovered he could do nothing with the property except donate it to a non-profit or let it go back to the Fremont County Tax Assessor. To drive here from Cañon City take 9th Street south, go right at the traffic circle, then left on CR143 which becomes a well-maintained, graded dirt road with a few steep climbs. An alternative is going to Silver Cliff and taking Custer County Road 255 northeast to Fremont County 143.

The cemetery was donated to the Fremont/Custer Historical Society in 1999 and in 2000 a small sign was placed identifying the cemetery. In 2012 ownership transferred to the Fremont County Historical Society. Interviews of old timers about the cemetery produced many opinions as to the actual name, the dates it may have been used and the names of people possibly buried here.

The remains of at least seven graves are noticeable, and there is legend that over 22 graves actually are within the boundaries. The wooden picket fences and other markers are almost gone, used presumably as firewood and kindling during the area's harsh winters. The Historical Society has conducted field trips to inspect the property, and hopes to improve it with a fence and signage.

The three mining communities most likely to have been served by the cemetery due to accidents or disease were: Titusville, Galena, Yorkville and Blackburn. All these mining communities are now gone. The Historical Society's diligent search for additional graves or information on identification of obvious burials was to no avail, although a November 1890 newspaper notice was found stating "Charles Rand of Querida buried one of his children at Galena on the 28th." Other names that were in the various communities were extracted from census and school records, including the Galena School which is still

standing on the property now known as the Griffin Ranch. Names of families that lived in the area in the 1880s, gleaned from the census, include: Topliss, Griffin, Rants, Hill, Stultz, Daniels and Starr. The Rhodes family shows on the census in 1885 with A. J. Rhodes, wife Josephine, children, Henry, Perry, and Mary. The picture below shows the crudely carved stone with the name of little Bessie Rhodes engraved. Without records, the cemetery remains a mystery.



Researched and written by Carol McNew.
Photos by Carol McNew.

SAN ISABEL VIEW CEMETERY: Hillside, CO

The exact establishment date of the Hillside Cemetery is uncertain but the first grave was there prior to October 5, 1875, when the infant Della Hayden was buried. The original grave believed to be Legget or Diggitt was buried above ground. The site is surrounded by large native



stone stacked about two feet high on three sides with the west side about 2 ½ feet high. Brush and trees surround the grave with a metal tag states it is the “oldest grave” but no dates. It is believed that “Legget” was a cowboy, killed while working. The ground was frozen so consequently he was buried above ground. This may have some merit as one of the first known settlers to the area was Joseph Lamb. He came with the Goodnight/Loving cattle drive in the mid-1860s as a young man. He settled along Texas Creek, so named because of the Texas Longhorns brought north from Texas to the mining districts in Colorado. There may be more burials prior to 1875 that have lost their markers. The area was well established in 1875.

The cemetery was used throughout the years with little or no management until 1932 when John Squire deeded the land for the cemetery and it was incorporated under the name of San Isabel View Cemetery Company. It continues to be known as the Hillside Cemetery although another cemetery in Colorado claimed to be the original. The land was originally homesteaded by Joseph Patton or possibly Ira King. The Caughman family acquired the property and donated a parcel for the cemetery to the community. Nelson Caughman served on the committee starting in 1929, much of that time the only one. He would ask for donations to fix major problems with the cemetery but very little interest was shown for the care of the cemetery. Some families would care for their plots at times. Nels Caughman maintained many of the burials over the years; however, all his records were lost in a house fire. The current cemetery board has struggled with identifying unmarked graves.

The cemetery lies on a west facing hillside overlooking the Sangre De Cristo Range and the rich meadows that brought the cattle barons to the area. The natural vegetation of pinion pines, cactus and grass is also supplemented with lilac bushes that bloom in the spring. Many of these trees and bushes now obstruct grave stones and may cover other graves. There are veterans here from the Civil War to Vietnam with a

possible veteran of the Mexican War in 1846. Several of the original settlers are buried here including Joseph Lamb, the Haydens, Kaesses and Egglestons. There are also settlers from the English Colony that settled in the Hillside area and the German Colony that settled in the Wet Mountain Valley in 1871 and coming to Hillside a few years later. The Caughmans, Kochs and Berrys are descendants of these colonists. The Eggleston family was especially hit hard by diphtheria. Six of Theodore Darius and Louisa Amelia Crandall Eggleston Kaess's children died within days of each other. The older one, Clara Eggleston Barnard, dying two weeks later. Theodore had already passed and Louisa had married Charles Kaess and was expecting another child at the time. Louisa's oldest two sons were on a wagon trip to Leadville when the younger children died.

The San Isabel View Cemetery is located on County Road 32 about one mile off Highway 69, approximately nine miles south on Highway 69 from Highway 50 at Texas Creek.



Lyman R. Hayden; and Legget or Leggit or Diggitt in rock burial



Sarah & Joseph Lamb; Charles Kaess



4 of the 6 Eggleston Children who died from diphtheria: Willis, Albert, Henriettie, and Frank

Researched and written by Betsy Danney.
Photos by Betsy Denney.

COTOPAXI CEMETERY: COTOPAXI, CO

Cotopaxi cemetery was established in 1882 when there was a death in the Russian Jewish Colony, which had only recently been founded. The land was donated by Emanuel H. Saltiel,



miner, promoter and entrepreneur. Saltiel was also instrumental in forming the Russian Jewish Colony by contacting the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in New York and promoting the good farming land with homes and machinery he said he would provide in Cotopaxi. Unbeknownst to HIAS and the families, the land was very poor for farming, was eight miles south of the community of Cotopaxi, and had only one shed for shelter. The colonists survived two years working the land, mining copper from the Cotopaxi Mine (owned by Saltiel), and working on the recently established railroad. The legacy they left includes four of their young in the Cotopaxi

Cemetery.

The cemetery grew around these four graves as the area increased in population. Those overseeing the cemetery were unaware that the Judaism required burial away from Gentiles. With support of the Jewish community in Denver, a fence was erected to “separate” the Jewish graves enclosed from the rest of the cemetery.

The Cotopaxi Cemetery has expanded several times over the years thanks to the kind donation of the local land owners. The cemetery is located on a slight rise directly west of the Cotopaxi School and looks out over the Cotopaxi community. It has natural vegetation of pinion trees, grasses and cactus. A water line was installed in 1995 used to water established drought tolerant plants and occasional decorations. There is also a separate gravesite on a small hill directly north of the main cemetery. The site is enclosed by a wooden fence with one marked grave and two other known graves.

The cemetery is owned and operated by the Cotopaxi Cemetery Association. The association was formed in 1950 but was managed by several community residents prior to this date, including Cora McCrory, Charlie McCoy and Orilee Mullins. Although there are few members on the board everyone is welcome. The current board consists of some of the families that originally formed the association and have helped maintain the cemetery for over 134 years. Due to restricted space, today the cemetery is limited to local community members and families that have lived in the area.

The Cotopaxi Cemetery has approximately 244 marked graves. There is one unknown site discovered while digging another grave that remains unknown and one known unmarked grave.

The cemetery has veterans from the Civil War (both Union and Confederate), Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The veterans represent every branch of the service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The first white child born in the area is buried here: Cora Stout McCrory was born in present day Howard in 1875 and was

96 when she died. The McCrory family has five generations interred here: Marion McCrory, Benton McCrory (Cora), Anna McCrory Young, Thomas A. Young and Barry T. Young. There is one centurion, Letha Latham, 102. Other notable people are: Charles McCoy, saloon owner and family member of a local outlaw gang; Peter Noon, mine owner killed in a mining accident; store owners O.B. Carrol, Donald Augustine and John Young; teachers Zella Black, Joan Campbell and Jerald Parsons. Others include homesteaders, cowboys, Indians, railroad men and transients, young and old alike, but most are just hardworking men, women, teens, children and babies that came to Cotopaxi, either by fate or choice, and didn't leave.

The cemetery is located in Section 31, Township 48N, and Range 12E of the New Mexico Principle Meridian. It can be reached by traveling north on County Road 12 from Highway 50 approximately ½ mile past the school turning left at the football field. The gravel road travels behind the school to the west approximately ¼ mile to the cemetery. There is parking located right outside the gate entrance. The current sexton, a descendant of one of the original Cotopaxi Cemetery Board members, is willing to give tours of the cemetery.



Benton & Cora McCrory; Charley & Ruby McCoy



Jewish Graves



West Side Graves



Historic Cotopaxi Jewish Colony

Researched and written by Betsy Denney.
Photos by Betsy Denney.

COALDALE CEMETERY: Coaldale, CO

The Coaldale Cemetery is located about ½ mile south of Highway 50 on County Road 6, the Hayden Creek Road, in Coaldale. The cemetery is maintained by the Coaldale Community Cemetery Association. The first



known burial at the Coaldale Cemetery was six-year-old Joseph Toupain on January 6, 1879. Joseph's father owned the Coaldale store along with O.B. Carroll. During their time in the valley, Mr. Toupain and Mr. Carroll completed the Hayden Pass Road. This was once a toll road from the Pleasant Valley to the San Luis Valley that had a toll booth in a cabin about half way up the pass. People traveling the road had no way of turning around so they paid the toll to continue over the pass. The death of young Toupain was not the first death to the Coaldale area of the valley. Charles R. Muehlbach, seven-year-old son of Louis and Emma Muehlbach, is buried at the Howard Cemetery, then called Pleasant Valley Cemetery. The Muehlbachs were some of the first families to settle the area.

The Coaldale area was founded in 1872 and was known as Pleasant Valley, one of many names for the area before settling on Coaldale. People found water, good soil and mild temperatures suitable for growing crops. Most inhabitants were farmers and ranchers with some being interested in mining. Many of the early settlers to the valley stayed and made a life living off the land and raising their families. Several of these original settlers remained in the area with some family members still living and working the land their ancestors homesteaded.

The property for the cemetery was donated by land owners Buddy and Woody Shields. An additional section was recently donated by Holcim (US) Inc., cement manufacturer and current owner of the gypsum quarry located just west of the cemetery. A split rail fence surrounding the cemetery, along with a new sign, was donated by local residents. The native vegetation of pinion trees and grasses was further enhanced by iris plants along the fence, also donated. The Cooper and Clifton families, long-time residents, maintained the cemetery for over 20 years.

There are approximately 260 people buried in Coaldale. There are 24 known veterans and one Unknown Soldier. One soldier buried here, Danny Benton, returned home after being wounded during WWII, and continued ranching the land his grandfather homesteaded in 1872. His grandfather, Louis Muehlbach, is also buried here. There are two families buried here that

have mountains named after them. Flemming Mountain, located within the gypsum quarry and Bushnell Peak, the highest point in Fremont County, located in the Sangre De Cristo Mountain Range visible from Coaldale. There are three centurions, Linnie Cooper, 103; Ruth Wareham (Linnie Cooper's daughter), 100; and Catherine Gilray, 100.

Kit Carson's nephew, Dudley Carson, was killed in a mining accident and buried here in 1916. There are 38 unmarked graves some with rock around the grave as markers. A tuberculosis camp was established three miles south of the cemetery on Hayden Creek. A possibility is some of the unmarked graves were residents of this camp. There was also reports of a Spanish influenza outbreak about 1916-1918 and, although there is little evidence of known deaths, some of the unmarked graves may have been the result of the outbreak.



Joseph Toupain; Louis Muehlbach



Emma Muehlbach; Dudley Carson – nephew of Kit Carson

Researched and written by Betsy Denney.
Photos by Betsy Denney.

HOWARD CEMETERY: Howard, CO



The Howard Cemetery was established in December 1874 with the death of five-year-old Elija Foster Stout, the young son of William and Elvira Stout, one of the first families to settle in the Pleasant Valley. His sister was born about a month later, being the first white child born along the Arkansas River between present day Cañon City and Salida. The cemetery was first named the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, changing to Howard Cemetery around 1916. By 1886 other pioneer families of Alexander, West, Howard, Wallen and Boyer had all added graves to the cemetery. The first settler to the area, Jonah Peregrine, is also buried here. Jonah arrived in about 1871 from Tennessee and homesteaded 160 acres along a creek west of the cemetery.

The cemetery lies on gently sloped land with pinion covered hills to the east and north. A dry sandy gulch runs along the east side of the current grave tract. To the south and west there is a wonderful view of the Twin Sisters, two mountain peaks named by William Stout. Shavano Peak near Salida can be seen in the distance. The native vegetation consists of Indian Paint Brush, Sunflowers, and Barrel Cactus. There are also native grasses such as Blue Gramma, Western Wheat and Needle-and-Thread.

The cemetery was on public land but in 1916 local residents

formed the Howard Cemetery Association and, in 1919, filed an application to purchase the land with the Register of the U.S. Land Office in Pueblo. The application was rejected due to an Executive Order withdrawing that land from entry for power reserve purposes. The Howard Cemetery Association filed an appeal and in 1922 President Warren G. Harding signed an Order of Modification allowing the purchase. The Association provided Proof of Entry which noted that 225 graves were then in the cemetery. In 1923 a land patent was issued under the Act of 1907 to authorize the sale of public lands for cemetery purposes with the stipulation "Subject to reversion to the United States should the land or any part thereof be sold or cease to be used for the purpose in said act provided." The land patent for twenty acres was recorded in Fremont County records on June 29, 1923. Today, there are over 400 marked graves with several unmarked throughout the cemetery.

The grave tract has been fenced three times. The first fence was built in 1887 and was 262' by 300'. The second fence built in 1916 enlarged the tract to 430' by 350'. This included a very rocky area on the east. The current fence eliminated the rocky area and was built about 1947 and is now 342' by 371'. The fence is woven wire with steel posts, topped with a strand of barbed wire with white paint. A metal pipe gate is used for entry.

Leander Mains founded the Howard Cemetery Association, serving as president for over thirty years. He settled in the area in 1881 and through his leadership, vision and perseverance fostered the Howard Cemetery. The Howard Cemetery Association currently manages the cemetery and maintains burial records. Regular maintenance of the area is done through volunteer services and community service workers. Many families maintain their family graves.

The cemetery is on the north side of the Arkansas River between the communities of Coaldale on the east and Howard to the west. It is on Fremont County Road 45, which was once the stagecoach and wagon road connecting Western Fremont

County with Cañon City and Leadville. It later became the Rainbow Route serving automobile traffic.



Malessia Elvira Stout and husband, William Stout



Elija Foster Stout, son of above couple.



Jonah Peregrine, first settler



Charles R. Muehlbach, child

Researched and written by Betsy Denney.
Photos by Betsy Denney.

WHITEHORN CEMETERY: Western Fremont County

Whitehorn Cemetery was abandoned with at least eight unmarked graves on a lonely mesa near the old Whitehorn town site. Sixteen miles up Ute Trail (CR2 in Fremont County) northeast of Salida,



Whitehorn has a colorful history. During the 1880s, local cattlemen waged war against rustlers and each other for the pasture land in the lush meadows. During the 1890s, gold fever from Cripple Creek spread up the Arkansas Hills to Mt. Cameron where some mines showed promise. In 1897 a railroad worker cutting timber found Gold.

Originally called Suckerville, this was an active mining camp from 1897 – 1916. Snow was deep in the winter of 1897 and prospectors working in the hills would dry their boots and clothing in tents pitched in a small park that became the townsite. They joked they were suckers for working in such conditions, so this place must be “Suckerville.” The name stuck in Salida, where the area was connected by stagecoach and got its supplies. Hearing good reports on the area, Arthur L. Whitehorn, the appointed Deputy U.S. Mineral Surveyor in Pitkin County, set up an assayer’s tent at the camp, found promising specimens and promptly took the lead in surveying a townsite of 40 lots which were auctioned off. The town was officially named in his honor, although the previous place name persists today on USGS’s Suckerville Spring topo map.

By 1898 there were ten blocks of streets, three general stores, twice a day stagecoach service to Salida, three mines and a mill. Nearly 1,000 lived in the town and 2,000 to 3,000 in nearby communities including Turret and Monoa. The town promoters initially claimed to be in Chaffee County but Fre

mont County commissioners disagreed. Late in 1899 the District Court ruled that the area was within Fremont County. In 1900 gold fever began to cool and by 1901 the population was only 100 and there were just six businesses. In 1902 fire wiped out over one-half the town’s buildings. Things were still bad in 1904, but revived briefly in 1905 to 14 businesses, due to mining in the area. The school district was abolished in 1909 and the post office closed in 1918. The area returned to cattle ranching. Small homesteads covered the meadows for a few years but were defeated by the 1930’s economic depression. Larger outfits bought up the land and continue to raise cattle in the area.

Only two burials are recorded from the time Whitehorn was thought to be in Chaffee County. This was probably due to the fact that, soon after the boundary dispute was settled, Whitehorn folded as a mining camp and most residents moved away.

- George Babb, the young son of Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Babb, died Feb 11, 1899 and was buried the 12th. As his was the first death, a cemetery was started on the mesa just east of town. (Salida Mail; Feb 14, 1899)

- W. B. Hamilton died June 13, 1899 of pneumonia. He was middle aged and left a wife and two sons. (Salida Mail; June 20, 1899)














Little is left of Whitehorn today, but the site can be reached from Salida by following the Ute Trail over to the other side of Cameron Mountain towards State Highway 9. It is now privately owned, and permission must be acquired before attempting to go on the fenced property.

















Researched and written by Carol McNew.

Photos from Ireland family and William L. Schrader, 2000.

Symbols and Abbreviations with Meanings

	Alpha and Omega	The beginning and the end.
	Anchor	Hope; Steadfastness.
	Angel, Praying	Advocate asking God for mercy on behalf of the deceased.
	Arch	The passage to heaven.
	Bible	The Holy Bible is often found on the tombstones of Christians.
	Book, Open	Book of Life.
	Chain, Three Links	Grand United Order of Oddfellows
	Child, Sleeping	Grave of a young child; Not dead, just sleeping.
	Compass & Square	Ancient Free and Accepted Masons.
	Compass, Square & Pruning Knife	Ancient Order of Free Gardeners (Scottish)
	Cross	General Symbol of Christianity. Represents the Resurrection to many Christian religions.
	Cross, Celtic or Irish	Episcopalians call this the Celtic Cross, while Catholics call it the Irish Cross. Often used to denote the graves of Monks or Priests.
	Crown	The soul's achievement and the Glory of life after death.

	Dove	Innocence; Peace.
	Dove, Ascending	Soul rising to heaven.
	Dove, Dead	Premature death.
	Dove, Descending	Decent from heaven to accompany soul to heaven.
	Dove, Dove Brought with Twig	Holy Ghost.
	Eye with Sunburst or Triangle	Masonic Symbol.
	Fleur-de-Lis	Faith, wisdom and valor; The Trinity, passion and love.
	GAR	Grand Army of the Republic. A fraternal organization for men who fought and were honorably discharged from the Union Army during the Civil War.
	Gates	Pearly Gates; Entrance to Heaven.
	Grapes / Grapevine	Blood of Christ; Sacrament.
	Hand, Pointing Up	Pathway to Heaven.
	Hands, Clasped	Farewell.
	Hands, Holding	Unity of Marriage.
	Hands, Praying	Asking God for Eternal Life.

	Hourglass	Time has expired; Brevity of Life.
	Ivy	Immortality; Friendship.
	Lamb	Innocence. Usually marks a child's grave.
	Poppy	Eternal Sleep
	Rings, Interlocked	Marriage
	Staff of Asclepius with wings & double	Medical Doctor.
	Star	The Order of the Eastern Star (Masonic).
	Sunrise / Sunset	The Resurrection; Life Ending.
	Thistles	Remembrance.
	Torch	Immortality of the Spirit; The Resurrection.
	Tree	Life
	Tree Trunk	Brevity of Life; Member of Woodmen of the World.
	Wreath	Saintliness; Glory; Victory in Death.

Abbreviations with Meanings

	AOUW	Ancient Order of United Workmen.		SCV	Sons of the Confederate Veterans.
	American Legion	Found on graves of people who were American Legion members, an organization for veterans.		UCV	United Confederate Veterans.
	BPOE	Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.		UDC	United Daughters of the Confederacy.
	DAR	Daughters of the American Revolution.		UMWA	United Mine Workers of America.
	DOR	Daughters of Rebekah.		USA	United States Army.
	FCB	Knights of Pythias.		USAF	United States Air Force.
	FLT	Independent Order of Odd Fellows.		USMC	United States Marine Corp.
	FOE	Fraternal Order of Eagles.		USN	United States Navy.
	IOOF	Independent Order of Odd Fellows.		VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars.
	KC	Knights of Columbus.		WOW	Woodmen of the World.
	MWA	Modern Woodmen of America.		WOW	Women of Woodcraft.
	OES	Order of the Eastern Star.			
	SAR	Sons of the American Revolution; Sisters of the American Revolution.			

Fremont County Cemetery Heritage Resource Guide Available at the following locations:

- Penrose Community Library
- Wetmore Community Library
- John C. Fremont Public Library
- Florence Historical Archives, Inc.
- Florence Pioneer Museum & Research Center
- Cañon City Public Library
- Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center
- Museum of Colorado Prisons
- Western Fremont Historical Society's History Museum

The *Resource Guide* includes detailed information on Tombstone Symbols, Abbreviations and their meaning; Tombstone Epitaphs; why headstones face east; Pandemics since 1900 and other information to aid in understanding. It also contains additional information on private cemeteries and their contacts.

