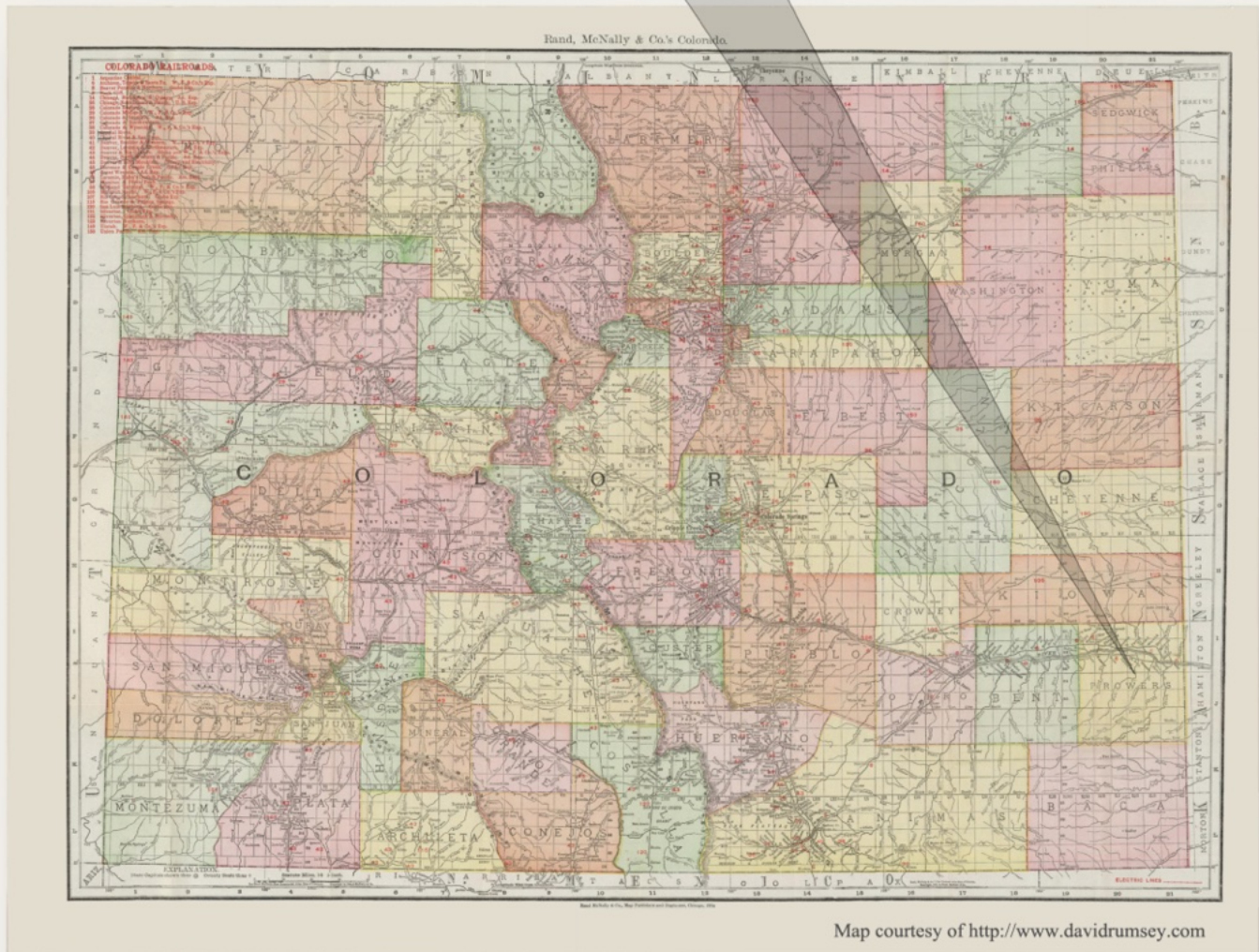


Prowers County



Established: April 11, 1889

County Seat: Lamar

PROWERS COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Prowers County is located in southeastern Colorado. Until 1889, the county was a part of Bent County, one of the original counties created with the formation of Colorado Territory in 1876. The reduction of Bent County began in March 1889 and culminated on April 11, 1889 with the creation of Prowers, Kiowa Otero and portions of Cheyenne and Lincoln Counties, leaving a greatly reduced Bent County. Except for the formation of Crowley County from Otero County in 1911, the boundaries in the area have otherwise remained unchanged.

Prowers County is bounded on the north by Kiowa County, on the east by Hamilton and Stanton Counties in Kansas, on the south by Baca County and on the west by Bent County.

Prior to the formation of Prowers County, the county seat for the area was at Las Animas. In 1888 the Bent County Court House burned and the early plats and incorporation records were lost. The towns in Prowers County that continued beyond that date did re-plat and file new papers with the Prowers County Court House. Lamar has been the Prowers County Seat since the initial authorization in 1889.

Except for a short jog in the west boundary at the land survey correction line, Prowers County is rectangular in shape. It measures thirty-nine miles from west to east and approximately forty-two miles from north to south.

Prowers County lies within the Great Plains and such has a relatively even topography. North of the centerline, the Arkansas River bisects the county from west to east. The lowest elevation in Colorado at 3,397 feet, is where the Arkansas River exits Colorado and Prowers County into Kansas. North and south of the river there is a mixture of level prairie and rolling hills, gradually rising in elevation away from the river. All but a small portion of the drainage in Prowers County flows towards the Arkansas River. All of the smaller streams are seasonal in nature and although named, none can be considered major watercourses.

The most prominent geographic feature in the county is the Two Buttes, less than two miles north of the Baca County line.

The Arkansas River Valley was a major travel route, both for the indigenous tribes and for the European settlers as they began their migration westward. At first the valley was the path of the famous Santa Fe Trail. In the 1870's the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad brought a new mode of transportation to the valley. In the twentieth century, the growth of motor vehicle traffic led to the conversion of the old wagon road to the modern US Highway 50.

There were plans for a railroad across the southern portion of the county. The railroad was intended to run from Dodge City, Kansas to Trinidad, Colorado. The early towns in southern Prowers County based much of their hope for the future on that railroad but it was never built and the plans for the towns faded.

In the first years of the twentieth century, another east-west railroad was constructed, on the north side of the Arkansas River. This was the Holly & Swink Railroad, a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe. It connected its two namesake towns and was built to serve the growing agricultural trade from north of the Arkansas River. This railroad also spawned some new towns but unlike the railroad towns in the southern part of the county, Wiley, Bristol and Hartman are still on the map.

Agriculture has been and still is the mainstay of the economy in Prowers County. In the earliest days, ranching dominated. In the 1880's, a time of above normal rainfall, there was a homestead boom. However, throughout most of the county, farming without irrigation was a lost cause. In the early twentieth century there was another homestead boom. That boom was a bit more successful thanks to the development of dry farming techniques and a growing reliance on irrigation from deep wells. However, once again the realities of the climate struck hard with the dust bowl years of the 1930's.

In the Arkansas Valley irrigation from the river and from storage reservoirs brought the development of an intensive agricultural economy. Sugar beets were one of the principal crops and the Holly Sugar Company built processing plants in several towns from the Kansas line to Pueblo.

Unfortunately, as we enter the twenty-first century, agriculture is on the decline. The sugar beet industry is under pressure from cheap foreign imports of cane sugar. A more serious threat to agriculture is the steadily increasing demand for water to supply the residents of the expanding cities along the Front Range. To meet that need, the municipal water districts that serve the cities have, and continue, to buy the water rights of the farmers along the Arkansas River. While that serves the needs of the city dwellers, it threatens the existence of the smaller towns in the Arkansas River Valley.

In addition to US Highway 50 that cuts the county from west to east, US Highway 287 and US 385 jointly enter the county from the south. At Lamar the two routes divide. US 385 joins US 50 east to Granada where it turns north. US 287 also joins with US 50 and they jointly cross the river and turn west, almost to the Bent County line. US 287 then turns north, passing by Wiley and on to exit into Kiowa County.

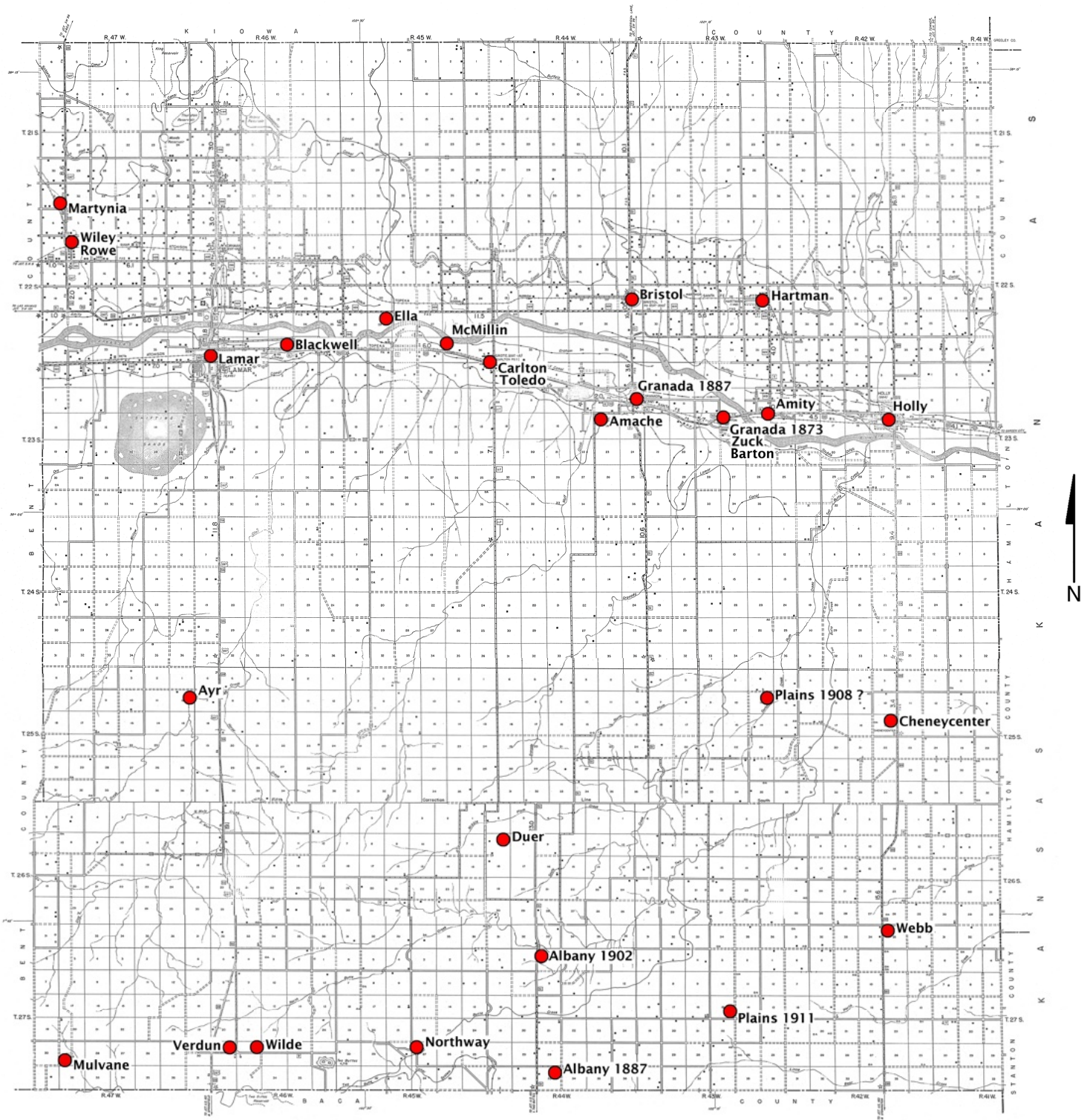
In addition to the US Highways, Colorado 89 parallels the eastern border from Holly south into Baca County. Colorado 196 begins at Granada, goes north to Bristol and then west to Wiley and on into Bent County. There is also a network of good county roads. The network is best developed on the north side of the Arkansas River. Only a few of the county roads are paved. The rest are gravel but are well maintained.

The county road numbering system is like that employed by most of the counties in eastern Colorado. Beginning at the Bent County line, the roads are numbered from west to east on a one-mile grid. Beginning at the Baca County line the roads have letter designations beginning with A on the county line and proceeding northwards. Within that scheme, the letters I, O and Q are not used.



Two Buttes, Prowers County Colorado

From: <https://www.bacacountyhistory.com/wilde-colorado-colonel-york-the-bloody-benders-and-west-point/>



Post Office Location Map – Prowers County

ALBANY

Albany was one of several towns in the extreme southern portion of Prowers County that were established along the route of a proposed railroad from Dodge City, Kansas to Trinidad, Colorado. This development was the result of a land boom in the 1880's and of the activity on the National Cattle Trail along the Colorado-Kansas border.

By 1890 the area was in a deep drought which proved normal farming methods were inadequate and eliminated the incentive to build the railroad. The Albany Post Office had a brief revival beginning in 1902 but by 1905 that was over. However, the 1902 location was five miles north of the original 1887 site.

It is generally accepted that Albany was one of several communities in southeastern Colorado that adopted the name of the hometown of those who settled there, in this case, settlers from Albany, New York.

Albany was a small crossroads hamlet that did have a church and a good well.

From Lamar, drive south on US 287 to Prowers County Road F. Go east on Road F to County Road 21 (12 miles). The 1902 site of Albany is about a mile north of this intersection, on the east side of Road 21. Nothing is visible at that location. To visit the 1887 site of Albany, turn south on Road 21 four miles to County Road B. Turn east on Road B for about one mile. There is one old building in a clump of trees which is all that remains of Albany.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 16 1887 ---	NE/4 Sec 33 T27S R44W 2 miles south of Butte Creek Proposed postmaster - Edward L. Smith
Jul 21 1887	Established
Jul 21 1887	Smith, Edward L.
Mar 7 1888	Drennan, Henry E.
Jul 3 1889	Elder, Albin R.
Apr 14 1890	Watson, Benjamin F.
May 2 1890	Priddy, Agnes E.
May 24 1890	Priddy, Agnes E.
May 1 1891	Discontinued Papers to Granada
May 10 1902 ---	NW/4 Sec 4 T27S R44W 300 feet north of Butte Creek [SRM: This description is contradictory. To be 300 ft north of Butte Creek, Post Office would have to be in Sec 15 or 16] Proposed postmaster - Nannie Johnson
Jun 23 1902	Re-established
Jun 23 1902	Johnson, Nannie
Aug 31 1905	Ordered closed
Sep 30 1905	Discontinued Mail Granada

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Albany / Colo. MS	Jul 7 1889
	Mscp	No killer

*Albany
Colo.
July 7, '89*

AMITY

Amity, or Fort Amity, was one of three turn-of-the-century farm colonies established by the Salvation Army. The purpose was to provide homes and land for downtrodden poor from eastern cities. The colony in Colorado was founded in 1898. The Salvation Army purchased 640 acres for \$20.79 per acre. Eleven of the first fourteen families to settle at Amity came to Colorado from Chicago.

Each family was given ten acres of land, material with which to build a house, sufficient livestock and poultry to stock the farm and the implements necessary to care for their acreage. The Salvation Army paid their railroad fare and transportation of their goods to Amity and the total of this expenditure was charged as a loan to each family. The Salvation Army had borrowed the money to finance the project and in turn the colonists were charged six-percent interest and allowed from ten to fourteen years to repay their loans.

Commissioner Emma Booth Tucker named Amity or Fort Amity as the colonists called it. Amity means good will for which the Salvation Army stands.

At first, the farms at Amity produced well but the low-lying land was unsuited for irrigation and soon the land became waterlogged and saturated with alkali. Surprisingly, in 1905, even though Amity was already in decline, the Salvation Army filed a plat for the town of Amity. By 1908 the Salvation Army had conceded failure. Finally in 1909 Joseph S. McMurtry, Holly banker and real estate agent and John G. Christopher, Holly businessman, purchased the Amity Townsite, a number of businesses and buildings, and options on 2,000 adjacent acres.

Amity was slow to die. Its post office remained in operation until 1937 and the name of Amity could still be found on current maps well into the 1960's.

The site of Amity is four and one-half miles west of Holly on the south side of US Highway 50 and the Santa Fe Railroad. In 1997 there was still a sign on the highway directing you south to Amity. Go south through the moderate sized operation of the J. S. McManus Produce Company and over the railroad tracks. No buildings remain from Amity; however, there was a pile of rubble and it also looks like there is or was a sand and gravel operation at the site.

Note: I find it interesting and worthy of some further investigation, that one of the purchasers of the Amity site was J. S. McMurtry, and that the site is currently occupied by the J. S. McManus Produce Company. Should McMurtry really be McManus?

Latitude = 38:03:17 North Longitude = 102:12:04 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 17 1898	---	Center Sec 12 T23S R43W On north side of AT&SF, 190 rods Proposed postmaster - Thomas Holland
Jul 18 1898		Established
Jul 18 1898		Holland, Thomas
May 1 1900		Streeter, Joseph
Apr 19 1901		Stilwell, Henry
Jan 31 1902	---	From: SE/4 Sec 12 T23S R43W To: SW/4 Sec 12 T23S R43W Proposed postmaster - Henry Stilwell
Sep 23 1902		Holland, Thomas
Mar 27 1903		French, William A.
Sep 1 1906		Erikson, Nels A.
Jan 21 1908		Holland, Thomas S. R.
May 11 1909		Davy, Lillian M.
May 28 1913		Erickson, Carl A.
Apr 30 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 13 T23S R43W 2 miles north of the Arkansas River 4 miles east of Horse Creek 2 blocks north of the AT&SF tracks
Nov 9 1915		McGrath, Frank

AMITY – Continued

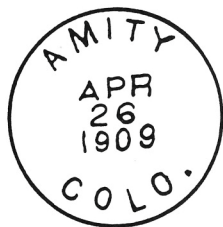
Feb 8 1937 Ordered closed
 Feb 27 1937 Discontinued Mail to Holly

Confirmed types of postal markings

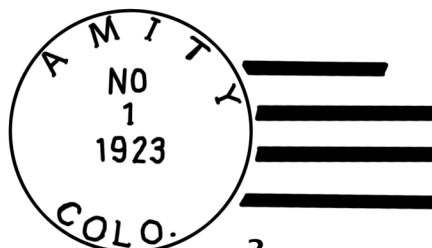
- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | AMITY / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Hstp Target | Mar 14 1899 |
| 2 | AMITY / COLO.
CI 10P 29.0 | Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval | --- -- 1905 Aug 18 1930 |
| 3 | AMITY / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-26x19mm | Nov 1- 1923 |



1



2



3

AYR

In the mid-1880's a group of twenty young men, mostly bachelors, centered their claims south of Lamar. A number of these men were of Scottish descent and the settlement was first known as the "Scotch Colony." James Roberts, William Lyon, Theo Pillaud and a man named Brenner were among these early residents. The community was briefly known as Pillaud but when a post office was sought the suggested name was Roberts, likely for James Roberts. However, Ayr was the name approved by the Post Office Department. It seems possible that the name Ayr was of Scottish origin. With a school and a general store that also housed the post office, which became the center of the community, Ayr was more than an isolated ranch post office.

As happened to many of the small farm communities in southeastern Colorado, the return to a semi-arid climate in the 1890's brought the decline of Ayr. Ayr remained on the maps for some twenty-five more years so it apparently continued to provide some services to the remaining ranchers and farmers. At one point in its later history the community appears to have been called Liberty.

Starting in Lamar at the intersection of US Highway 50 with US Highway 287 (also US 385) drive south thirteen and one-half miles to Prowers County Road U. Turn west on Road U for one mile. The site of Ayr was south of Road U and on Clay Creek. There are some ranch buildings in the distance but nothing remains near the road.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 23 1888 --- NE/4 Sec 12 T25S R47W Directly south side of Clay Creek
 Proposed postmaster - John Henderson
 Jul 25 1888 Established
 Jul 25 1888 Henderson, John
 Sep 3 1888 Roberts, James
 Aug 1 1891 Ordered closed
 Sep 4 1893 Discontinued Papers to Lamar

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | AYR / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Hstp Target, 4-ring | Feb 26 1890 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
- [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

BARTON

The site of the Barton Post Office or at least the vicinity of Barton, has had more names than buildings there today.

Based on the description from the initial Geographic Site Location Report for Granada, this was the original location for Granada when the Santa Fe Railroad built into Colorado in 1873 and then paused while additional construction funds were raised.

It was the location of the XY Ranch, which seems to have become a community named Byron, although there was never a post office by that name. Another name applied to the area was Adana but again there was no post office by that name.

By 1887 Granada and its post office had moved four miles west to its present day location. In August of 1891 a post office named Zuck was established at Adana on the north side of the Santa Fe Railroad. In 1895 the name of Zuck was changed to Barton and it was perhaps moved a short distance to a site closer to the Arkansas River. The Geographic Site Location Report for Barton includes a sketch map that equates Barton and Byron. In 1902 the railroad station was apparently known as Heron.

Thus, for this single location we have the names Granada, XY Ranch, Adana, Zuck, Byron, Barton and Heron. That may be a Colorado record for a single location.

Dorothy Warner Boyd, in her book *The Gardner Story*, relates this confusion of names as follows:

“In December of 1891 the name ADANA was changed to BYRON by the U.S. post office which established a post office at Byron with W. H. McKean as postmaster. The name BYRON was all right with the XY (Ranch) and the multitude of homesteaders east of Granada who listed their address as Byron, but apparently the name was in use somewhere else in the state, because in January 1892, the name of BYRON was withdrawn and the XY post office was given the euphonious name of ZUCK. Lamar newspaper editors had a field day, never missing the opportunity to announce every visitor arriving from Zuck. The cowboys and homesteaders were less thrilled however, and petitioned to the government to change the address back to Byron. The pleas fell on deaf ears. They were stuck with Zuck. Finally at the turn of the century the bureaucratic federal hearts must have softened, because ZUCK was changed to BARTON, after C. O. Barton of the area.”

She is incorrect in suggesting that there were post offices under the names Adana, and Byron. Only Granada, Zuck, and Barton were used as names for post offices at this location. However, William H. McKeon was postmaster at Zuck

Based on the Geographic Site Location Report, the Barton site was four miles east of Granada, on US Highway 50 and a couple hundred yards west of where the highway crosses to the north side of the Arkansas River.

A mile west of the Barton site the highway crosses a viaduct over the railroad. East of the viaduct a county road to the south will take you to the site of Zuck at the railroad. This location can also be reached from another county road on the west side of the viaduct that goes east along the south side of the railroad.

There is one small house with a couple of outbuildings near the site of Barton. There is a ranch and a grain storage facility at the site of Zuck.

Latitude = 38:03:00 North Longitude = 102:14:47 West

Chronology of the Post Office

May 1 1895	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T23S R43W 1 mile south of the Arkansas River 1/2 mile east of Granada Creek On the railroad inside right of way (AT&SF)
		Sketch map identified location as Barton & Byron
Mar 29 1895		Name changed from Zuck
Mar 29 1895		Robertson, James Scott
Mar 27 1903		McKeown, William H.

BARTON – Continued

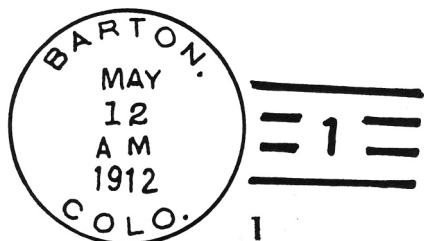
Jun 29 1903	Le Fever, Avalie
Feb 14 1908	McKeown, William H.
Aug 10 1908	Bassett, Owen B.
Dec 18 1914	Hill, Raymond
Aug 13 1915	Green, Justin H.
Apr 6 1917	Overstreet, John W.
Oct 15 1917	Discontinued Mail to Granada

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 BARTON. / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0

Nov 20 1907 Aug 13 1912

Doane Type 3 with 1

**BLACKWELL**

By 1881 Amos R. Black had established his ranch on the south side of the Arkansas River and on the route of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The Santa Fe placed a depot on the ranch, at what was known as West Farm. This developed into a small community that took the name Blackwell.

Obviously the community was named for Amos R. Black, but perhaps only partially. It is claimed that the second syllable of the name was taken from the name of Black's ranch foreman, J. A. McDowell.

As a community, Blackwell existed for about five years until May 24, 1886. In early 1886 development began three miles west of Blackwell with the founding of the fledgling town of Lamar. Lamar wanted both a railroad station and a post office. But, neither the railroad nor the post office was willing to grant those wishes with the two communities in such close proximity. The post office did move to Lamar on May 11, 1886. Next to move was the railroad station. This is where legend and reality become confused and there are at least three stories of what happened

One story relates that on the afternoon of Saturday May 22, 1886 Mr. Black received a telegram purporting to require his presence in Pueblo on urgent business. He left Blackwell, taking the final train of the day. After dark, a railroad work train in command of construction chief A. R. Steen came to Blackwell and by Sunday afternoon the Blackwell Station was on the ground at Lamar served by a hastily constructed switch and siding. Mr. Black returned home to find the reason for his community gone.

A somewhat similar story claims that on May 24, 1886 a large crew of laborers were unloaded at the village of Blackwell and in twenty hours moved the whole town the three miles west to Lamar. The switch, tracks, stockyards, fences, station house, water tank and several other buildings were moved. Nothing was left at Blackwell.

A third but less likely version is that because Mr. Black owned all the land around the station and refused to allow cattle to be driven across his land to be loaded for shipment, the railroad was forced to move the station. The move began at 12:05 AM on a Sunday in order to prevent Mr. Black from securing an injunction to stop the move.

In later years a livestock loading station was re-established at the site of Blackwell. This was known as Morse until it was discontinued in 1960. It re-opened briefly in the 1970's called Clucas.

BLACKWELL – Continued

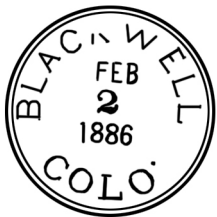
To reach the site, begin in Lamar. Turn east from Main Street on to Olive Street (US 50). Go three miles east. There is a driveway that crosses the tracks to a dirt road along the north side of the railroad. Blackwell was to the west of the crossing. There is a somewhat recent house and some older ranch buildings a short distance east of the crossing. A conversation with a resident confirmed that Blackwell was in this location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 26 1881	---	NE/4 Sec 34 T22S R46W 1-1/4 miles south of the Arkansas River 3 miles west of Clay Creek On north side of AT&SF tracks Additional note describes it as SE/4 of NE/4 Sec 34 Proposed postmaster - Samuel T. Brown
Jul 7 1881		Established
Jul 7 1881		Brown, Samuel T.
Oct 31 1881		Discontinued
Jan 5 1882		Re-established
Jan 5 1882		Manning, William L.
Feb 9 1882		Andress, Charles F.
Sep 5 1882		Wilson, George W.
Apr 10 1883		Sinclair, J. H.
Mar 24 1884		Re-established [SRM: ?? No date for closure]
Mar 24 1884		Black, Amos R.
Apr 29 1886		McDowell, Mrs. J. A.
May 11 1886		Moved to Lamar

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BLACKWELL / COLO.	Feb 2 1886
	CI 11P 27.5/26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm



1



BRISTOL

Bristol is located on the original homestead of George Stabe settled in 1887 and proved up by December 31, 1890. In 1902 J. R. Gordon opened a hardware store and hotel which was the beginning of a business district. In 1906 the Holly and Swink Railway, a Santa Fe subsidiary, was built along the north side of the Arkansas River and in the same year J. Pierce and Frank Butler filed a plat for the town.

Supposedly it was the railroad's intention to give the name Bristol, for C. H. Bristol, an official of the Santa Fe Railway, to the unincorporated town of Lancaster which was located near land owned by Mr. Bristol. By error, the name Bristol was applied to a different community, the one on the old Stabe homestead near land owned by George Hartman, another Santa Fe official. The error was not corrected and Lancaster became Hartman.

Bristol was never incorporated but it did become a center for the farming community north of Granada. At one time it boasted of an "Opera House" and a pickle cannery.

BRISTOL- Continued

Like the other towns along the north side of the river, Bristol's economy faltered in the 1920's. On July 3, 1925 a fire destroyed the eastern portion of the business district, which was not rebuilt. Bristol does continue as a small residential community and a convenience center for the surrounding farms and ranches.

From Granada drive north on US Highway 385 to the intersection with Colorado Highway 196. Bristol is on US 385, just north of Colorado 196.

Latitude = 39:07:20 North Longitude = 102:18:40 West

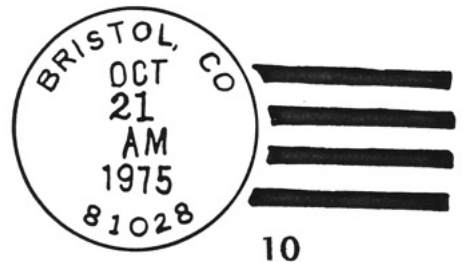
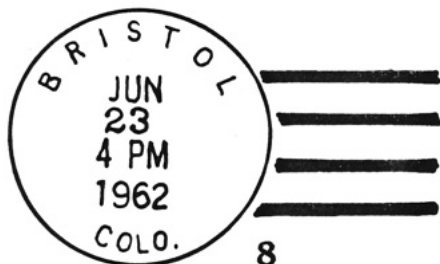
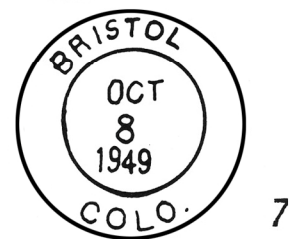
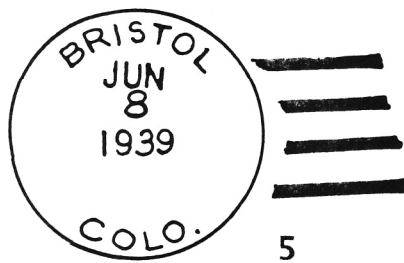
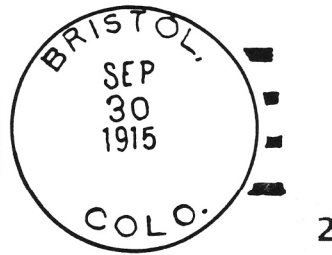
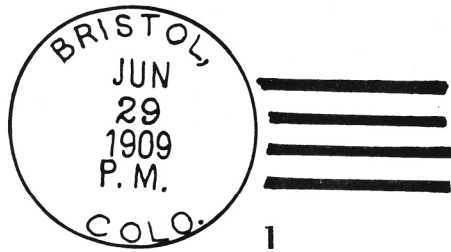
Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 22 1907	---	SE/4 Sec 24 T22S R44W	
Jul 1 1908		Established	
Jul 1 1908		Dugger, Mary A.	
May 10 1909		Fowler, Charles A.	
Sep 2 1911	---	NW corner SE/4 Sec 24 T22S R44W	South side A.V. Div SF RR and 250 feet
Feb 25 1915		Haven, Belle C.	
Dec 11 1916		Branner, Belle H.	
Apr 18 1919		Johnson, William M.	Acting
May 21 1919		Adams, Sadie	
Nov 16 1920	---	SW/4 Sec 24 T22S R44W	South side of AT&SF, about 150 feet
Jun 17 1922		Russom, William A.	
Jan 1 1923			Office made Presidential
Feb 24 1923		Russom, William A.	Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Feb 12 1927		Russom, William A.	P&S
Feb 6 1931		Russom, William A.	Confirmed
Aug 18 1932		Russom, William A.	Confirmed
Sep 22 1932		Russom, William A.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1932		Russom, William A.	Assumed charge
Nov 26 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 24 T22S R44W	60 feet south of AT&SF tracks
Jul 1 1945			Office made Presidential
Jul 17 1947		Russom, William A.	Nominated
Jul 23 1947		Russom, William A.	Confirmed
Jul 24 1947		Russom, William A.	P&S
Sep 30 1947		Russom, William A.	Assumed charge
May 31 1951		Osborn, Bill E.	Assumed charge
Jul 23 1951		Osborn, Bill E.	Acting
Mar 12 1952		Osborn, Bill E.	Nominated
Mar 27 1952		Osborn, Bill E.	Confirmed
Mar 28 1952		Osborn, Bill E.	Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Jun 30 1952		Osborn, Bill E.	Assumed charge
Jul 7 1954		Weston, Mrs. Hazel L.	Assumed charge
Aug 18 1954		Weston, Mrs. Hazel L.	Acting
Mar 4 1958		Weston, Mrs. Hazel L.	Nominated
Jul 2 1958		Weston, Mrs. Hazel L.	Confirmed
Jul 3 1958		Weston, Mrs. Hazel L.	Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Aug 8 1958		Weston, Mrs. Hazel L.	Assumed charge
Aug 30 1959		Elmore, Mrs. Hazel L.	Name changed by marriage
Oct 16 1959		Hackett, Lane L.	Assumed charge
Oct 19 1959		Hackett, Lane L.	Acting
Aug 17 1962		Vagher, Elmer D.	Assumed charge
Aug 20 1962		Vagher, Elmer D.	Acting
Sep 8 1964		Vagher, Elmer D.	Apptd Presidential & Confirmed
Sep 25 1964		Vagher, Elmer D.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1971			Office relegated
May 2 1992		Discontinued	

BRISTOL- Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BRISTOL, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Jun 29 1909 Apr 4 1913
2	BRISTOL. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Sep 30 1915
3	BRISTOL / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Dec 26 1913
		[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	
4	BRISTOL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Apr 20 1937 Dec 29 1942
5	BRISTOL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jun 8 1939
6	BRISTOL / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Apr 14 1947 Apr 7 1959
7	BRISTOL / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 8 1949
8	BRISTOL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 23 1962
9	BRISTOL, CO / 81028 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Feb 2 1966 Mar 15 1973
10	BRISTOL, CO / 81028 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 21 1975 Nov 2 1997



CARLTON

Carlton was a product of the spring 1886 land rush to the Arkansas Valley region. The Colorado Land and Town Company created the town along the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The promoters of Carlton were a husband and wife team: Judge M. C. Frybarger and his wife Louise.

More than one name has been associated with this location. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports tell part of the story. In June 1886, an application was filed for a post office to be named Carlton. Apparently Washington rejected the application. On that same document in August 1887 the name Carlton was crossed out and Toledo substituted. However, the Site Location Report for McMillin has a notation of the same date, that the name of McMillin was being changed to Toledo. The Federal Land Survey descriptions for Carlton (Toledo?) and McMillin (Toledo) are not the same. McMillin/Toledo, also on the Santa Fe Railroad, was about two miles west-northwest of the eventual location for the Carlton Post Office.

In January 1891 a post office was established for Carlton. It was located at what is now the intersection of US Highway 50 and Colorado Highway 117, about six miles west of Granada.

Two other names have been applied to Carlton. In 1893 there may have been an attempt to change the name to Conroe but that effort fizzled. Yet another name for the community was Grote. It is not certain when that name was first used but the 1967 General Highway Map of Prowers County produced by the State Department of Highways labels the location as "Grote (Carlton P. O.)." The site may always have been known to the Santa Fe as Grote.

No reference to Carlton suggests a source for the name. Perhaps citizen dissatisfaction with Carlton is why the other names came in to play.

The town plat for Carlton was filed on July 14, 1887 but the original plat was destroyed when the Bent County Courthouse burned in 1888. A replacement plat for Carlton was filed in 1900.

It seems likely that even though Carlton was formally platted and had a post office for nearly seventy years, it was never much more than a scattering of residences and perhaps a store or two. There was a siding from which produce and livestock could be shipped.

In 1997 there were still a few occupied buildings along the south side of US 50.

Latitude = 38:05:09 North Longitude = 102:25:05 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 30 1886	---	NE/4 Sec 1 T23S R45W 1 mile south of Arkansas River South side of AT&SF Carlton Station CARLTON - Crossed out TOLEDO written in, Aug 8/87 Proposed postmaster - James P. Silsby	
Jan 14 1891		Established	
Jan 14 1891		Frybarger, Louise H.	
Feb 18 1891	---	NE/4 Sec 1 T23S R45W 575 feet south of AT&SF tracks	
Mar 27 1913		Lester, Laura L.	
Nov 4 1913		Hoffman, Lizzie	
Apr 25 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 1 T23S R45W 284 feet south of AT&SF tracks	
Jan 5 1918		Hoffman, Peter	
Jun 30 1919		Worden, John W.	
Apr 26 1920		Tanner, Sarah F.	
Sep 22 1922		Johnson, Richard K.	
Mar 2 1923		Higbee, Carl S.	Acting
Mar 21 1923		Higbee, Carl S.	Appointed
May 28 1925		Osborn, Roy W.	Acting
Sep 12 1925		Osborn, Roy W.	Appointed
Jan 12 1926		Lewis, Mrs. Zula Z.	Acting
Apr 10 1926		Lewis, Mrs. Zula Z.	Appointed

CARLTON – Continued

Apr 1 1935	Payne, Mrs. Goldie Belle	Assumed charge
Apr 9 1935	Payne, Mrs. Goldie Belle	Acting
Apr 22 1935	Payne, Mrs. Goldie Belle	Confirmed
May 10 1935	Payne, Mrs. Goldie Belle	Commissioned
Jan 25 1938	Spurgeon, Miss Hallie	Confirmed
Jan 26 1938	Spurgeon, Miss Hallie	Assumed charge
Feb 1 1938	Spurgeon, Miss Hallie	Acting
Mar 28 1938	Spurgeon, Miss Hallie	Commissioned
Oct 24 1941 ---	S/2 SE/4 Sec 36 T22S R45W 1 mile north to Arkansas River US-50 in front of post office (north)	
Jun 4 1945	Akin, Mrs. Hallie	Name changed by marriage
Mar 5 1960	Discontinued Mail to Granada	



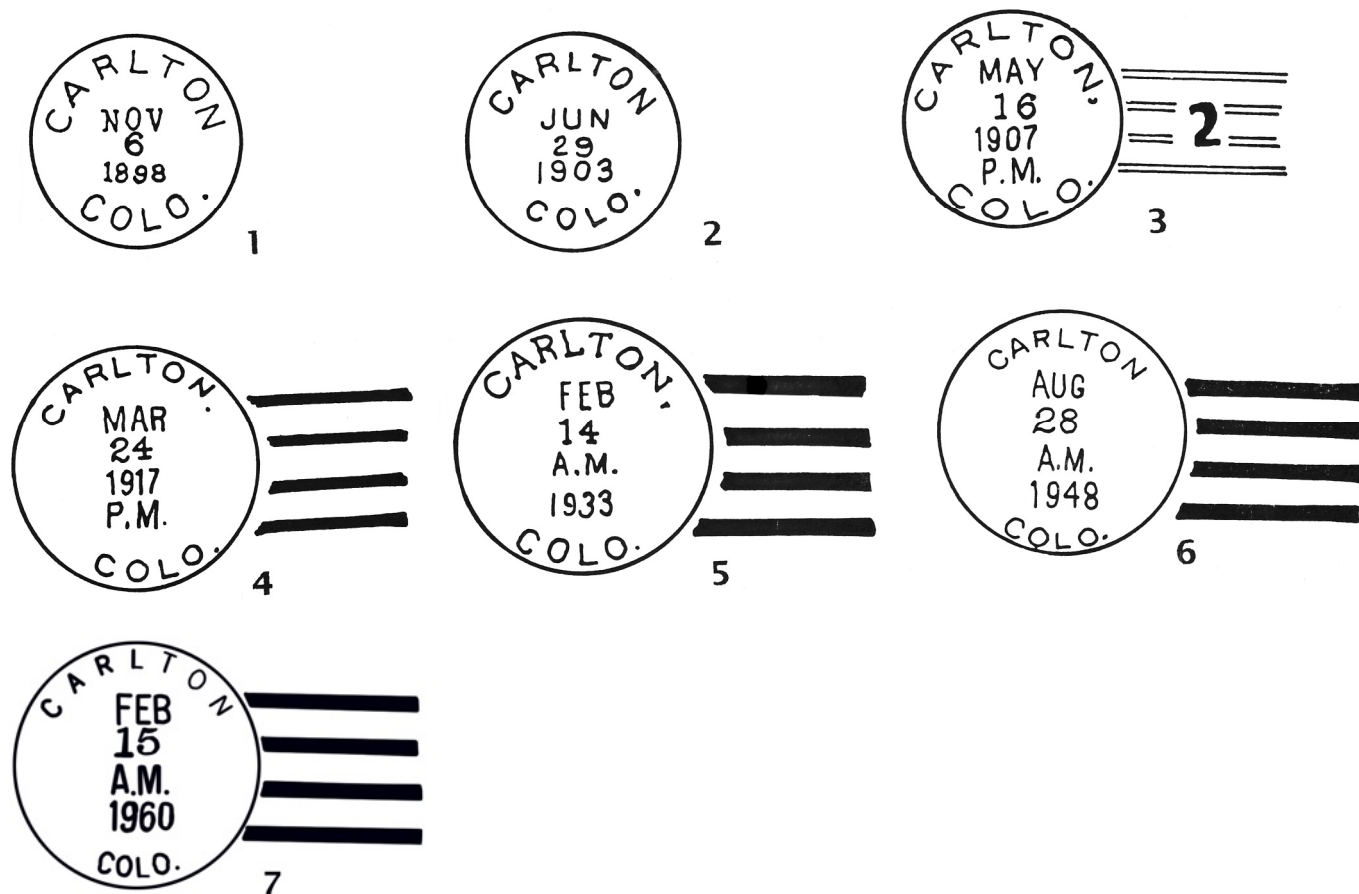
CARLTON, / COLO.

May 16, 1907

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CARLTON / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	--- 1897 Nov 6 1898
2	CARLTON / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Jun 29 1903 Jul 9 1903
3	CARLTON, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Doane Type 2 with 2; S-24x13mm	Dec 1 1906 Sep 27 1913
4	CARLTON. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Mar 24 1917
5	CARLTON, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Feb 14 1933 Feb 17 1933
6	CARLTON / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	May 16 1945 Nov 14 1949
7	CARLTON / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 15 1960

CARLTON – Continued



CHENEYCENTER

This community was properly designated as Cheney Center – two words not one. Even in 1916 the Post Office Department was still pushing its crusade for one-word post office names. The initial Geographic Site Location Report was submitted with the name Enterprise.

Cheney Center was a rural post office south of Holly. The settlement is reported to have been established in 1886 and to have taken its name from the town of Cheney Center, Kansas. It seems likely that some the first settlers were from the Kansas town.

There is no evidence that there was much of a community at Cheney Center. In 1914 James A. Cheney built a grocery store and cream station and in 1916 he became the first postmaster for Cheneycenter. Could it be that the choice of name was more for an early resident who might have come from the town in Kansas, rather than specifically the Kansas town?

Beginning at US Highway 50 in Holly, drive twelve and one-half miles south on Colorado Highway 89. In the northwest corner of the intersection of Colorado 89 and Prowers County Road S there is group of ranch buildings, most of recent construction.

Jim Ozment and I visited the site in October 1997. When we arrived, there was a man working in the yard. He observed our photographic activities, then came across the road to us and inquired as to what we were doing. He was much relieved when we explained our purpose and that we were not seeking a site for a hog farm! He confirmed that his ranch had indeed been the site of Cheney Center.

For the rest of that trip, and often since, we have with sarcasm remarked about suitable hog farm locations.

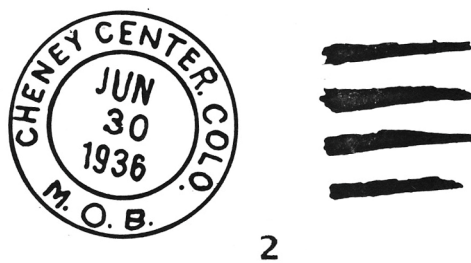
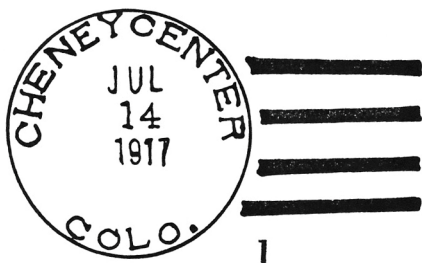
CHENEYCENTER – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 6 1916	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T25S R42W	
		Applicant for postmaster - J. H. Cheney	
Feb 24 1917		Established	
Feb 24 1917		Cheney, James H.	
Sep 14 1918		Hinton, James E.	Declined
May 1 1919		Pike, Orah L.	Declined
		However, the records indicate that he served until office was discontinued. No other postmasters are listed.	
Aug 4 1919		Hart, Walter E.	Order rescinded Oct 22 1919
Jun 13 1936		Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1936		Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | CHENEYCENTER / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | May 9 1917 Aug 6 1934 |
| 2 | CHENEY CENTER, COLO. / M.O.B.
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 | Hstp No attached killer; but 4-bars used as killer;
the M.O.B has been crossed out with violet ink, Last Day Cover | Jun 30 1936 |



DUER

Duer was a rural post office in the south-central portion of Prowers County. It was a product of the second period of homestead activity in Prowers County.

There is no information or evidence to indicate that Duer was anything more than a ranch that provided postal service to the surrounding countryside. It operated for a short period of time and likely fell victim to the expanding Rural Free Delivery System in the early twentieth century.

There is no access to the site specified in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report. To approach the site of Duer, turn south on Prowers County Road 19 from US Highway 50 at Carlton. After eighteen miles you will reach County Road N. At that point you are a little over a mile north of the site of Duer. Turn west on Road M for a half-mile and then south again on the continuation of Road 19. About a mile and a quarter south and you are approximately a mile west of the site of Duer. Some distance east of the road there is a building, a water tank and a few scattered trees.

The Site Location Report listed Dodge as the preferred name. That choice was rejected in favor of Duer; however, there is no available information as to the source or reason for either name.

Chronology of the Post Office

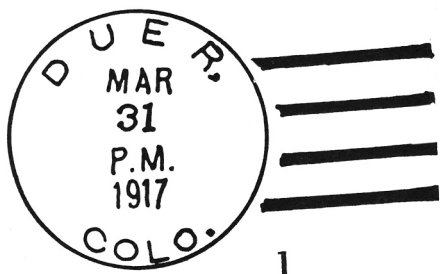
Nov -- 1915	---	NE/4 Sec 7 T26S R44W 1/2 mile south of Plum Creek
		Applicant for postmaster - Charles Clothier
Mar 25 1916		Established
Mar 25 1916		Clothier, Charles

DUER – Continued

Apr 14 1917	Kelsay, Mabel
May 1 1919	Mayo, Birdie I.
May 31 1920	Discontinued Mail to Granada

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	DUER, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Mar 31 1917 Apr 19 1920
		4bars S-25x21mm

**ELLA**

Ella was a campground and stage station on the Santa Fe Trail, north of the Arkansas River. It served the travelers and wagon trains using the trail. Ella may have been in existence as early as 1840 but its principal period of activity was the time period between the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad at Granada in 1873 and when the railroad resumed construction westward towards Pueblo.

The construction of the railroad, on the south side of the Arkansas River, removed most of the traffic from the old Santa Fe Trail. Ella lost its post office and became just one of the ranches and farms north of the river.

To reach the site of Ella, begin at US Highway 50 at the site of Carlton. Drive two miles north on Prowers County Road 19 to Colorado Highway 196. Turn west on Colorado 196 for a distance of four miles. The location of Ella was south of the highway but there are no remaining buildings, only open fields and brush along the river.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 14 1873	Established
May 14 1873	Gilligan, John
Jul 1 1875	--- NE/4 Sec 29 T22S R45W 1/4 mile north of Arkansas River 1/4 mile west of Big Sandy Creek
Aug 4 1875	Schmidt, J. J.
Sep 30 1875	Schmidt, Charles
Feb 2 1876	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ELLA

GRANADA

The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad established Granada in 1873. By 1873 the Santa Fe Railroad was facing financial difficulties with its plans to build to the Pacific Coast. In order to meet the requirements for receiving critical land grants imposed by the Federal Government the railroad had to have built into Colorado by 1873. That goal was met, barely and the railroad established an "End-of-track" about ten miles west the Kansas-Colorado border. Thus, the original Granada came into being.

GRANADA – Continued

The original settlement was some five miles east of present day Granada at what would later be known as Barton or Zuck. Please refer to the discussions of Barton and Zuck for more details and the current status of the original site.

In 1876 the Santa Fe resumed construction westward. The original Granada went into decline and nearly disappeared. It is not clear as to exactly when the name and the post office moved from the end-of-track location to the present site. The location given in the 1887 Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report is for the modern site of Granada.

A plat for the town of Granada (original) was filed at the Bent County Clerk's Office in Las Animas, June 10, 1873. It continued to function as a town until 1885 when three events determined its future and its demise. Tom Nolan, an important figure in the town's life, left and moved to Coolidge, Kansas. Frederick H. Harvey was unwilling to sell any of his land, thus preventing Granada from expanding. This latter event sealed the fate of the town and the town fathers decided to move to a more flexible location. Many of the buildings were moved to the new site and on May 17, 1886 "New" Granada appeared on the map.

A petition to incorporate the new town was filed on June 10, 1887. On July 5, 1887 by a vote of 18 to 7, incorporation was approved. On July 23, 1887 Judge Joseph Bradford, Acting County Clerk, declared Granada to be incorporated. The name Granada was first applied by the Santa Fe Railroad. The name derives from the city and former kingdom in Spain.

After the railroad moved on westward, Granada settled down from having been a busy transshipment point to a more quiet life as a town serving the farms and ranches of the far eastern portion of Colorado's Arkansas River Valley. In the twenty-first century, although it is somewhat overshadowed by larger Lamar, sixteen miles to the west, Granada continues to be a viable town providing services and supplies to the area.

During World War II, Granada experienced a burst of activity when a relocation camp for interned Japanese was located a short distance southwest of Granada. The Amache Internment Camp had its own post office but it was a branch of Lamar, not of Granada.

Latitude = 38:03:50 North Longitude = 102:18:36 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 27 1873	---	NW/4 Sec 15 T23S R43W 1/2 mile south of the Arkansas River On north side of AT&SF, 51 rods from depot
Jul 10 1873		Established
Jul 10 1873		Filler, Herbert A.
Sep 8 1873		Robbins, Myron W.
Apr 10 1875	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T23S R43W 1/2 mile south of the Arkansas River 1/4 mile east of Dry Creek Office is at terminal station of the AT&SF Railroad on the north side of the railroad Sketch map shows the railroad swinging southwest to cross the Arkansas River, again turning west, and then ending short of Dry Creek.
May 22 1876		Nolan, Thomas B.
Nov 27 1885		Falls, N. M.
Apr 2 1886		Potter, Guy R.
Nov 13 1886		Snowden, Adam
Aug 23 1887	---	NW/4 SE/4 Sec 12 T23S R44W 1-1/2 miles south of the Arkansas River TOLEDO, alias CARLTON west 6 miles on AT&SF RR
Jun 14 1889		Merrill, William A.
Aug 25 1892		Dickinson, Martin F.
Apr 30 1896		Mayfield, Bessie
Mar 3 1900		Davis, James B.

GRANADA – Continued

Apr 21 1906	Keairns, Frank	
Apr 28 1914	--- SE/4 Sec 12 T23S R44W 210 feet south of the AT&SF	
Dec 21 1914	Baldwin, Charles D.	
Oct 1 1916	Office made Presidential	
Mar 16 1917	Baldwin, Charles D.	P&S
Aug 20 1921	Karn, George W.	P&S
Dec 21 1925	Karn, George W.	P&S
Dec 18 1929	Karn, George W.	P&S
Dec 9 1930	Karn, Alzada	Acting
Mar 10 1931	Morris, Walter H.	Recess appointment
Mar 2 1931	Morris, Walter H.	Nominated, not confirmed
Jan 4 1932	Morris, Walter H.	Nominated
Jan 22 1932	Morris, Walter H.	Confirmed
Feb 12 1932	Morris, Walter H.	Commissioned
Apr 7 1936	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Acting
Apr 16 1936	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Assumed charge
Apr 29 1936	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Nominated
May 7 1936	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Confirmed
May 13 1936	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Appointed Presidential
May 8 1940	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Nominated
May 14 1940	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Confirmed
May 17 1940	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 7 1940	Wion, Mrs. Mildred P.	Commissioned
Oct 31 1941	--- NE/4 SW/4 Sec 12 T23S R44W On US-50, 1/2 block from Colorado 51 (south and west)	
Sep 30 1944	Christopher, Mrs. Vera M.	Acting
Oct 1 1944	Christopher, Mrs. Vera M.	Assumed charge
Jun 14 1946	Barrington, Edward Lee	Nominated
Jul 2 1946	Barrington, Edward Lee	Confirmed
Jul 3 1946	Barrington, Edward Lee	Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Oct 3 1946	Barrington, Edward Lee	Assumed charge
Aug 17 1973	Vagher, Elmer D.	Officer in charge
Jan 5 1974	White, Louise R.	Appointed



GRANADA / COL.

March 6, 1875

GRANADA – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Granada Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Sep 23 1873 Oct 21 1873
2	GRANADA / COL. CI 10P 24.0	Hstp Cork, smudge, grid, double grid	Dec 21 1874 Jun -6 1875
3	GRANADA / COLO. CI 11P 25.0/15.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Mar 14 187- Apr 3 187-
4	GRANADA, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Fancy, Wheel of fortune	Oct 19 1886 Aug 25 1887
5	GRANADA / COLORADO CI 10P 32.5	Hstp Fancy, Wheel of fortune	Aug 25 1887
6	Granada Colo. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jan 21 1893
7	GRANADA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Nov 27 1888 Jan 3 1890
7.1	GRANADA, / COLO. // R.F.D. SL 00R 69.0x18.0	RFD 4 bars with 1	Jun 6 1904
8	GRANADA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	May 24 1907 Jan 25 1909
9	GRANADA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 10-bar oval	Jul 23 1901 Dec 15 1918
9.1	GRANADA / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Dec 17 1909 Nov 18 1913
10	GRANADA, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.5/19.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 20 1913
11	GRANADA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Dec 19 1918 Mar 22 1934
12	GRANADA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Apr 25 1937 Nov 19 1964
13	GRANADA, CO / 81041 CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-25x20mm	Oct 12 1965 Jan 4 1989
14	GRANADA, CO / 81041 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Mar 9 1997 May 13 1997

*Granada Col
10/21/93*

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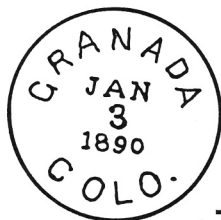
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*Granada etc.
1-2/0 - 1 893*

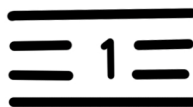
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R. F. D.
JUN 6 P.M. 1904
GRANADA,
COLO.

7.1



8



GRANADA – Continued



9



9.1



10



11



12



13



14



Auxiliary Marking

A1 granada, colorado
 SL 00R 59.0x3.5

Dec 22 191
 AUX Hstp No killer, MISSENT TO GRANADA, COLO.

MISSENT TO GRANADA, COLO.

A-1

HARTMAN

J. P. Pinkham established Hartman in 1906 as a result of the construction of a railroad north of the Arkansas River by a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad.

On April 6, 1907 John Duncan filed a plat for a town to be named Lancaster. It is claimed that the name was from a lumberyard on the site. On April 27, 1908 banker James E. Adamanson filed a plat for Hartman. Initially Duncan and Adamanson were to be partners in the new town. However, the two communities divided over the issue of alcohol – one side choosing to be wet, while the other wanted to remain dry. The Santa Fe took an active interest in Hartman and Lancaster lasted only a year. What was Lancaster is now the west side of Hartman. The town was incorporated May 14, 1910.

Maxine Benson in her book *1001 Colorado Place Names*, tells the following story relative to the naming of Hartman (and Bristol). “Hartman would have been “Bristol,” and vice versa, save for an error in the Chicago office of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe. George Hartman, a Santa Fe superintendent in Kansas before coming to Colorado, owned land near present day Bristol. C. H. Bristol, a Santa Fe manager in La Junta, owned land near present day Hartman. Instead of honoring each man with the name of the townsite closest to his own property, a Santa Fe clerk mistakenly reversed the names.”

HARTMAN – Continued

George W. Hartman was superintendent of construction for the Holly to Swink railroad under W. M. Wiley of the Holly Sugar Company.

The economy of Hartman relied on ranches to the north and on farming, mostly sugar beets, on irrigated land near the Arkansas River. The Dust Bowl era and the decline of sugar beet farming have reduced Hartman to a small community of a few homes and some small agriculture related businesses.

When I first visited Harman in 1972, the post office was in a small store at the end of a block of buildings on the west side of the main street. The building was sadly in need of maintenance. On my second visit in 1997, the neighboring buildings had been torn down and the front of the post office building had been repaired and painted. The store was gone and the post office was the sole occupant of the building.

To reach Hartman, drive north from Granada on US Highway 385 to Colorado Highway 196. Turn east on Colorado 196 and it is five miles to Hartman, which is on the north side of Highway 196.

Latitude = 38:07:13 North Longitude = 102:13:10 West

Chronology of the Post Office

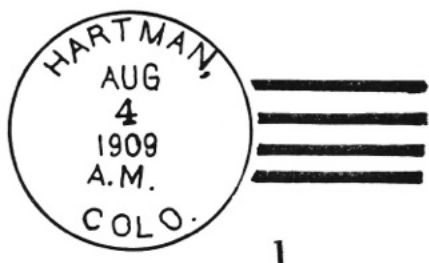
Mar 21 1908	---	Sec 23 T22S R43W	
Mar 2 1908		Established	
Mar 2 1908		Moore, James A.	
Dec 1 1911	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 23 T22S R43W	400 feet southeast of AT&SF tracks
May 8 1914	---	Center Sec 23 T22S R43W	
Aug 12 1920		Connelly, Nellie M.	
Jan 1 1923			Office made Presidential
Feb 24 1923		Connelly, Nellie M.	P&S
Mar 3 1927		Connelly, Nellie M.	P&S
Feb 20 1931		Connelly, Nellie M.	P&S
Sep 5 1933		Paulson, Carl O.	Confirmed
Sep 29 1933		Paulson, Carl O.	Commissioned
Oct 3 1933		Paulson, Carl O.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 23 T22S R43W	Railroad tracks 500 feet north of post office
May 13 1943		Morrow, Beulah B.	Assumed charge
May 22 1943		Morrow, Beulah B.	Acting
Jan 8 1947		Jones, Mrs. Lela A.	Appointed & Confirmed
Jan 27 1947		Jones, Mrs. Lela A.	Commissioned
Feb 15 1947		Jones, Mrs. Lela A.	Possession
May 19 1947	---	Same move as above	
Jun 9 1947	---	Move 1 block south of a previous location	From east side to west side of street, and north end to south end of street
Jun 30 1970		Dennis, Mrs. Dortha F.	Officer in charge
Jul 31 1971		McTaggart, Norvan L.	Appointed, Commissioned & Possession

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HARTMAN, / COLO		Dec 19 1908 Jun 11 1910
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-22x13mm	
2	HARTMAN, / COLO.		Jan 24 1914 Sep 28 1914
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x18mm	
2.1	Hartman		Aug 26 1919
	MS	RFD Manuscript RFD marking "Route A"	
3	HARTMAN, / COLO.		Oct 20 1933 May 25 1944
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	

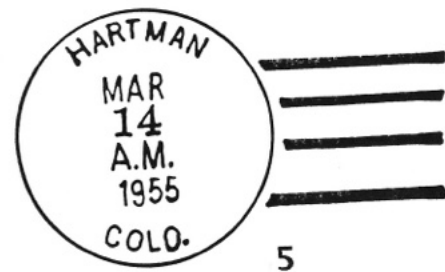
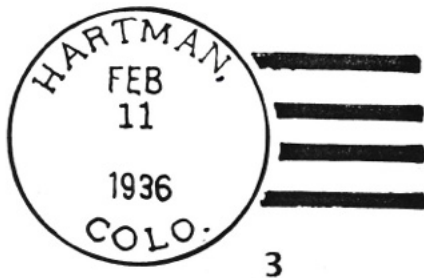
HARTMAN – Continued

4	HARTMAN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Sep 10 1948 May 2 1949
4.1	HARTMAN, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x17.5	1950s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
5	HARTMAN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Mar 14 1955 Feb 15 1960
6	HARTMAN, CO 81043 CI 10P 32.5	Aug 21 1969 Jul 5 1978
7	HARTMAN, CO / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Oct 1 1992
8	HARTMAN CO / 81043 CI 10P 34.0	May 13 1997



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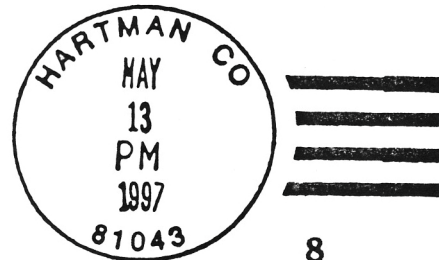
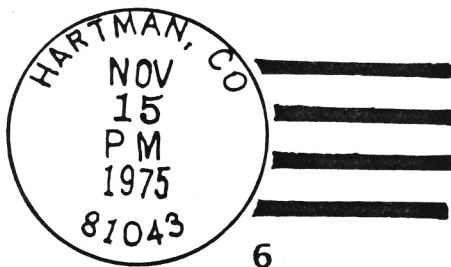
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HOLLY

Hiram S. Holly (or Holley), an Englishman, came to Colorado in 1870 and established a cattle ranch, the SS, which consisted of some 50,000 acres extending from Granada to the Kansas State line.

The Holly ranch acquired a post office in 1880 with Hiram S. Holly as the first postmaster. This post office served the ranches in the area east of Granada.

In 1896 the Arkansas Valley Land and Irrigation Company instituted an irrigation project on land north of the Arkansas River. This project would fuel the development of sugar beet production in the Arkansas Valley.

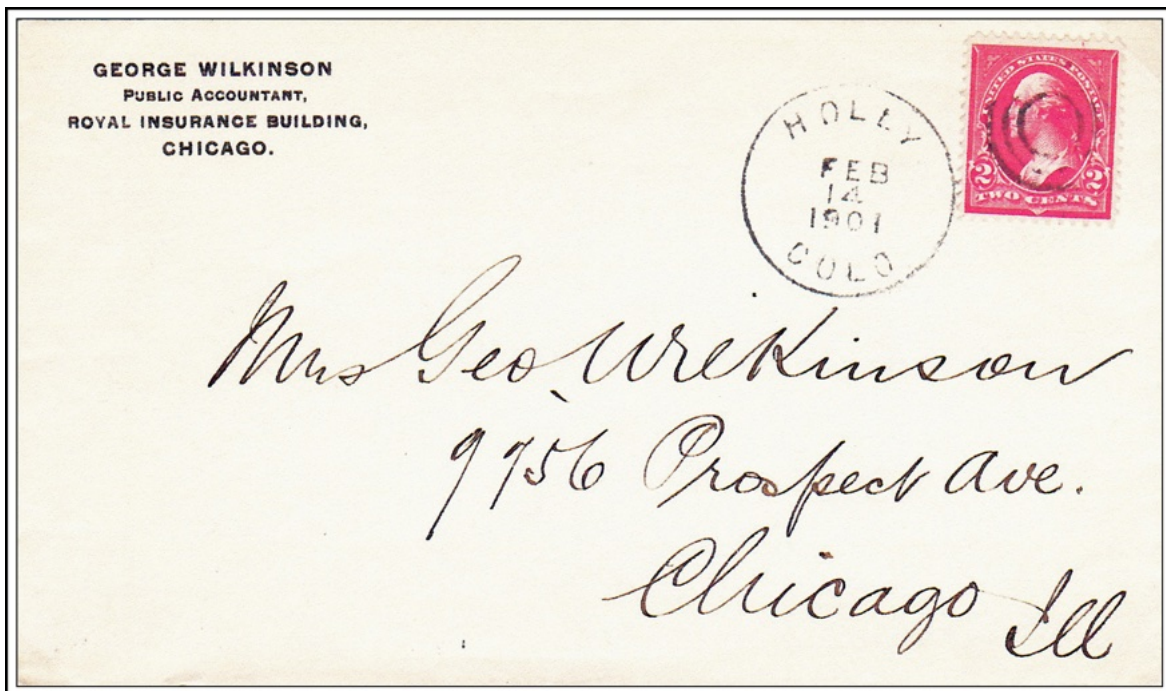
HOLLY – Continued

Another event of 1896 was the platting of a town by N. Coler, which he named Holley’s. The town name was soon modified to Holly, in agreement with the post office name. Ten years later the Holly Sugar Company was formed. From then on the economy of the town depended on the fortunes of the sugar company. Holly was incorporated on September 4, 1903.

Although the fortunes of the local sugar processing plant have declined, Holly remains a community of residences and small businesses that continues to serve ranchers and farmers in the surrounding countryside.

Holly is located at the junction of US Highway 50 and Colorado Highway 89, four miles west of the Colorado-Kansas State line.

Latitude = 38:03:08 North Longitude = 102:07:20 West



HOLLY / COLO.

February 14, 1901

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 20 1880	---	SE/4 Sec 15 T23S R42W 1/2 mile north of the Arkansas River, on east side of Wild Horse Creek South side of AT&SF Railroad, about 100 yards from track	
		Proposed postmaster - Hiram S. Holly	
Nov 26 1880		Established	
Nov 26 1880		Holly, Hiram S.	
Aug 3 1883		Haight, Charles E.	
Dec 7 1883		McPherson, Calvin L.	
Jun 30 1906		McPherson, Calvin L.	P&S
Dec 11 1907		McCreery, Hardin S.	P&S
Sep 2 1911	---	SE/4 Sec 15 T23S R42W 1/2 mile north of the Arkansas River	600 feet north of railroad
Jan 8 1912		Murphy, John E.	P&S
Aug 1 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T23S R42W	750 feet north of the AT&SF railroad
Aug 14 1915		Adkins, John T.	P
Feb 18 1920		Adkins, John T.	P&S

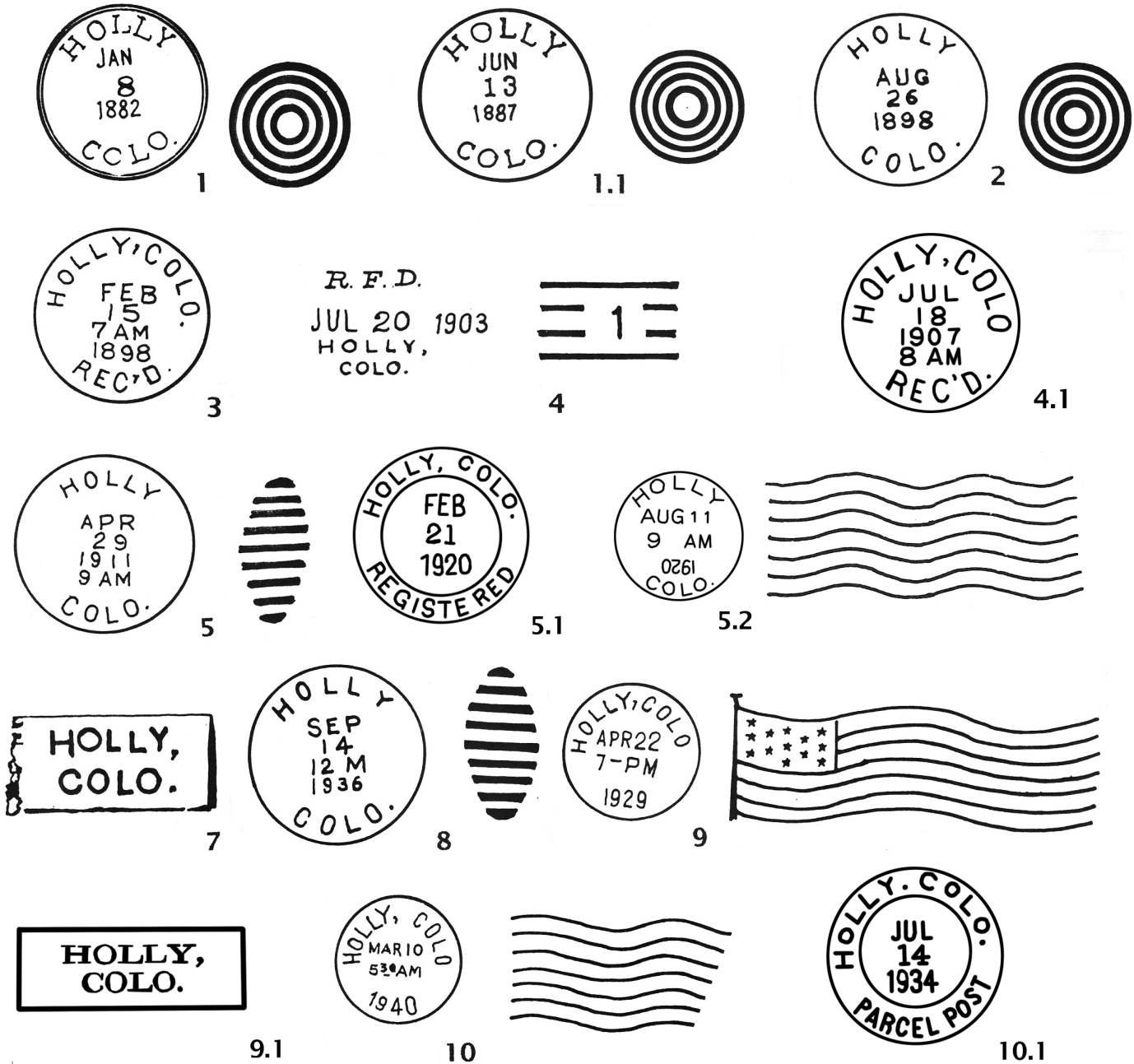
HOLLY – Continued

Apr 7 1924	Steele, Harry D.	
Apr 9 1928	Steele, Harry D.	Nominated
Apr 9 1932	Steele, Harry D.	Nominated, Confirmed & Commissioned
Mar 27 1935	Adkins, John T.	Acting
Mar 28 1935	Adkins, John T.	Assumed charge
Jun 4 1935	Adkins, John T.	Nominated
Jun 10 1935	Adkins, John T.	Confirmed
Jun 11 1935	Adkins, John T.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 22 1935	Adkins, John T.	Commissioned
Aug 2 1939	Adkins, John T.	Nominated
Aug 4 1939	Adkins, John T.	Confirmed
Aug 9 1939	Adkins, John T.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 22 1939	Adkins, John T.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 15 T23S R42W Fourth and Cheyenne Streets AT&SF railroad 750 feet south of post office Arkansas River 3/4 mile south
Mar 31 1942	Shively, Charles Daniel	Acting
Apr 1 1942	Shively, Charles Daniel	Assumed charge
Dec 4 1942	Shively, Charles Daniel	Nominated
Dec 11 1942	Shively, Charles Daniel	Confirmed
Dec 12 1942	Shively, Charles Daniel	Appointed Presidential
Jan 12 1943	Shively, Charles Daniel	Commissioned
Jan 31 1943	Shively, Charles Daniel	Assumed charge
Sep 5 1947	---	Move 100 feet south of previous location to Halberstrom Building AT&SF tracks 760 feet south of post office
Jan 31 1965	Casteel, James W.	Acting
May 21 1965	Casteel, James W.	Confirmed
May 25 1965	Casteel, James W.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1965	Casteel, James W.	Assumed charge
Jun 8 1965	Casteel, James W.	Commissioned
Aug 26 1977	Hoover, Donald G.	Officer in charge
Dec 28 1977	Bollinger, Richard W.	Officer in charge
Aug 12 1978	Cecil, Lyman D.	Appointed
Oct 10 1980	Malensek, Anton	Officer in charge
Jan 9 1981	Vallejos, Valentin	Officer in charge
Mar 7 1981	Rumney, Dion W.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HOLLY / COLO. CI 11P 27.0/25.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Jan 8 1882
1.1	HOLLY / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Jun 13 1887
2	HOLLY / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Nov 15 188- Feb 14 1901
3	HOLLY, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 15 1898
4	HOLLY, / COLO. // R.F.D. SL 00R 37.0x17.0	RFD 4 bars with 1	Jul 20 1903 Sep 5 1904
4.1	HOLLY, COLO. / REC'D CI 10P 28.5	Hstp No killer	Jul 18 1907 Sep 29 1907
5	HOLLY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 8-bar oval	Jan -4 1903 Aug 8 1914
5.1	HOLLY, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 21 1920
5.2	HOLLY, / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Aug 11 1920

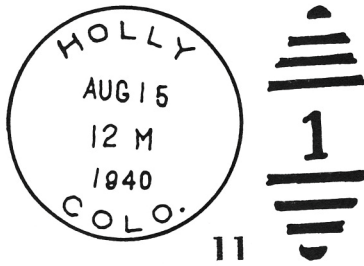
HOLLY – Continued



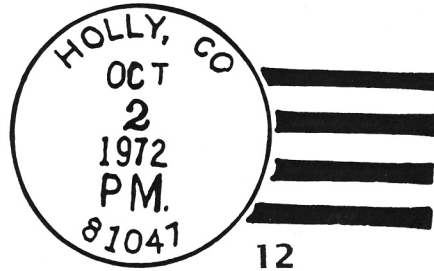
- 6 HOLLY / M.O.B. COLO.
CI 11P 31.0/20.0
- 7 HOLLY, / COLO.
RC 10P 36.0x16.0
- 8 HOLLY / COLO.
CI 10P 35.0
- 9 HOLLY, COLO
CI 10P 22.5

- Oct 26 1922
Hstp No killer
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
--- 193- --- 194-
- Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style
May 29 1926 Aug 21 1938
- Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval
Apr 22 1929 Jun 20 1929
- Flag 13 star waving flag

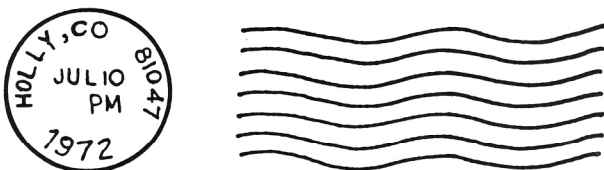
HOLLY – Continued



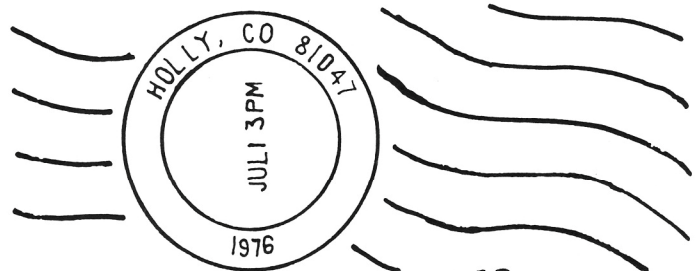
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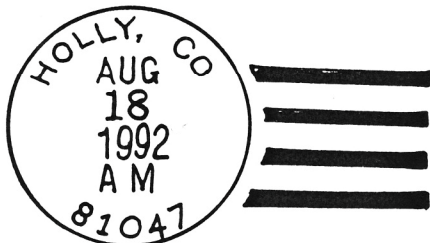
12



12.1



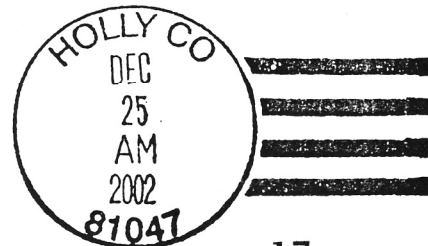
13



14



16



17

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| 9.1 | HOLLY, / COLO.
RC 10P 38.0x15.0 | 1930s Jul 14 1934
Hstp No killer Parcel Post Box style |
| 10 | HOLLY, COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Feb 27 1930 Apr 28 1954
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 10.1 | HOLLY, COLO. / PARCEL POST
CI 11P 30.0/19.0 | Jul 14 1934
Hstp No killer, with 9.1 of same date |
| 11 | HOLLY / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Aug 15 1940 Dec 5 1962
Dplx Grid, diamond with 1 |
| 12 | HOLLY, CO / 81047
CI 10P 32.5 | Mar 12 1970 Oct 2 1972
4bars S-23x20mm |
| 12.1 | HOLLY, CO 81047
CI 10P 21.0 | Sep 13 1968 Apr 17 1978
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 13 | HOLLY, CO 81047
CI 11P 33.0/23.0 | Oct 11 1975 Sep 4 1992
Rolr 7 slanted wavy lines |
| 14 | HOLLY, CO / 81047
CI 10P 31.5 | Dec 25 1990 Aug 18 1992
4bars S-23x19mm |
| 15 | HOLLY, CO 81047 / USPS
CI 11P 26.0/18.0 | Aug 18 1992
Hstp No killer
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 16 | HOLLY CO 81047 / USPS
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 | May 13 1997
Hstp No killer |
| 17 | HOLLY CO / 81047
CI 10P 32.0 | Nov 2 1997 Dec 25 2002
4bars S-25x18mm |

HOLLY – Continued

HONORING OUR VETERANS STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 8 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Holly, CO 81047 // Honoring Our Veterans Station Nov 8 2004
RC 10T 48.0x24.0 Pict Scene – American Flag; Text – Continuing to Serve



1

LAMAR

When Prowers County was created in 1889, Lamar became the county seat, a position it still maintains. Lamar is also the largest town in the Arkansas Valley between La Junta and the Colorado border.

I. R. Holmes, formerly of Garden City, Kansas established Lamar. M. D. Parmeter completed the first house in Lamar on May 5, 1886. The town may have been platted in 1886 but the 1888 fire in the Bent County Court House destroyed the early records. Lamar was incorporated in 1886. The plat on file for Lamar was notarized in 1890.

The choice of the name was a promotional scheme. Holmes was anxious for a government land office to be placed at Lamar. In the hopes of furthering that idea he chose to name the new town for Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar who was the Secretary of the Interior in President Grover Cleveland's cabinet. No one can be certain if that influenced the decision but by July 28, 1886 the bill creating the Bent Land District, with its office in Lamar, had been passed and signed by President Cleveland. L. C. Q. Lamar later became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Post Office Department records show that the post office at Blackwell was moved to Lamar on May 11, 1886. However, the same records set the opening of the Lamar Post Office at July 16, 1886. What happened in the interim has not been recorded. Perhaps it continued to operate briefly as Blackwell. It is probable that the delay in opening the Lamar office was because there was already a Lamar Post Office in Pueblo County. That Lamar closed one week before the opening of the Lamar Post Office in Prowers County.

The founding of Lamar certainly had its share of conflict and controversy. In addition to whatever transpired with the post office there was the matter of securing a depot on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The circumstances surrounding that event have been related in the previous discussion of the history of Blackwell.

The founders of Lamar saw the town as the business center for homesteaders and ranchers in the eastern portion of the Arkansas Valley. With the help of having obtained the county seat and court house the future of Lamar was secured. The town grew rapidly and became, and still is, a major commercial center in the Arkansas Valley.

LAMAR – Continued

Lamar is on the south side of the Arkansas River where US Highways 385 and 287 intersect US Highway 50.

Latitude = 38:05:14 North Longitude = 102:37:13 West



LAMAR, COLO. / REGISTERED

October 18, 1898

An unusual registration cancel

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 11 1886	---	SE/4 Sec 31 T22S R46W 1 mile south of the Arkansas River About 50 rods south of the AT&SF Four miles from Blackwell Proposed postmaster - James W. Decker	
Jul 16 1886		Moved from Blackwell	
Jul 16 1886		Decker, James W.	
Mar 16 1887		Coulther, Benjamin F.	
Mar 26 1887		Outhouse, James C.	
May 15 1888		Outhouse, James C.	P&S
Oct 16 1889		Lee, E. Theodore	P
Aug 26 1892		Lee, E. Theodore	P&S
Aug 14 1894		Van Deusen, Adelbert	P&S
Jan 15 1896		Van Deusen, Adelbert	P&S
Nov 16 1897		Cooper, Daniel E.	P
Jan 10 1898		Cooper, Daniel E.	P&S
Jan 20 1902		Cooper, Daniel E.	P&S
Feb 19 1906		Cooper, Daniel E.	P&S
Jan 6 1910		Mears, Edward M.	P&S
Aug 18 1913	---	SE/4 Sec 31 T22S R46W South side, 900 feet from AT&SF tracks	
Jan 27 1914		Traxler, James B.	P&S
May 6 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 31 T22S R46W 910 feet south of the AT&SF tracks	
Sep 5 1918		Traxler, James B.	P&S
May 26 1921		Markham, Lewis M.	Acting
Nov 2 1921		Markham, Lewis M.	Appointed
Dec 21 1925		Markham, Lewis M.	Appointed

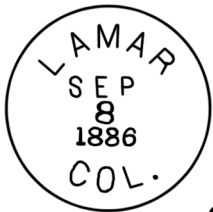
LAMAR – Continued

Dec 18 1929	Markham, Lewis M.	Appointed
Feb 15 1934	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Acting
Feb 16 1934	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Assumed charge
Apr 18 1934	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Nominated
Apr 25 1934	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Confirmed
May 28 1934	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Commissioned
Mar 11 1937 ---	SE/4 Sec 31 T22S R46W In Federal Building	
Apr 29 1938	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Nominated
May 27 1938	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Confirmed
Jun 1 1938	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 27 1938	Applegate, Edward H. Jr.	Commissioned
Nov 1 1941 ---	300 South Fifth Street	
Mar 1 1945	Hunter, Hinton H.	Nominated
Mar 8 1945	Hunter, Hinton H.	Confirmed, Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
May 15 1945	Hunter, Hinton H.	Assumed charge
May 31 1964	Wollard, Young L.	Acting
Aug 26 1965	Wollard, Young L.	Nominated & Confirmed
Aug 30 1965	Wollard, Young L.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 9 1965	Wollard, Young L.	Commissioned
Sep 10 1965	Wollard, Young L.	Assumed charge
Jul 25 1980	Juarez, Jacob	Officer in charge
Dec 27 1980	Shumate, Bennie F.	Appointed

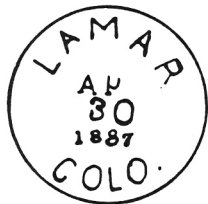
Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	LAMAR / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Sep 8 1886
1	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	Hstp Cork, smudge; Target 4-ring 17mm	Apr 17 1887 Jul 28 1887
2	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring; Cork, Grid, smudge	Aug 31 1887 Jan 19 1889
3	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Nov 19 1890 Oct 21 1891
4	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Sep 15 1892
5	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Jul 15 1893 May 25 1894
6	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Mar 1 1895 May 28 1898
7	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Target; Cork, smudge, negative X-roads	Jun 4 1896 Feb 15 1901
8	LAMAR, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp No killer	Mar 26 1896
8.1	LAMAR, COLO. / REGISTERED IR 00R 33.0/31.0	Hstp No killer Arc with SL REG	Oct 18 1898 Feb 2 1899
9	LAMAR, COLO. / REG. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp No killer	Feb 16 1900
10	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval 8-bar	Jun 11 1902 Mar 22 1908
10.1	LAMAR, COLO. / REGISTERED. CI 11P 32.0/21.0	Hstp No killer REGISTERED in serif letters	Nov 30 1910
11	LAMAR / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Dplx Grid oval with 1 and circle	Oct 25 1909 Feb 20 1917
12	LAMAR, COLO. CI 10P 22.5	Flag 13 star waving flag	Dec 17 1911 Mar 12 1923
12.1	LAMAR, COLO. / REGISTERED. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp On reverse of registered cover	Apr 3 1913

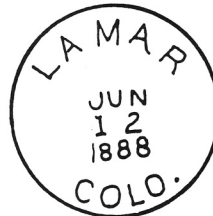
LAMAR - Continued



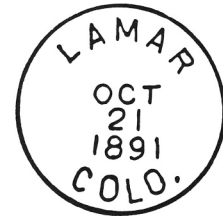
0.1



1



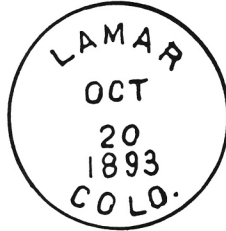
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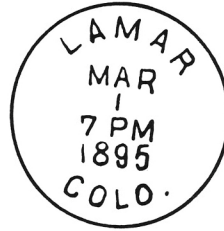
3



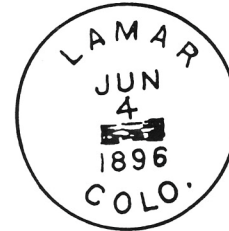
4



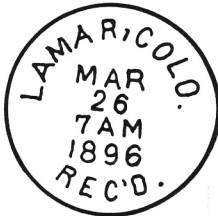
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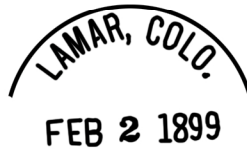
6



7

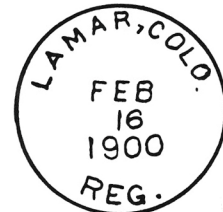


8

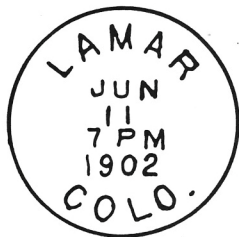


REGISTERED

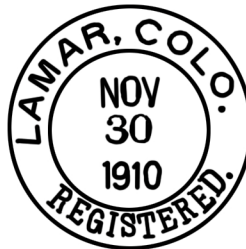
8.1



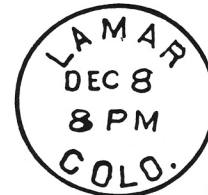
9



10



10.1



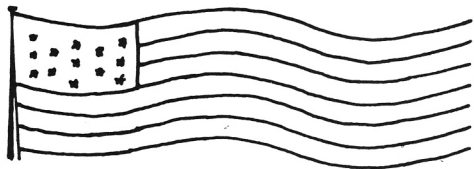
1910



11



12



12.1



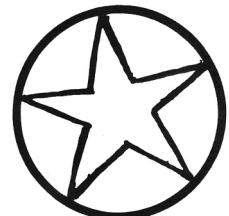
12.2



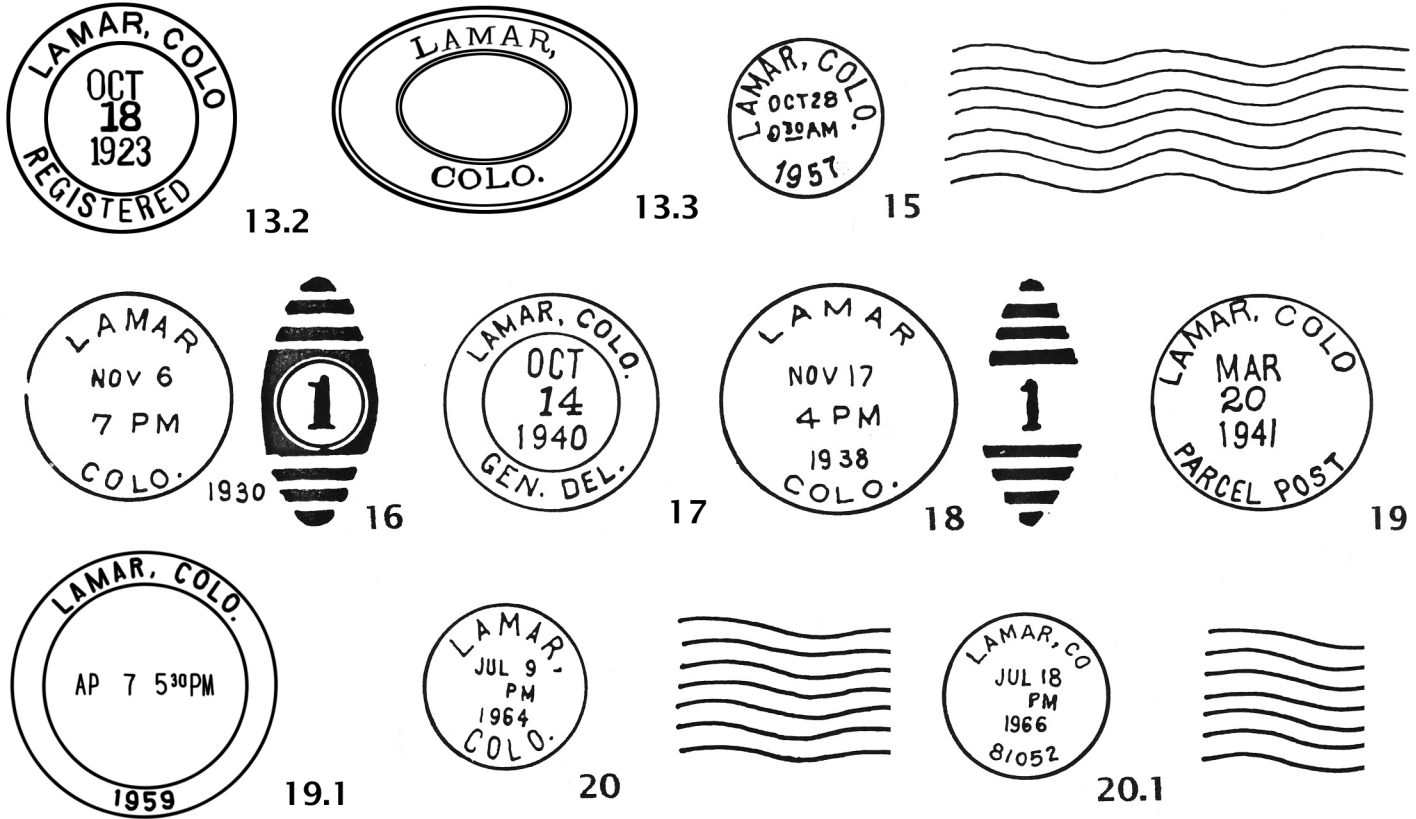
13



13.1



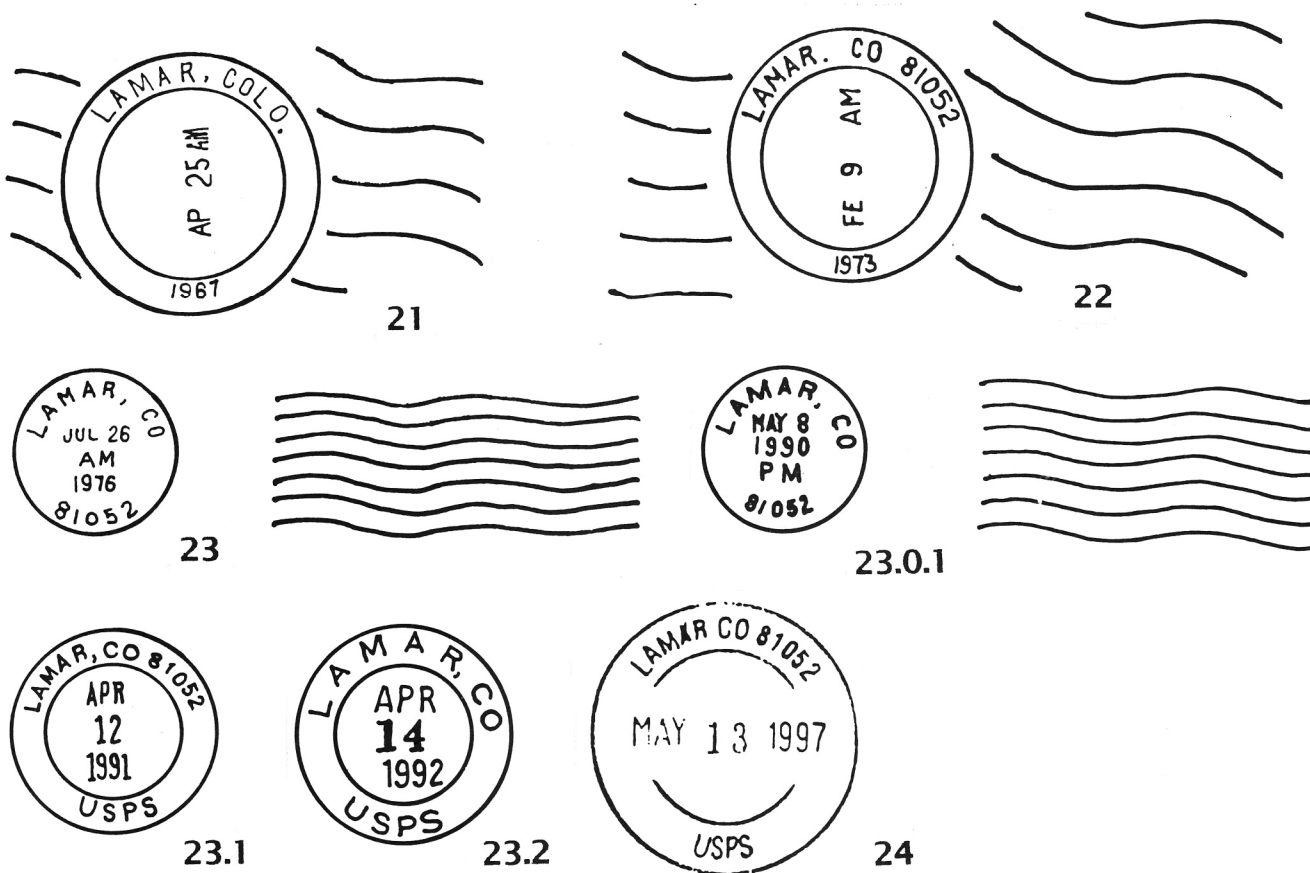
LAMAR – Continued



- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| 12.2 | LAMAR, / COLO.
RC 10P 36.0x18.0 | Apr 3 1913
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style as killer on front of above registered letter of same date |
| 13 | LAMAR, COLO.
CI 10P 22.0 | May 18 1917 May 28 1917
Flag Slogan in flag: YOUNG MENS / BUSINESS CLUBS / OF AMERICA / LAMAR, COLO. / AUGUST 29th-30th 1917 |
| 13.1 | LAMAR, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 28.5/18.5 | Nov 15 1919 Jul 22 1924
Hstp Backstamp with black fancy outline star-in-circle on front |
| 13.2 | LAMAR, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 30.0/20.0 | Oct 18 1923 Jan 19 1926
Hstp No killer |
| 13.3 | LAMAR, / COLO.
OV 1H11P 40.0x27.0/38.0x25.0/23.0x15.0/22.0x14.0 | Nov 8 1923 Jul 22 1924
Hstp No killer Blind oval |
| 14 | LAMAR / COLO. M.O.B.
CI 11P 29.9/19.0 | Jan 16 1925
Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 15 | LAMAR, COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Sep 1 1931 Aug 25 1959
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 16 | LAMAR / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Jan 19 1921 Nov 6 1935
Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle |
| 17 | LAMAR, COLO. / GEN. DEL.
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Jul 2 1935 Oct 14 1940
Hstp No killer, used as backstamp |
| 18 | LAMAR / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Sep 20 1938 Jun 20 1951
Dplx Grid, diamond with 1 |
| 19 | LAMAR, COLO. / PARCEL POST
CI 10P 28.0 | Mar 20 1941
Hstp No killer |
| 19.1 | LAMAR, COLO.
CI 11P 35.0/27.0 | Apr 7 1959
Hstp No killer |
| 20 | LAMAR, / COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Jul 8 1963 Feb 17 1966
Mach 7 wavy lines |

LAMAR – Continued

20.1	LAMAR, CO / 81052 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jul 18 1966 Jan 13 1967
21	LAMAR, COLO. CI 11P 33.0/24.0	Rolr 6 wavy lines	Feb 4 1966 Apr 25 1967
22	LAMAR, CO 81052 CI 11P 32.0/23.0	Rolr 7 wavy lines	Nov 9 1969 May 30 1975
23	LAMAR, CO / 81052 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jan 24 1972 Jul 26 1976
23.0.1	LAMAR, CO / 81052 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	May 8 1990 Jul 4 1990
23.1	LAMAR, CO 81052 / USPS CI 11P 27.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 12 1991
23.2	LAMAR, CO / USPS CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 14 1992
24	LAMAR CO 81052 / USPS CI 1AP 35.0x22.0	Hstp No Killer, interrupted inner circle	May 13 1997



LAMAR BRANCHES AND STATIONS

AMACHE BRANCH

In February of 1942 President Roosevelt signed an executive order authorizing the removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The Japanese were moved to a series of internment camps, largely in the interior of the western United States. One such camp, Amache, was located in Colorado.

LAMAR BRANCHES AND STATIONS – Continued

AMACHE BRANCH – Continued

Amache was a Branch Post Office of Lamar even though it was less than two miles southwest of the Granada Post Office. Initially the War Relocation Authority acquired 8,000 acres for the Amache Camp. Eventually the camp grew to 11,000 acres in size. The camp was named for the daughter of the Cheyenne Chief *Ochinee* (Lone Wolf). At the age of fifteen she married John Wesley Prowers, a prominent cattleman, for whom Prowers County is named.

The first internees arrived in August 1942. At its peak the camp was home to almost 10,000 people. After the end of the war, the internees were released and the last group of 126 left on October 15, 1945. The camp officially closed on January 27, 1946 after all the facilities had been sold at auction.

The Postal Operations at Amache, and the other relocation centers, were not always smooth and efficient. Recently the Collectors Club of Chicago published a revised edition of the book *The United States Post Office In World War II*, edited by Lawrence Sherman, MD. The Collectors Club has granted permission to reprint excerpts from that book relative to the operation at Amache. That material will follow this chapter on Prowers County. [SRM: This material is not available in the digital revision.]

In October 1997, a mile east of Granada, there was a weathered sign on the south side of US Highway 50 that directed you to Amache and another sign for a sanitary landfill. Go a half-mile down that road and turn east to the entrance to Amache. The sign was difficult to read when coming from the west and it may not even be visible from the east. A more reliable route is from the intersection with US 385 in Granada. Turn south from US 50 and at the end of the paved street, turn west on a dirt road. The entrance into the Amache complex is one mile from US 50.

Several of the barracks that housed the internees remain at Amache. In recent years the buildings have served as housing for migrant workers harvesting crops on the Arkansas Valley farms.

Latitude = 38:02:37 North Longitude = 102:20:08 West [AMACHE CEMETERY]

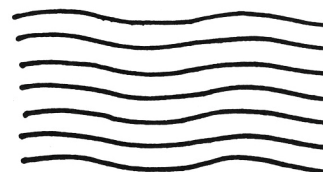
Latitude = 38:02:55 North Longitude = 102:19:40 West [CAMP AMACHE]

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 17 1942 -- NW/4 Sec 14 T23S R44W US-50 1-1/2 miles north Arkansas River 1 mile north AT&SF 1 mile north Survey map (difficult to read) shows it to be 692.4 feet north 1 deg 21' W and west 2,613.9 feet north 89 deg 47' E from the northeast corner of post office to the northwest corner of section 14
- Sep 15 1942 Established as a Branch of Lamar
- Feb 9 1945 Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | AMACHE / COLO.
CI 10P 30.5 | Sep 30 1942 May 28 1945
Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1 |
| 2 | LAMAR, COLO. / AMACHE BR.
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Nov 21 1942 Jul 4 1945
Hstp No killer, on reverse |
| 3 | AMACHE. COLO. / RECEIVED
CI 10P 33.0 | Nov 21 1942 Jul 4 1945
Hstp No killer, on reverse |
| 4 | AMACHE / COLO.
CI 10P 20.5 | Jul 12 1943 Jul 4 1945
Mach 7 wavy lines |



LAMAR BRANCHES AND STATIONS – Continued

C.O.D. STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

----- Established

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE C.O.D. STATION

CENTENNIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

May 24 1986 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 LAMAR / COLORADO / CENTENNIAL STATION . 81052 May 24 1986
 IR 00R 52.0x39.0 Pict Scene - Railroad tracks, Pioneer Woman, Plow;
 Text - 1886 / 100 ALL AMERICAN YEARS



1

WAL*MART STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 17 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 LAMAR, CO / 81052 :: WAL*MART / STATION Apr 17 1999
 CI 10P 24.0 Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny



1

MARTYNIA

The Martynia Post Office was northwest of Lamar, in the neighborhood of the Harper/Adrian School House and in the general area that was referred to as Pleasant Valley. At first the settlement was called Adrian but that was soon changed to Martynia. By the end of 1901 the area acquired the name Empire Valley which encompassed the farmers of the Pleasant Valley, Big Bend and Enterprise communities.

MARTYNIA – Continued

Flash floods, dry weather and bank closures during the early 1890's devastated the economy and Martynia was short-lived. In 1900 a new post office, Rowe, was opened a mile to the southeast of the Martynia site. That too was short-lived, lasting only two years. In 1907, with the opening of the Wiley Post Office, a third try was made to establish postal service in the area. Still operating, Wiley seems to meet a continuing need for service.

To visit the site of Martynia begin at the intersection of US Highways 50 and 287, one mile east of the Prowers-Bent County line. Drive north four miles, one mile beyond Wiley. Martynia was in the northwest corner of the road intersection at that point. Because of an error I made in my initial plot of the location, I have not actually visited the location. However, the county highway map indicates a number of buildings scattered around the area.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 5 1892 --- SE/4 Sec 31 T21S R47W 5 miles north of the Arkansas River
4 miles east of Grave Yard Creek
Proposed postmaster - Daniel L. Gilbert
May 27 1892 Established
May 27 1892 Gilbert, Daniel L.
Jul 25 1893 Discontinued Papers to Lamar

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MARTYNIA

McMILLIN

In 1875 James McMillin, with his family, moved from Pennsylvania to the Arkansas River Valley and established a ranch about midway between present day Lamar and Granada. Soon thereafter the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad resumed construction and enhanced his location. In 1886 a post office was established at McMillin but there is no evidence that a viable community developed. McMillin has been referenced as a "railroad post office."

The McMillin Post Office lasted for only a single year, then the name was changed to Toledo, at least according to the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments. There is some confusion about the change in name. Please refer to the discussion of Carlton for a review of the relationship between McMillin, Toledo and Carlton.

McMillin was on the north side of the railroad, two miles west of Carlton. The location is where US Highway 50 from Carlton makes a slight bend from a west-northwest direction to a due west direction. This is a little more than 9 miles east of US 287 and US 385 in Lamar. Only open fields and a few trees occupy the site of McMillin.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 12 1885 --- NW/4 Sec 35 T22S R45W 1/2 mile east of McMillin Creek
1/2 mile south of the Arkansas River 75 rods north of railroad
Proposed postmaster - John M. McMillin
May 1 1886 Established
May 1 1886 McMillin, John M.
Apr 16 1887 Name changed to Toledo

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 McMILLIN, COLO. / BENT CO. Jul 4 1887
OV 20T 38.0x23.0 Hstp Fancy, Octagonal double grid

McMILLIN – Continued



1



MULVANE

Mulvane began during the Baca County land boom of the 1880's. A town plat for Mulvane was filed on July 22, 1889. At its high point it has been claimed that Mulvane was home to about one hundred people. Another impetus for the town was that it was on the line of a proposed railway along the southern edge of what is now Prowers County. The railroad was never built and a return to a drought like climate spelled the end of Mulvane.

From Lamar, drive south on US Highways 287 and 385 to Prowers County Road B .5 and turn west on B.5. This road is one and one-half miles north of the Prowers-Baca County line. One-half mile from US 287/385, Road B .5 turns north as Road 7.5 to Road C. To continue towards Mulvane, you have no choice at this turn and at Road C you will have to turn back to the west. Continue west on Road C for five miles. At that point a ranch road leads south three-quarters of a mile to the site of Mulvane. In 1997 there was an occupied ranch at the end of that road.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 26 1888	---	SW/4 Sec 29 T27S R47W 1 mile north of Butte Creek Proposed postmaster - Elwood E. Pike
Jun 8 1888		Established [Spelled Mulrane in 1890-1892 postal guides]
Jun 8 1888		Pike, Elwood E.
Dec 21 1892		Waldo, William W.
Feb 20 1893		Discontinued Mail to Wilde

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 MULVANE / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0

Apr 7 1890

Hstp No killer



1

NORTHWAY

Northway was one of the series of communities that paralleled the southern boundary of Prowers County. It came into being during the second wave of homesteading and agricultural development in southeastern Colorado. Unfortunately, like the boom of the 1890's, this one too ended when the climate returned to its normal semi-arid standard and then plunged into the Dust Bowl years of the 1930's.

Northway did have a combination grocery store and post office. But, it seems there were never more than a few homes and the community was not platted.

The name appears to be derived from the name of the first and only postmaster, Ella North.

NORTHWAY – Continued

To reach Northway, from Lamar drive south on US Highways 287 and 385 to Prowers County Road B .5 and then turn east on B .5. This road is one and one-half miles north of the Prowers-Baca County line, and if you turn west, will take you towards Mulvane. Five miles to the east of US 287/385, turn north on County Road 13 to County Road C. Turn east on Road C three miles to Road 16 and then turn south. Northway was in the area east of Road 16 and south of Road C. In 1997 a windmill and an abandoned building were all that remained. Following this route to Northway will take you by the sites of Verdun (one mile) and Wilde (two miles) east of US 285/287.



Northway, Colorado
Telephoto view of a windmill and abandoned cabin at the site of Northway
Photograph by William H. Bauer October 4, 1997

Chronology of the Post Office

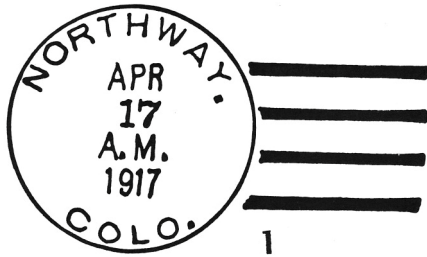
Mar 10 1916 --- NW/4 Sec 27 T27S R45W 1/2 mile north of Two Butte Creek
Two miles north of the County boundary
Proposed postmaster - Ella North

May 29 1916 Established
May 29 1916 North, Ella
May 31 1919 Discontinued Mail to Duer
Aug 30 1919 Discontinued Mail to Duer
[Both dates are given in the microfilm records]

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 NORTHWAY, / COLO. Apr 17 1917 Dec 15 1917
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x20mm

NORTHWAY – Continued



PLAINS

Plains was a rural post office on the road from Holly, Colorado to Oklahoma. Like Northway it consisted of a combination country store and post office, and perhaps a few residences. Since it was on a traveled route, it lasted for a few years but eventually fell victim to the declining agricultural economy of the area.

It seems likely that the name, Plains, was a reflection of the location; however, there is some indication that Butte was the desired name for the settlement.

To visit the site of Plains, drive south from Holly on Colorado Highway 89 for somewhat more than 25 miles to Prowers County Road D. Turn west on County Road D for seven miles to the intersection with County Road 28. Plains was in the northeast quadrant of this intersection. The Star Community Church is in that corner. The surrounding area is open fields.

SRM: There are several puzzling aspects concerning the location of Plains and the Site Location Reports. First, is the move in 1911 of nearly 15 miles in a southwesterly direction. The descriptions of the nearest post offices and railroads in both reports fit this move. But, the sketch map accompanying the 1911 report is very confusing. The written description shows section 15 crossed out and section 27 written in. Yet the actual sketch shows the post office location in the southeast quarter of section 13!

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 21 1908	---	NE/4 Sec 11 T25S R42W Butte Creek is 5 miles west There is some indication that this was to be Butte.
Jan 11 1908		Established
Jan 11 1908		Sheets, J. N.
Aug 19 1908		Ordered closed
Feb 15 1909		Discontinued Mail to Holly
Jul 8 1911	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T27S R43W 2 miles north of Two Buttes Creek [SRM: No explanation for the move nearly 15 miles southwest in 1911; but the Site Location Reports indicate this occurred]
Aug 22 1911		Re-established
Aug 22 1911		Garrett, William O.
Jul 11 1919		Kelley, Eurick L.
Aug 16 1920		Discontinued Mail to Lycan
Aug 30 1920		Re-established
Aug 30 1920		Weills, Earl P.
Mar 15 1921		Discontinued Mail to Lycan

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 PLAINS, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0

4bars S-24x19mm

Mar 21 1913 Jul 10 1917

PLAINS – Continued



ROWE

Rowe was the second attempt to provide postal service to the area northwest of Lamar and north of the Arkansas River. Located in the area known as Pleasant Valley, it did last a year longer than its predecessor, Martynia. Seven years later the Wiley Post Office would open and has remained open.

From the descriptions given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports, the locations of Rowe and Wiley are in the same quarter section.

The area was known as Pleasant Valley and that was the name first submitted for the post office. For reasons unknown that name was rejected and Rowe was assigned. In 1906 J. F. Rowe sold 80 acres of land to the Big Bend Town and Improvement Company. That parcel of land became the townsite for Wiley. Thus it is likely that the town of Rowe was named for J. F. Rowe or his family.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the economy of the area was based on farming, mostly the growing of sugar beets. Agriculture is still important to the economy of Wiley but production has declined in response to the shrinking demand for sugar beets and the purchase of Arkansas River water rights by the Front Range cities to feed their insatiable demand for water.

One mile east of the Bent-Prowers County line, turn north from US Highway 50 onto US 287. Go three miles to the intersection with Colorado Highway 196. The site of Rowe (and Wiley) is on the east side of US 287. As Wiley, it is still an active community with a number of homes and small, agricultural related businesses.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 3 1898 --- NW/4 Sec 8 T22S R47W 1/8 mile east of Big Bend Creek Six miles north of railroad
Proposed postmaster - Noble Earnest Carley
- Nov 30 1898 Established
- Nov 30 1898 Carley, Noble E.
- Jul 11 1900 Rowe, Hiram G.
- Sep 21 1900 Ordered closed
- Sep 29 1900 Discontinued Papers to Lamar

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ROWE

TOLEDO

The history of the location of the Toledo Post Office and confusion of names applied to that location has already been discussed in the segments devoted to the Carlton and McMillin Post Offices.

Please refer to those discussions for the history, description, and directions to the site of Toledo.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jun 12 1885 --- NW/4 Sec 35 T22S R45W 1/2 mile east of McMillin Creek
1/2 mile south of the Arkansas River 75 rods north of railroad
Proposed postmaster - John M. McMillin

TOLEDO – Continued

Jun 30 1886 --- NE/4 Sec 1 T23S R45W 1 mile south of Arkansas River
South side of AT&SF, Carlton Station
Proposed postmaster - James P. Silsby

Apr 16 1887 Name changed from McMillin
Apr 16 1887 Brittain, George W.
Mar 30 1888 Heintz, Charles W.
Sep 16 1889 Discontinued Papers to Granada

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 TOLEDO / COLO. Apr 24 1888 May 13 1888
CI 20H 28.0/24.0 Hstp Fancy; wheel-of-fortune



1

**VERDUN**

Verdun was a very short-lived rural post office a mile and a half north of the Prowers-Baca County line. I have not found any information as to what was there, if anything other than a ranch that housed the post office.

When the Geographical Site Location Report was filed for the new post office, the suggested name was William. George W. Williams was the proposed postmaster but by this time the Post Office Department did not favor the use of the names of postmasters. So, Verdun was the assigned name, likely for the famous World War I battlefield in France which would have been fresh in people's memory.

To reach Verdun, from Lamar drive south on US Highways 287 and 385 to Prowers County Road B.5 and then turn east on B.5. This road is one and one-half miles north of the Prowers-Baca County line and if you turn west, will take you to Mulvane. The site of Verdun was one mile east of US 287-385 and on the north side of Road B.5. That area consists of open fields. But there are some buildings of indeterminate age on the south side of the road. As you approach the site you will be treated to an excellent view of the Two Buttes, about four miles to the east.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 26 1919 --- NE/4 Sec 29 T27S R46W 1-1/2 miles north of Butte Creek
Applicant for postmaster - George W. Williams

Feb 2 1920 Established
Feb 2 1920 Williams, George W.
Jun 15 1920 Discontinued Mail to Springfield

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Verdun Colo Mar 2 1920 Mar 20 1920
MS Mscp Pen cancel

Verdun

Colo

1

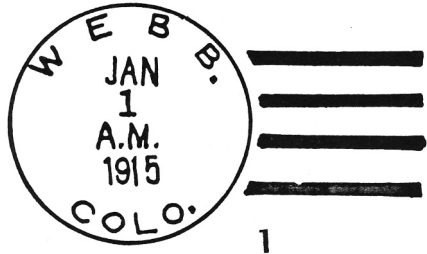
WEBB – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 WEBB, / COLO.
 CI 10P 31.0

Dec 14 1914 Jul 9 1915

4bars S-24x19mm



WILDE

The Wilde Town Company was organized on February 1, 1887 during the initial homestead boom in southeastern Colorado. It was situated near the halfway point on the stage road from Lamar to Springfield in Baca County. Together with Mulvane to the west and Albany to the east it was along the proposed route of a railroad from Dodge City, Kansas to Trinidad, Colorado. The railroad was never built and the increasing aridity of the climate during the 1890's soon ended this period of homestead activity.

Even though the post office only lasted until 1893, Wilde could be found on maps for another twenty years. No explanation has been offered for the source of the name.

To reach the site of Wilde, follow the directions to Verdun. Go one mile east of Verdun, on Prowers County Road B.5 (Two miles east of US 287-385). Like Verdun, Wilde was, according to the Geographic Site Location Report, on the north side of Road B.5. However no structures remain at the location.

The 1967 General Highway Map of Prowers County Colorado spots the Two Buttes Reservoir Airport a mile to the southeast of the Wilde location. The Wilde cemetery is also shown a mile and a half to the east.

Chronology of the Post Office

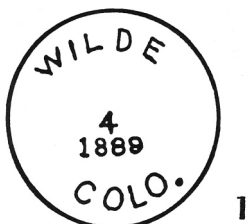
- Apr 20 1887 --- NE/4 Sec 28 T27S R46W 2 miles north of Butte Creek
 Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Damaris Tracey
- Aug 6 1887 Established
- Aug 6 1887 Tracy, Mrs. Damaris
- Feb 10 1888 Rogers, Alfred H.
- Apr 4 1890 Dickason, David H.
- Sep 5 1892 Glenn, Joshua W. Declined
- Jun 10 1893 Discontinued Papers to Lamar

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 WILDE / COLO.
 CI 10P 27.5

Sep 17, 188- --- 4 1889

Hstp Target



WILEY

The Wiley Post Office was the third attempt to establish postal service in the area known as Pleasant Valley, ten miles northwest of Lamar. The previous efforts, Martynia and Rowe, were both short-lived. The Wiley Post Office has lasted almost a hundred years.

The town of Wiley began in 1899, as Rowe. On May 31, 1906 the Big Bend Town and Improvement Company bought 80 acres of farmland from J. F. Rowe and by July 31 the a new town was surveyed and a plat for the town of Wiley was filed. The town was incorporated January 28, 1909. W. J. Blesser is credited with building the first brick building on Main Street, the Wiley Mercantile, and as he was the first postmaster it can be assumed the post office was in his store. Wiley was named for William M. Wiley, one of the town's promoters and at one time president of the Holly Sugar Company.

The construction through Pleasant Valley of the Holly to Swink Branch of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway provided a strong push to the development of Wiley. Wiley became a shipping point for farm and ranch produce. The town promoters also hoped that a sugar beet processing plant would be built in Wiley. That did not happen.

Wiley serves an agricultural region with a number of small businesses in a modest business district. There are a number of well-kept residences. However, early Lamar increasingly dominates the business activity for a large area of southeastern Colorado, including Wiley.

One mile east of the Bent-Prowers County line, turn north on US 287 from US Highway 50 and go two miles to the junction with Colorado Highway 196. Turn east at the junction and follow Colorado 196 east and then quickly turn north into Wiley, about one mile from US 287.

Latitude = 38:09:15 North Longitude = 102:43:09 West



WILEY, COLO. / REGISTERED

July 9, 1928

WILEY – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

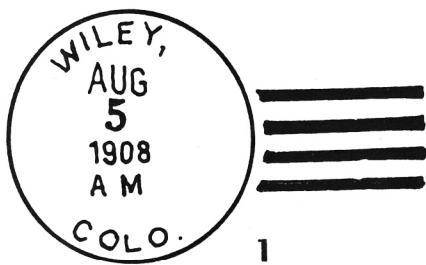
Feb 18 1907	---	NW/4 Sec 8 T22S R47W 70 rods south to the Santa Fe tracks 1/4 mile east to Pleasant Valley Creek	
Apr 22 1907		Established	
Apr 27 1907		Blosser, William H.	
Sep 11 1911	---	SW/4 Sec 8 T22S R47W 800 feet from AT&SF	
May 15 1913		Minehouse, Mary M.	
May 4 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 8 T22S R47W 300 feet north of the Arkansas Valley RR	
Oct 1 1917			Office made Presidential
Jan 24 1918		Minehouse, Mary M.	P&S
Apr 14 1922		Harner, Roy H.	P&S
Apr 28 1926		Harner, Roy H.	P&S
May 2 1930		Harner, Roy H.	P&S
Jun 25 1934		Davis, Carl H.	Acting
Jul 1 1934		Davis, Carl H.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1935		Davis, Carl H.	Nominated
Jan 21 1935		Davis, Carl H.	Confirmed
Feb 6 1935		Davis, Carl H.	Commissioned
Mar 31 1935		Davis, Carl H.	Assumed charge
Jun 5 1939		Davis, Carl H.	Nominated
Jun 12 1939		Davis, Carl H.	Confirmed
Jun 15 1939		Davis, Carl H.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 21 1939		Davis, Carl H.	Commissioned
Jul 31 1939		Davis, Carl H.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 8 T22S R47W 1/4 mile south to railroad Arkansas River 3 miles south of post office	
Jun 30 1956		Cramb, Bruce N.	Assumed charge
Jun 10 1957		Cramb, Bruce N.	Nominated
Aug 5 1957		Cramb, Bruce N.	Confirmed
Aug 6 1957		Cramb, Bruce N.	Appointed Acting Postmaster
Dec 27 1957		Horner, Mrs. Letha May	Assumed charge
Dec 31 1957		Horner, Mrs. Letha May	Acting
Mar 21 1961		Thompson, Wallace R.	Acting
Oct 8 1962		Thompson, Wallace R.	Appointed
Oct 26 1962		Thompson, Wallace R.	Assumed charge

Confirmed types of postal markings

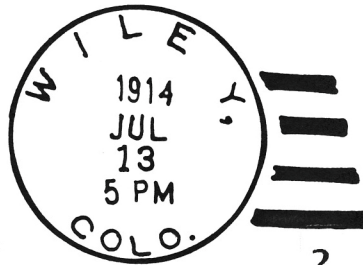
1	WILEY, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	bars S-23x13mm	Jan 2 1908 Aug 3 1909
2	WILEY, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Sep 8 1913 Jul 13 1914
3	WILEY / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Jun 23 1917 Dec 16 1919
4	WILEY, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 9 1928
4.1	WILEY, / COLO. RC 10P 27.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post box style	--- -- 193-
5	WILEY / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Apr 6 1932 Feb 18 1936
6	WILEY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Feb 5 1937 Jul 20 1951
7	WILEY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	May 6 1943 Oct 13 1945
7.1	WILEY, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x18.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style	1950s [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

WILEY – Continued

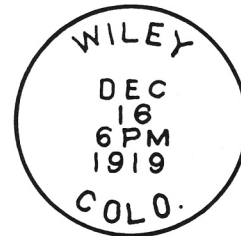
8	WILEY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 8 1959 Jul 11 1962
9	WILEY, CO / 81092 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 10 1967 Aug 31 1978
9.0.1	WILEY, CO / 81092 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jun 9 1969 Apr 24 1971
9.1	WILEY, CO / 81092 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 26 1980 Apr 26 1995
9.2	WILEY, CO / 81092 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 7 1987 Oct 15 1991
10	WILEY, CO / 81092 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-11x23mm	May 13 1997



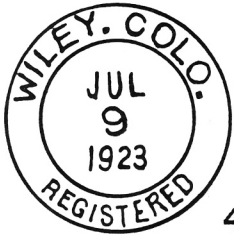
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2



3



4



4.1



5



6



7



8



9



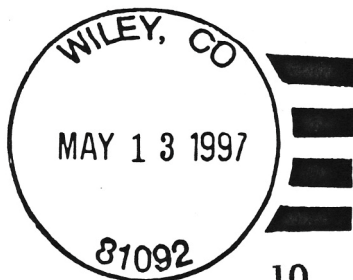
9.0.1



9.1



9.2



10

ZUCK

Zuck has a singular distinction. It is the last entry in the alphabetical list of Colorado Post Offices.

The history of Zuck is tied to the early history of Granada and to the later history of Barton. Other names applied to the location were Adana and Byron. The procession of names has been discussed in the previous segment that tells the history of Barton.

The site that later became Zuck began as Granada, the end-of-track for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad from 1873 to 1875. When the railroad resumed construction, only a hotel, the XY ranch house and outbuildings, and the railroad station remained. From a center for railroad men, buffalo hunters and pioneer ranchers, the site dwindled to a ranch headquarters, albeit the headquarters of a famous ranch. The XY provided fresh beef to cut into the succulent steaks for which Harvey Houses along the Santa Fe Railroad became famous.

If you wish to visit Zuck, refer to the directions to the location given in the discussion of Barton. There are still a few scattered buildings and a series of large grain storage tanks. Perhaps you will even be as fortunate as Jim Ozment and I were when visiting Zuck in October 1997. Jim was overjoyed when the westbound AMTRAK passenger train came rumbling into town. It did not stop.



Ranch buildings at the site of Zuck, Colorado

This was also the original site of Granada, and later of Barton.

Photograph by William H. Bauer

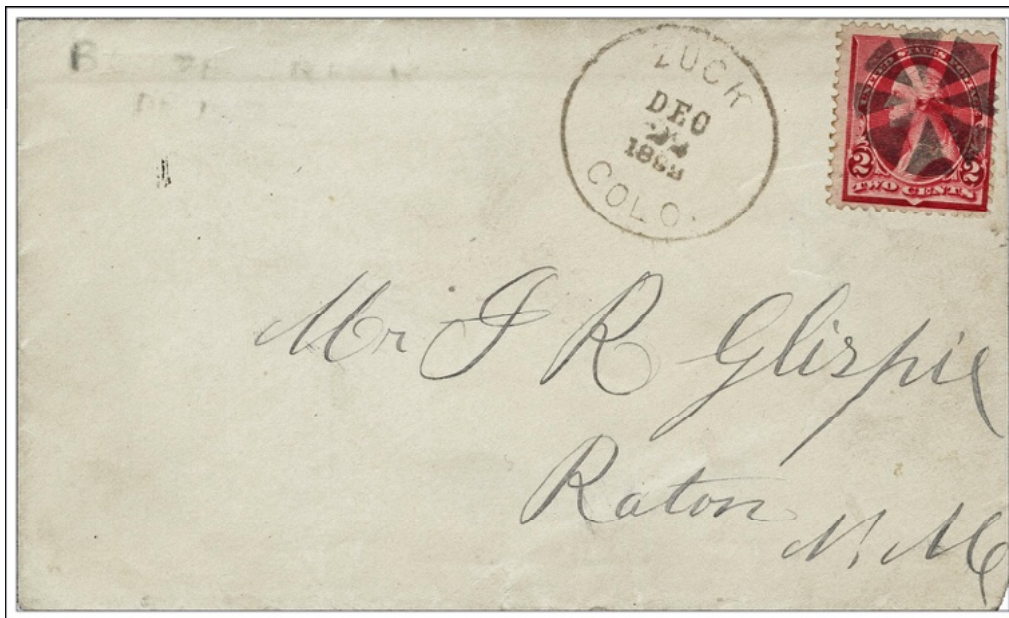
October 4, 1997

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 11 1891 --- NW/4 Sec 15 T23S R43W Granada is 3-3/4 miles westerly from the proposed office
 1/2 mile east of the Arkansas River 5 miles west of Butte Creek
 It will be 25 yards from the main track (AT&SF) on the north side, is called Adana
 Sketch map shows it on the west side of the Arkansas River
 Proposed postmaster - William Henry McKeown

ZUCK – Continued

Dec 26 1891	Established
Dec 26 1891	McKeown, William H.
May 26 1892	Robertson, J. Scott
Mar 29 1895	Post office moved to Barton



ZUCK / COLO.

December 22, 1892

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ZUCK / COLO.
CI 10P 28.5

Dec 22 1892 Oct 28 1893

Hstp Cork, circle of 8 wedges, smudge, target, 4-ring 18mm



1



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Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

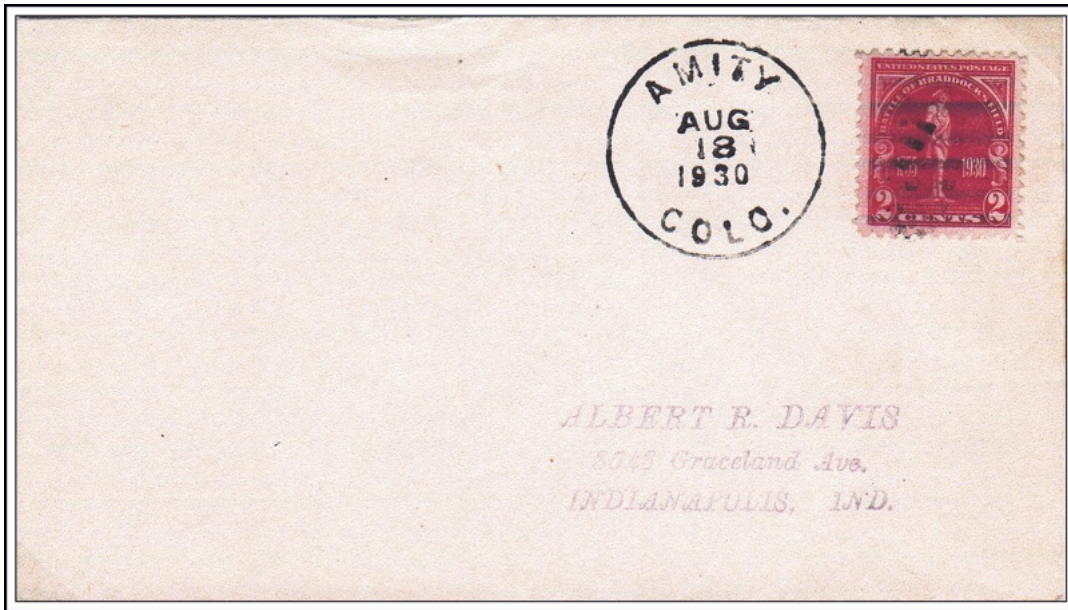
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GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams and rivers, to railroads and to nearby existing post offices.

A GALLERY OF PROWERS COUNTY COVERS



AMITY / COLO.

August 18, 1930



BLACKWELL / COLO.

February 2, 1886



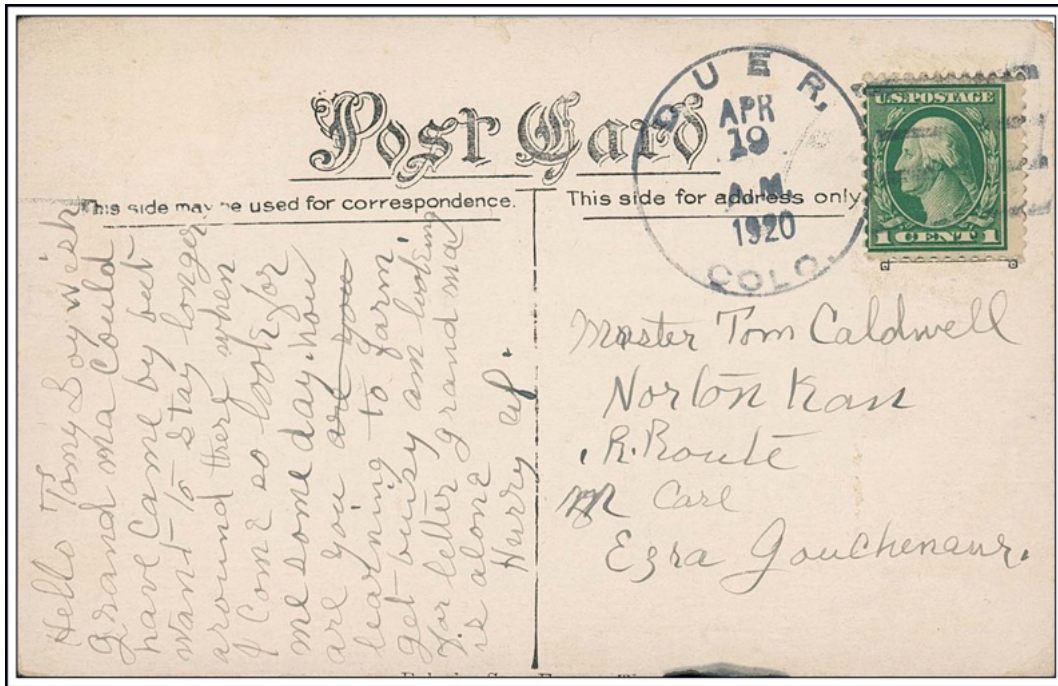
BRISTOL, / COLO.

December 22, 1910



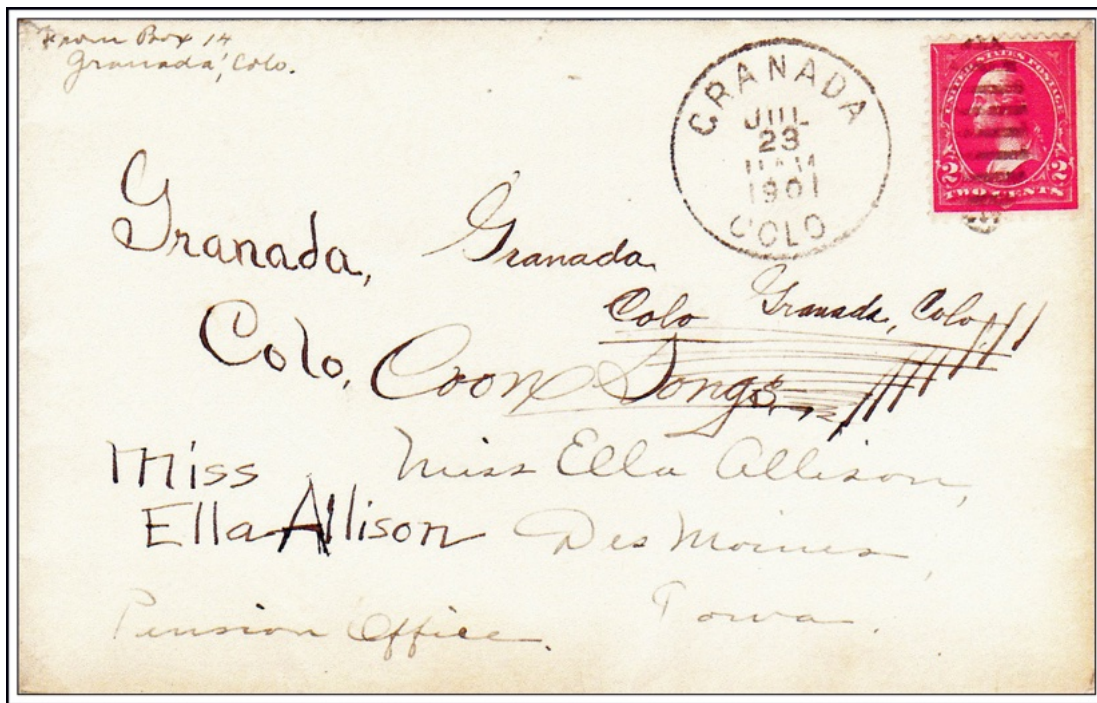
CARLTON, / COLO.

December 1, 1906



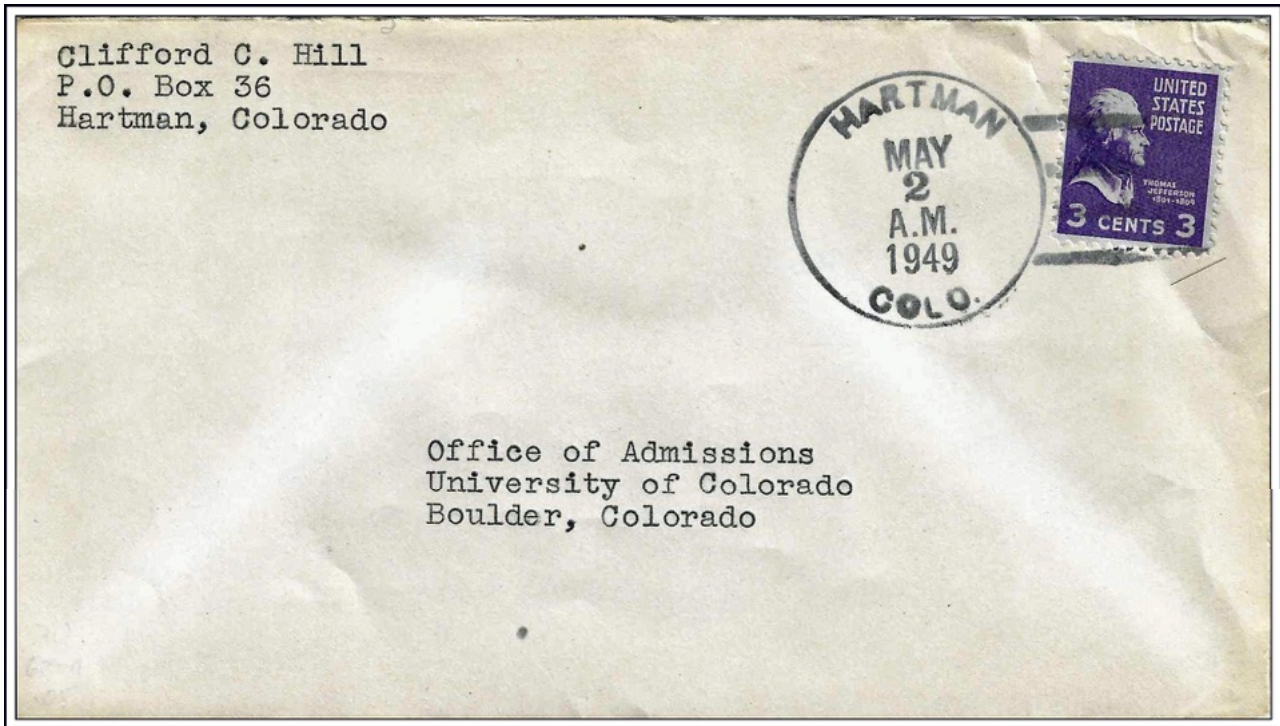
DUER, / COLO.

April 19, 1920



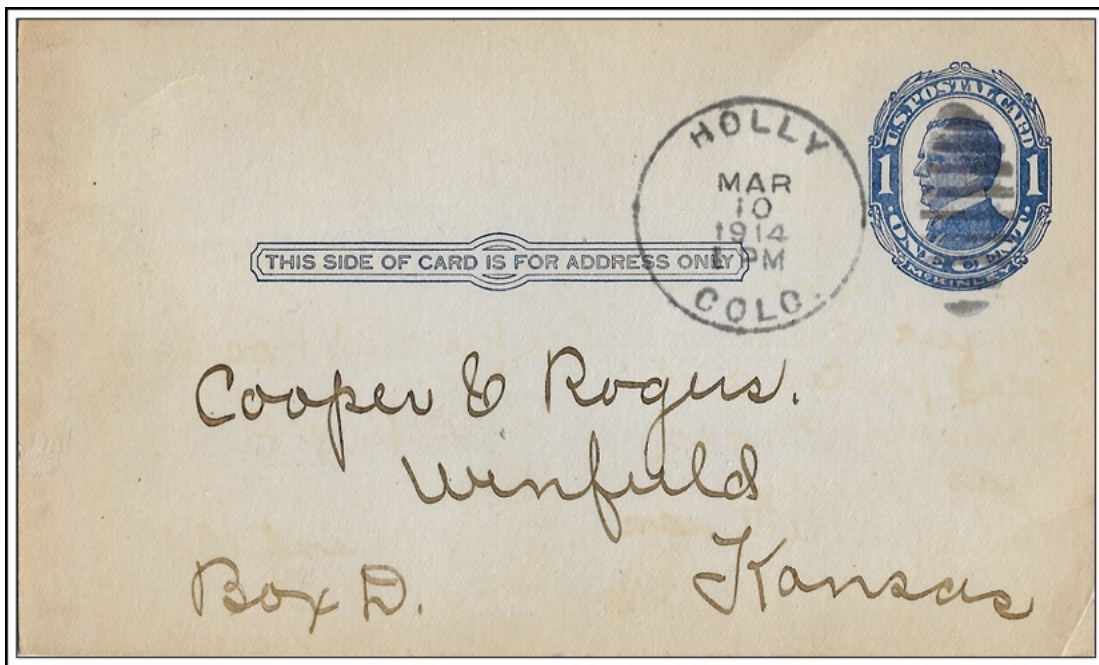
GRANADA / COLO

July 26, 1901



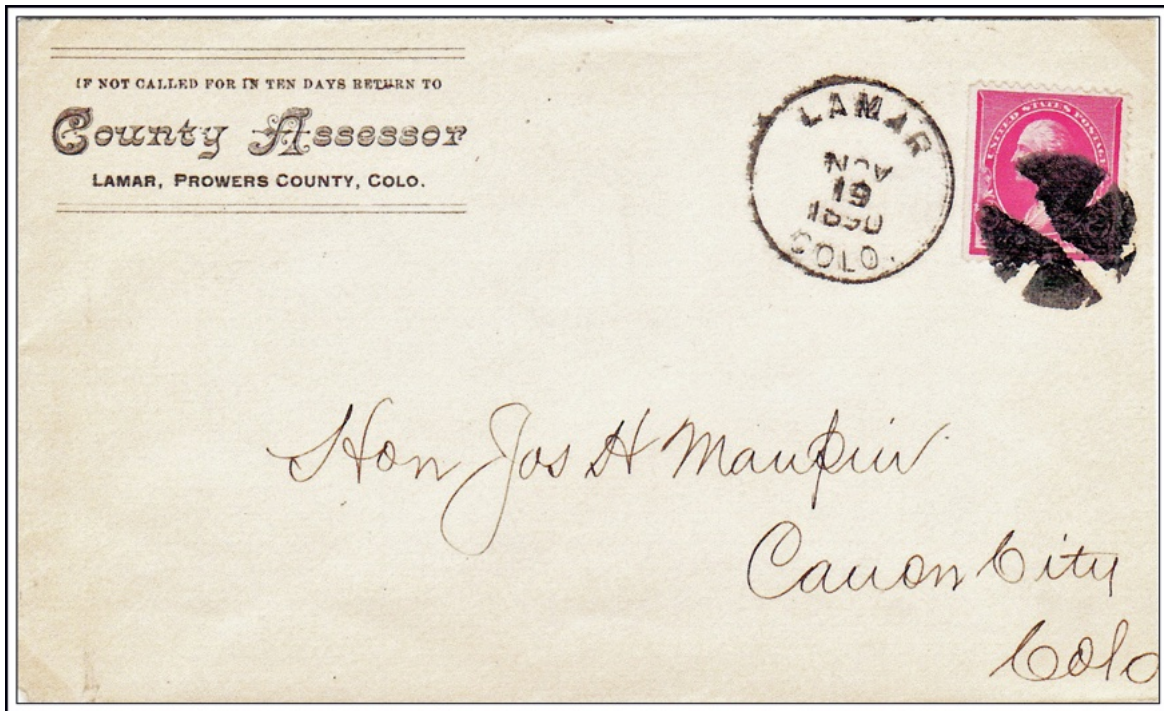
HARTMAN / COLO.

May 2, 1949



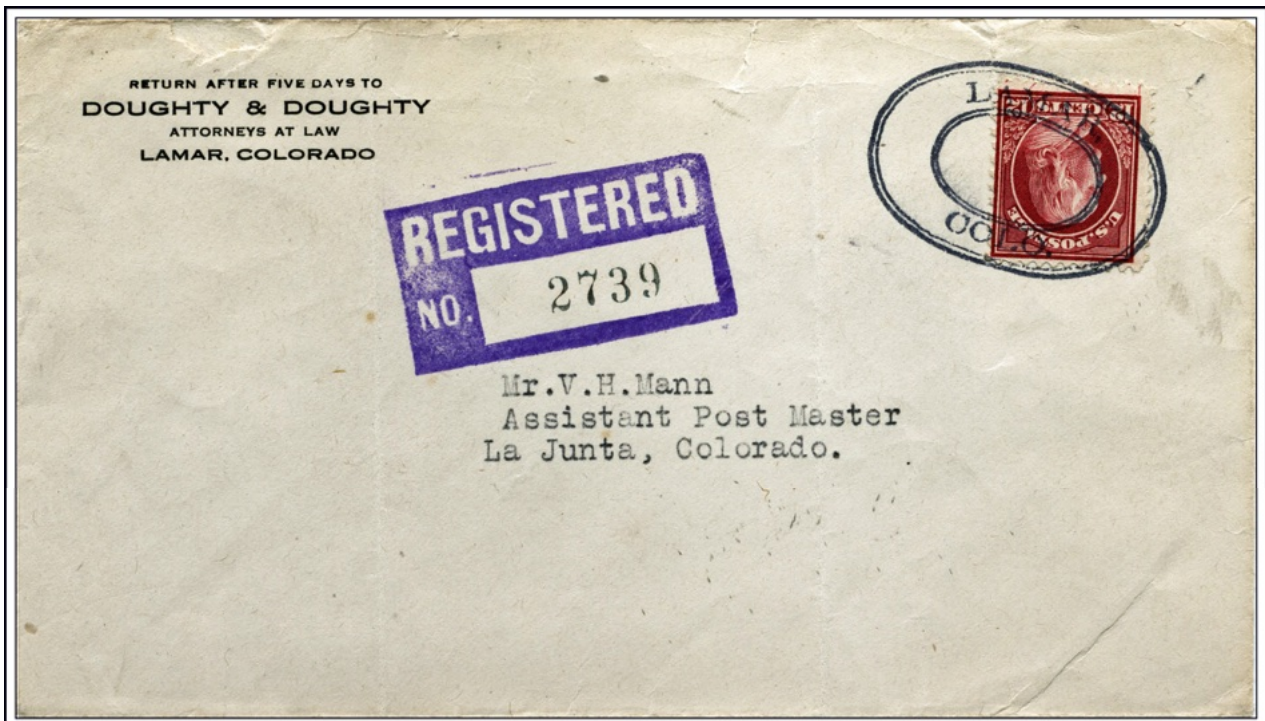
HOLLY / COLO.

March 10, 1914



LAMAR / COLO.

November 19, 1890



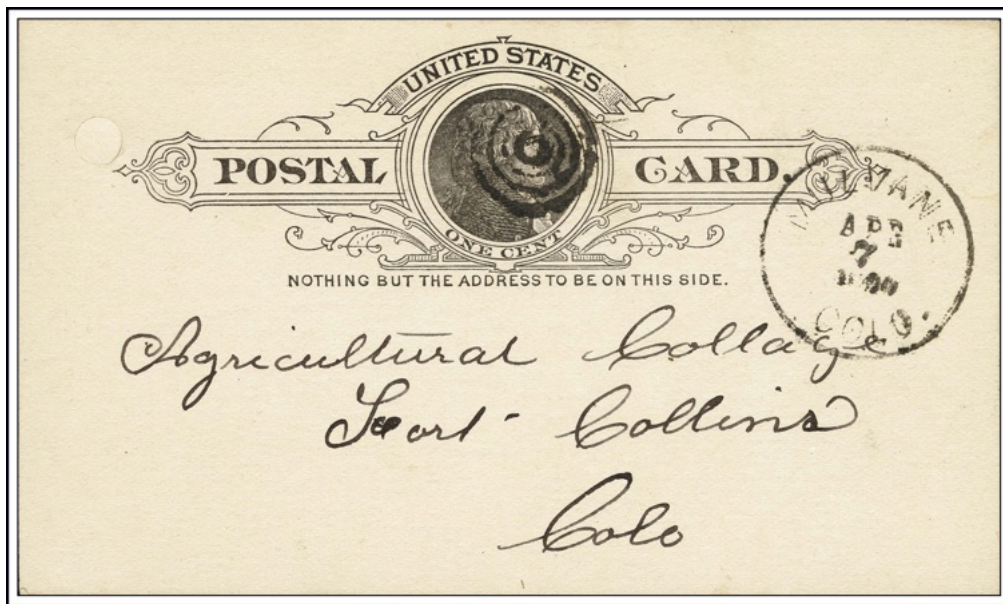
LAMAR, / COLO.

(November 8, 1923)



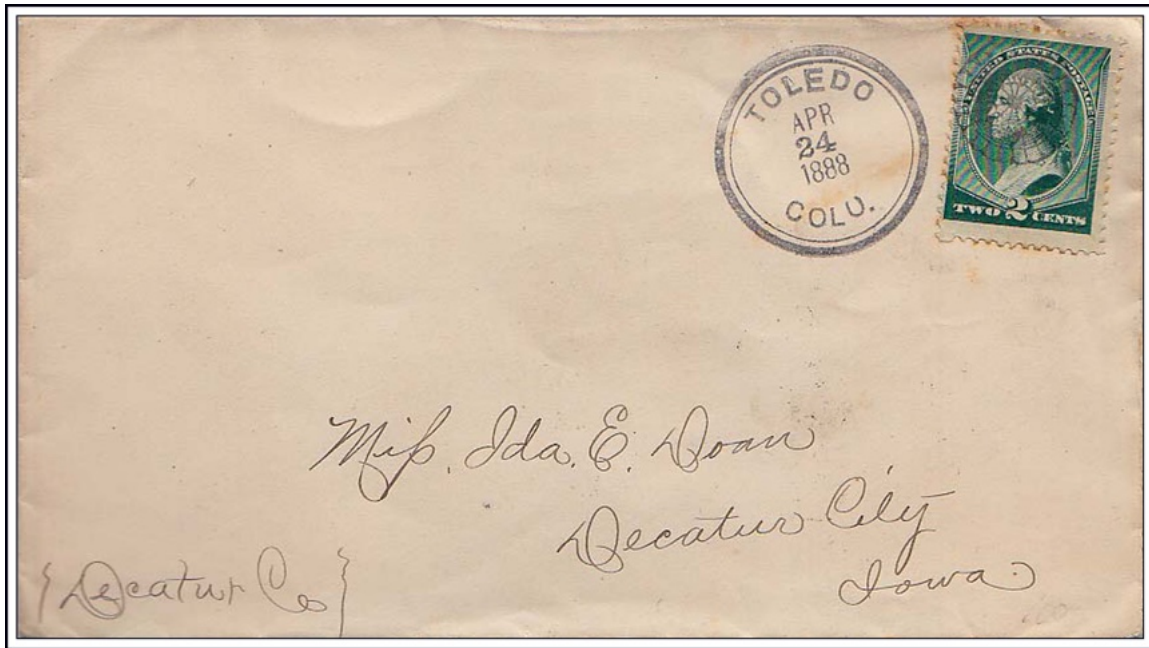
AMACHE / COLO.

May 28, 1945



MULVANE / COLO.

April 7, 1890



TOLEDO / COLO.

April 24, 1888



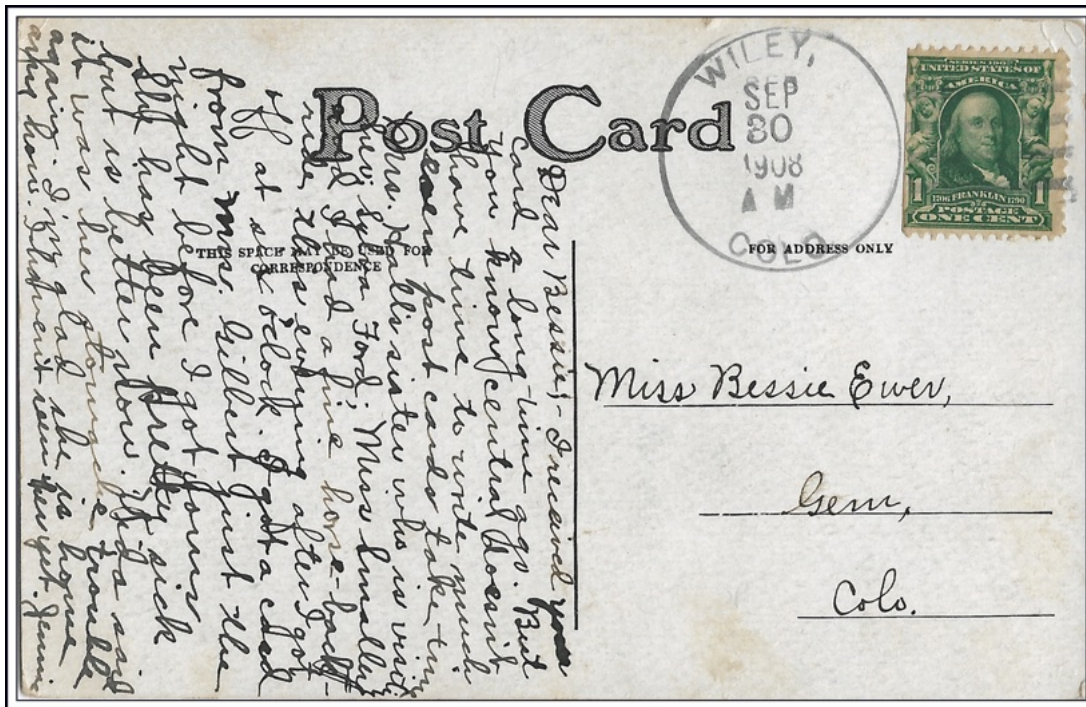
Verdun / Colo

March 20, 1920



WEBB, / COLO.

December 14, 1914



WILEY, / COLO.

September 30, 1908