Custer County
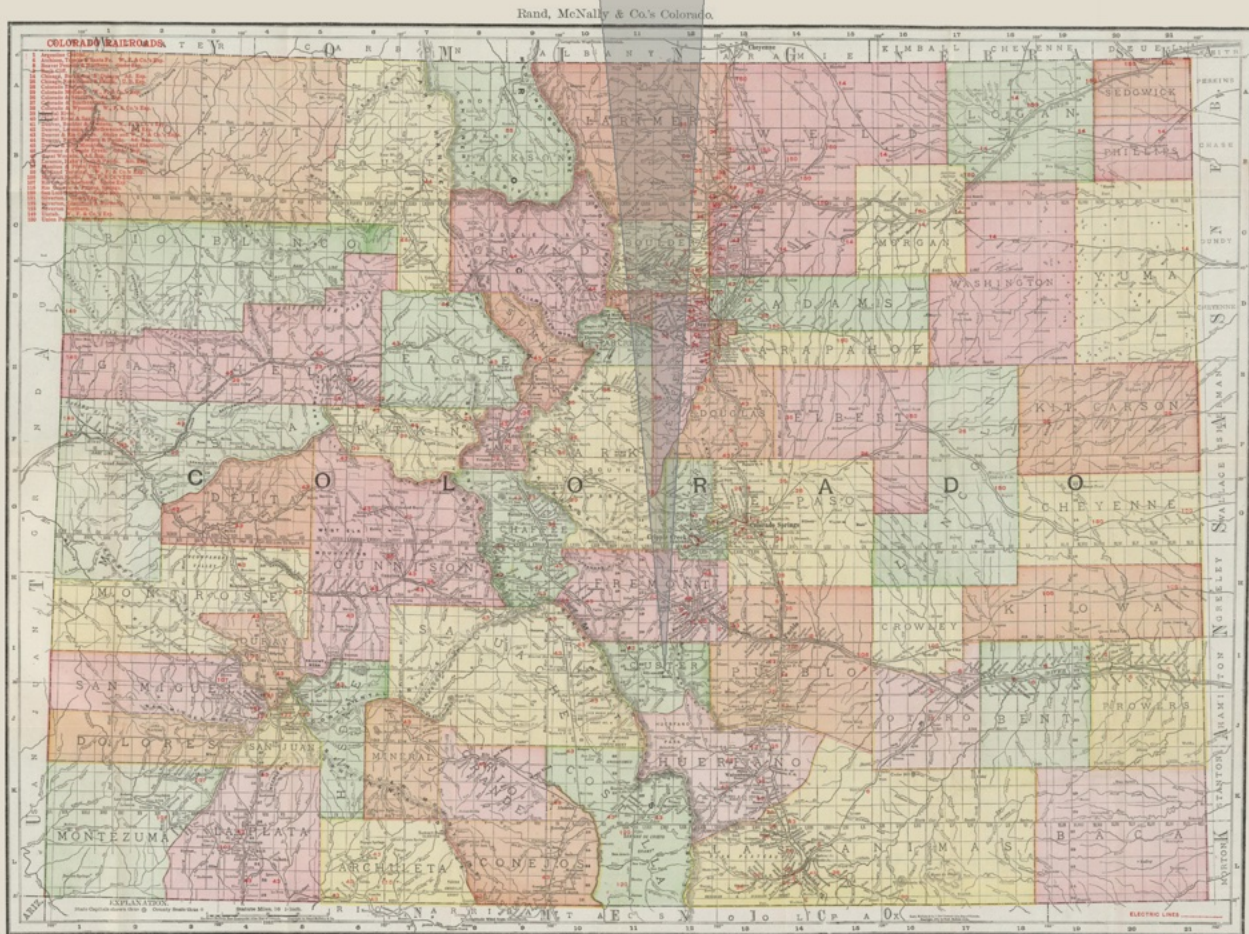
Established: March 9, 1877

County Seat: Westcliffe

CUSTER COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Custer County lies west of Pueblo and south of Canon City at the northern end of the Wet Mountain Valley. Originally it was part of Fremont County but on March 9, 1877 it was separated from Fremont County with Rosita designated the county seat. I have seen a reference that states that Ula was the first county seat but I suspect that was a temporary, unofficial status that was superseded by the legislation that created the county and was confirmed by an election.

Rosita remained the county seat until 1891 when it was moved to Silver Cliff. The move reflected the decline in the mining fortunes and population at Rosita. A similar fate would befall Silver Cliff when, in 1931, it lost the county seat to its close neighbor Westcliffe.

The creation of Custer County was a result of the discovery in 1872 of rich silver deposits in the vicinity of Rosita and the formation of the Hardscrabble Mining District. The mines at Rosita were not long lasting but the 1878 discovery at Silver Cliff was more extensive and brought a gradual shift of commercial activity to that community.

Topographically, Custer County occupies the northern end of the broad valley between the Wet Mountains on the east and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the west. The crest of the Sangre de Cristo range forms the western boundary of the county. The southern boundary is the divide between the drainage of southward flowing Huerfano Creek and of northward flowing Grape Creek. The eastern portion of the county is a part of the Wet Mountains with the county boundary determined by the line between Ranges 68 and 69 West. The north boundary is the line between Townships 20 and 21 South. The result is an irregular shaped county with a maximum east-west dimension of 41 miles and a maximum north-south dimension of about 27 miles. While Grape Creek and its tributaries drain much of the county, Hardscrabble Creek drains the eastern third of the county and a small portion of the northwestern corner drains north via Texas Creek. All of the drainage eventually reaches the Arkansas River. The surrounding counties are Fremont on the north, Pueblo on the east, Huerfano on the south and Saguache on the west.

The first railroad into the county came up Grape Creek from Canon City. This steep, narrow canyon was extremely susceptible to violent floods and after a few extensive, repeat washouts, the Grape Creek route was abandoned and a new grade was constructed from the Arkansas River up Texas Creek. In its usual style, The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad did not build to the existing community of Silver Cliff but established a new community, Westcliffe, less than two miles west of Silver Cliff. Perhaps the Rio Grande chose not to build that last mile or so up the steep grade to Silver Cliff. With the decline in mining, the railroad could no longer support its heavy maintenance costs and it was gone before the middle of the twentieth century.

The Wet Mountain Valley is traversed north to south by Colorado Highway 69 from Walsenburg through Westcliffe to Texas Creek on the Arkansas River. From Pueblo, via Wetmore in the northeastern corner of the county, Colorado Highway 96 enters the county and terminates at Westcliffe. The eastern edge of the county is served by Colorado Highway 165 which originates at Colorado City on Interstate 25, goes through Rye and intersects Colorado 96 about 15 miles east of Westcliffe. There is a mostly gravel road from Canon City that roughly parallels Grape Creek, ending at Silver Cliff. It is only in recent years that access to Custer County has become a smooth ride.

I first visited Custer County in the summer of 1951. We drove up the valley from Walsenburg on a dirt road that for the most part was little more than two ruts with plank bridges over some of the dry washes. It was a long, slow, careful trip. My second visit was in the early 1970's and part of that road had been paved, but some of it was still a rutted dirt road. By my next visit, in the mid-1980's, all of the

road was paved and at last the driver could enjoy the magnificent scenery that the Wet Mountain Valley offers.

Mining created Custer County and was the driving force behind its development from the 1870's until the early twentieth century. However, agriculture has also played a major part in the economy of the county. Before the discovery of silver, ranching had been established in the valley. At Colfax, Carl Wulsten created the German Colony as a farming community but the semi-arid climate and a short growing season doomed that effort. With the decline of mining, ranching again became dominant. Lumber has also been a significant contributor to the county's economy.   Another factor in the economy is recreation: hunting, fishing and hiking in the Sangre de Cristo and the Wet Mountains.
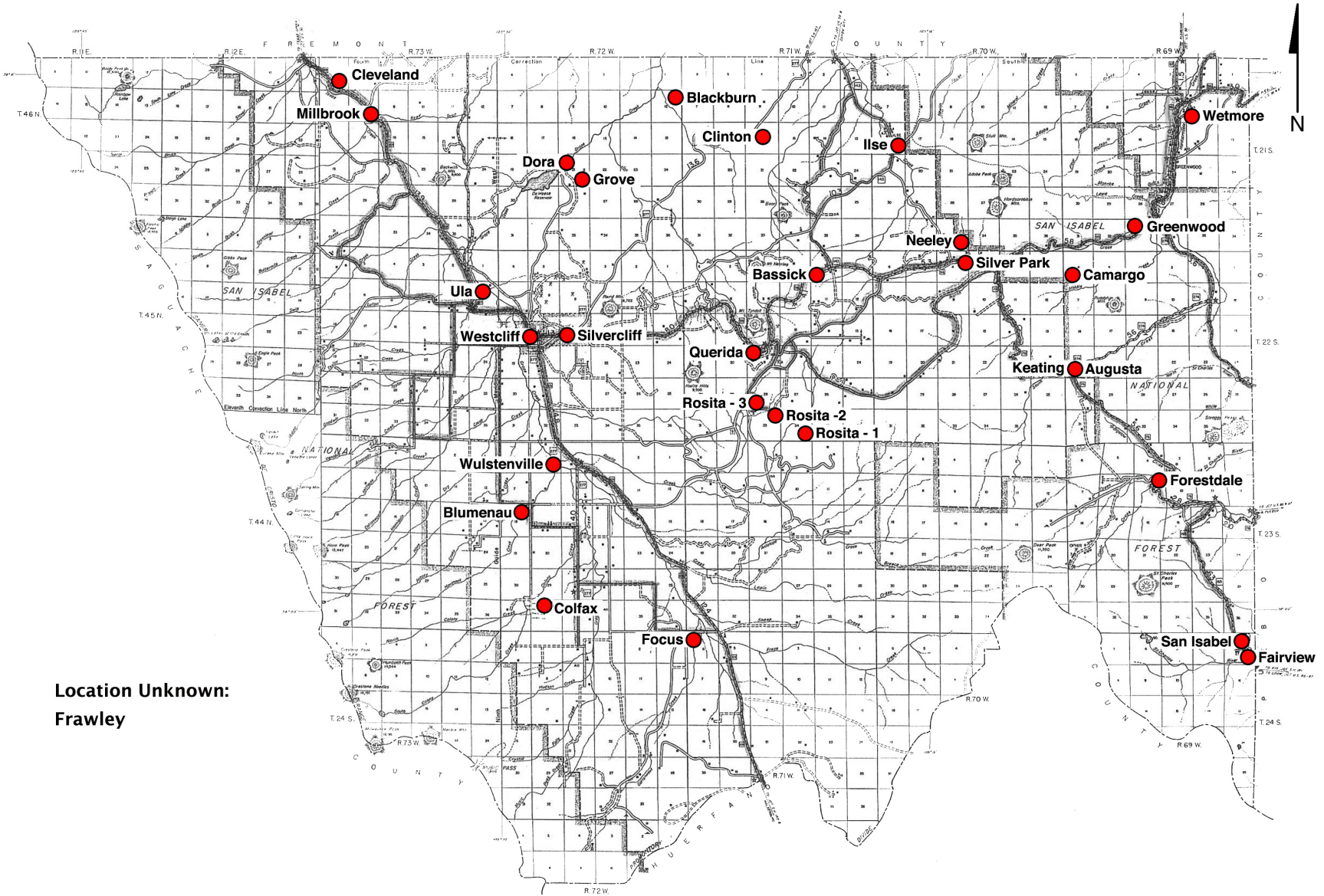
At the end of the twentieth century, another factor has come into play in the area – residential development. Throughout the northern end of the county there are a number of ranches that have been subdivided and the countryside is scattered with an increasing number of substantial homes. I suspect that many are summer homes but some are year-around dwellings. With that new activity there are many new roads and it is easy to get confused without a current map.

Although Silver Cliff has declined, Westcliffe is experiencing some growth and even Rosita is experiencing a revival. With all of the changes through time, the Wet Mountain Valley continues to provide a drive through spectacular scenery.

SRM Note: There is considerable uncertainty as to the exact location of several of the ghost towns of Custer County. The site reports are sometimes in error and driving directions given do not always agree with the site reports. It would seem to be an area that would benefit from in-depth historical/geographical research.

Custer County – Ranch complex near site of Colfax
William H. Bauer photograph

Cleveland

Millbrook

Blackburn

Clinton

Wetmore

Dora

Grove

Ilse

Greenwood

Neeley

Silver Park

Bassick

Camargo

Ula

Westcliff

Silvercliff

Querida

Keating

Augusta

Rosita - 3

Rosita -2

Rosita - 1

Wulstenville

Forestdale

Blumenau

Colfax

Focus

San Isabel

Fairview

Location Unknown:

Frawley

Post Office Location Map – Custer County

AUGUSTA

There is no mention of Augusta in the historical literature. This was also the location for the Keating post office.   The name originally requested was Leeville, most likely for the first postmaster, Edwin <u>Lee</u> Drake.

Ranch complex at the site of Augusta (1889-1902) and Keating (1914-1924)
Photograph by William H. Bauer   **May 19, 1999**

The site of Augusta is on the South Fork of Hardscrabble Creek and Colorado Highway 69, six miles south of the junction with Colorado 96, the road from Pueblo to Westcliffe. There is an active but old ranch complex on the west side of the road with several buildings. Augusta may have served as a way stop for travel on the road from Rye and the south.

Do not confuse this Augusta with a later Augusta Post Office in Las Animas County.

Chronology of the Post Office
```
Dec 17 1889  ----       SW/4 Sec 19, T22S R69W   Original proposal for name of "LEEVILLE" - not accepted
                        Proposed postmaster - Edwin Lee Drake
May  5 1890     Established
May  5 1890         Drake, Edwin L.
Feb  2 1898         Bradshaw, Clara E.
Oct 13 1899         Snyder, Edson
Feb  1 1902         Bigelow, Joseph A.
Mar 20 1902     Ordered closed
Apr 15 1902     Discontinued  Papers to Beulah
```

Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM AUGUSTA

BASSICK

It has been claimed that Bassick and Querida were the same place. It is very likely that the original settlement at Querida was indeed known as Bassick City or Bassickville; however, the Bassick Post Office is believed to have been at a location on present day Colorado Highway 96, about three miles northeast of Querida and the Bassick Mine.

I have visited the plotted location of Bassick, on the highway and approximately one mile west of County Road 271 north to Ilse and two and a half miles east of County Road 341 south to Querida. There is nothing there to support the previous existence of a settlement, so there is still some question as to the exact location of Bassick.

Latitude = 38:07:38 North Longitude = 105:19:57 West   (BASSICK MINE) This would more properly be called Querida.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 28 1917 ----	SW/4 SW/4 SEC 2 T21S (T22S?) R71W; 2 miles west of Oak Creek
	NOTE: The first page seems to place it in T21S, the second page states T22S:
	which is correct?? Another 1917 report, (scratched out) states T20S.
	This latter site would be in Fremont County, not Custer County
May 19 1917	Established
May 19 1917	Seymour, Walter S.
Dec 31 1920	Discontinued Mail to Canon City

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BASSICK, / COLO.		Aug 30 1917 Feb 23 1918
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	
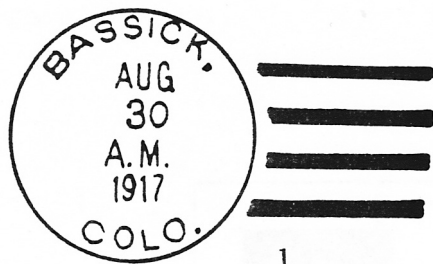
BLACKBURN

Blackburn was in Grape Creek Canyon about where Dead Mule Gulch from the south joins Grape Creek. It was on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad branch from Canon City to Silver Cliff.

Reportedly the town was named for a Mr. Blackburn, an Englishman who owned a ranch in the area. There was some mining in the area and as a stop on the railroad; it also served nearby Titusville (Fremont County).

In the mid-1880's Grape Creek was struck by two violent floods that destroyed large segments of the railroad. After the second flood the railroad was abandoned and Blackburn lost any importance that it previously enjoyed.

Today, there is no road leading to the site of Blackburn, although, with the rapid development of rural Custer County, that may not remain the situation. Many new roads traverse the hills and using an older map it is easy to become confused.

BLACKBURN – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office

|		
Jul 16 1881 ----	NE/4 sec 12 T21S R72W; 2-1/2 Miles southeast from Clinton [SRM: northwest. Clinton is 2-1/2 miles southeast]. Five miles from Dora and Fairy Glen. 300 feet east of Grape Creek. Proposed postmaster - Charles E. Brownell	
Aug 1 1881	Established	
Aug 1 1881	Brumell, Charles E.	
Dec 14 1882	Wall, Alpheus G.	
Apr 14 1884	Woolery, Lewis J.	
Jan 8 1886	Arledge, A.	
Apr 22 1886	Woolery, Leonard N.	
Apr 19 1887	Dirrim, Richard	
May 11 1889	Discontinued Papers to Westcliffe	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BLACKBURN. / COLO.		Apr 8 1883 Jul 8 1883
	CI 21P 34.0/32.0/20.5	Hstp Grid, 10-bar circular (Ex Persson)	
2	BLACKBURN / COLO.		Aug 11 1884 Oct 12 1888
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	
2.1	BLACKBURN, COLO. // REGISTERED		Jan 25 1886
	RC 20P 25.0x43.0	Mscp Pen cancel	
3	BLACKBURN / COLO.		Oct 23 1886
	CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	
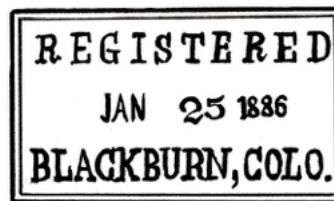
BLUMENAU

The settlement of Blumenau is connected to that of the German Colonization Society and the community of Colfax. Some references claim that Blumenau was another name for Colfax. In 1879 the Colfax Post Office was moved to Blumenau but this was a move of some three miles.

Blumenau was an agricultural and ranching community in the Wet Mountain Valley five miles due south of Westcliffe in the upper reaches of the Grape Creek drainage. There is no evidence that there was an organized town, perhaps at best a few homes and businesses clustered together.

From the center of Westcliffe, drive four and one-half miles south to Colfax Lane. Continue south one mile then turn west for one and one-half mile to Colony Lane. Blumenau was at this intersection.

There are still active ranches in the surrounding countryside and there are an old ranch house and barn in the northeast corner of this intersection. Eight-tenths of a mile south, on the east side of Colony Road is the Hope Cemetery.

Modern development in Custer County has added a confusion factor to the history of Blumenau. The Blumenau name has been adopted by a modern, rural development in the hills between the site of Querida and the remnants of Rosita. Other than the name, this development had nothing to do with the original Blumenau.

BLUMENAU – Continued

<p style="text-align:center;">BLUMENAU / COLO.   January 19, 1884 (or is the ink blob a change to 1885?)</p>

Chronology of the Post Office
Jan 16 1879	**Moved from Colfax**	
Jan 16 1879	**Hirschmann, Jonathan L.**	
Jun 25 1879	**Swift, Albert**	
Jul 16 1879	**Discontinued**	
Aug 8 1879	**Re-established**	
Aug 8 1879	**Ruhnrath, Carsten**	
Apr 5 1881	**Olze, Edward**	
Mar 10 1888	**Diez, T. F.**	
Apr 11 1888	**Diez, John F.**	
Oct 9 1890	**Discontinued Papers to Westcliffe**	

Confirmed types of postal markings
0.1	Blumenauu / Colo.		Jul 3 1882
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
1	BLUMENAU / COLO.		Jan 21 1884 Sep 7 1885
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	

0.1
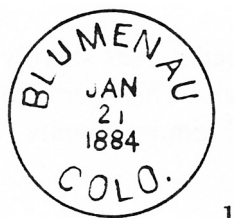
1

CAMARGO

Camargo was a small, short-lived mining camp in the vicinity of Silver Park. I am not certain of the precise location as various reports present contradictions.

One report claims Camargo to have been an, "…isolated mining camp three miles east of Rosita." No other information fits with this description. Another source refers to a 1922 map that locates Camargo a short distance east of Silver Park.

The single Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is in itself confusing. It references Camargo to Oak Creek but the given survey location is a little more than a mile south of Hardscrabble Creek and would not be on the Pueblo-Silver Cliff Road as stated.

My best guess is that Camargo was on the Pueblo-Silver Cliff Road, present-day Colorado 96 and on Hardscrabble Creek, about four miles east of the site of Silver Park and three miles west of the intersection of Colorado 96 with Colorado 165.

There is more confusion with the spelling of the name. Nearly all records give it as Camargo. However, the Geographic Site Location Report spells it as Comargo.

In any case, it was small, had a brief existence and nothing remains. Perhaps someone can supply more conclusive information on the whereabouts of Camargo.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 29 1881 ----	S/2 Sec 6 T22S R 69W; On north side of Oak Creek; the sketch map shows it centered in the S/2 of the section, on the southern branch/loop of a road from Pueblo to Silver Cliff. Proposed postmaster - William H. Smith
Apr 19 1881	Established
Apr 19 1881	Smith, William H.
Nov 31 1881	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CAMARGO

CLEVELAND

Almost nothing is known about Cleveland. Cleveland is shown on an 1885 map as about six miles northwest of Ula. There is a claim that it might have been an early name for a place called Verdemont. There is no further information about this latter named place. Cleveland also appears on an 1887 map and is claimed to have a population of 30 at that time. If this were true, then it would represent a small group of ranches or farms.

The best information I have places the site of Cleveland on present day Colorado 69 immediately south of the Fremont County line. This would be in Section 2, Township 21 South, Range 73 West and not Range 72 West as claimed in the Geographic Site Location Reports.

Driving south from Fremont County, immediately after crossing the county line the road curves sharply to the east. Within the confines of this curve, are the older buildings of a small ranch complex. This seems to be a likely location for Cleveland. This is less than a mile south of the Hillside Post Office in Fremont County.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 19 1885 ----	SE/4 sec 2 T21S R72W on west side of Dismore Creek
Feb 5 1885	Established
Feb 5 1885	Dissmore, Richard H.
Dec 11 1885	Pringle, Helen G.
May 13 1886	Discontinued Papers to Ula

CLEVELAND – Continued
Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CLEVELAND

CLINTON

Clinton was a multi-purpose community about ten miles northeast of Silver Cliff on the road to Canon City. In addition to having a post office, it was a stage stop, had a sawmill, about a dozen buildings and a large store built by a Mr. Fleming. There was mining activity in the area but apparently it was only marginally successful.

In 2001, there remains no collective community but there are several residences and ranches in the vicinity of the site. While many of the buildings are of recent vintage, there are some scattered older buildings.

From Colorado 96, turn north on County Road 271 (there was a sign directing travelers towards the Bear Basin Ranch). In a mile and half at the intersection with County Road 265, you have to make a decision. Continuing on Road 271 will take you to the site of Ilse. Road 271 will re-intersect Road 265 about two miles beyond Ilse.

If you choose Road 265, it is about two and one-half miles to Boneyard Park which is where Clinton was located. Road 264, to the west, will take you past the remnants of some log cabins. Of course, you can continue on to the intersection with Road 271 and return to Colorado 96 by way of Ilse.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 26 1879	----	Sec 16 T21S R71W; 3-1/2 miles southwest of Grape Creek.
		Sketch map shows it between Silver Cliff and Yorkville.
Aug 4 1879	Established	
Aug 4 1879		McCommus, Leander
Nov 16 1880		Brewer, J. C.
Jun 9 1881		Naylor, Clayton
Oct 13 1881	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CLINTON. / COLORADO.	Mar 17 1880 Apr 8 1880
	CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Hstp Target, 4 ring 18mm, Maltese Cross at each side of CDS

1

COLFAX

The *Chicago Tribune* of February 9, 1870 reported the following:

A notable event in the history of Chicago transpired yesterday. It was the departure of a colony of Chicago citizens for a home in the western wilds, the first of its kind which ever left this city and the first, it is believed, ever organized in America. It is called the German Colonization Society of Colfax, Colorado.

COLFAX – Continued

The Colony was the idea of Carl Wulsten who edited a German language newspaper in Chicago. In the fall of 1869 he persuaded a number of Germans to invest $250 each in a communal colony that would secure land in the Wet Mountain Valley of Colorado. The Colony would operate for five years with the participants pooling their labor. Then the Colony would disband, the profits would be divided and each of the members would have their own plots with which to continue farming and ranching.

The big disappointment was the failure to obtain Congressional approval of a requested land grant of 40,000 acres; thus the Colony never had title to the land it occupied. In addition the unsuitability of the high mountain valley to the chosen crops, cutting government timber without permission and a growing dissatisfaction with Wulsten's leadership brought about the collapse of the Colony. Most of the members would drift on to other locations, some within Colorado.

By December of 1870, thirty families had separated their fortunes from the Colony and filed for land under the Homestead Act. Some of these survived and gradually expanded their original homestead tracts into viable ranches that even today encompass the area of the original colony.

The village was named Colfax in honor of Vice-President Schuyler Colfax whom they believed could be of assistance in obtaining the land grant.

A post office opened in June 1870 and survived until 1879 at which time it was moved about three miles north and renamed Blumenau. Some historical sources claim that the office later moved back and resumed operation under the name of Colfax. There is no information in the postal records to support that claim.

The brief hectic existence of Colfax is reflected in deciding where the Colfax Post Office was actually located.

One opinion is that it was three miles south of the location of Blumenau, described above, on Colony Lane. This location is in a grove of trees along South, Middle and North Colony Creeks. Other possible locations are a mile east, on Colfax Lane at either or both of two large ranches two and three miles south of Colorado 69. The Geographic Site Location Reports support the location on Colony Lane and also the use of the name Colfax at the later site of Blumenau.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 10 1870 ----	No Sec-T-R given: 1-1/2 miles west of Grape Creek. Sketch map shows it north	
	of Rasberry Creek and West of Grape Creek. A note on the document is "Ch. si. 3 m north	
May 2 1870	Established	
May 2 1870	Judd, James T.	
Feb 20 1871 ----	Sections 29 & 32 T23S R72W; On Gumberry (???) Creek;	
Oct 29 1871 ----	NE/4 sec 18 T23S R72W; one mile west of Grape Creek	
Apr 2 1872	Dyhaenfulk, L. F.	
Apr 2 1872 [?]	Hirdman, Henry B.	
Sep 16 1872	Palmer, Azar	
Nov 27 1874	Baker, Daniel M.	
Sep 30 1875	Mooreman, Henry W.	
Oct 23 1878	Hirschmann, Jonathan L.	
Jan 16 1879	Discontinued Moved 4 miles north to Blumenau	

Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	COLFAX / COLO.	Jan 26 187-
	CI 10P 24.0	Hstp Cork, circle of wedges [Possible territorial]
1	Colfax Colo	Mar 9 1878
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel

COLFAX – Continued

0.1
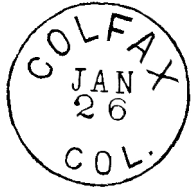
1

DORA

The town of Dora was platted in 1879 and the name is believed to be that of the wife of a nearby rancher, perhaps William Voorhis who had homesteaded a short distance from the site. Within a year, Dora claimed a population of 100 and in addition to a post office, had a store and the Chambers smelter. The name was changed to Gove in 1885. In addition to being a minor smelting center in the area, Dora served as a construction camp for the workers building the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad branch line from Canon City to Silver Cliff.

Virtually all historical references claim that the waters of the DeWeese Reservoir now cover the site of Dora. However, the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places the site along Grape Creek, just downstream from the dam that forms the reservoir.

From Westcliffe, go a short distance north on Colorado 69 to Custer County Road 241 to the northeast. Follow this road to the reservoir, but continue on to the northeast dropping down into the Grape Creek Valley to the east of the reservoir. The Post Office Department location for Dora is in the vicinity of where the road crosses Grape Creek. Portions of the old railroad grade are still visible along the creek.

Chronology of the Post Office
Jun 28 1879 ----	NW/4 sec 21 T21S R72W; 1/8 mile north of Grape Creek	
Jul 11 l879	Established	
Jul 11 1879	Hugh, Jesse T.	
Apr 24 1882	Mears, Isaac	
May 16 1882	Barber, Mary E.	
Oct 31 1883	Discontinued Mail to Blackburn (later re-established as Gove)	

Confirmed types of postal markings
1	Dora, Colo.		Feb 18 1880 Jan 5 1881
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
2	DORA, COLO. / Mary E. Barber, P. M.		Apr 2 1883
	CI 10P 32.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm	

1

2

FAIRVIEW

Although several miles separate Fairview and Beulah, Fairview has a relationship to the early settlement of Maces Hole, which eventually became Beulah. The valley in which Fairview is located was known as Second Mace. Many of the settlers of Second Mace moved there in the hope of exploiting some mining possibilities.

The explanation for the name is the pioneers thought the site offered a "fair view." The mining possibilities did not develop but the community survived as a small resort. The construction of San Isabel Lake on the headwaters of St. Charles Creek covered the site of Fairview and created the new town of San Isabel on the north side of the lake.

Although not conclusive, it is possible that in 1907 the Fairview Post Office moved about six miles north to a location near what became Forestdale after the discontinuance of the Fairview Post Office.

The Fairview site is on Colorado 69 at the Pueblo County line. Colorado 69 crosses the dam that creates San Isabel Lake where Fairview once stood.

Latitude = 38:04:04 North   Longitude = 105:05:55 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 28 1882 ----	SE/4 sec 1 T24S R69W; 2 rods north of St. Charles Creek; The sketch map places it in the SE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 1, on the road from Rye to Rosita.	
Oct 24 1882	Established	
Oct 24 1882	Smith, Mrs. Annie D.	
Mar 12 1890	Fairchild, Zina H.	
Aug 31 1893	Discontinued Papers to Rye	
Jul 24 1907 ----	Request for plot; SE/4 Sec 3 T24S R69W [I believe this to be in error: It should be T-23-S, not T-24-S]	
Oct 15 1907	Re-established	
Oct 15 1907	Gray, Henry J.	
Aug 15 1913	Discontinued Mail to Rye	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FAIRVIEW, COLO.		Sep 29 1908 Apr 14 1909
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	

1
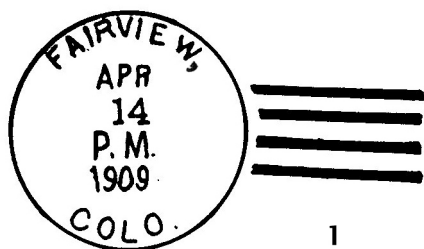
FOCUS

Focus was one of several agricultural community experiments in the period following World War I. As with many other experiments of this type, the natural aridity of the country and poor dry farming methods brought failure.

It is stated that the name Focus was chosen because at the site a fine view of the Sangre de Cristo Range and the Wet Mountain Valley, "comes into focus." The application for a post office requested the name George Town. That name was rejected for the obvious conflict with Georgetown in Clear Creek County.

FOCUS – Continued

In several accounts, Focus is located on Antelope Creek and the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report references the location to Cottonwood Creek. However, the plotted location is on Froze Creek. This is another example of the need for caution in accepting historical geographic references: names frequently change over time.

Drive south from Westcliffe to Rosita Road. From there, continue south eight miles to Colfax County Road 106 and turn west, driving down to the creek. A short distance east of Froze Creek and south of the road, near the base of a low bluff, are some debris that may be the remnants of a building or foundation. Nothing else can be easily found. The area is now part of a large ranch and is merely grazing land.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 17 1921 ----	NW/4 sec 6 T24S R71W; 175 yards east of Cottonwood Creek.	
	Original request was for GEORGE TOWN. - not accepted	
May 5 1921	Established	
May 5 1921	Griffiths, James M.	
Mar 26 1926	Padgett, Andrew J.	
Oct 20 1926	Ordered closed	
Oct 30 1926	Discontinued Mail to Westcliffe	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FOCUS. / COLO.	Dec 19 1922
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm
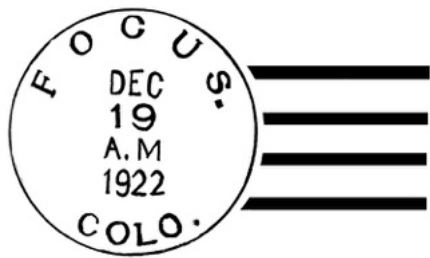
FORESTDALE

Forestdale is mentioned only briefly in historical literature and there is no discussion of what the community was or the source of the name. From observations at the location, it was most likely a ranch post office in the mountains, surrounded by forest, hence the name Forestdale. In 2000 none of the buildings were occupied, but a half-mile south is a small development of several resort cabins.

From San Isabel drive three miles north on Colorado 165 to the intersection with the road to Beulah. Continue north on 165 another two and one half miles. This will bring you to a small valley and the site of Forestdale where there are a few older buildings to the east of the highway. As was previously mentioned, this may have been the location for Fairview in 1907.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 16 1914 ----	NE/4 sec 9 T23S R69W; 100 feet south of Middle Creek	
Oct 1 1914	Established	
Jan 1 1914	Clarkson, James H.	
Apr 13 1926	Ordered closed	
Apr 30 1926	Discontinued Mail to Westcliffe	

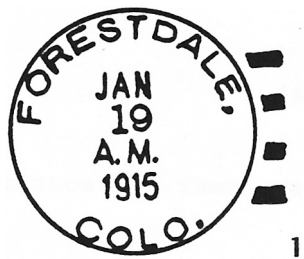**FORESTDALE – Continued**

Abandoned ranch buildings at the site of Forestdale, Colorado
Photograph by William H. Bauer   **May 19, 1999**

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FORESTDALE, / COLO.		Jan 19 1915 Apr 27 1926
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	

FRAWLEY

Frawley is a mystery site. The only evidence for its possible existence is a single document found in the Custer County Geographical Site Location Reports. That document indicates it would be on the road south of Westcliffe. I conclude that it was never authorized and I include it here in the hope that someone will find additional information.

From 1916 to 1918, there was a Frawley Post Office in Summit County.

FRAWLEY – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office
> There is a poor sketch map (only) showing a proposed post office "Frawley" on the road south out of Westcliffe.   No other information

Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM FRAWLEY

GOVE

Please refer to Dora for a discussion of the little known about Gove.

Although it is claimed that Gove and Dora were the same place, I believe they were a short distance apart, with Gove now covered by the reservoir and Dora downstream from the DeWeese Dam.

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 17 1883 ----	SE/4 sec 20 T21S R72W; 150 feet north of Grape Creek; 300 feet north of D&RG RR	
	Proposed postmaster - Georginia Foster	
Dec 6 1883	Established (previously Dora)	
Dec 6 1883	Foster, Mrs. Georgina	
Dec 14 1885	Lemons, Mrs. Ellen	
Oct 9 1888	Discontinued Papers to Westcliffe	

Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GOVE

GREENWOOD

Greenwood was established in 1872 on Adobe Creek, a tributary to Hardscrabble Creek. It was in an area of small farms and ranches.

Greenwood was named for Colonel William Greenwood, a construction engineer with the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. This small connection with the railroad has led some historians to class Greenwood as a railroad town; however, there never was a railroad to or through Greenwood.

From Wetmore drive about two miles south on Colorado 96 to Greenwood Road (County Road 389) to the left. This two-mile stretch of road passes a number of small residences in what is called the modern Greenwood community.

A short distance after Greenwood Road reconnects to Colorado 96 the latter road makes a sharp turn west into Hardscrabble Canyon. On the west side of the road is (in 2001) the Farley Ranch. This neat, well-kept ranch was the early site for Greenwood.

Latitude = 38:12:18 North   Longitude = 105:05:47 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 31 1872 ----	NW/4 sec 33 T20S [SRM: this is an error in filing document, T21S] R69W; On Adobe Creek, near its source.
Feb 16 1872	Established
Feb 16 1872	Banks, Wilson H.
Dec 30 1872	Utley, Edwin E.
May 4 1874	Monroe, Aaron L.
Jan 9 1880	Watkins, Jonathan W.
Nov 16 1880	Marvin, Andrew C.
Dec 28 1880	Monroe, Aaron L.
Oct 27 1887	Trislove, John A.
Apr 24 1889	Sheldon, Maggie A.

GREENWOOD - Continued

Jul 31 1890	McDaniel, Jonathan C.
Dec 18 1890	Sheldon, William S.
Nov 21 1894	Sheldon, Margaret A.
Aug 28 1896	Gass, Margaret A.
Feb 21 1900	Bradshaw, Clara A.
May 8 1909	Crouch, Lydia
Feb 15 1911	Hill, Joseph L.
Apr 4 1917	Hill, Charles E.
Jun 29 1918	Discontinued Mail to Wetmore
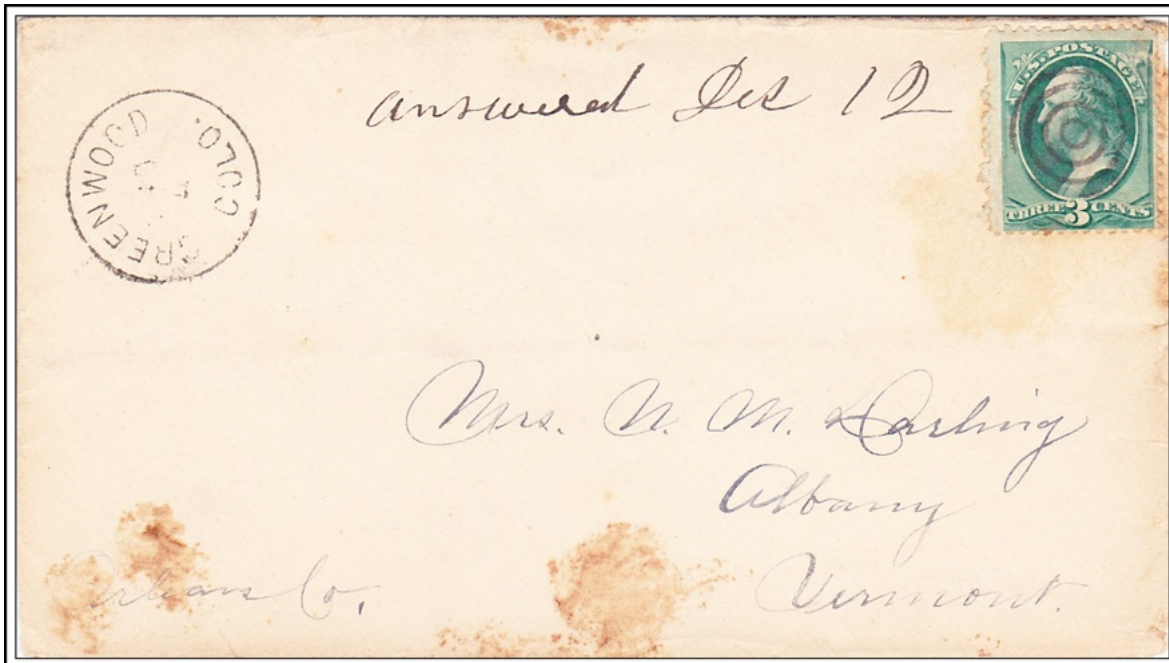
GREENWOOD / COLO.   December --, 18-- (possibly Territorial usage)

Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	Greenwood Colo		May 13 1875
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
1	GREENWOOD / COLO.		May 1 1882 Dec 12 1882
	CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	
2	GREENWOOD / COL.		Jun 3 1893 Jan 14 1895
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm	
3	GREENWOOD, / COLO.		Jan 21 1905 Dec 27 1911
	CI 10P 29.5	Doane Type 1 with 1, P-22x12mm	
4	GREENWOOD. / COLO.		Jan 13 1912 May 14 1914
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	

0.1

1

GREENWOOD - Continued
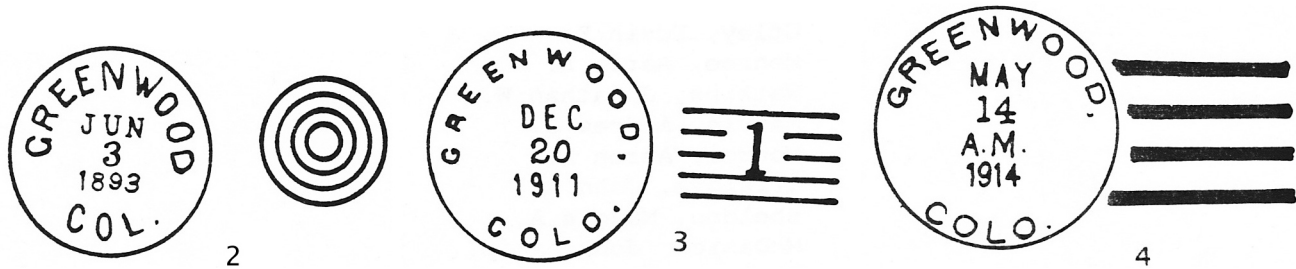
ILSE

Ilse was a mining town about twelve miles northeast of Silver Cliff. The initial discovery is attributed to a Dutch immigrant farmer named Frank Andracich. The first production may have been some gold but silver produced from lead carbonates was the more important resource. The Temble was the best mine in the area.

In 1887 a fire destroyed much of Ilse and little was rebuilt. Even though a large mill was built at Ilse in 1903, several small flurries of activity never brought back the many residents and businesses that were there prior to the 1887 fire.

The settlement was for a short time known as Spaulding. The application for a post office requested the name Elsenburg, but that choice was rejected. I have found no reason for the final choice of Ilse. Perhaps it was a variant on Elsenburg.

From Colorado 96, turn north on Custer County Road 271, the access to Clinton that has been previously described. Stay on Road 271 for about six miles. As you approach the site of Ilse you will see, to the west of the road, the remnants of the large mill. On the east side of the road is an open pit mine, partially filled with water. Both of these features are on a small rise in the road from which you can look north over the site of the town of Ilse. There are a few residences in the area and activity is confined to ranching.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 22 1884	----	SE/4 Sec 18 T21S R70W; Northeast side of Oak Creek; Accompanying
		sketch map corroborates it as R70W (Clinton R71W, Blackburn R72W)
		Original Name proposed as ELSENBURG - not accepted
		Proposed postmaster - Richard Southgate
		[SRM: Appears to be multiple errors in site descriptions below. Ilse's remains are in R70W.]
Aug 14 1884		Established
Aug 14 1884		Southgate, Richard
Sep 23 1884		DeLamar, Joseph R.
Oct 10 1884		Putnam, Thomas F.
Mar 25 1886		Kutzleb, S. S.
Apr 21 1886		Kutzleb, Selmar S.
Oct 30 1889		Mott, John W.
May 4 1891		Discontinued Papers to Silver Cliff
Dec 24 1894	----	NW/4 sec 20 T21S R71W; on east side of Oak Creek; sketch map
		shows it in R70W, on Oak Creek
Jan 23 1895		Re-established
Jan 23 1895		Spaulding, Caroline
Apr 23 1909		Hay, Thomas L.
Oct 15 1917	----	1/2 mile north of previous location NW/4 SEC 20 T21S R71W;
		100 yards east of Oak Creek. Sketch map repeats as R71W
Nov 5 1917		Gipson, Edith R.
Apr 30 1919		Discontinued Mail to Ilse [?]

ILSE – Continued

Oct 15 1920 ----	SW/4 sec 19 T21S R70W; 500 feet east of Oak Creek	
	Proposed postmaster - Frank Meyer	
Dec 10 1920	Re-established	
Dec 10 1920	Meyer, Frank	
Jul 27 1923	Watson, Hugh C.	
Nov 15 1923	Brown, Reuben S.	
Jun 12 1924	Bowden, Harry	
Sep 27 1929	Ordered closed	
Sep 30 1929	Discontinued Mail to Canon City	

Ilse, Colorado – Remaining mine or mill buildings near the community
Photograph by William H. Bauer   May 23, 2001

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ILSE / COLO.		Sep 2 1880
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	
2	ILSE. / CUSTER CO. COL.		Oct 27 1886
	CI 10P 22.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	
3	ILSE / COLO.		May 31 1905
	CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring	
4	ILSE, / COLO.		Jun 21 1910 Sep 12 1916
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-26x13mm	
5	ILSE. / COLO.		Mar 1 1928
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	

ILSE – Continued
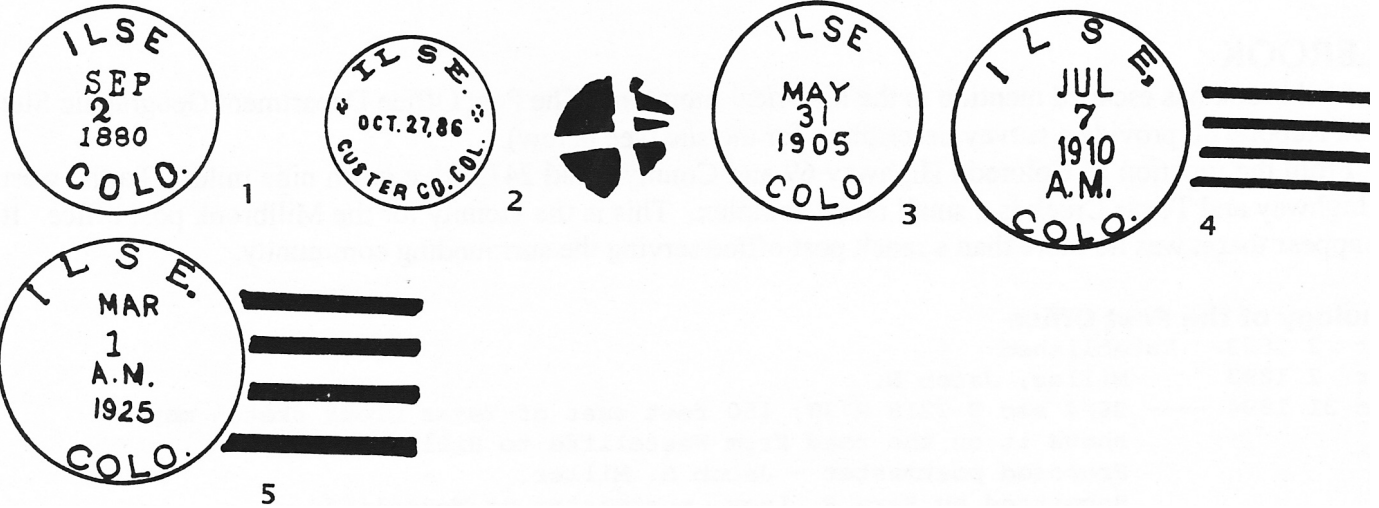
KEATING

Keating was the name applied from 1914 to 1928 to a post office at the former site of the Augusta Post Office. Keating was likely only a ranch post office and there is still an active ranch at the location. Please refer to the discussion of Augusta for directions to this office.

In 1924 when application was made for a post office, it appears that the request was to reinstate the older name of Augusta. However, at that time the Augusta Post Office in Las Animas County was still in operation so another name was needed. I do not know why the name Keating was chosen but I do know that there was a Keating family present in the general area.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 2 1914	----	SW/4 sec 19 T22S R69W; 100 feet north of South Hardscrabble Creek.	
		Original request was for AUGUSTA - Not accepted	
		Proposed Postmaster - James Brossen (??)	
Dec 18 1914	Established		
Dec 18 1914	Brassea, James		
Dec 15 1917	Brassea, Joseph		
May 31 1921	Brassea, J. Nello		
Jun 7 1921	Brassea, Leo Nello		Acting
Nov 6 1924	Discontinued Mail to Wetmore		

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	KEATING, / COLO.		Apr 21 1915 Apr 17 1916
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	
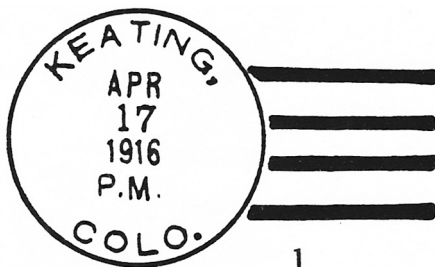
MILLBROOK

Millbrook has escaped mention in the historical literature. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports do provide a survey description for the site (see below).

From the junction of Colorado Highway 69 and County Road 241, drive north nine miles. To the west of the highway and Texas Creek is a small ranch complex. This is the vicinity for the Millbrook Post Office. It would appear that it was no more than a ranch post office serving the surrounding community.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 2 1893	**Established**	
Mar 2 1893	**Miller, Jacob B.**	
Dec 31 1894 ----	**SE/4 sec 8 T21S R73W; 150 feet east of Texas Creek sketch map**	
	shows it on the road from Westcliffe to Hillside	
	Proposed postmaster - Jacob B. Miller.	
	Submitted by Sara P. Lacy, postmaster at Westcliffe	
Nov 7 1895	**Discontinued Mail to Silver Cliff**	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	**MILLBROOK / COLO.**	**Jun 2(4) 1895**
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring

1

NEELEY

Neeley is yet another town for which I must rely on the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports.

The original request was for the name Neeleyville, however that was shortened to Neeley. The name is obviously for that of the first postmaster - William G. Neeley.

To reach the site of Neeley, begin on Colorado 96 at the junction with Custer County Road 285 to the north. Drive north on this road about one mile to its end. At that point there are the remnants of a stone building, a log building and a sawmill. This is what remains of Neeley.

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 2 1887 ----	**SE/4 sec 33 T21S R70W; 7-1/2 miles west of Hardscrabble Creek**	
	Original proposal as NEELEYVILLE - "VILLE" deleted	
Feb 16 1888	**Established**	
Feb 16 1888	**Neeley, William G.**	
Jun 16 1888	**Frazee, Virginia**	**Rescinded**
Feb 16 1888	**Neeley, William G.**	
Dec 22 1888	**Discontinued Papers to Ilse**	

Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NEELEY

QUERIDA

In 1877 a former sailor named Edmund G. Bassick located an unusual mineral deposit. He gave his name to the claim and soon a town grew up around the mine and took the name Bassickville. This is not to be confused with the later settlement of Bassick, which was about three miles to the northeast, on present-day Highway 96.

As the community grew, the mine was acquired by a New York company and the name of the town was changed to Querida, Spanish for, "darling" or "beloved." The new name is often attributed to David Livingstone, nephew of Dr. David Livingstone, the African explorer. Another source attributes the name to a Mrs. Francklyn. To a large extent Querida was a company town with a population of as many as 500, three stores, a livery stable, two drug stores and considerable mining activity including a smelting plant. By 1883 a large, three-story hotel had been erected.

The Bassick Mine was a major producer but like many mining operations it was continuously involved in lawsuits for more than fourteen years. Eventually the mine became flooded and soon Querida died.

From Colorado Highway 96, about halfway between Silver Cliff and the junction with Colorado 165, turn south on Custer County Road 341. About a mile south you will come to a very large tailings pile on the east side of the road. This is what remains of the Bassick Mine. Querida was mainly on the east side of the road. In May 2001 there were still two dilapidated structures and scattered trash in the area.

The best view of Querida and the Bassick Mine is from the ridge to the southwest that can be reached by continuing south around the hill and up a side road to the west to a saddle on the ridge from where there is an excellent overview of the mine.

Latitude = 38:07:34 North   Longitude = 105:20:02 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 20 1891 ----	**NW/4 sec 21 T22S R71W; 8 miles east of Grape Creek.**
	Proposed postmaster - David H. Jones
	Undated, apparently early: --- Three miles from Rosita and three miles from Silver Cliff.
	No additional information.
Jan 12 1880	**Established**
Jan 12 1880	**McKee, David**
Oct 18 1880	**Todd, Daniel**
May 21 1883	**Shoemaker, George P.**
Jan 23 1884	**Hogan, Frank G.**
Aug 25 1885	**Vorreiter, William C.**
Dec 2 1886	**McMurry, Albert G.**
Nov 29 1887	**Discontinued Papers to Rosita**
Apr 29 1891	**Re-established**
Apr 29 1891	**Jones, David H.**
May 21 1895	**Discontinued Papers to Silver Cliff**
Jul 26 1897 ----	**NW/4 sec 21 T22S R71W; 8-1/2 miles east of Grape Creek: sketch map**
	shows it about 1-1/2 miles northerly of Rosita (SW/4 Sec 28)
	Proposed postmaster Angus D. MacKensie
Aug 27 1897	**Re-established**
Aug 27 1897	**Johnson, Elizabeth C.**
Mar 17 1898	**Mackensie, Angus D.**
Mar 24 1902	**Adams, John E.**
Jan 14 1905	**Sperry, Elizabeth**
Dec 20 1905	**Gay, Lizzie**
Apr 5 1906	**Ordered closed**
May 14 1906	**Discontinued Mail to Rosita**

QUERIDA – Continued
Confirmed types of postal markings

1   QUERIDA, / COLO.   May 28 1881 Apr 9 1882
          CI 10P 28.5   Hstp Fancy, Double outline Maltese Cross
2   QUERIDA / COLO.   Aug 29 1882 Jan 30 1883
          CI 21P 27.0/25.0/17.0   Hstp Grid, 10-bar circular
3   QUERIDA / COLO.   Jul 2 1885 Oct 15 1902
          CI 10P 27.0   Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm, Cork negative X-roads,
                                               Fancy, Star-in-star
4   QUERIDA / COLO.   Nov 27 1905 Dec 20 1905
          CI 10P ??.?   Doane Type 2, with 4
                                                     [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
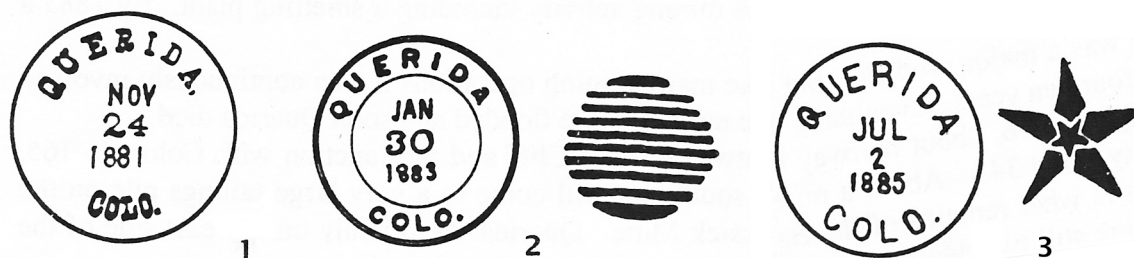
ROSITA

        In late 1872, prospector and writer Richard Irwin and two companions, W. J. Robinson and James Pringle, with V. B. Hoyt in absentia, formed the Hardscrabble Mining District and established a camp first known as Brown's Spring. Thornton was the next name applied to the settlement. But, in short order the growing community became known as Rosita (Spanish for, "little rose") in reference to the many wild roses growing in the area.
        By 1873 Rosita had a blacksmith, several carpenters, an assayer, a second store and a growing number of hopeful citizens. There were even a cheese factory and a brewery at Rosita. The Humbolt-Pocahontas Mine was the principal producer but by 1876 it was in decline. The discovery of the Bassick mine at nearby Querida gave a boost to Rosita and mining activity continued in the vicinity for the remainder of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. Rosita was platted in 1875 and patented in 1876.
        Custer County was divided from Fremont County on March 9, 1877. Rosita was the first county seat and held that position until 1891 when it lost the office to Silver Cliff. With mining coming to an end, Rosita would begin a decline that culminated in 1966 with the closure of the Rosita Post Office.
        In later years Rosita was the location for filming of the movie, "Saddle the Wind." In the last few years Custer County has seen considerable part and full-time residential development with new homes scattered about the countryside. A number of new homes have been built around and in Rosita and very little remains from the early days.
        The building that last housed the post office is on the western edge of Rosita and is now (year 2000) the Letter Drop Inn, a gourmet restaurant open evenings.
        From Westcliffe, drive south on Colorado Highway 69 three miles to Rosita Road. Drive east six miles to Rosita, passing the Letter Drop Inn as you enter the community.

Latitude = 38:05:50 North   Longitude = 105:20:08 West
Latitude = 38:05:28 North   Longitude = 105:21:07 West   (ROSITA CEMETERY)

ROSITA – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office

May 2 1874 ----	SE/4 Sec 34 T22S R71W; six miles east of Grape Creek		
	A change in location was ordered July 25, 1944, but was not		
	made and the change was rescinded January 1, 1945.		
Jul 8 1874	**Established**		
Jul 8 1874	Thomasson, Tower		
Mar 7 1878	Gooch, James A.		
Jan 22 1880	Gooch, James A.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmd by Senate]	
Dec 31 1883	Gooch, James A.		
Oct 28 1885	Thomas, Aaron S.		
May 2 1888	Turner, H. H.		
Mar 15 1889	Yeoman, Stephen B.		
Oct 21 1890	Schriver, Clara		
Apr 15 1895	Fisher, Clara		
Dec 16 1896	Norris, Harrison		
Nov 22 1901	Kirk, William L.		
May 15 1905	Kemnitz, John S.		
Apr 12 1906	Norris, Harrison		
Dec 24 1909	Cowan, Margaret		
Feb 8 1910 ----	SW/4 sec 27 T22S R71W		
Aug 23 1912	Hunt, Margaret		
Feb 1 1940	Dorsey, Mrs. Nana	Assumed charge	
Feb 8 1940	Dorsey, Mrs. Nana	Acting	
May 23 1940	Dorsey, Mrs. Nana	Confirmed	
Jun 25 1940	Dorsey, Mrs. Nana	Commissioned	
Feb 26 1914 ----	NW/4 sec 33 T22S R71W		
Oct 23 1941 ----	SW/4 sec 28 T22S R71W; 6 miles east of Grape Creek		
	Submitted by Nora Dorsey, Rosita Post Office		
Jun 30 1943	Schwarz, Gertrude	Possession	
Jul 1 1943	Schwarz, Gertrude M.	Assumed charge	
Jul 9 1943	Schwarz, Gertrude	Acting	
Sep 29 1943	Schwarz, Gertrude	Confirmed	
Nov 26 1943	Schwarz, Gertrude	Commissioned	
Apr 1 1944	Ellis, Mrs. Betty June	Assumed charge	
Apr 28 1944	Ellis, Mrs. Betty June	Acting	
Nov 27 1944	Morgan, Mrs. Fern Ann	Possession	
Dec 23 1944	Morgan, Mrs. Fern Ann	Acting	
Jan 18 1946	Morgan, Mrs. Fern Ann	Appointed	
Nov 25 1946	Morgan, Mrs. Fern Ann	Commissioned	
Nov 25 1946	Morgan, Mrs. Fern Ann	Possession	
Nov 17 1966	**Ordered closed**		
Dec 2 1966	**Discontinued Mail to Westcliffe**		

Confirmed types of postal markings

| 1	Rosita Col		May 31 1875
	MS	Mscp Town mark only	
2	ROSITA / COL.		Oct 22 1875
	CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 5 ring 18mm	
3	ROSITA / COLORADO.		Jan 1 1876 Jan 14 1879
	RC 10P 19.0x25.0	Hstp Grid, 12 bars 8x26mm; Hobnail pattern 2x6;	
		Circle of 7 wedges; Grid, 10-bar circular	
		[more than 25 examples of this postmark exist,	
		only 4 are Territorial period dates]	
4	ROSITA, / COLO.		Mar 27 1879 Jun 28 1880
	CI 10P 26.5/17.0	Hstp Grid, 6 bar circular in black	

ROSITA – Continued

5	ROSITA / COLO. OC 10p 25.5x25.5	Jan 7 1880 Dec 25 1881 Hstp Cork, 8-bar circular grid; Cork, 8-piece pie, Target, 4-ring 17mm	
6	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Oct 16 1881 Jul 7 1886 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, positive "R"; 6-bar circular grid	
7	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Nov 9 1901 Hstp No killer	
8	ROSITA, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dec 20 1901 Hstp Not present	
9	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Oct 25 1904 Jan 20 1905 Doane Type 1 with 2, P-22x11mm	
10	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Jan 3 1907 Jun 17 1907 4bars 4 scalloped bars	
11	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Apr 8 1909 Jul 15 1915 4bars S-23x13mm	
12	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 37.0	Jan 1 1940 Jan 4 1941 4bars S-27x23mm	
13	ROSITA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	May 24 1938 Apr 10 1943 4bars S-22x14mm	
14	ROSITA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Oct 27 1943 Dec 3 1962 4bars S-24x19mm	
15	ROSITA, CO / 81245 CI 10P 32.5	Dec 2 1966 4bars S-??x??mm	

ROSITA – Continued
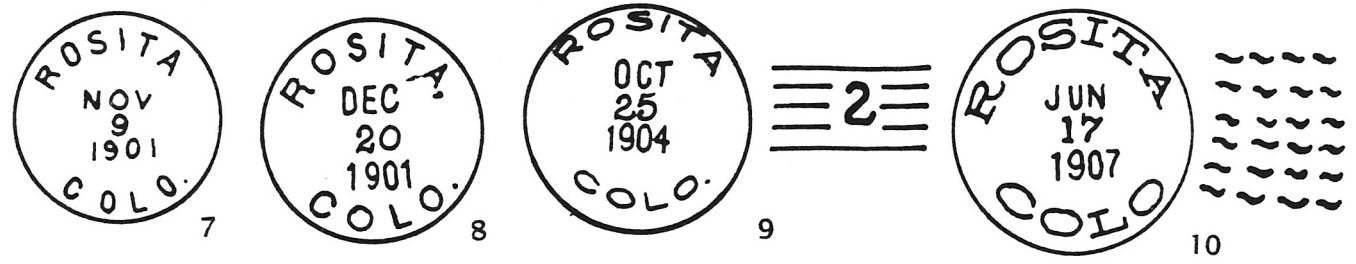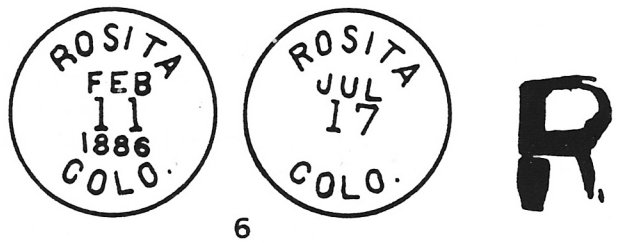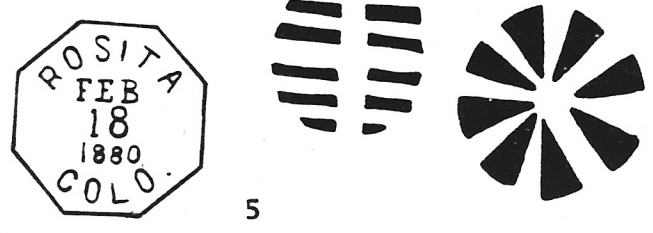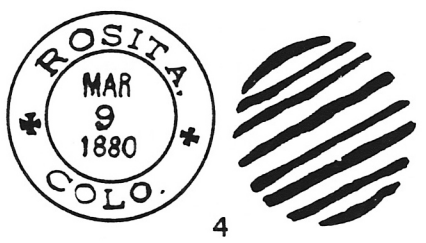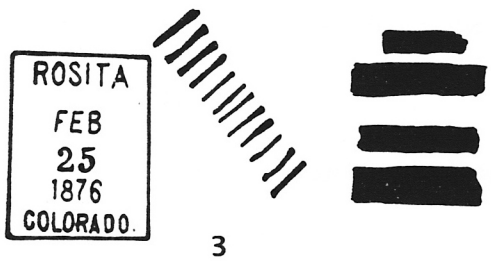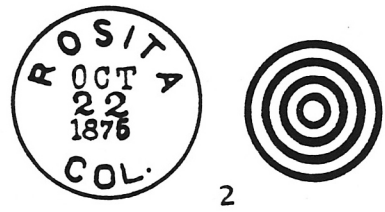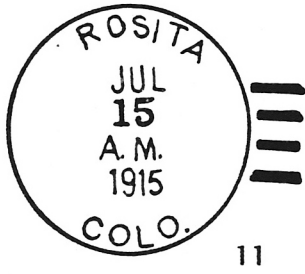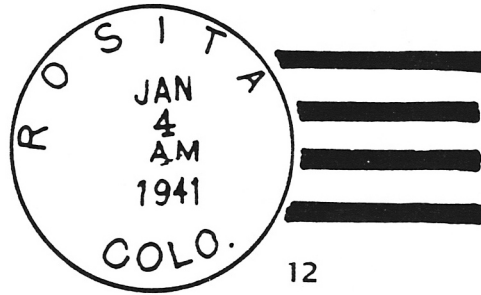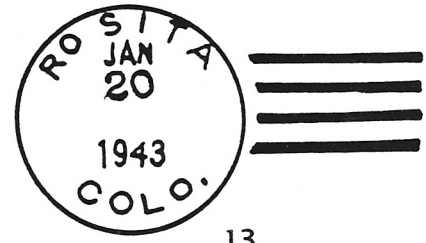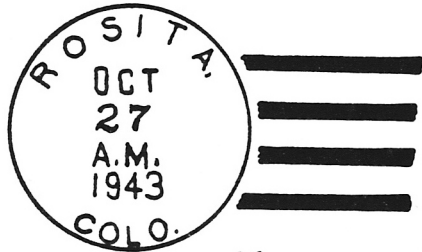
AUXILIARY MARKINGS

A-1   ADVERTISED   Jan 1 1876
            CI 10P 21.5   Hstp On cover from Las Animas, Colorado to Rosita

A 2   FORWARDED   Aug 18 1879
            RC 10P 27.5x12.5   Hstp On cover from Cincinnati, OH forwarded to
Greenwood, CO with type B4 cds

A-1

A-2
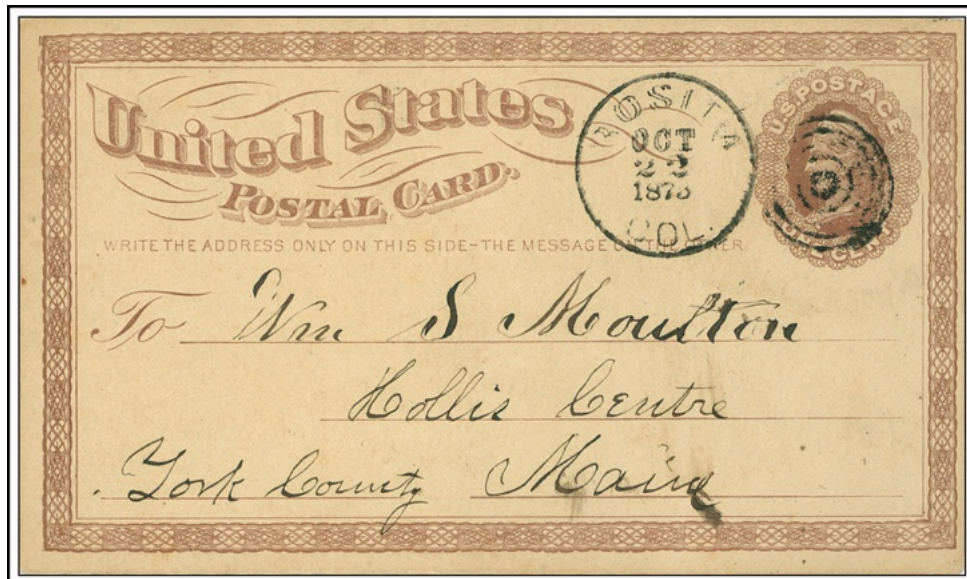
ROSITA / COL.   October 22, 1875   Territorial usage

SAN ISABEL

In 1933 H. T. Ashley and associates built a lodge on the north side of the St. Charles River and San Isabel Lake. They also erected 20 cabins for summer visitors. From those beginnings San Isabel has grown into a small resort and summer residential community with stores to serve the visitors. The older community of Fairview was once located on the St. Charles River, now covered by the lake.

The San Isabel Post Office was one of the few independent offices to be established in Colorado after 1930.

San Isabel is on Colorado Highway 165, one mile north of the Pueblo County line.

Latitude = 37:59:15 North   Longitude = 105:03:14 West   SAN ISABEL

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 4 1936 ----	**SW/4 NE/4 sec 1 T24S R69W; 1/4 mile northwest of St. Charles River, 2 blocks south of Spring Creek.**	
	Applicant for postmaster - Harry Alonzo Springer	
	Postmaster William L. Parks	
Jun 18 1936	**Established**	
Jun 18 1936	**Springer, Harry A.**	**Confirmed**
Jul 3 1936	**Springer, Harry A.**	**Commissioned**
Jul 1 1937	**Sain, Benjamin Webster**	**Assumed charge**
Jul 17 1937	**Sain, Benjamin Webster**	**Acting**
Jul 31 1937	**Sain, Benjamin Webster**	**Confirmed**
Aug 16 1937	**Sain, Benjamin Webster**	**Commissioned**
Nov 17 1937	**Parks, William L.**	**Assumed charge**
Dec 4 1937	**Parks, William L.**	**Acting**
Jan 25 1938	**Parks, William L.**	**Confirmed**
Feb 15 1938	**Parks, William L.**	**Commissioned**
Jun 2 1938 ----	**NE/4 N/2 SE/4 T24S R69W: Willow Creek is 20 yards north; (Little) St. Charles River or Lake is 500 yards south of post office**	
Dec 8 1938	**Ordered closed**	
Dec 31 1938	**Discontinued Mail to Wetmore**	
May 29 1939	**Modified Mail to Rye**	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	**SAN ISABEL, / COLO.**	**Jul 18 1936 Dec 31 1938**
	CI 10P 33.0	**4bars S-25x20mm [Used on both first and last day of operation covers]**

1
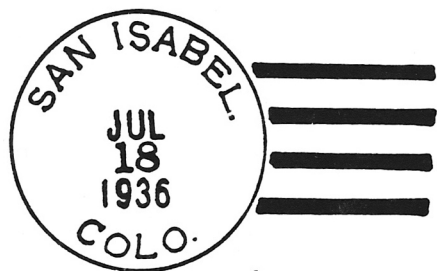
SILVER CLIFF

On June 29, 1878, R. J. Edwards, Robert Powell and George Hoffard made the initial mineral discovery in a thirty-foot high, stained porphyry cliff. The ore was very rich in silver and was called horn silver. McElhenny and Wilson built the first house in September of 1876. Ed Norris and Ed Austin laid out Cliff and Mill Streets and the Horn Silver Saloon was soon dispensing product to the growing population. The small frame building also contained a general store and the first post office of Silver Cliff.

Silver Cliff was incorporated February 10, 1879. But it was not until December 8, 1879 that W. H. Holmes laid out the townsite and patented the town. Miners rushed into the area and a number of quality mines were soon in operation. Among the best mines were the Horn Silver, Racine Boy and the Silver Cliff.

In 1880 Silver Cliff was devastated by fire. It was rebuilt but was struck again by fire in 1882. To tap the rich mining area the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built a branch line from Canon City up Grape Creek to the edge of Silver Cliff. The railroad never made it up the last steep grade into the town and by stopping short it soon became the reason for the establishment of Westcliffe. This situation was reinforced when frequent, violent floods forced the abandonment of the Grape Creek route and the construction of a new branch line from Texas Creek on the Arkansas River also terminated at Westcliffe.

An election in 1891 resulted in the Custer County seat being moved from Rosita to Silver Cliff. In 1931 the county seat moved again, down the hill to Westcliffe.

The Silver Panic of 1893 began the decline of Silver Cliff in favor of Westcliffe. The decline has continued but Silver Cliff is still on the map with a modest number of residences scattered about the old street pattern.

The name is an obvious reference to the initial discovery of silver ore in a cliff near the town.

A curiosity has always been the close proximity of post offices at Silver Cliff and Westcliffe. This situation lasted for over 100 years. In the 1990's the Silver Cliff Post Office moved to Westcliffe and for a short time operated from the same building in the center of town and perhaps with the same postmaster. By 1992 a new post office had been built on the east edge of Westcliffe, but it is designated as Westcliffe, CO 81252 - Silver Cliff, CO 81249.

Silver Cliff is located on Colorado Highway 96 a little over a mile east of the junction with Colorado Highway 69 in Westcliffe.

Latitude = 38:08:07 North   Longitude = 105:26:45 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 26 1878 ----	SW/4 sec 16 T22S R72W	
Oct 30 1878	Established	
Oct 30 1878	Stevens, William L.	
Dec 27 1878	McElhinney, Alexander M.	
Jun 16 1880	McElhinney, Alexander M.	P&S
Jul 4 1884	Humphrey, E. C.	P&S
Mar 26 1887	Kelly, Peter J.	
Mar 29 1889	Thomas, Everett W.	
Dec 7 1893	Southgate, Jennie M.	
Mar 21 1898	Phillips, Mary E.	
Jun 27 1901 ----	SW/4 sec 16 T22S R72W	
Mar 2 1914 ----	SW/4 sec 16 T22S R72W	
Feb 1 1915	Stroehlke, Julius T.	
Sep 12 1916	Ryan, Grace E.	
Oct 1 1921	Colbert Mary L.	
Jun 1 1927	Lee, Leona	Appointed

SILVER CLIFF – Continued

Jun 18 1927	Lee, Leona	Commissioned
Jun 30 1927	Lee, Leona	Possession
Oct 17 1941 ----	S/2 sec 16 T22S R72W	
Jun 30 1960	Kastendieck, Charles M.	Assumed charge
Jul 6 1960	Kastendieck, Charles M.	Acting
May 17 1962	Kastendieck, Charles M.	Confirmed
May 25 1962	Kastendieck, Charles M.	Possession
Sep 28 1991	Discontinued	

SILVER CLIFF / COLO.   August 7, 1881

Confirmed types of postal markings

|			
1	Silver Cliff Colo		Feb 14 1879
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
2	SILVER CLIFF, / COLO.		Mar 22 1879 Jun 30 1879
	CI 11P 29.0/16.5	Hstp Cork, Smudge; "*" at each side of CDS	
3	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Jul 29 1879 Feb 4 1884
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Grid, Negative X-roads	
4	SILVER CLIFF, COLO. / CORRECT. / A. M. McElHinney, P. M.		Jun 7 1882
	OV 20P 39x23/37x20	Hstp No killer, undated	
5	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Jun 7 1882 Feb 20 1888
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	
5.v	SILVER CLIFF / COL.		May 10 1884 Sep 12 1886
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present [It is likely that this represents gradual erosion of the final O of COLO.]	
5.1	SILVER CLIFF, COLO / REGISTERED		Apr 11 1887
	RC 10P 39.0x23.0	Hstp No killer	
6	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Feb 5 1889 Mar 24 1899
	CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	
7	SILVER CLIFF, COLO. / REGISTERED		May 17 1889
	RC 10P 39.0x23.0	Hstp Pen cancel, Manuscript date, rounded corners to box	

SILVER CLIFF – Continued

7.1	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Dec 14 1906
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	
8	SILVER CLIFF, / COLO.		Dec 30 1907 Jan 12 1914
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x14mm	
9	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Jan 21 1929 Jan 20 1930
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	
10	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Feb 23 1933 Feb 4 1941
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	
11	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Nov 6 1941 Nov 6 1948
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	
12	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Jan 8 1958 Jan 25 1960
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x21mm	
13	SILVER CLIFF / COLO.		Oct 15 1962 Jun 15 1963
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	
14	SILVER CLIFF, CO / 81249		Oct 14 1966 Dec 17 1981
	CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x20mm	
15	SILVER CLIFF, CO / 81249		Mar 9 1987 Aug 13 1987
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	

SILVER CLIFF – Continued
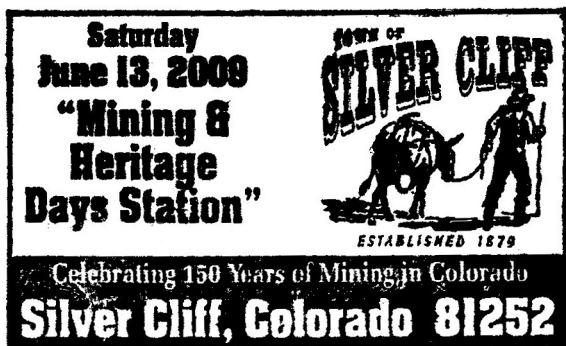

12

13

14

15
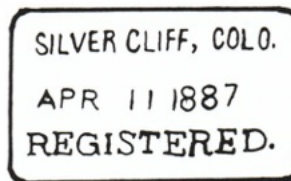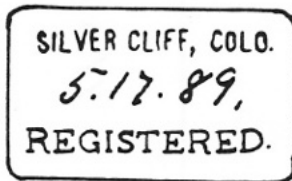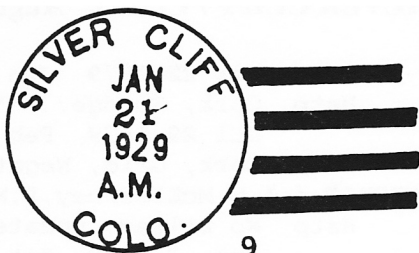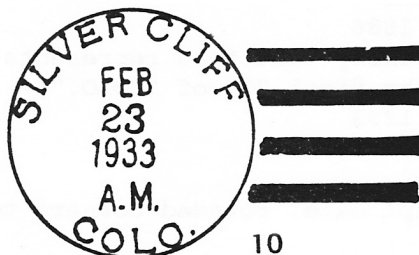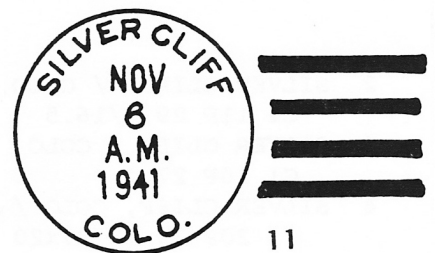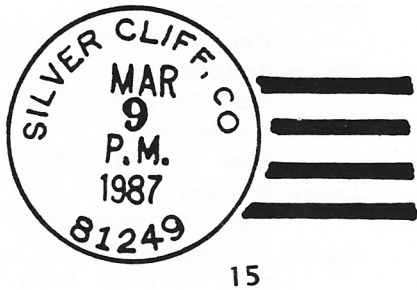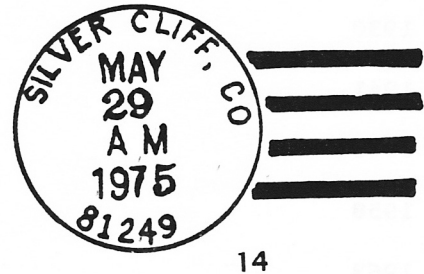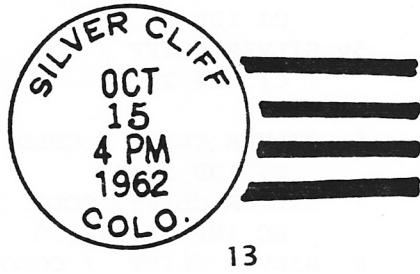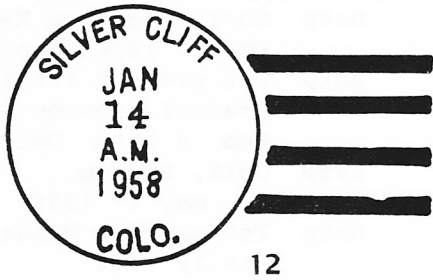
MINING & HERITAGE DAYS STATION
Chronology of the Post Office
　　Jun 13 2009　　　　**Operated as a Special Commemorative Station**

Confirmed types of postal markings
　1　　　　Silver Cliff, Colorado 81252 // "Mining & / Heritage / Days Station"　　　Jun 13 2009
　　　　　　RC 10P 75.0 x 45.0　　　　　　　Pict Scene - Miner leading burro: Text – TOWN OF/
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　SILVER CLIFF / Celebrating 150 Years of Mining in Colorado

1

SILVER PARK
　　　　Silver Park was a wayside ranch, on the wagon road to Rosita from Pueblo, near the head of one of the branches of Hardscrabble Creek. There was some mining activity in the area but it was more important as a supply town for mines and ranches.

　　　　The name was a combination representing the silver mining activity and the small, park-like setting where it was located.

　　　　From the junction of Colorado Highways 165 and 96 (McKensie Junction) drive west one and one-half miles on Highway 96. There is an occupied ranch complex with some older buildings on the north side of the highway. County Road 285 (to the Neeley site) begins here.

SILVER PARK – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office

Request to Rosita for information: Reply - Silver Park comprises almost all of sections 3 & 4 in T22S R70W 6th PM

Jul 19 1879 ----		"supposed" sec 21 T21S R70W; Two miles northwest of Hardscrabble Creek: sketch map shows it on the road from Greenwood to Rosita
		Proposed postmaster - Jay Guy Lewis
Jul 28 1879	**Established**	
Jul 28 1879		Lewis, Jay Guy
May 24 1880		James, Frank
Jul 27 1880		Soper, Charles V.
Nov 17 1880		Frisbie, Charles R.
Feb 2 1881	**Discontinued**	
Feb 10 1881	**Closed**	

Silver Park Col   August 16, 1880

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Silver Park Col.	Aug 7 1880 Sep 15 1880
	MS Mscp Pen cancel	

ULA

In September 1871 Joseph A. Davies settled at what would soon become Ula. He erected a hotel and also kept a store in the same building. A post office was acquired on December 1, 1871 and as others came to the area a small community developed. It was the first town in the northern Wet Mountain Valley to achieve any semblance of permanence. The post office would last for twenty years before the prominence of nearby Westcliffe caused its closing.

ULA – Continued

One reference claims that Ula was the first county seat of Custer County but that claim is not supported by any other reference. The origin of the name is not clear. One version claims that the settlers intended to name the town after the Ute Indian Chief Ure, however the name was either misspelled or misread by the Post Office Department. A more prosaic version is that it was named for the wife of one of the early settlers.

There was some attempt at mining near Ula but it soon petered out. A number of hunters came to the valley from England. Some stayed to become ranchers and the community acquired a nickname of "Briton's Paradise."

On the northern outskirts of Westcliffe, turn west from Colorado Highway 69 onto Pines Road, which in a little over a mile turns north. Keep heading north and in about one mile you will find a large, well kept ranch on the west side of the road. In 2001 there was an ornate gate with the legend "TOWN OF ULA / STORE AND POST OFFICE."

From the *SILVER STATE RECORD - Volume 1, Number 9, January 1964, page 6:*

> *In the place names column of the October issue, SILVER STATE RECORD, Ula in Custer County was one of the place names used,*
> *A recent subscriber Mrs. Herbert Kettle, has written as follows.*
> *"I married the son of one of the Englishmen who settled in the Ula area in Custer County, Colorado. He attended school in the Ula School House and remembers Joseph Davis, the first postmaster.*
> *"The large farm house, landscaped with trees, lawn, and white fence is on the site of Ula, and was the original hotel and post office. The old meat market which was a log building, is used as a grainery. The Ula School House has been remodeled into a modern cottage. It is south of the "Hotel."*
> *We toss a SILVERED BOUQUET to Mrs. Kettle for sending us this welcome information.*

Latitude = 38:09:03 North   Longitude = 105:30:18 West   (ULA CEMETERY)

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 1871 ----	Unsurveyed about 12 miles north of Colfax, 1/2 mile south of **[? Sentence unfinished]**	
Dec 1 1871	**Established**	
Dec 1 1871	**Davis, Joseph A.**	
Apr 29 1875	**LeGard, A. B.**	
May 15 1875 ----	**SW/4 NW/4 sec 12 T22S R73W; 300 yards north of Taylor Creek West Grape Creek**	
Aug 2 1875	**Harrison, Henry B.**	
Mar 24 1876	**Falkenberg, J.**	
Apr 11 1876	**Falkenburg, John P.**	
May 24 1888	**Camper, Andrew**	
May 4 1891	**Discontinued Papers to Westcliffe**	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Ula C. T.		Feb 1 1872
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
2	ULA / COLO.		Apr 26 1872 Jul 13 1874
	CI 10P 24.5	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, Target, 4-ring 17mm	
3	ULA, / COLO.		Aug 29 1878 May 2 1881
	CI 10P 23.5	Hstp Cork, smudge; Fancy, Negative star-in-circle	
4	ULA / COLO.		May 12 1891
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	

ULA – Continued

Entrance to Ula, Colorado and buildings of an active ranch and resort complex on the site
Photograph by James L. Ozment   **May 23, 2001**

WESTCLIFFE

In the spring of 1881 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad (narrow gauge) arrived in the Wet Mountain Valley near Silver Cliff. In usual Rio Grande fashion they established their own town and although at first known as Clifton, it soon took the name Westcliffe. One source asserts that Dr. William A. Bell, an associate of D&RG founder William Jackson Palmer chose the name in honor of his birthplace, Westcliffe-on-the-Sea in England; however, Bell was born of an English family in County Tipperary, Ireland. Another idea is that its location, a mile west of Silver Cliff dictated the choice. The name certainly fits the location with relation to Silver Cliff, but the addition of the final "e" would lend credence to English parentage.

Westcliffe was incorporated November 21, 1897.

With the railroad on which to center its growth, Westcliffe soon became the most prominent town in the Wet Mountain Valley, eclipsing earlier Silver Cliff but it was not until 1931 that it could claim the county seat.

Westcliffe has survived the end of mining activity in Custer County and a decline in agricultural and lumbering activity. As the twentieth century came to a close, the northern portion of Custer County began to develop as summer recreational and residential area. Westcliffe is the supply and trading center for this growing population, some of whom have become year-around residents.

Westcliffe is near the center of the county where Colorado Highway 96 from Pueblo intersects Colorado Highway 69 from Texas Creek on the Arkansas River south to Walsenburg.

Latitude = 38:08:05 North   Longitude = 105:27:55 West

WESTCLIFFE − Continued
Chronology of the Post Office

|			
Jun 24 1881	----	**SE/4 sec 18 T22S R72W**	
		Proposed postmaster - George J. Hanley	
Jul 14 1881		**Established**	
Jul 14 1881		**Hanley, George J.**	
Apr 10 1882		**Colyer, G.**	
Nov 21 1882		**Discontinued Mail to Silver Cliff**	
Jan 18 1886	----	**SW/4 sec 17 T22S R72W: At some time this document was altered**	
		from "WEST CLIFFE" to "WESTCLIFFE.” probably another example of	
		the mid-1890's name clean-up effort.	
		Proposed postmaster - Marcus Goldstaudh	
Jan 22 1886		**Re-established**	
Jan 22 1886		**Goldstandt, Marcus**	
Mar 19 1889		**Lacey, Mrs. Sarah P.**	
Dec 6 1894		**Etzel, Anna B.**	
Oct 21 1897		**Merriam, Kate**	
Feb 18 1914	----	**SE/4 sec 18 T22S R72W**	
Dec 30 1914		**Dickson, Asa P.**	
Apr 1 1915			**Office made Presidential**
Dec 16 1915		**Dickson, Asa P.**	**P&S**
Jun 17 1917	----	**SE/4 SE/4 sec 18 T22S R72W**	
Feb 18 1920		**Dickson, Asa P.**	**P&S**
Sep 22 1922		**Callagher, John C.**	**P&S**
Dec 21 1926		**Callagher, John C.**	**P&S**
Dec 18 1930		**Callagher, John C.**	**P&S**
May 23 1933		**Callaghan, Miss Mildred**	**Assumed charge**
Jun 6 1933		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Acting**
Jun 13 1933		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Assumed charge**
Dec 6 1933		**Callaghan, Miss Mildred**	**Acting**
May 23 1934		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Nominated**
May 31 1934		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Confirmed**
Jun 28 1934		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Commissioned**
Jun 30 1934		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Assumed charge**
Apr 29 1938		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Nominated**
May 3 1938		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Confirmed**
May 28 1938		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Commissioned [sequence?]**
May 31 1938		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Appointed Presidential & Assumed charge**
Oct 21 1941	----	**Cor. 2nd St & Silver Cliffe Ave. SE/4 sec 18, T22S R72W**	
Jul 13 1942		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Nominated**
Jul 30 1942		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Confirmed**
Jul 31 1942		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Appointed Presidential**
Aug 14 1942		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Commissioned**
Aug 18 1942		**Dickson, Charles L.**	**Assumed charge**
May 31 1950		**Christoff, James F.**	**Acting**
Jun 05 1951		**Christoff, James F.**	**Nominated**
Jun 20 1951		**Christoff, James F.**	**Confirmed**
Jun 21 1951		**Christoff, James F.**	**Appointed Presidential & Commissioned**
Sep 30 1951		**Christoff, James F.**	**Assumed charge**
Sep 4 1970		**Crow, Mrs. Lois E.**	**Officer in charge**
Mar 20 1971		**Crow, Mrs. Lois E.**	**Assumed charge**

WESTCLIFFE – Continued
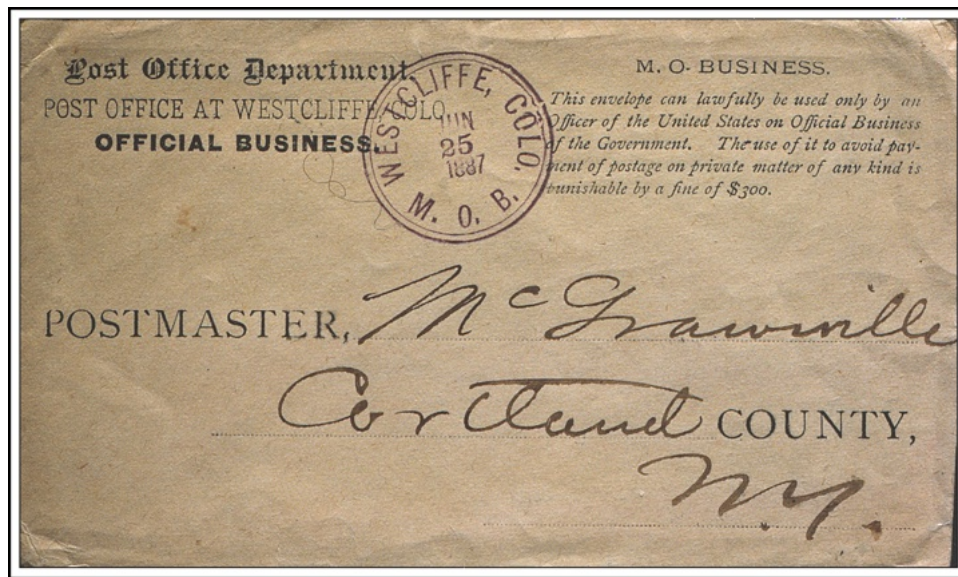
WESTCLIFFE, COLO. / M. O. B.   June 25, 1887 Money Order Business penalty envelope

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	WESTCLIFF / COLO.		Jun 28 1886 Jan 21 1888
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 15mm	
2	WESTCLIFFE / COLO.		Apr 3 1886 Jun 18 1886
	CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	
3	WESTCLIFFE, COLO. / M.O.B.		Jun 25 1887 Dec 23 1890
	CI 20P 29.5/27.0	Hstp No killer	
4	WESTCLIFFE / COLO.		Jan 28 1888 Feb 22 1894
	CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target	
5	WESTCLIFFE / COLO.		Mar 18 1899 Dec 29 1904
	CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Cork, smudge	
6	WESTCLIFFE, / COLO.		Jan 8 1908 Aug 26 1909
	CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-??x14mm	
7	WESTCLIFFE / COLO.		Dec 17 1917 Mar 14 1960
	CI 10P 29.5	Dplx Grid, 8-bar oval	
7.1	Westcliffe, / Colo.		1950s
	RC 10P 36.0x18.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	
8	WESTCLIFFE / COLO.		Oct 5 1962 Jun 5 1964
	CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, Pointed with 1	
9	WESTCLIFFE, CO / 81252		May 25 1965 Nov 11 1971
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	
10	WESTCLIFFE, CO / 81252		May 29 1975 Mar 6 1987
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x18mm	
11	WESTCLIFFE, CO / 81252		Aug 13 1987 May 28 1993
	CI 10P 22.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	
12	WESTCLIFFE, CO / 81252		Dec 4 1991 Apr 15 1993
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	
12.1	WESTCLIFFE CO / USPO		May 26 1993
	CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	
13	WESTCLIFFE CO 81252 / USPS		May 23 2001
	CI 11P 30.0/20.5	Hstp No killer	
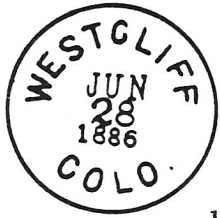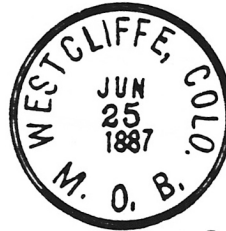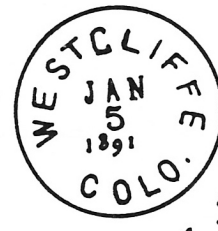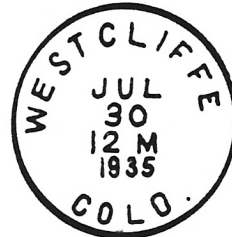
WESTCLIFFE – Continued
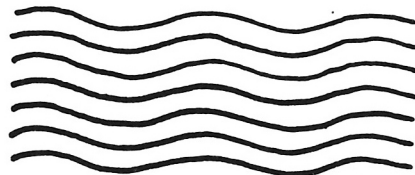
WESTCLIFFE – Continued
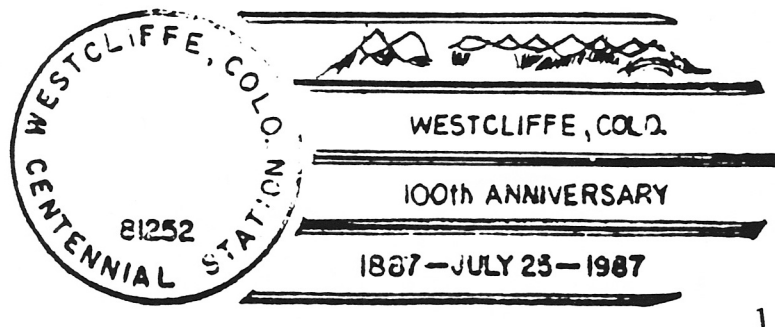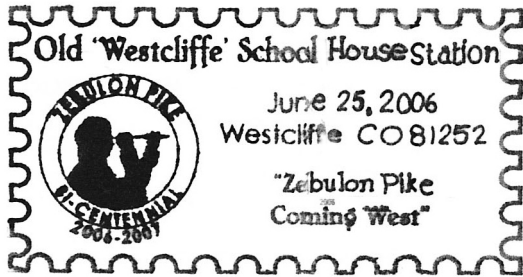## WESTCLIFFE STATIONS

CENTENNIAL STATION
Chronology of the Post Office
    Jul 25 1987   Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings
    1   WESTCLIFFE, COLO. (81252) / CENTENNIAL STATION   Jul 25 1987   Jul 25 1987
              IR 00R 102.0x38.0   Pict Scene - Mountains, fancy bars; Text - WESTCLIFFE, COLO. /
                                        100th ANNIVERSARY / 1887 - JULY 25 - 1987

JONES THEATER STATION
Chronology of the Post Office
    Jul 2 2006   Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings
    1   Westcliffe, CO 81252 // Jones Theater Station   Jul 2 2006
              IR 10T 68.0 x 35.0   Pict Scene - Man with telescope; Text - ZEBULON PIKE /
                                    BICENTENNIAL / 2006-2007 :: Zebulon Pike / "Blue Mountain"

OLD WESTCLIFFE SCHOOL HOUSE
Chronology of the Post Office
    Jun 25 2006   Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings
    1   Westcliffe, CO 81252 // Old 'Westcliffe' School House Station   Jun 25 2006
              IR 10T 68.0 x 35.0   Pict Scene - Man with telescope; Text - ZEBULON PIKE /
                                    BICENTENNIAL / 2006-2007 :: "Zebulon Pike / Coming West"

WESTCLIFFE STATIONS – Continued
**OLD WESTCLIFFE SCHOOL HOUSE – Continued**

WET MOUNTAIN WEASTERN DAYS
Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 2 2006	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Sep 1 2007	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1   Westcliffe, CO 81252 // Wet Mountain Western / Days Station   Sep 2 2006
        RC 10T 67.0 x 35.0   Pict Scene - Man with telescope; Text - ZEBULON PIKE /
                                              BICENTENNIAL / 2006-2007 :: "Ranch Family of the Year"

2   Westcliffe, Colorado 81252 // "Wet Mountain Western Days" / Station   Sep 1 2007
        RC 10T 67.0 x 35.0   Pict Scene - Mountains, profile of a man; Text - Ranching /
                                              Family / Saturday,
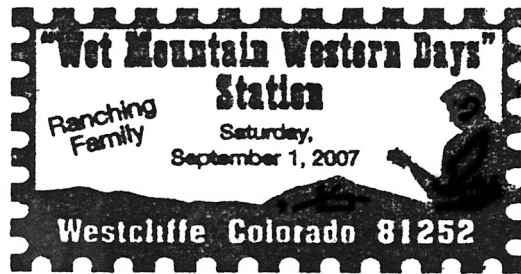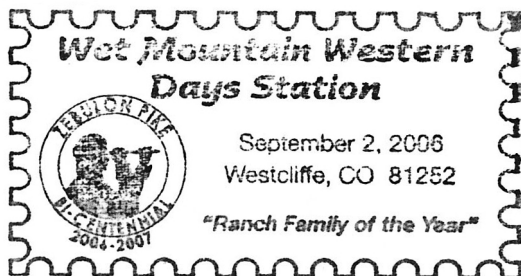
WETMORE
     In 1880 William Hayes homesteaded 160 acres on Hardscrabble Creek near where it exits from the Wet Mountains. He sold his homestead to Frances Wetmore whose husband, William Wetmore, surveyed and named the townsite. It was a center for farmers and ranchers in the surrounding area, shipping grain, hay, head lettuce and other farm products as well as lumber and mine props. An important early business at Wetmore was a distillery.
     Wetmore was a stage station on the road from Pueblo to the Hardscrabble Mining District.
     Wetmore is still an active community with a number of older residences and a few recent additions. It is on Colorado Highway 96 in the extreme northeastern corner of the county.

Latitude = 38:14:17 North   Longitude = 105:05:03 West

WETMORE – Continued
## Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 2 1881 ----	SW/4 sec 11 T21S R69W; 4 rods east of Hardscrabble Creek	
	[The original proposed names appears to be "HARMNIL"; or is it HAUNNIL ?	
	Almost looks like HANNNIL. It is difficult to read/interpret.	
	That was crossed out and WETMORE substituted.]	
	Proposed postmaster - Samuel H. Cullen	
Apr 19 1881	Established	
Apr 19 1881	Callon [Cullen?], Samuel H.	
Jul 31 1883	Neeley, William G.	
Feb 10 1886	Walters, Margaret H.	
Jul 1 1889	Wright, Fred L.	
Sep 2 1891	Smith, William	
Nov 21 1894	Hess, Hiram F.	
Mar 29 1895	Walters, Mrs. Margaret A.	
Jan 29 1907	Bowers, James W.	
Apr 4 1913	Wilcox, LaFayette	
Feb 26 1914 ----	NW/4 sec 11 T21S R69W; 50 yards east of Hardscrabble Creek	
	Postmaster La Fayette Wilcox	
Dec 19 1914	Walters, Frederick T.	Confirmed
Jan 5 1915	Walters, Frederick T.	Commissioned
Jan 16 1915	Walters, Frederick T.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941 ----	NW/4 sec 11 T21S R69W; 150 feet east of Hardscrabble Creek	
Dec 31 1944	Walters, Mrs. Lela H.	Assumed charge
Jan 20 1945	Walters, Mrs. Lela H.	Acting
Sep 14 1945	Walters, Mrs. Lela H.	Confirmed
Nov 2 1945	Walters, Mrs. Lela H.	Commissioned
Nov 15 1945	Walters, Mrs. Lela H.	Assumed charge
Mar 31 1960	DeGani, Mildred F.	Assumed charge
Apr 4 1960	DeGani, Mildred F.	Acting
Jan 13 1961	DeGani, Mildred F.	Commissioned
Jan 13 1961	DeGani, Mildred F.	Possession
Jan 17 1961	DeGani, Mildred F.	Confirmed
Jan 30 1976	Hurley, Charlie J.	Officer in charge
Sep 9 1978	Gray, Mrs. Betty J.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Wetmore		May 31 188-
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
2	WETMORE / COL.		Nov 26 1883 Sep 10 1899
	CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	
3	WETMORE / (CUSTER CO.,) COLORADO		Oct 6 1884
	OC 20P 32.0/27.0	Hstp Cork, grid	
4	WETMORE, / COLO.		Apr 25 1907 Sep 5 1910
	CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3 with 2, S-23x13mm	
5	WETMORE, / COLO.		Apr 14 1911 Nov 17 1914
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	
6	WETMORE / COLO.		Feb 6 1933 Jul 26 1937
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	
7	WETMORE. / COLO.		Oct 23 1939 Sep 27 1948
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	
7.0	WETMORE / COLO.		May 1 1951
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??X20mm	
7.1	WETMORE / COLO.		Jul 7 1959 Jun 23 1964
	CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	

WETMORE – Continued

8	WETMORE, CO / 81253		May 17 1965 Sep 9 1975
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	
9	WETMORE, CO / 81253		Jun 2 1981 Jul 19 1993
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	
10	WETMORE, CO / USPO		Jul 19 1993
	CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	
11	WETMORE CO / 81253		May 20 1999
	CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	
12	WETMORE CO 81253 / USPS		May 20 1999 Oct 15 2001
	CI 10P 28.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	
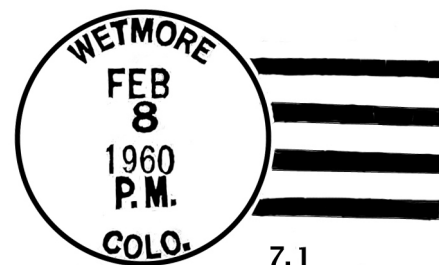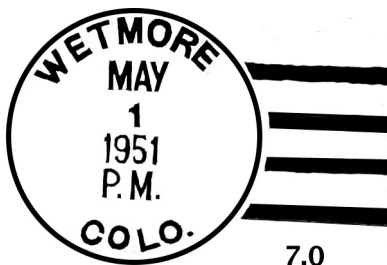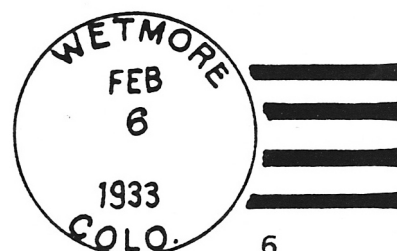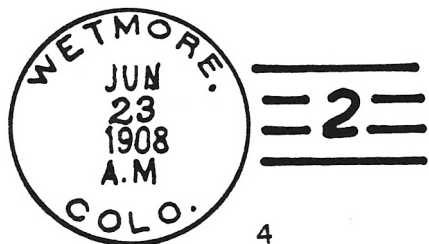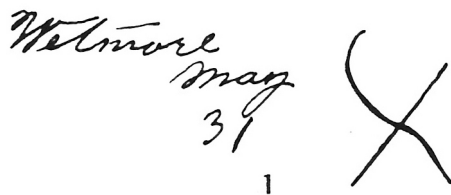
WULSTENVILLE

Wulstenville is named for Carl Wulsten, the organizer of the short-lived German Colonization Society of Chicago, which was responsible for a number of German families moving to the Wet Mountain Valley in 1870. They established the community of Colfax a few miles to the southwest of the Wulstenville site.

Wulsten himself made the application for this post office and gave it his name. It survived for only six months, by which time the Colony itself was in serious trouble and would soon fall apart. It is most unlikely that there were ever more than a few ranch buildings at this location.

The plotted location for Wulstenville is on the west side of Colorado Highway 69 north of the intersection with Colfax Road and about one mile south of Rosita Road. At this location, below the highway embankment is a cluster of old ranch buildings, still in use. From the highway, with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains as a backdrop, this is an excellent photo site.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 19 1871 ----	**SE/4 sec 5 T23S R72W; Colfax is five miles SW from Wulstenville;**	
	immediately on the east side of Grape Creek	
	Application submitted by Carl Wulsten	
Jul 21 1871	**Established**	
Jul 21 1871	**Wulsten, Carl**	
Dec 4 1871	**Discontinued**	

Confirmed types of postal markings
NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WULSTENVILLE

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     pp 115-117
Place Names in Colorado [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]
     Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

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.
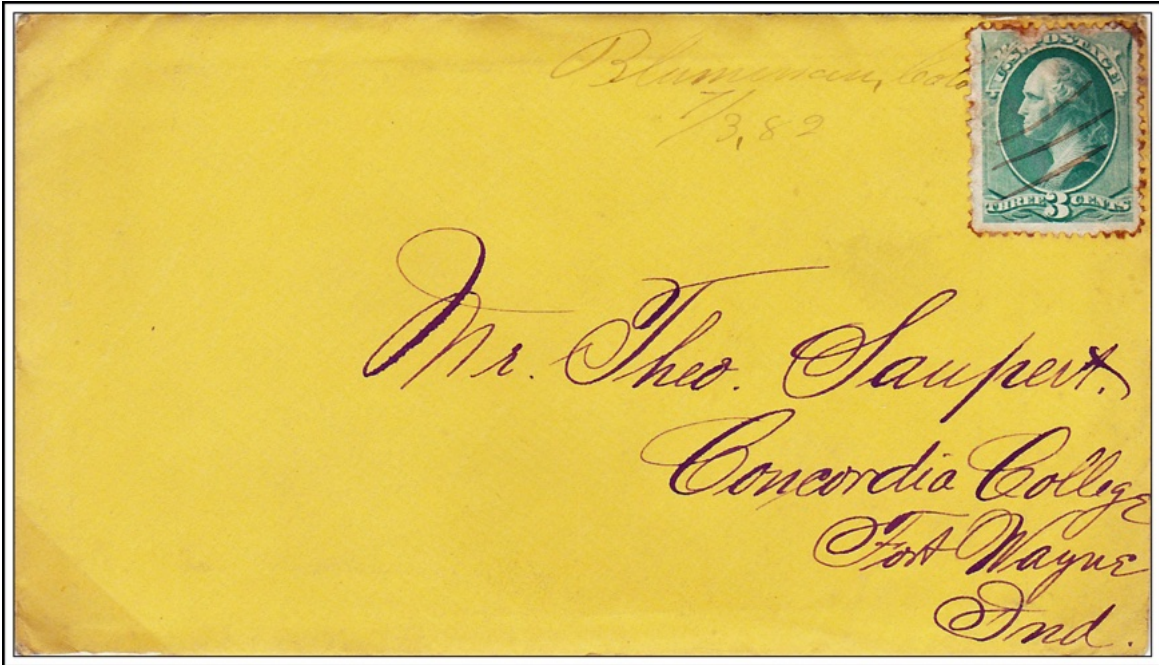
A GALLERY OF CUSTER COUNTY COVERS
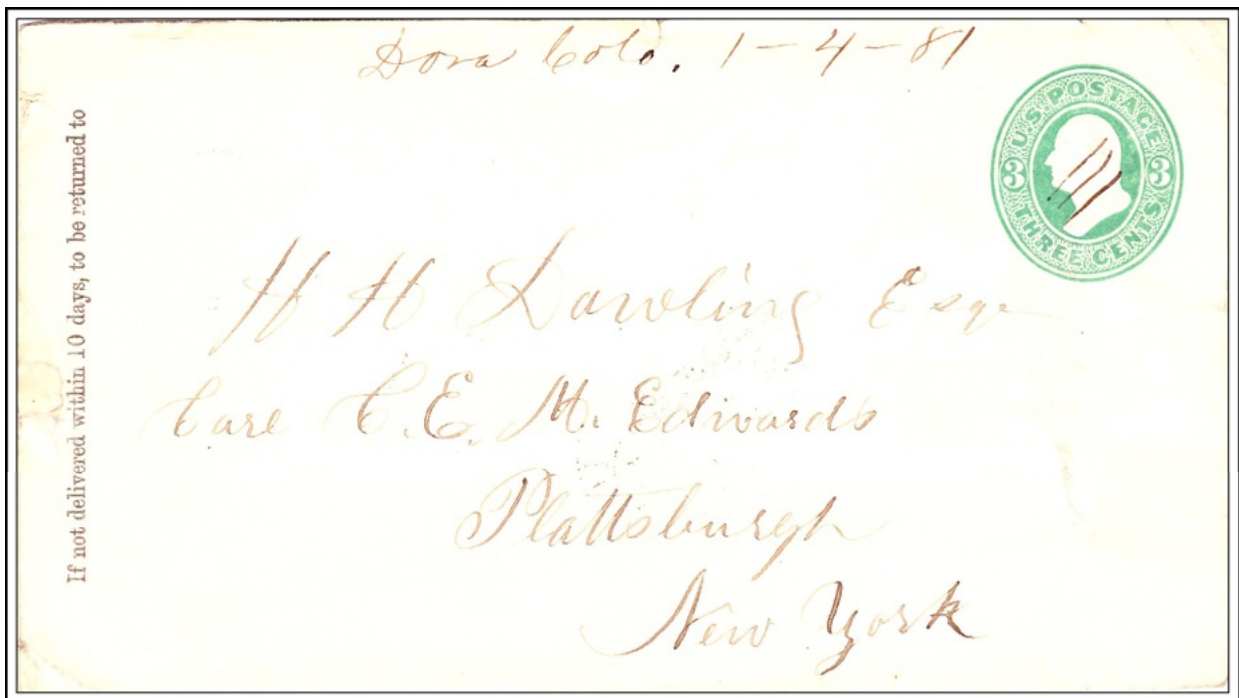

BLACKBURN, / COLO.   April 8, 1883

REGISTERED / BLACKBURN, COLO.   January 25, 1886

Blumenau, Colo   **July 3, 1882**

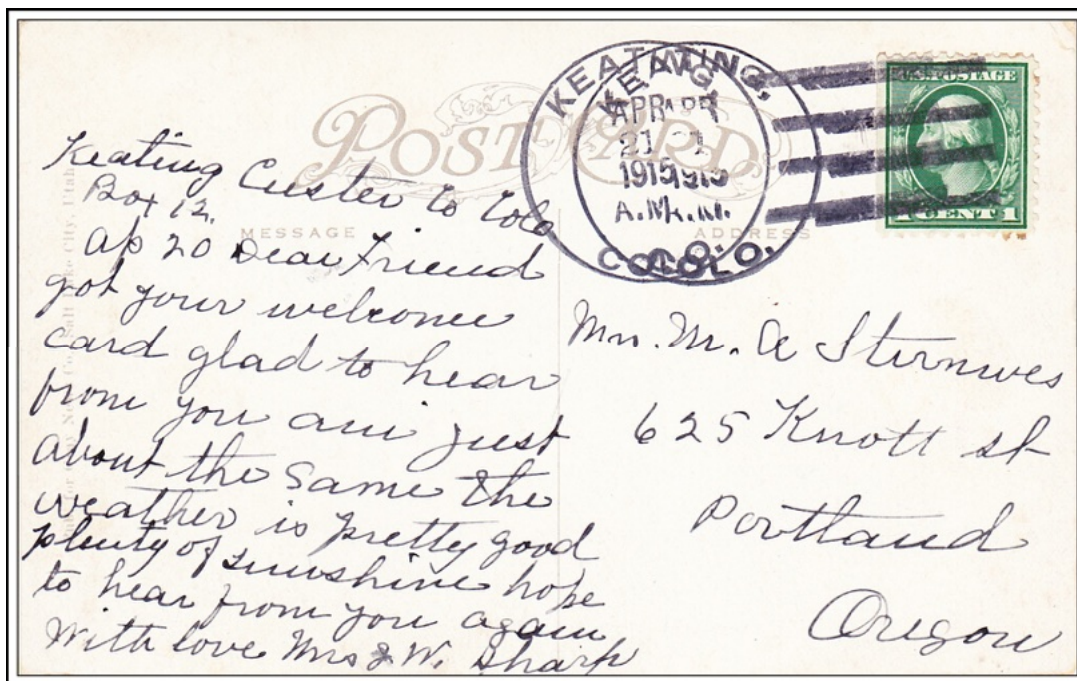**Dora Colo.**   **January 4, 1881**
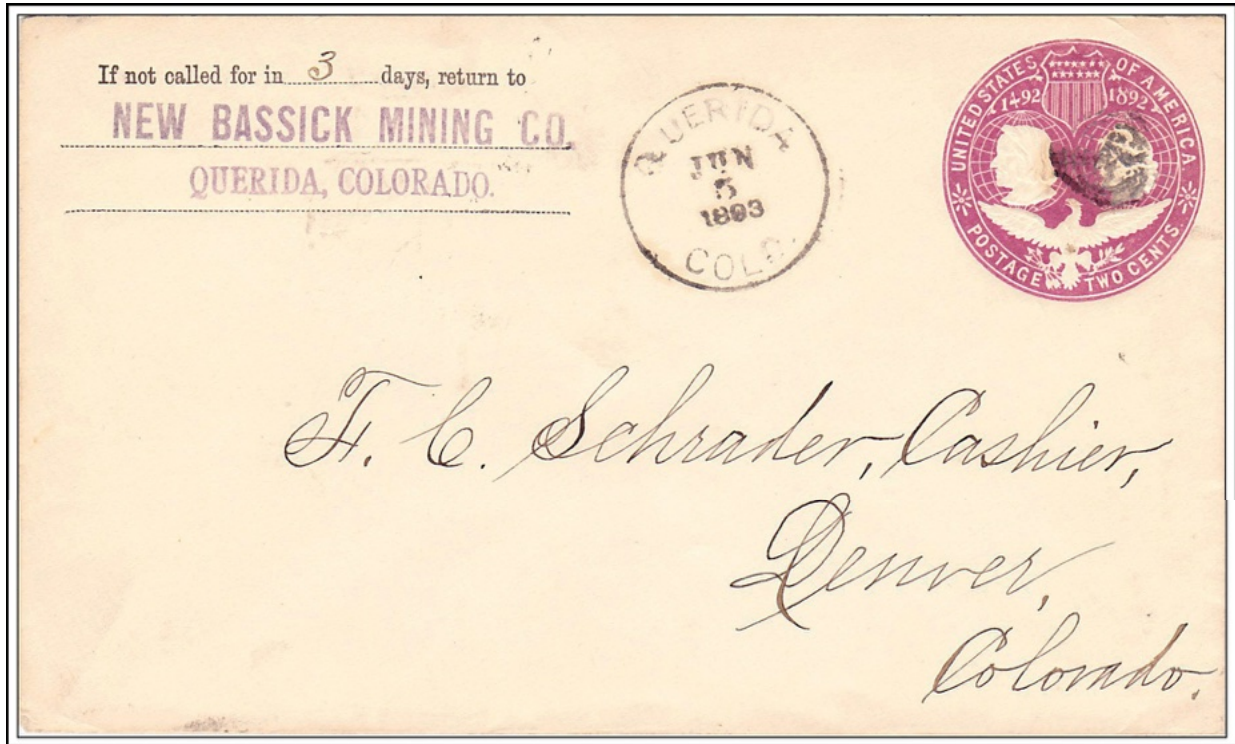
FOCUS. / COLO.   **December 19, 1922**
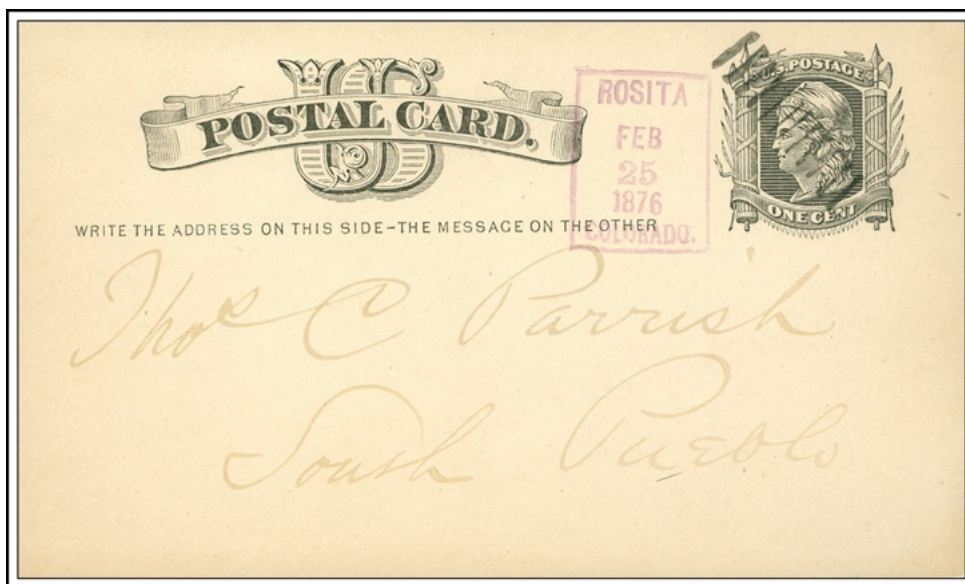

ILSE. / CUSTER CO. COL.   **October 27, 1886**

ILSE, / COLO.   **June 21, 1910**

KEATING, / COLO.   **April 21, 1915**

QUERIDA / COLO.   **June 5, 1893**

ROSITA / COLORADO.   **February 25, 1876**
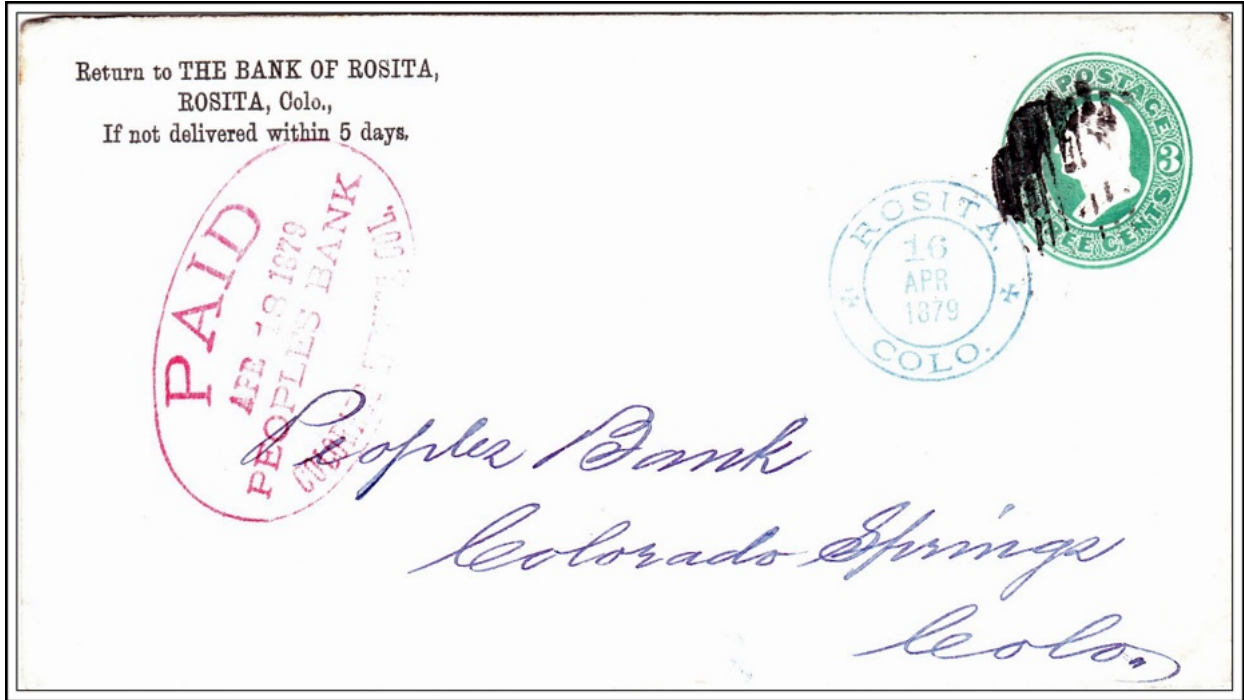
ROSITA, / COLO.   **April 16, 1879**
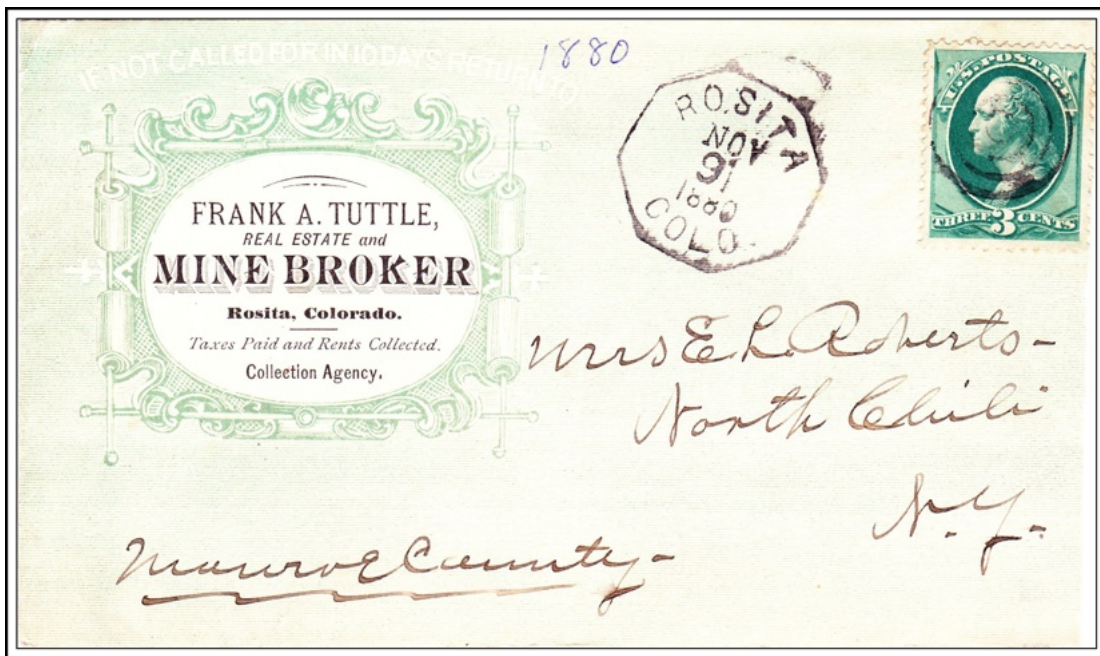
ROSITA / COLO.   **November 9, 1880**
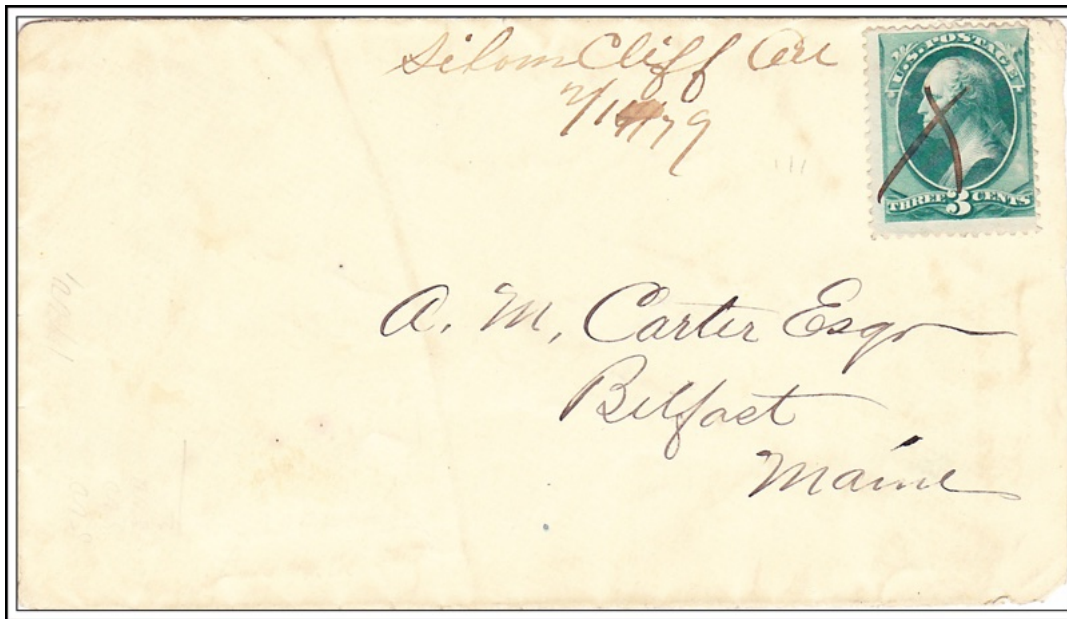
Silver Cliff Col   **February 14, 1879**

SILVER CLIFF, COLO. / CORRECT / A. M. McElHinney, P. M.
June 3, 1882   **on Registry Bill**

ULA, / COLO.   August 29, 1878

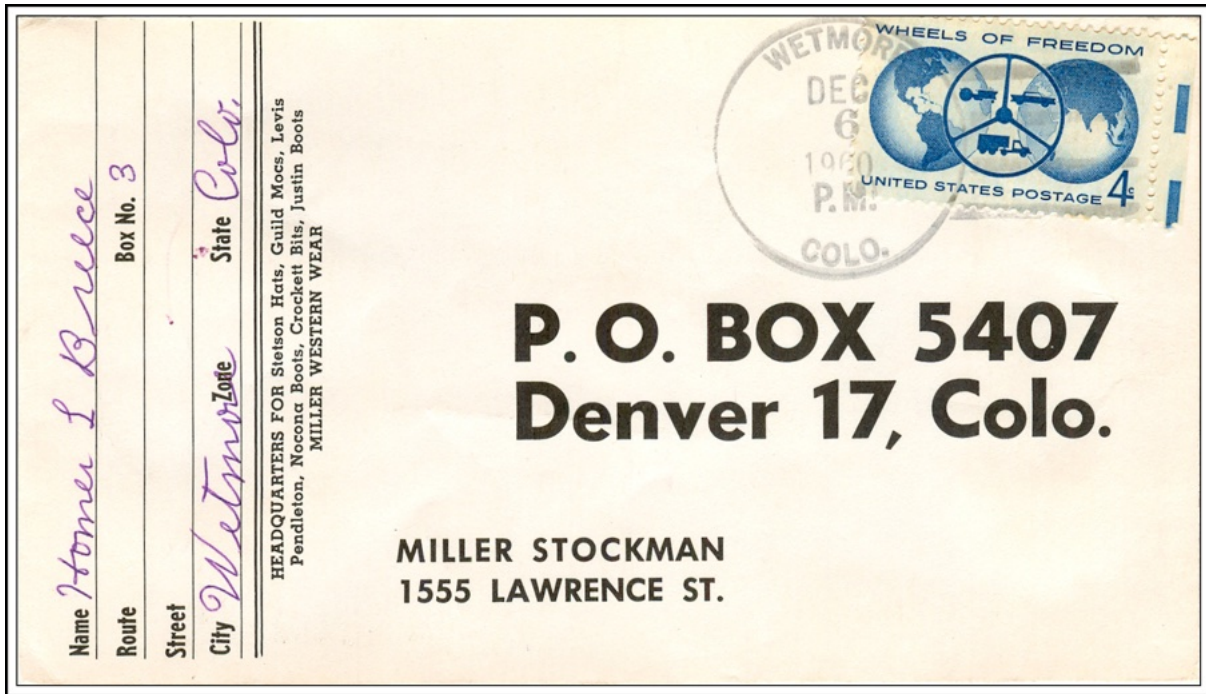**WESTCLIFFE, / COLO.   April 3, 1886**

WESTCLIFFE, / COLO.   **November 27, 1889**

Wetmore   **May 31, (18--)**

Name *Homer L Bruce*
Box No. 3
Route
Street
City *Wetmore* Zone State *Colo.*

HEADQUARTERS FOR Stetson Hats, Guild Mocs, Levis
Pendleton, Nocona Boots, Crockett Bits, Justin Boots
MILLER WESTERN WEAR

WETMORE
DEC
6
1960
P.M.
COLO.

WHEELS OF FREEDOM
UNITED STATES POSTAGE 4¢

P. O. BOX 5407
Denver 17, Colo.

MILLER STOCKMAN
1555 LAWRENCE ST.
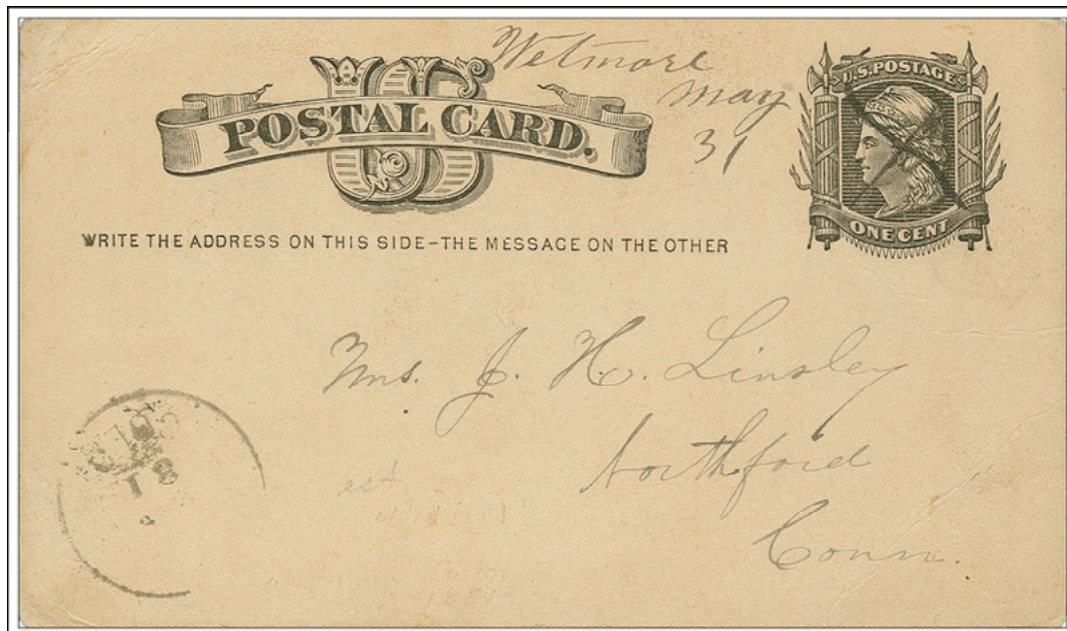
WETMORE / COLO.   **December 6, 1960**