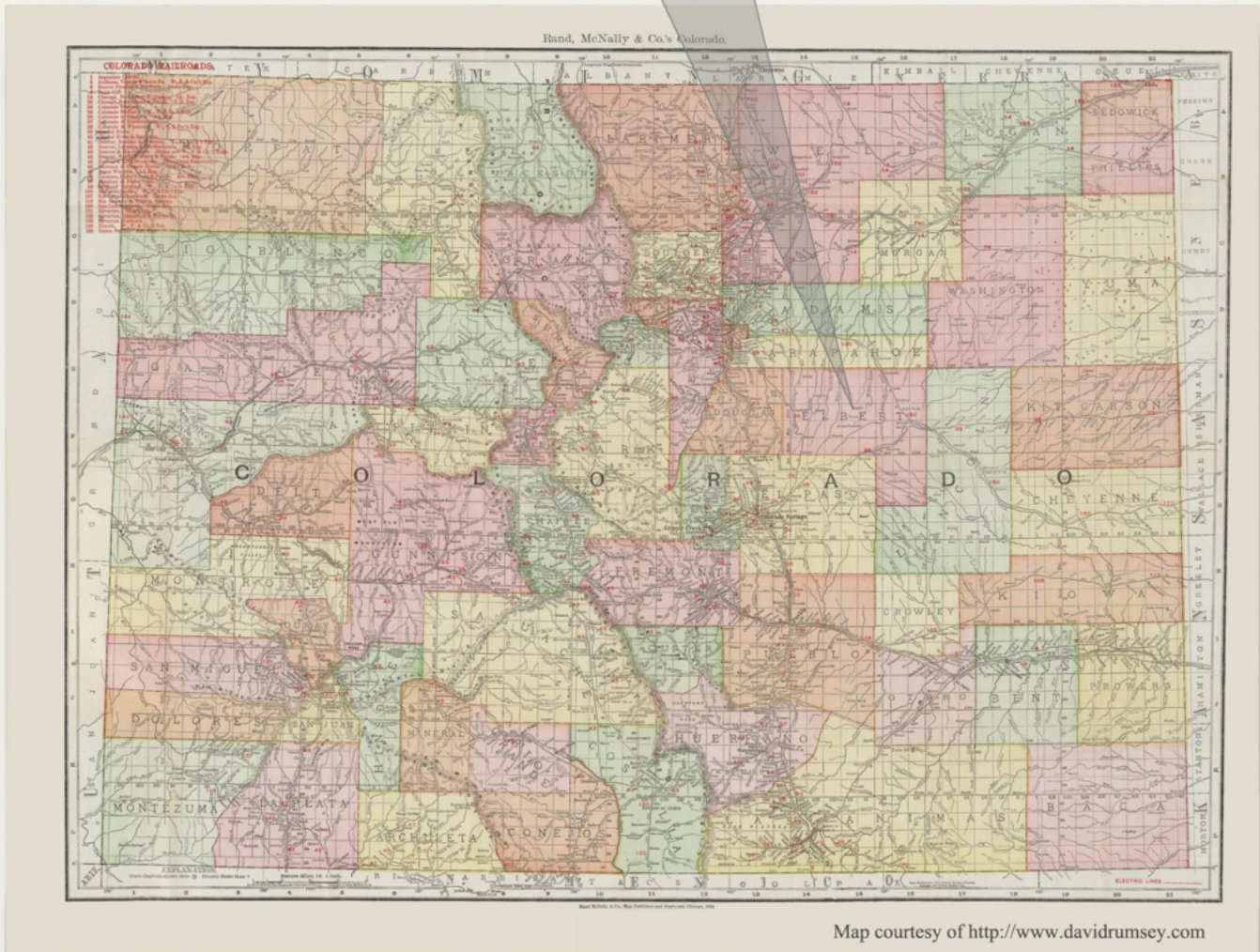


Elbert County



Established: February 2, 1874

County Seat: Kiowa

ELBERT COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

The area that now comprises Elbert County was, to a large part, included in the original Douglas County that reached all the way east to what is now the Colorado-Kansas Border. A portion was also in the territory that was at first set aside as an Indian Reserve. On February 11, 1870 the Indian Reserve was divided to create Greenwood and Bent Counties.

On February 2, 1874 Elbert County was authorized. Its boundaries also reached to the Colorado-Kansas State line and included a portion of the former Greenwood County, the remainder being assigned to Bent County. The county boundaries remained unchanged until the creation of Cheyenne County on March 25, 1889. A few days later, April 11, 1889, Kit Carson and Lincoln Counties were authorized by the State Legislature and Elbert County was reduced to its present size and shape. This 1889 subdivision of Elbert County and Bent County also brought Kiowa, Otero and Prowers Counties into existence from the land that had been Elbert and Bent Counties.

Elbert County was named for Territorial Governor Samuel H. Elbert, who was in office when the county was authorized by the Territorial Legislature. Middle Kiowa was designated the first county seat but it soon took the shorter name of Kiowa, which is still the county seat.

The county is basically an east-west rectangle with a southward projection on the eastern end. The maximum east-west dimension is fifty-one miles. On the western end the north-south distance is thirty miles and on the eastern end it is forty-eight miles.

On the north Elbert County shares a boundary with Arapahoe County. The eastern boundary is with Lincoln County. The southern boundaries are shared with Lincoln and El Paso Counties and the western boundary is with Douglas County.

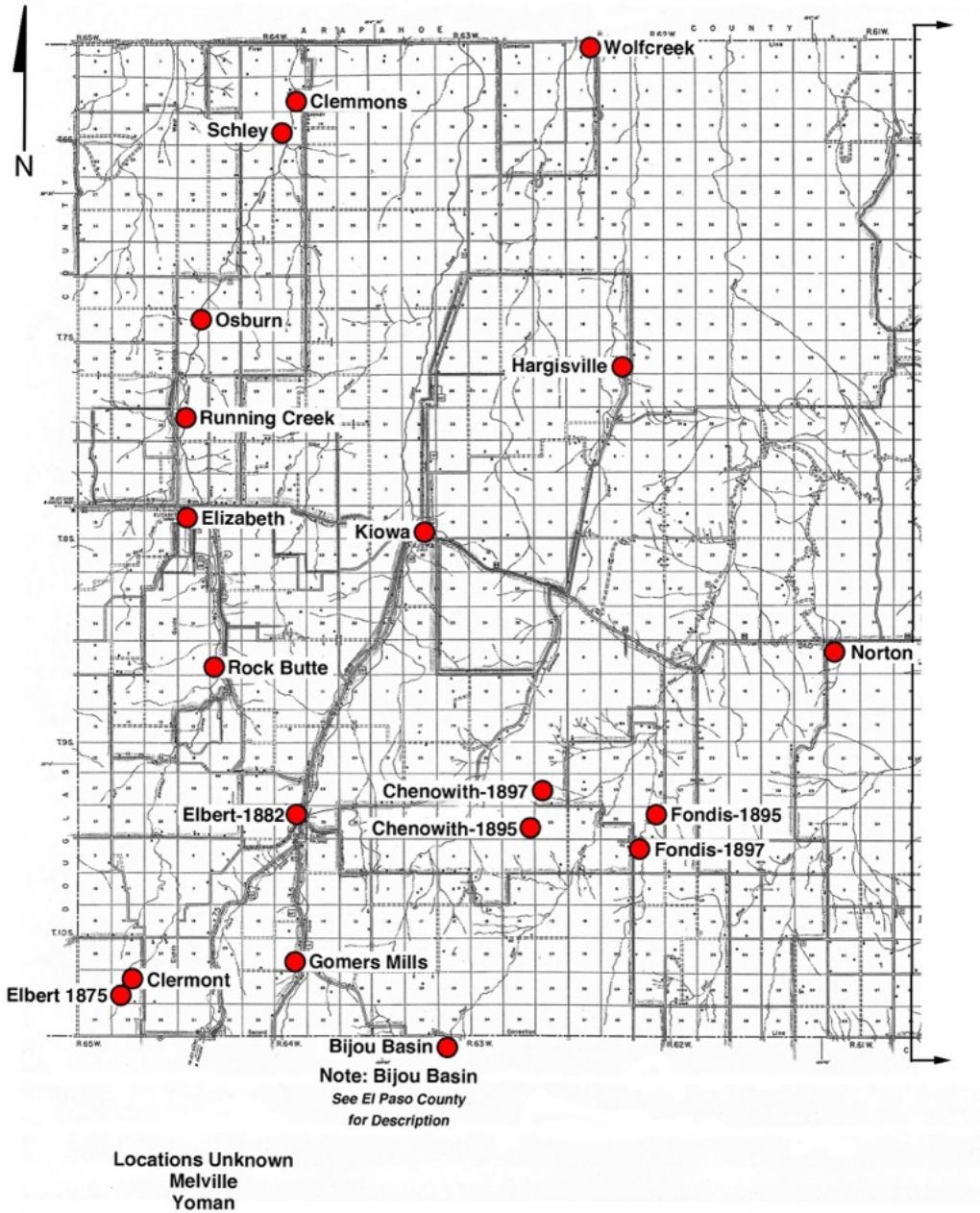
Most of the drainage of Elbert County lies on the northern slope of the divide between the Arkansas and the South Platte Rivers and drains to the latter river. The southern projection is on the Arkansas River side of the divide. Several major streams drain the county, but although most of them are seasonal, they can periodically produce significant floods. Draining to the north are Running Creek, Kiowa Creek, Wilson Creek, Bijou Creek and Beaver Creek. Rush Creek is the primary drainage in the southern portion of the county. Big Sandy Creek drains a small portion of east-central Elbert County.

Topographically, the elevation gradually decreases from west to east. It is rolling countryside that transitions from timbered hillsides to open grasslands as one travels eastward.

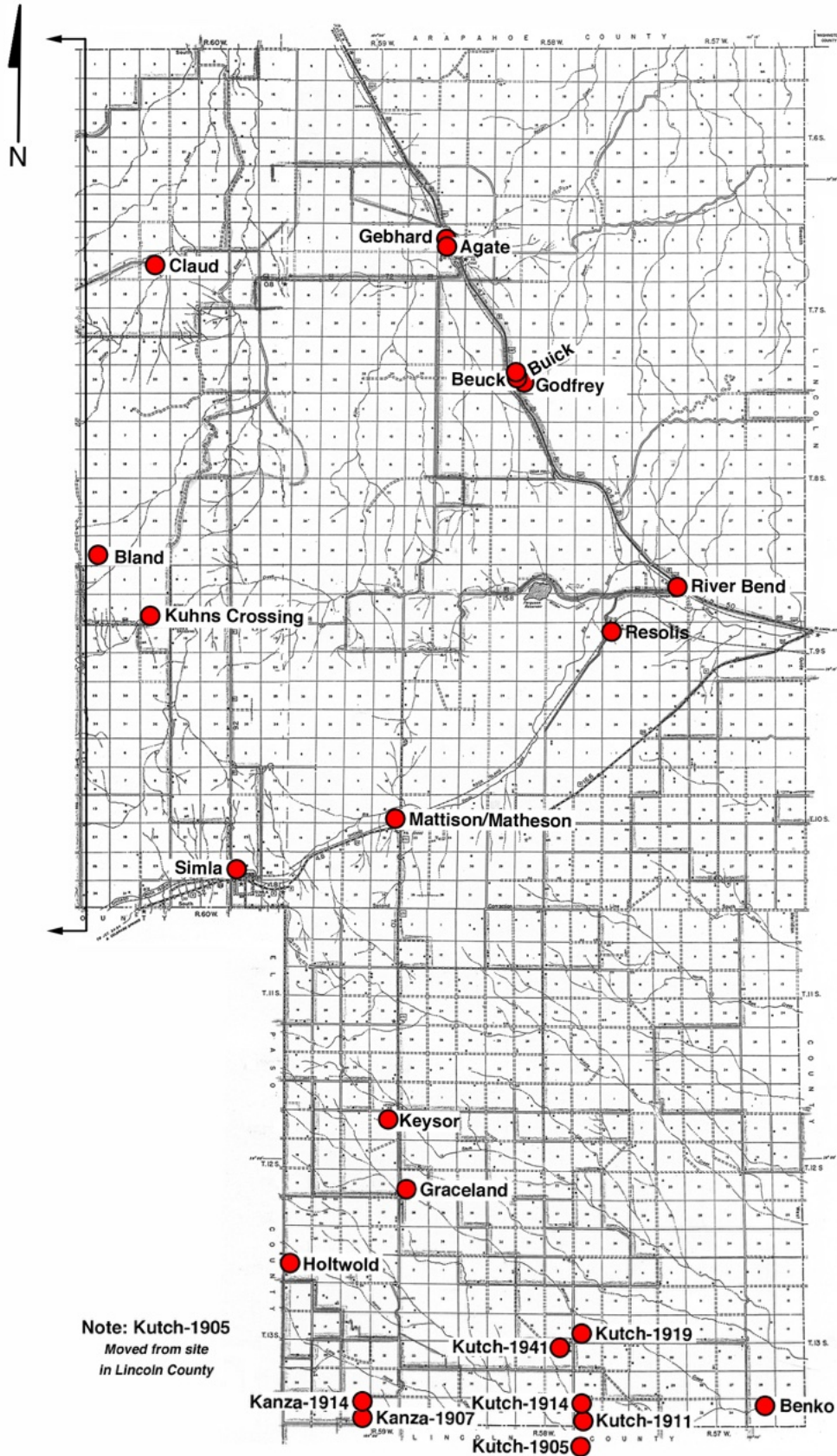
Throughout most of its existence the economy of Elbert County has been based on agriculture - ranching and farming. Timber production from the western portion of the county has also been significant. Ranching and farming continue to be important, however there is increasing residential development in the western portion of Elbert County. Gradually many of the large ranches are being subdivided to create ranchettes. While this development contributes to the county's tax base, it also puts an increasing strain on the county infrastructure.

Initially travel through Elbert County was along the branches of the Smoky Hill Trail that came from the east bound for Denver. To the west of present day Interstate 70 the Smoky Hill Trail North curved across the northeastern corner of the county. Near Limon the Smoky Hill Trail South departed from the Route of Interstate 70 and crossed Elbert County to the south of Colorado Highway 86. It gradually curved northward, crossing Highway 86 near Kiowa and continuing northwest to Parker and Denver.

There was a third route, the "Starvation Trail" that crossed Elbert County between the two branches of the Smoky Hill Trail. This was the route that was briefly used by the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express Company in 1869. In contrast to many other early trails, no modern road, to any extent, follows these old trails.



Post Office Location Map – Western Elbert County



Post Office Location Map – Eastern Elbert County

The first railroad to enter Elbert County was the Kansas Pacific, which in 1870 came from the southeast along Big Sandy Creek and then followed Bijou Creek on into Arapahoe County. Next, in 1881 was the Denver and New Orleans, which crossed the western portion of the county through Elizabeth and Elbert on the way from Denver to Pueblo. This railroad was frequently reorganized, becoming the Denver, Texas, and Gulf; the Denver, Texas, and Fort Worth (1886-1890); the Union Pacific, Denver & Gulf (1890-1898) and finally the Colorado and Southern Railroad.

The final railroad to pass through Elbert County was the Kansas, Nebraska, and Pacific Railroad. In 1888 it entered the county from the east then turned to the southwest bound for Colorado Springs. This railroad is best known as the Rock Island. Only the Union Pacific Railroad remains in operation within Elbert County.

A network of roads gradually developed within Elbert County. Colorado Highway 86, from near the former site of River Bend, through Kiowa and Elizabeth and on to Castle Rock in Douglas County is the only state highway in Elbert County. US Highway 40 paralleled the Union Pacific Railroad and US Highway 24 follows the line of the Rock Island Railroad. US 40 has been replaced by Interstate 70.

There is a network of county roads. Most are unpaved; away from Highway 86, north-south travel is less complicated than east-west travel. As with other developing areas along the Front Range of Colorado it seems likely that new roads will be added as subdivisions multiply.

Of the many places that once had post offices only Agate, Elbert, Elizabeth, Kiowa, Matheson and Simla have operating post offices at the start of the twenty-first century.



St. Mark United Presbyterian Church in Elbert, Colorado
Photograph by E. Ross on Wikipedia.com

AGATE

Originally this community was known as Gebhard, named for Henry Gebhard. There is some question about the spelling of his name; see the discussion of the post office at Gebhard.

Agate was on the Kansas Pacific Division of the Union Pacific and on East Bijou Creek. The surrounding area was largely devoted to raising livestock. In later years, as deep well irrigation became possible, there was development of farmland.

From the Post Office Department records it seems that the post office was located about a half-mile northwest of the center of present day Agate and likely on or near the ranch belonging to Henry Gebhard; the Two-Circle-Bar. In 1914 the post office moved into the center of the community of Agate.

In 1882 the post office name was changed from Gebhard to Agate, apparently to bring it into agreement with the name of the Union Pacific Station that served the community. Now, we come to the conflict between a folklore origin for the name Agate and a more reasonable explanation.

The folklore is that at this location there was “A gate” and that this was contracted to form Agate. The other, and I think more logical reason for the name, is that numerous specimens of agate were found in the area. Agate is an amorphous and frequently colorful form of the mineral quartz. The Native Americans would often use it to fashion arrowheads and other tools.

As the most significant community between Deer Trail and Limon, Agate developed into a supply center and a livestock shipping point for the surrounding ranches. It still serves that purpose but to a much lesser extent than in previous years.

Agate is located at Exit 340 from Interstate 70. There are a number of residences and a few small businesses in Agate.

Latitude = 39:27:42 North Longitude = 103:56:30 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 29 1881 ---	SW/4 Sec 1 T7S R59W Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Owen McNulty	
Apr 24 1882	Formerly named Gebhard	
Apr 24 1884	Gebhard, Henry	
Nov 30 1885	Mahan, John	
Apr 20 1887	Cholaus, Mathaias	
Jan 3 1891	Powell, Elizabeth	
Apr 28 1891	Fitzsimmons, Felix	
Nov 23 1894	Fitzsimmons, Peter L.	
Dec 3 1896	Hertel, Luther	
Dec 27 1898	Ginger, Charles E.	
Feb 14 1911	Ginger, Edna	
May 1 1913	Hendricks, William Tyler	
Apr 21 1914	Morris, Ruby K.	
Jul 14 1914 ---	NE/4 Sec 12 T7S R59W 1-1/2 miles east of East Bijou Creek 265 feet east of the Union Pacific tracks	
Jun 10 1929	Young, Dollie P.	
Jul 1 1929		Office made Presidential
Jan 9 1930	Young, Dollie P.	
Jul 1 1931		Relegated
Sep 4 1931	Young, Dollie P	Confirmed
Oct 9 1931	Young, Dollie P.	Commissioned
Nov 4 1931	Young, Dollie P.	Assumed charge
Dec 5 1934	Bockius, Mrs. Dollie P.	Name changed by marriage
Aug 30 1935	Christensen, Miss Anna	Appointed
Sep 24 1935	Christensen, Miss Anna	Assumed charge
Oct 21 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 12 T7S R59W South 637 feet from Union Pacific Station	

AGATE – Continued

Jul 1 1944		Office made Presidential
Aug 23 1944	Christensen, Miss Anna	Nominated
Sep 1 1944	Christensen, Miss Anna	Confirmed & Appointed Presidential
Dec 31 1944	Christensen, Miss Anna	Assumed charge
Sep 30 1951	Mohler, Louise Catherine	Assumed charge
Oct 25 1951	Mohler, Louise Catherine	Acting
Mar 31 1953	Svoboda, Mrs. Della Mae	Assumed charge
May 1 1953	Svoboda, Mrs. Della Mae	Acting
May 18 1954	Svoboda, Mrs. Della Mae	Nominated
Jun 23 1954	Svoboda, Mrs. Della Mae	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Sep 30 1954	Svoboda, Mrs. Della Mae	Assumed charge
Mar 31 1972	Mohler, Mrs. Louise C.	Officer in charge
May 13 1972	Mohler, Mrs. Louise C.	Appointed
May 13 1972	Mohler, Mrs. Louise C.	Assumed charge

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Agate Colo. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Sep 10 1882
2	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Oct 16 1894 Feb 26 1895
3	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Jul 23 1897 Apr 24 1899
4	AGATE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4 bars S-24x14mm	Sep 5 1907 Jun 14 1912
5	AGATE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-25x20mm	Jun 21 1913
5.1	AGATE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-25x20mm	Jun 18 1914 Jan 31 1931
6	AGATE, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4 bars P-25x19mm	May 14 1932 Feb 15 1935
7	AGATE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm	Feb 27 1936 Sep 8 1941
8	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-23x19mm, small, close spaced letters	Nov 29 1941 Nov 5 1946
9	AGATE / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 26 1954
10	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-23x19mm, large, wide spaced letters	Jun 6 1949 Feb 3 1956
11	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4 bars S-25x20mm	Jun 9 1951 Apr 3 1952
11.1	AGATE, COLO. SL 00P 27.0 x 4.0	Hstp No killer	---- 1958?
12	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-23x19mm	Apr 11 1959 Dec 4 1962
13	AGATE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-25x20mm	Oct 3 1964
14	AGATE, CO / 80101 CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm	May 9 1966 Dec 16 1981
15	AGATE, CO / USPO CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 26 1977
16	AGATE, CO / 80101 CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-24x18mm	Aug 3 1983 Jun 1 1993
16.1	AGATE, CO / USPO CI 11P 32.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 8 1992
17	AGATE CO / 80101 CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-12x22mm	Mar 23 1999 Jan 22 2001

AGATE - Continued

Agate Colo 9-10-82

1



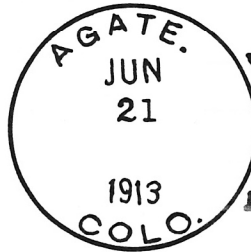
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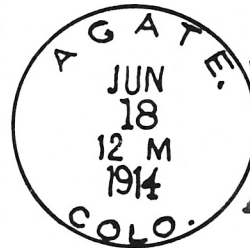
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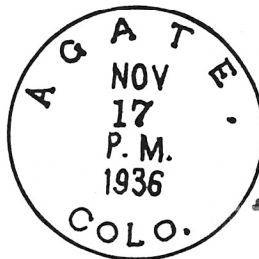
5



5.1



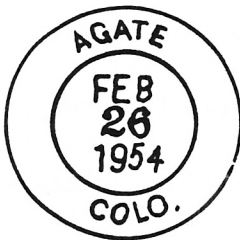
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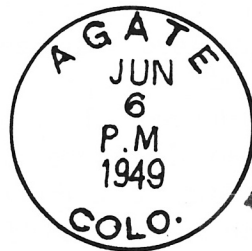
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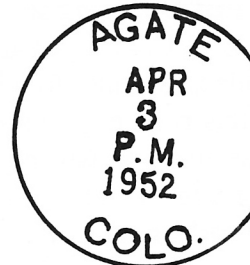
8



9



10



11

AGATE, COLO.

11.1

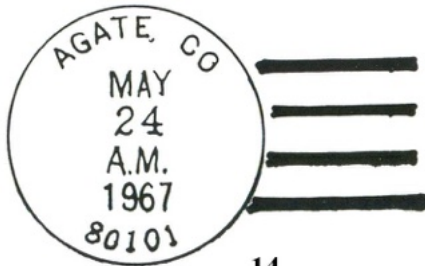


12



13

AGATE – Continued



14



15



16



16.1



17

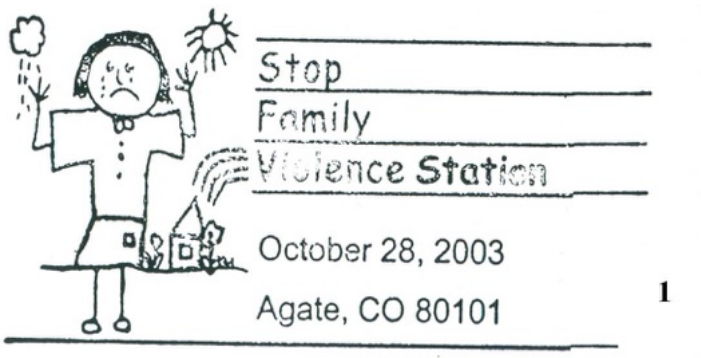
STOP FAMILY VIOLENCE STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 28 2003 Established as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Agate, CO 80101 // Stop / Family / Violence Station Oct 28 2003
IR 00R 86.0x44.0 Pict Scene - Crying child, cloud, house, sun



1

BENKO

Benko was located in the extreme southeastern corner of Elbert County. The surrounding countryside is prairie grass land thus I feel it safe to assume that it was, for less than two years, a ranch post office serving ranchers in a rather remote area.

Assuming that you have just visited Graceland, the following is the path I took to approach Benko. It is a bit complicated involving several turns. From the intersection of Elbert County Roads 149 and 34, drive south two miles to County Road 26. Turn east on Road 26 and go three miles to County Road 161. Turn south one mile to County Road 22. Turn east and go nine plus miles to County Road 197. The last

BENKO – Continued

mile of travel on this road angles southeast along Rush Creek. Turn south on Road 197. One and a half miles from the last turn you will be at the end of Road 179 and the start of County Road 14 to the west. When I visited this site in October 1996 there was a farm road at the corner that angled southeastward. I drove down that road about a mile before coming to a gate. I could see a large group of trees in the distance and my map indicated the probability of at least one building. Signs on the gate told me it was private property and exhorted against trespassing, hunting and other activities so I chose not to proceed. I did take telephoto pictures. I accept that as the probable site of Benko.

From the aforementioned corner, you can now go west on County Road 14 six miles to the intersection of County Roads 14 and 173 and the northern locations of the Kutch Post Office.

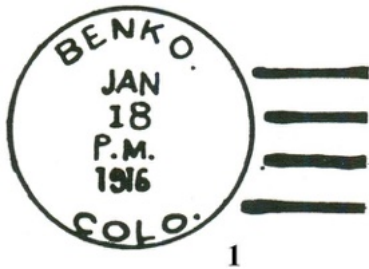
Chronology of the Post Office

No document was found in the Elbert County Geographic Site Location Reports

- Sep 18 1915 Established
- Sep 18 1915 Miller, Mabel F.
- Mar 31 1917 Discontinued Mail to Limon

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 BENKO, / COLO. Jan 18 1916 Aug 22 1916
- CI 10P 32.0 4 bars S-25x20mm



BEUCK

In 1918 there was an attempt to change the spelling of Buick to the proper spelling of the name of the rancher for whom the post office was named. The change lasted only a few weeks before it was rescinded and reverted to the less appropriate but more recognizable form.

Please refer to the discussion of the Buick Post office for a discussion of this location.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 23 1918 Formerly named Buick
- Mar 23 1918 Donaldson, Charles S.
- May 1 1918 Name change rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BEUCK

BIJOU BASIN

Bijou Basin has been listed as a post office in Elbert County; however, there are no documents that support that idea.

BIJOU BASIN – Continued

Bijou Basin was in El Paso County, a very short distance south of the Elbert-El Paso County line. The history of and markings from Bijou Basin are discussed in the section for El Paso County.

Latitude = 39:08:07 North Longitude = 104:27:22 West BIJOU BASIN CEMETERY

Latitude = 39:25:21 North Longitude = 104:11:52 West

BLAND

The Bland Post Office, named for James Bland, was a rural post office serving some fifty persons. It is assumed that it was on a ranch belonging to James Bland. There is a claim that in 1914 the post office was moved to the W Ranch, an old established ranch that had belonged to the Wilson brothers, but I have no verification of that move. Perhaps there was no move and the office was always on the W Ranch.

Without a Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report I have been unable to determine a reasonably accurate location for Bland. Maps that I have seen place it on Wilson Creek, a tributary to Bijou Creek, about five miles north of the location of Kuhns Crossing.

If my estimate of the location is correct, then the location of Bland is on private property, the Sweet Ranch, belonging to the Denver Buffalo Company.

From Colorado 86, two miles west of the location of Kuhns Crossing, turn north on Elbert County Road 105. Drive north two miles to the entrance to the Sweet Ranch. In 1999 the entrance was not gated and I did drive in about two miles to where I could overlook a large, active ranch complex. I may not have been far enough from the entrance but I could see nothing more in the distance, so I am guessing that the present day ranch was also the site for the Bland Post Office. Better information would be appreciated.

The area surrounding Bland was for many years devoted to raising cattle. Now it has apparently switched from beef to buffalo.

Chronology of the Post Office

No document was found in the Elbert County Geographic Site Location Reports

May 2 1883	Established
May 2 1883	Bland, James
Jan 19 1914	Matthews, Jerome
Jul 3 1915	Rudolph, Herbert V.
Dec 4 1916	Benjamin, Edith L.
Feb 15 1921	Discontinued Mail to Simla

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BLAND / COL. CI 10P 26.5	Dec 18 1890 May 29 1897
2	BLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Hstp Target May 13 1914 4 bars S-23x14mm



1



2

BUICK

The first settlement at this location was named Godfrey. Godfrey was a station on the Kansas Pacific Division of the Union Pacific Railroad. In 1908 an attempt was made to establish a post office with that name but it did not go to completion.

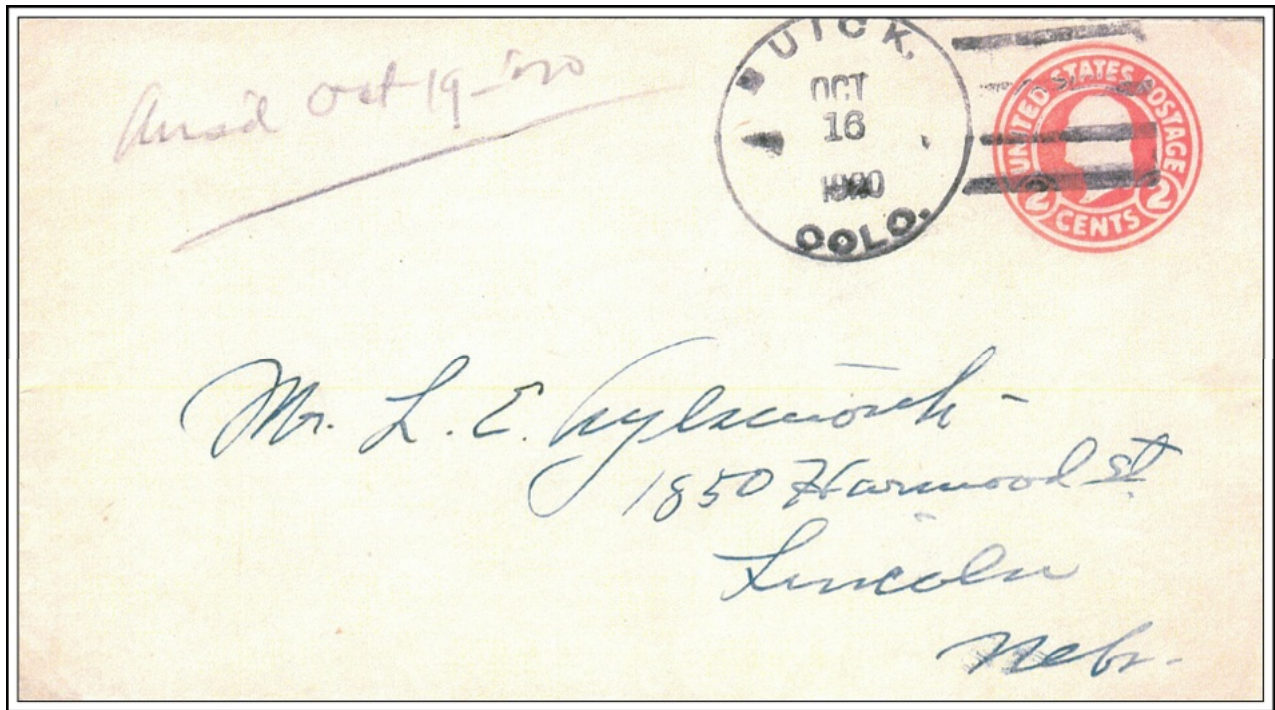
In 1916 when a post office did open, it was under the name of Buick, named for August H. Beuck, an early rancher and a pioneer family.

The spelling Buick was deemed easier to pronounce and to spell than the correct form of Beuck. In 1918 the spelling was changed to the proper one of Beuck but that change lasted only a few days more than one month before reverting to Buick.

There is no evidence that Buick was more than a ranch or railroad post office serving residents of the livestock producing countryside between Agate and River Bend.

To visit the site of Buick, begin in Agate at the intersection of the access road to Interstate 70 and what I believe is Elbert County Road 170. The road is the remnant of old US Highway 40 that is now combined with Interstate 70.

Drive southeastward on this road four and eight tenths miles. On the left, between the road and the Interstate are a mix of three old and some newer ranch buildings. Most of this drive is on the remnants of US 40 and it may not be under county maintenance and could even be gated off at some point. That becomes more likely should you try to continue on south to Elbert County Road 134. Good luck.



BUICK, / COLO. October 16, 1920

Chronology of the Post Office

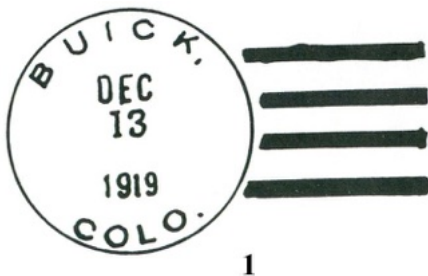
- Jul 14 1916 --- NE/4 Sec 32 T7S R58W One mile east of Godfrey Gulch
260 feet east of UP RR tracks
Applicant for postmaster - Maks(?) Talpis
- Sep 19 1916 Established
- Sep 19 1916 Chase, Alice
- May 21 1917 Putnam, Anna L.
- Mar 23 1918 Donaldson, Charles S.

BUICK – Continued

Mar 23 1918	Name changed to Beuck
May 1 1918	Name change rescinded
Apr 13 1921	Hamilton, James N.
Mar 23 1923	Tracy, Mrs. Emma E.
Oct 22 1923	Hamilton, James N.
Jun 16 1925	Jones, Leonard V.
Jul 19 1925	Ordered closed
Aug 15 1925	Discontinued Mail to Agate

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BUICK, / COLO.	Nov 6 1918 Oct 16 1920
	CI 10P 32.5	4 bars S-25x20mm

**CHENOWETH**

Isaac Chenoweth settled some six miles east of Elbert and to the west of Fondis. He built a large house and farm buildings on a ranch of 440 acres. A post office was established on his ranch and took the Chenoweth family name. Mary Chenoweth was the first postmaster.

It is claimed that in 1898, when Isaac died, the post office was moved to another location. However, the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report that reflects a move was filed in December 1897.

The Site Location Report also suggests that Laverne was the preferred name for the new post office. The source of that choice is unknown.

Based on the description of the original site and observing the present situation at the second site of Chenoweth, the description, “ranch post office” is most appropriate.

The original location of Chenoweth is not on a county road and there is no access to the location. The second site appears to be a ranch complex on the north side of Elbert County Road 102. From the site of Fondis, drive north on Elbert County Road 69 a half-mile to County Road 102 and turn west. In 1996 that was the only choice. Road 102 trends west and north with a couple of jogs and a crossing of a tributary to Bijou Creek. It is about three and one-half miles to the location of Chenoweth at a corner where Road 102 turns to due north.

From Chenoweth continue north and west on Road 102 to Maul Road and then north to Colorado Highway 86, four miles east of Kiowa.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 4 1895	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T9S R63W 2-1/2 miles west of Bijou Creek Proposed postmaster - Mary J. Chenoweth
Jan 16 1897		Established
Jan 16 1897		Chenoweth, Mary J.
Sep 17 1897		Seymour, James D.
Dec 7 1897	---	W/2 NW/4 and W/2 SW/4 Sec 25 T9S R63W 2 miles east of Comanche Creek
May 28 1898		Lamb, Teresa

CHENOWETH – Continued

Dec 20 1899	Baker, Sarah N.
Sep 21 1900	Ordered closed
Sep 29 1900	Discontinued Papers to Elbert

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CHENOWETH / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Jun 1 1897	Hstp Not present
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CLAUD

Claud was a rural post office and cattle ranch on a stream that is ultimately a tributary of Bijou Creek. There is no evidence of a larger community and the surrounding area is grazing land for several ranches in this portion of northern Elbert County.

One and a half-miles south of the location of Hargisville, turn east from Comanche Creek Road onto Elbert County Road 150. Go east a little more than nine miles to Ridge Road and turn north. Continue north two and one-half miles to a "Y" and then go east on a somewhat winding road. Four and three tenths miles from the "Y" there is a farm road to the north leading to a group of old, seemingly abandoned, but well preserved (1996) buildings. I believe this to have been the site of Claud.

To exit from this area, I suggest continuing east from Claud to one mile beyond County Road 125. Turn south one mile and then turn east. That road will take you to Agate.

While visiting this section of Elbert County, I decided to investigate a place called Benham Springs that was a station on the Smoky Hill Trail and which at the time I thought might have been the site for the Colfax Post Office when all the area was part of Douglas County. I drove north on the previously mentioned County Road 125 about four miles to the area I sought. I then drove into a ranch and found the owner working in the yard. I asked him if he knew anything about the location. He responded yes, and if I would wait while he put away his tools he would guide me to the spot. He climbed in my Jeep and off we went down through the fields, fording a creek and on to two deeply cut ruts in the hillside that he claimed was the Smoky Hill Trail. After about a mile and half we stopped and walked a short distance to a granite monument that marked the site of the Benham Springs Stage Station. It was a fascinating side trip but I later came to the conclusion that Colfax was many miles to the west near the modern Douglas County Justice Center, north of Castle Rock.

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 9 1882	---	Sec 8 T7S R60W On the east side of Muddy Creek Proposed postmaster - Charles May
Oct 30 1882		Established
Oct 30 1882		May, Charles
Apr 3 1888		Discontinued Papers to Deer Trail

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CLAUD

CLEMMONS

A mile south of the site of Schley, Running Creek and Hay Gulch join to form present day Box Elder Creek. Clemmons was a cattle ranch and post office located on Box Elder Creek a mile north of the later location of Schley. A year after the Clemmons Post Office closed, a post office named Schley was opened in the area.

The application for the post office requested the name Running Creek, however, at the time that name was attached to a post office ten miles to the south. Therefore the new post office was named Clemmons, obviously for the initial postmaster, John F. Clemmons.

In 1996 this area still consisted mainly of ranches, however residential development is gradually spreading into the northwestern corner of Elbert County.

Follow the directions to the location of Schley and continue north another mile to where Elbert County Road 29 diverts from a due north-south orientation. There are some older structures west of the road, well hidden in the trees and there is no obvious access to them. It seems likely that the Clemmons Post Office was in that area.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Oct 11 1882 --- SE/4 Sec 10 T6S R64W 300 yards plus on west side of Running Creek
Proposed postmaster - John F. Clemmons
- Oct 23 1882 Established
- Oct 23 1882 Clemmons, John F.
- Dec 14 1885 Clemmons, Mrs. Elsie
- Apr 2 1887 Worth, Moses
- Jan 3 1891 Clemmons, John F.
- Oct 31 1898 Discontinued Papers to Elizabeth

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Clemmons Colo MS Aug 4 1883
Mscp Pen cancel
- 2 CLEMMONS, / COLO. CI 21P 32.0/30.0/19.0 Apr 11 1885 May 21 1885
Hstp Fancy, Outlined Maltese cross
- 3 CLEMMONS / COL. CI 10P 27.0 Sep 6 1897
Hstp Cork, smudge

Clemmons Colo 8/4/83

1



2



3

CLERMONT

Clermont was located in the extreme southwestern corner of the upper portion of Elbert County. It was a rural or ranch post office in country that was devoted to stock raising and some lumbering.

It has been claimed that Clermont and Elbert were at the same location. That does not seem to be the full story. The Elbert Post Office has been at two widely separated locations. The first location was indeed in Section 4, Township 10 South, Range 65 West as was Clermont. But Clermont was reported to be in the northwest quarter of the section and Elbert was reported as in the southwest quarter. Even with that, they could have been quite close together, near the center of the west half of the section.

Elbert predates Clermont, operating from 1875 to 1880 when it was discontinued. The first postmaster of Elbert was Charles Hutchings. The second postmaster was Louisa Carver. She was postmaster when the Elbert office closed in 1880 and was the postmaster of Clermont when it opened in 1881. The Clermont Post Office was on the Carver Ranch. But, was the Carver Ranch also the Hutchings Ranch?

From the town of Elbert drive south on West Kiowa Creek Road (Elbert County Road 17) to County Road 86. Turn to the west and go two miles. The site of Clermont (and early Elbert is a mile south of Road 86. There is no public access but there is a farm or access road along the powerline. It is passable for a 4-wheel drive vehicle. I drove south about a mile and a half and saw nothing that would be a remnant of a ranch. A short distance east of where I turned south from Road 86 and on the south side of the road is an old cemetery. There were (in 1999) a few tombstones still visible and the foundation of what might have been a church.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 12 1881	---	NE/4 Sec 26 T10S R65W On the east side of Running Creek
		Proposed postmaster - Louisa Carver
Mar 25 1881		Established
Mar 25 1881		Carver, Mrs. Louisa
Jul 23 1883		Discontinued Mail to Elbert

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CLERMONT

ELBERT

The fact that the Elbert Post Office was located at two locations some six miles apart has sometimes confused historians when they discuss the history of Elbert. Further complicating the story is that the Clermont and the Gomers Mills Post Offices were also involved in what transpired.

Making use of the information contained in the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments and the Geographic Site Location Reports the situation seems to be thus.

Gomers Mills was the first post office in the southwestern corner of the upper portion of Elbert County. It opened in 1870 when the area was still a part of Douglas County. The Gomers Mills Post Office closed on March 15, 1876 and reopened on August 22, 1876.

The Elbert Post Office first opened on February 18, 1875, so it is unlikely that the Gomers Mills Post Office moved to this early Elbert as some have reported.

The first Elbert Post Office closed on July 27, 1880.

The Clermont Post Office opened on March 12, 1881 and closed on July 23, 1883. It may have been at the same location where the Elbert Post Office had been or at a close, neighboring ranch (See the discussion of Clermont).

On June 27, 1882 the Gomers Mills Post Office closed and a new post office was opened at what is the present day town of Elbert. This could satisfy the claim that the post office moved to Elbert.

ELBERT – Continued

The impetus for the establishment of the new Elbert was the arrival of the Denver and New Orleans Railroad as it was building south towards Colorado Springs and beyond.

Lumbering and the raising of livestock were the occupations of the early residents of this portion of Elbert County. Elbert, on the railroad, became a major supply and shipping center for the area. It still serves the purpose of a supply center but the railroad ceased operations in 1936.

The railroad facilities included a siding, depot, section house, water tank and pump house, tool house, coal bin, warehouse and livestock pens.

The location and directions to the early site of Elbert are discussed under Clermont.

Present day Elbert is eight and one-half miles south-southwest of Kiowa on Elbert County Road 25-41 (West Kiowa Creek Road); although somewhat reduced from its early days, Elbert is still a small residential community with several businesses that provide basic services to the town and the surrounding area. As with much of eastern Elbert County, many of the ranches are being subdivided for homesites thus contributing to a gradual population growth in the area and perhaps ensuring Elbert's continued survival.

The town of Elbert was, as was the county, named for Territorial Governor Samuel H. Elbert, who was in office when the county was authorized by the Territorial Legislature.



ELBERT, / COLO.

April 10, 1886 [Florets at each side of date stamp]

From the *SILVER STATE RECORD* – Volume 3, Number 2, June 1965, Page 5

ELBERT FLOOD OF 1935

This Memorial Day is the 22nd anniversary of the tragic rains that produced floods which took a toll of 193 lives in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and caused millions of dollars in damage.

Some of the nastiest streams involved in this disaster have their headwaters in Elbert and northern El Paso Counties, such as Kiowa, Bijou, and Big Sandy. The Kiowa currently is in the process of being harnessed, and now before Agricultural Committees in Congress is a plan to put restraint on the Big Sandy, during the heavy storms of the future. The 1935 flood was a nightmare for residents along the Kiowa Creek, a stream

ELBERT – Continued

frequently dry for a large portion of the year. The cloudburst struck in the high ground at the headwaters - run-off was rapid and terrific. Witnesses said the roar of the approaching crest of water could be heard for miles. People ran for their lives to high ground that they could find. When the torrent hit the community of Elbert and swept buildings away as if they were cracker boxes. leaving only foundations. Then the stream spread out and flooded Bennett and Strasburg. Some residents of the area saved themselves by clambering onto roofs of buildings or going into trees. The town was isolated and without sufficient food. The Denver "Post" chartered planes and took supplies to residents where they could be reached on high grounds. Final tally showed that 8 persons in the path of the Kiowa had been drowned.

Latitude = 39:13:10 North Longitude = 104:32:12 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 18 1875	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T10S R65W	On the east side of Running Creek
Mar 12 1875		Established	
Mar 12 1875		Hutchings, Charles A.	
May 27 1879		Carver, Aaron	
Dec 18 1879		Epler, Jacob	
Jan 23 1880		Carver, Louisa	
Jul 27 1880		Discontinued	
Jun 6 1882	---	Sec 34 T9S R64W	10 rods west of the railroad
		Proposed postmaster - Charles Kracaw	
Jun 27 1882		Post Office moved from Gomers Mills	
Jun 27 1882		Kracaw, Charles E.	
May 7 1885	---	NE/4 & SE/4 Sec 34 T9S R64W	1/4 mile west of Kiowa Creek
May 25 1887		Chapman, Moses R	
Nov 7 1887		Eubank, Stuart D.	
May 14 1889		Wray, Jonathan M.	
Oct 30 1889		Burnside, William H.	
Jun 25 1891		King, Joel B.	
Apr 18 1894		Griffin, Samuel L.	
Mar 29 1898		Purden, Joseph H.	
Aug 7 1909		Elsner, Richard J.	
Aug 18 1913		Newman, Albert	
Apr 1 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 34 T9S R64W	300 yards west of Kiowa Creek 175 yards west of the Colorado & Southern Railroad
Jul 1 1920			Office made Presidential
Feb 17 1922		Newman, Albert [Correct spelling may be Neuinan]	
Mar 25 1926		Newman, Albert	
Jun 17 1930		Newman, Albert	
Jan 29 1935		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Confirmed
Feb 25 1925		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Commissioned
Mar 9 1935		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1937			Office made Presidential
Nov 19 1937		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Nominated
Dec 21 1937		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Confirmed
Dec 23 1937		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Appointed Presidential
Jan 7 1938		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 34 T9S R64W	Kiowa Creek is 1200 feet east of post office
Apr 23 1942		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Nominated
Dec 11 1942		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Confirmed
Dec 12 1942		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Appointed Presidential
Dec 31 1942		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Assumed charge
Jan 11 1943		Eickhoff, Fred A.	Commissioned
Mar 31 1950		Orin, Mrs. Myra L.	Assumed charge
Apr 5 1951		Orin, Mrs. Myra L.	Nominated

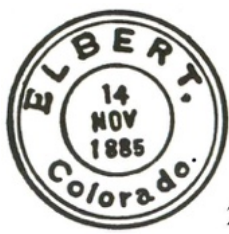
ELBERT – Continued

Apr 12 1951	Orin, Mrs. Myra L.	Confirmed
Apr 13 1951	Orin, Mrs. Myra L.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jun 30 1951	Orin, Mrs. Myra L.	Assumed charge
Apr 30 1960	Gresham, Warren E.	Assumed charge
May 2 1960	Gresham, Warren E.	Acting
Mar 18 1964	Gresham, Warren E.	Confirmed
Mar 26 1964	Gresham, Warren E.	Commissioned
Apr 10 1964	Gresham, Warren E.	Assumed charge

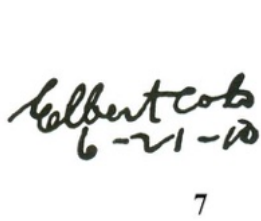
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Elbert Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jan 31 1879
2	ELBERT, / Colorado. CI 21P 28.5/25.5/15.0	Hstp Target	Sep 8 1884 Nov 14 1885
3	ELBERT / Colorado. CI 20P 29.0/25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jan 24 1886
4	ELBERT, / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Fancy, Star, ornaments at sides of CDS	Apr 10 1886 Sep 1 1889
5	ELBERT / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Not present	Aug 26 1891
6	ELBERT / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Double grid, Smudge	Aug 17 1898 Feb 12 1909
6.1	ELBERT, COLO. / REC D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not Present	Nov 12 1909
7	Elbert Colo MS	Mscp Pencil cancel	Jun 21 1910
8	ELBERT / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 8 bar oval	Oct 23 1910 Nov 15 1936
9	ELBERT / COLO. CI 10P ?	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Aug 7 1939 Jan 10 1951
10	ELBERT, COLO. CI 11P 31.0/23.0	Rolr 7 slanted wavy lines	Feb 5 1962 Mar 13 1965
11	ELBERT, CO / 80106 CI 10P 35.0	4 bars S-??x20mm	Jun 7 1965 Oct 1 1969
12	ELBERT, CO / 80106 CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-23x20mm	Oct 17 1968 Apr 8 1976
12.1	ELBERT, CO / 80106 CI 10P 34.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 30 1989
13	ELBERT, CO 80106 CI 11P 32.0/23.0	Rolr 7 slanted wavy lines	Mar 22 1993

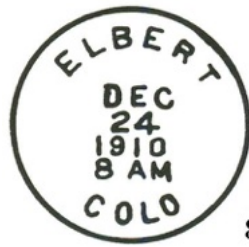
Elbert Colo
1-31-89



ELBERT – Continued



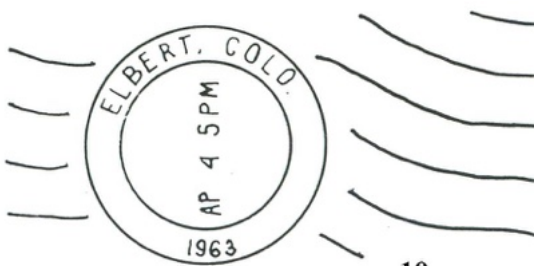
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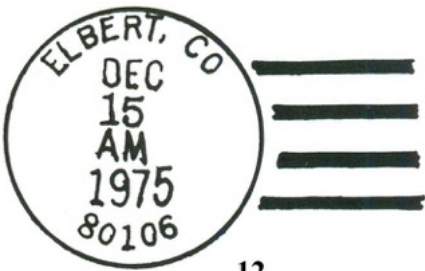
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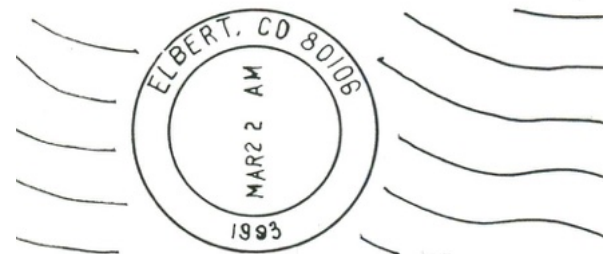
11



12



12.1



13

AUXILLARY MARKING

A 1 Elbert - RETURNED / TO / WRITER
IR 00R 40.0x20.0

Mar 20 1885

Hstp Pointing hand, on letter from Eastonville, Colorado



A-1

ELIZABETH

Elizabeth came into existence in 1882 as a station on the Denver and New Orleans Railroad that was then under construction. Former territorial governor John Evans, a principal in the railroad, named the town for his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Gray Kimbark Hubbard. In 1885 the railroad was reorganized as the Denver, Texas and Gulf Railroad. It was acquired by the Union Pacific and operated as the Colorado and Southern Railroad until the tracks were removed in 1936.

ELIZABETH – Continued

Credit for the early settlement should be given to Charles Garland and Thomas C. Phillips, both of whom contributed five blocks for the new town. Joseph Huber, county surveyor, purchased the first lot to be sold. By July of 1882 several stores and homes had been constructed. The railroad facilities included a section house, depot, water tank, three coal chutes and a railroad hotel.

Elizabeth was platted in 1882 and incorporated in 1890.

For many years the area surrounding Elizabeth depended on ranching and agriculture to support its businesses. That is still true but to a lesser degree. In recent years large tracts of land have been subdivided and have become home sites. This influx of residents has boosted the economy of Elizabeth and the town now provides a large portion of the goods and services required by the growing population.

Elizabeth is on Colorado Highway 86, four miles east of the Elbert-Douglas County line. Highway 86 provides access west to the highly developed area along Interstate 25 from Castle Rock north to Denver. However, Highway 86 is a two-lane road and is rapidly becoming inadequate for the traffic it has to carry.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 12 1882	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T8S R64W 200 yards west of Running Creek 60 feet west of Colorado and Southern Railroad Proposed postmaster - Thomas L. Phillips	
Apr 24 1882		Established	
Apr 24 1882		Phillips, Thomas L.	
Jul 26 1882		Pierce, John F.	
Apr 14 1884		Pierce, Jennie R.	
Mar 23 1889		Cort, Frank	
May 9 1889		Chariman, Joseph H.	
Apr 19 1894		Cort, Daniel T.	
Mar 29 1898		Dickinson, Ida M.	
Dec 13 1901		Murray, Francis P.	
Feb 5 1902		Herman, Libbie	
Jul 13 1907		Hart, John D.	
Sep 30 1913		Weidner, Mamie	
Mar 5 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T8S R64W 20 rods west of Running Creek 10 rods west of the Colorado & Southern Railroad	
Feb 18 1920		Weidner, Mamie	
Mar 1 1924		Blazer, Alice A.	Confirmed
Mar 1 1928		Blazer, Alice A.	Confirmed
Mar 18 1932		Blazer, Alice A.	Nominated
Apr 4 1932		Blazer, Alice A.	Confirmed
Apr 30 1932		Blazer, Alice A.	Commissioned
Apr 17 1936		Balvin, Harry K.	Nominated
Apr 22 1936		Balvin, Harry K.	Confirmed
Apr 25 1936		Balvin, Harry K.	Appointed Presidential
May 24 1936		Balvin, Harry K.	Assumed charge
Apr 26 1940		Balvin, Harry K.	Nominated
May 2 1940		Balvin, Harry K.	Confirmed
May 8 1940		Balvin, Harry K.	Appointed Presidential
May 29 1940		Balvin, Harry K.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1940		Balvin, Harry K.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T8S R64W Number 8 on Main Street Running Creek is 1/4 mile east of Post Office	
Oct 31 1954		Litherland, Miss Mary C.	Assumed charge
Dec 6 1954		Litherland, Miss Mary C.	Acting
Jan 25 1956		Rose, Foster A.	Nominated, Confirmed & Appt'd Presidential
Apr 16 1956		Rose, Foster A.	Commissioned

ELIZABETH – Continued

Jun 1 1956	Rose, Foster A.	Assumed charge
Mar 12 1976	Martell, Ms. Helen	Officer in charge
Jul 16 1977	Mapes, George E.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Pen cancel	Oct 11 188-
2	ELIZABETH, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Double grid, Smudge	Oct 19 1892 May 15 1899
3	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Hstp Grid, 9 bar oval	Mar 2 1897 Oct 30 1909
4	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx? Not present	May 30 1913
4.1	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Dec 20 1915
4.2	ELIZABETH, COLO. CI 10P 30.5	4bars S-??x??mm	Dec 3 1931
5	ELIZABETH, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-??x??mm	Mar 15 1932 Sep 9 1943
6	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-23x18mm	Jun 5 1937 Dec 11 1941
7	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Mar 7 1946 Apr 11 1960
8	ELIZABETH / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 1 1962 Jul 6 1963
9	ELIZABETH, CO / 80107 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Aug 31 1966 Aug 7 1977
10	ELIZABETH, CO / 80107 CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm	Jan 6 1966 Oct 2 1972
11	ELIZABETH, CO / 80107 CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-24x18mm	Sep 19 1975 Apr 4 1978
12	ELIZABETH, CO 80107 / USPS CI 10P 27.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 14 1992 Jun 1 1993
13	ELIZABETH, CO / 80107 CI 10P 31.0	4 bars S-23x18mm	Apr 20 1990 Sep 15 1992
14	ELIZABETH CO /USPS-80107 CI 11P 36.0/23.0	Hstp No killer, Bridge style	Mar 18 1998 Sep 26 2001



1



2



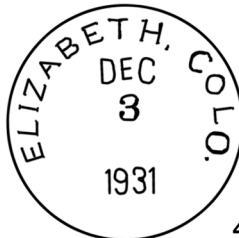
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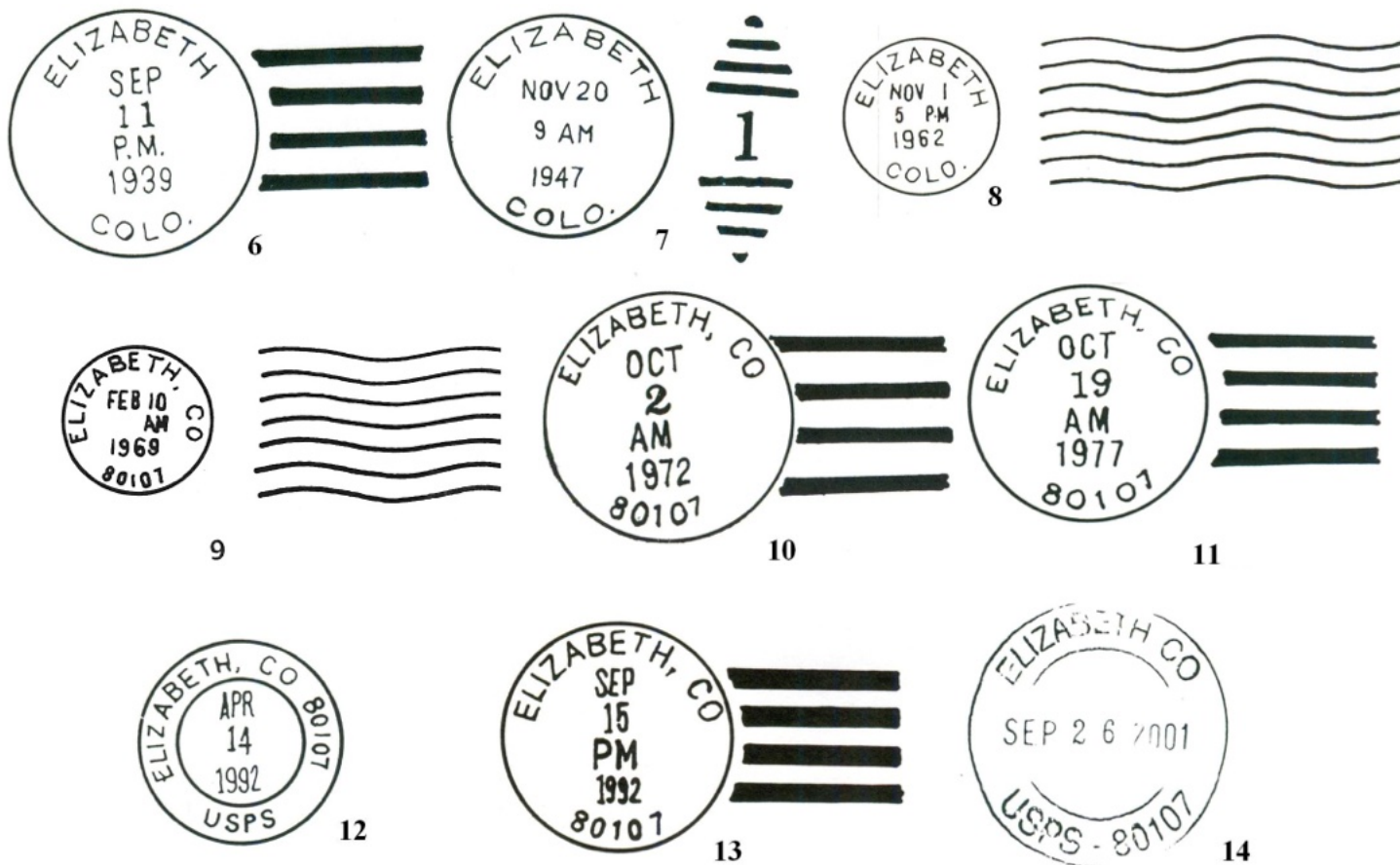


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5

ELIZABETH – Continued



CENTENNIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 20 1990 Established as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Elizabeth, Colorado 80107 / CENTENNIAL STATION Jul 20 1990
IR 00R 75.0x37.0 Pict Scene - 1890 . 1990 / ELIZABETH; railroad train and hills



ELIZABETHFOLK FESTIVAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 10 1986	Established as a Special Commemorative Station
Sep 11 1986	Operations ceased

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Elizabeth, Colorado 80107 // Elizabethfolk Festival Station	Sep 10 1986 Sep 11 1986
	IR 00R 66.0x44.0	Pict Scene - Man and woman

SEPTEMBER 10, 1986



**Elizabethfolk Festival Station
Elizabeth, Colorado 80107 1**

FONDIS

Fondis was a small rural community about ten miles southeast of Kiowa in the ranch land along the northern flank of the Monument Divide. A loose community did develop and included a store, a church and several residences scattered over a couple of square miles.

There are still a few residents in the vicinity of Fondis but the countryside is slowly being carved into ranchettes with a population that fancies a rural lifestyle and the opportunity to own a horse or two. The big challenge for Elbert County will be to provide decent roads for the new residents to travel from home to town or to work.

When application was made for a post office four potential names were submitted. Included were Burns, Fondis, Hector and one that is illegible. The choice of Burns, for Mary L. Burns, the first postmaster, would have been appropriate but in early 1885 a post office in Eagle County had opened with the name Burns. There is no explanation why the Post Office Department agreed to Fondis.

There is a commonly accepted explanation for the name. In the mid-1930's W. S. Burns told the State Historical Society that he and his wife (Mary Burns) suggested four possible names. One, he said came from a "newspaper article regarding something happening in an Italian Hotel (Fondi de Italia)." The Post Office took Fondi and added an "S" to create Fondis. At the least the story is one explanation for an odd name.

To reach Fondis, begin on Colorado Highway 86 about eight miles east of Kiowa. Turn south for one and a quarter miles. Turn west on County Road 114, one mile to County Road 73 and again turn south. Four miles south of the turn the 1895 site of Fondis was on the west side of the road. There is a group of buildings but they are on the east side of the road. Continue south another mile and turn west on to County Road 98. The 1897 and later locations of Fondis were one mile ahead at the intersection with County Road 69. There are several buildings, the church and one that could have been a store.

From Fondis, drive north on Road 69 and go on to the location of Chenoweth and back to Colorado Highway 86.

Latitude = 39:12:57 North Longitude = 104:20:48 West

FONDIS – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 25 1895	Established	
Nov 25 1895	Burns, Mary L.	
Dec 5 1895	---	NE/4 Sec 33 T9S R62W Two miles east of Bijou Creek Four names, including Fondis were offered: Burns, ???, Hector were not accepted
		Proposed postmaster - Mary S. Burns
Feb 2 1897	---	NW/4 Sec 4 T10S R62W 1/4 mile west of Spring Branch Apparently a move in location From: NE/4 Sec 33 T9S R62W To: NW/4 Sec 4 T10S R62W
Jan 11 1898		Dockum, Chester C.
Apr 23 1903		Moore, Herbert A.
Sep 16 1903		Cox, Ella
Nov 6 1911		Bissell, Alba L.
Feb 27 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 4 T10S R62W 1/4 mile west of Spring Creek
Nov 15 1917		Tripp, Charles A. Confirmed
Dec 10 1917		Tripp, Charles A. Commissioned
Dec 19 1917		Tripp, Charles A. Assumed charge
Oct 21 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 33 T9S R62W
Mar 1 1941		Tripp, Miss Mary F. Assumed charge
Mar 5 1941		Tripp, Miss Mary F. Acting
Apr 4 1941		Tripp, Miss Mary F. Confirmed
Apr 17 1941		Tripp, Miss Mary F. Commissioned
Jun 17		Ordered closed
Jul 15 1954		Discontinued Mail to Elbert



Abandoned buildings at the site of Fondis, Colorado
Photograph by James L. Ozment August 24, 2000

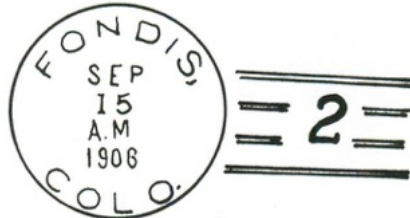
FONDIS – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

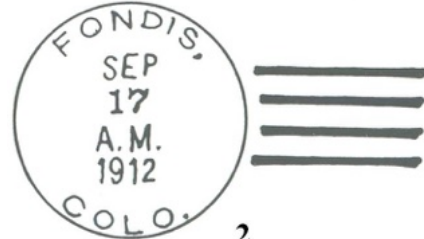
0.1	FONDIS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 1 1896 Hstp Target, 17 mm., 4 ring
1	FONDIS, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 5 1904 Jul 26 1909 Doane Type 2, with 2; S-23x13mm
2	FONDIS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Sep 17 1912 Oct 5 1921 4 bars S-23x13mm
3	FONDIS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Dec 19 1927 Mar 1 1941 4 bars S-25x20mm
4	FONDIS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Sep 29 1942 Jul 15 1954 4 bars S-23x18mm, narrow spacing of letters



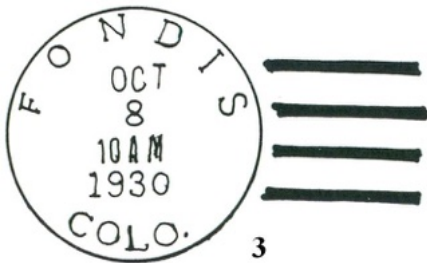
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2



3



4

GEBHARD

The original settlement here was the Two-Circle-Bar Ranch near the Agate Station on the Union Pacific Railroad. The owner of the ranch was Henry Gebhart (sic). Somehow the final "t" became a "d." However, the Post Office Department records show that Mrs. F. A. McNulty was the first postmaster at Gebhard (with a d) and that she was succeeded by Henry Gebhard (also with a d). That leaves a question as to whether the name was altered, whether Postmaster Gebhard altered his name or if the correct spelling was Gebhard all along.

In any event, in 1882 the post office name was changed to Agate to agree with that of the station on the Union Pacific.

The area around Gebhard / Agate is predominantly used for raising livestock with some farmland interspersed along the streams. Gebhard developed into a small community that was a shipping point for livestock and a supply center for the surrounding ranches and farms

Depart from Interstate 70 at Exit 340 to Agate. The site of Gebhard was a half-mile northwest of the center of Agate. There is a ranch complex in that area.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 29 1881 --- SW/4 Sec 1 T7S R59W
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Owen McNulty
- Apr 8 1881 Established

GEBHARD – Continued

Apr 8 1881	McNulty, Mrs. F. A.
Jul 19 1881	Gebhard, Henry
Apr 24 1882	Name changed to Agate

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Gebhard Colo	Apr 3 1882	Jun 11 1883
	MS	Mscp	Pen cancel

1

GODFREY

There is a report that in the early 1870's construction workers for the Kansas Pacific Railroad found some coal deposits near what eventually became Godfrey. I have found no other mention of this and there is no evidence in the surrounding area that mining ever took place.

There was a small station on the railroad that bore the name of Godfrey, named after Holen Godfrey even though the station was located on the Pearson Ranch.

The station served as a shipping point for livestock from the nearby ranches, which still dominate the area.

In spite of an early existence there was no post office at Godfrey until an attempt was made to establish one in 1908. Godfrey is shown on maps dating from 1870 to 1916. Eight years later a post office did begin operation at the location but it took the name of Buick.

To visit the site of Godfrey, follow the directions to Buick. The site can be observed from Interstate 70, some five miles southeast of Exit 340 at Agate.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 29 1908	Established
Jan 29 1908	Bolton, Mary E. A.
Apr 11 1908	Establishment rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GODFREY

GOMERS MILLS

Gomers Mills was a rural post office established at the sawmill on Kiowa Creek operated by Philip R. Gomer. The mill was exploiting the pine forests that blanketed the north flank of the eastward extension of the Monument Divide. This mill was one of several that Mr. Gomer established in the area.

Gomers Mills became a siding on the railroad when the Denver & New Orleans Railroad was built through the area in 1881. A small settlement developed around the sawmill but even with a railroad siding it succumbed quickly to the advantages of the growing town of Elbert, four miles to the north. In 1882 the post office closed (moved to) Elbert and assumed the name of that town.

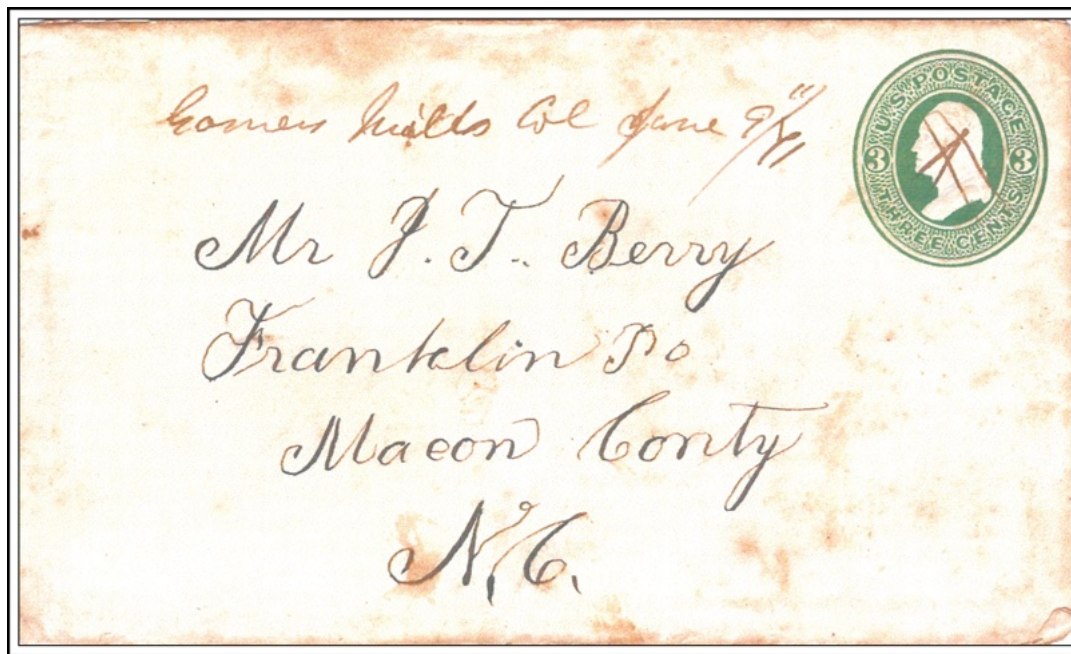
To visit the location of Gomers Mills, drive four miles south from the town of Elbert on Elbert County Road 25-41 to the intersection with County Road 82. The sawmill was in the valley to the east of the road. Brush and trees obscure any evidence that remains from the mill. In the northwest corner of the intersection is a single building that may have been either a church or a school.

GOMERS MILLS – Continued

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report includes an interesting note. Apparently the request for a post office proposed that Mrs. Gomer (Louisa A.) be appointed the postmaster. The Post Office Department refused, stating that, "Married women are not eligible as postmasters." How times change.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 29 1870 --- E/4 Sec 22 T10S R64W On the head of Kiowa Creek, east side
NOTE: " Married women are not eligible as postmasters, but can act as assistant.
If Mrs. Gomer is named, some one else must be named." (referring to Louisa A. Gomer)
- Jun 13 1870 Established
- Jun 13 1870 Gomer, Philip R.
- Jul 12 1870 --- SE/4 Sec 22 T10S R64W On the west side of West Kiowa Creek (??)
Signature of postmaster - Philip P. Gomer
- Feb 17 1876 Pettey, Z. R.
- Mar 15 1876 Discontinued
- Aug 22 1876 Re-established
- Aug 22 1876 McCurry, James R.
- Mar 15 1877 Barnard, Norman L.
- Jul 14 1880 Banks, William C.
- May 11 1882 Sellmayer, Frank H.
- Jun 27 1882 Post Office moved to Elbert



Gomers Mills Col

June 9, 1871

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Gomers Mills Col
MS | Mscp Pen cancel | Jun 9 1871 Oct 6 1871 |
| 2 | GOMERS MILLS, / COLO.
CI 21P 35.0/33.0/21.0 | Hstp Not recorded | Dec 29 1881 |

GOMERS MILLS – Continued

Gomers Mills Col June 9th / 1881

1



2

GRACELAND

Graceland was a rural post office three miles south of Keysor. Ed Young established the settlement in 1903 but it did not acquire a post office until 1908. The Graceland Post Office was in existence for only three years. There is no evidence that a town developed and it seems that Graceland was a grouping of ranches centered on what is today the intersection of Elbert County Roads 149 and 34.

The post office was likely named for the family of first postmaster, Grace L. Young.

Located in the southern portion of Elbert County the surrounding area is prairie grassland best suited for raising livestock. Agriculture would be problematic, depending heavily on irrigation from intermittent streams or water from deep wells.

Starting at US Highway 24 drive south on Elbert County Road 149. It is ten miles to the location of Keysor (Road 46) and another three miles to the location of Graceland at the intersection with Road 34.

Graceland was in the northeast corner of the intersection (Road 34 goes west only). There are two groupings of ranch buildings on the west side of Road 149. In 1996 one appeared to be an active ranch but the status of the other was questionable.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 8 1908 --- SW/4 Sec 23 T12S R59W
Proposed postmaster - Grace L. Young
- Apr 20 1908 Established
- Apr 20 1908 Young, Grace L.
- Mar 28 1911 Bruner, Dewayne H.
- Sep 30 1911 Discontinued Mail to Kutch

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 GRACELAND, / COLO. Jul 2 1908 Dec 27 1910
- CI 10P 31.0 4 bars S-??x13mm



1

HARGISVILLE

Hargisville was a rural post office in northern Elbert County. It did develop into a small community that seems to have been largely a creation of the Hargis family, for whom the settlement was named. The Reverend Z. J. B. Hargis was the pastor of the Baptist Church. Fred Hargis managed the stage line. Paris Hargis was the postmaster. And, the Hargis brothers operated a general store.

In 1915 the settlement claimed a population of about 150 but that is the year the post office was discontinued. Most likely the discontinuance was the result of a Rural Free Delivery route having been added to serve the area.

The area about Hargisville is best suited for raising livestock with some farming where irrigation is employed. There are still scattered ranches in the area.

Please review the directions given to the several rural post offices in northwestern Elbert County. After visiting the others, and finding yourself at the site of Wolfcreek, turn south on Elbert County Road 65. Hargisville is eleven miles to the south of Wolfcreek. Go south seven miles to Road 166. Turn east for one mile and then back south for three miles (Comanche Creek Road). At that point there is a very short westward jog to the west in the road. The location of Hargisville was in the northwest corner of this jog, but with a population of 150, it was likely spread out around the jog. There is an active ranch near the appropriate location.

From Hargisville you can continue south to Colorado Highway 86 four miles east of Kiowa. Or you can continue to explore the back country of northern Elbert County and visit the site of Claud before going on to Agate on Interstate 70.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 25 1908	---	SE/4 Sec 20 T7S R62W Comanche Creek is 3/4 miles west of office Proposed postmaster - Paris Hargis
May 20 1908		Established
May 20 1908		Hargis, Paris
Nov 15 1915		Discontinued Mail to Kiowa

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HARGISVILLE, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Dec 25 1908 Mar 12 1912 4 bars S-24x13mm
---	-----------------------------------	---



HOLTWOLD

Holtwold was located south of Simla in the southern extension of Elbert County. Its location on the county line between Elbert and El Paso Counties has caused some confusion. There are three Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports. All three place the post office in Section 6 of Township 13 South, Range 59 West. That section is on the Elbert side of the county line. The proximity to the county line could make it appear, on a small-scale map that Holtwold was in El Paso County.

Holtwold was a rural post office; however there may have been several residences and a store in the vicinity. Today the area is ranch and farm land.

HOLTWOLD – Continued

There is an explanation that the name Holtwold is a combination of two names: a Holt who owned the Horse Creek Ranch and another man named Wood, but who spelled his name Wold.

Begin the trip to Holtwold at the intersection of US Highway 24 and Elbert County Road 133, about two miles east of Simla. Drive twelve miles south on Road 133. One mile south of US 24, Road 133 is on the county line. The Horse Creek Ranch is on the east side of the road and a short distance north of Horse Creek. According to an elderly resident the post office was in a building on the north side of the driveway to the residence. He also said that the post office was once further south in a store. A mile south from the Horse Creek Ranch is the intersection with Elbert County Road 22. There are buildings in the northeast corner of that intersection, one of which looks like it was a store at some time in the past. This second location would agree with the 1915 Site Location Report that reports a move to a location south of Horse Creek

Another approach to Holtwold would be to continue west from Kanza on County Road 6 to County Road 133, then turn north four miles to County Road 22.

Latitude = 38:56:29 North Longitude = 104:03:10 West HOLTWOLD STORE

Chronology of the Post Office

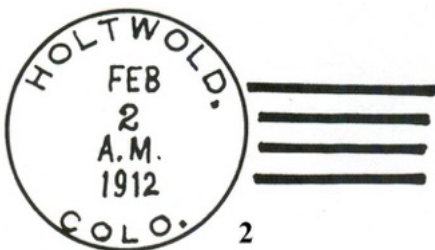
- Jan 2 1888 --- NW/4 Sec 6 T13S R59W 50 yards north of Horse Creek
Proposed postmaster - Myron W. Jones
- Jan 16 1889 Established
- Jan 16 1889 Jones, Myron W.
- Mar 29 1902 Ordered closed
- Apr 15 1902 Discontinued Papers to Ramah
- Jan 15 1910 --- NW/4 Sec 6 T13S R59W Horse Creek is 15 rods south of post office
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Mary J. Rector
- Apr 22 1910 Re-established
- Apr 22 1910 Rector, Mrs. Mary G.
- Oct 19 1910 Cutler, Richard B.
- Jun 6 1914 Erickson, Elam
- Apr 20 1915 --- NW/4 Sec 6 T13S R59W A move one mile southeast of a previous location
One mile south of Horse Creek About 1/8 mile east of the county boundary
- May 6 1915 Harris, Jennie
- Jun 10 1916 Cutler, Richard B.
- Feb 28 1917 Discontinued Mail to Ramah

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 0.1 HOLTWOLD, / COLORADO Jun 21 1894
CI 11P 33.0/31.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring
- 1 HOLTWOLD, / COLO. Dec 23 1910 Mar 30 1914
CI 10P 31.0 4 bars S-24x13mm



1



2

KANZA

Kanza was a rural or ranch post office located about eleven miles south of Keysor and just above the Elbert-Lincoln County line. As with the several other post offices in this southward projection of Elbert County there is no evidence for the existence of any organized community.

The surrounding countryside is grassland best suited for livestock. There is some farming in the area but it requires extensive irrigation.

It seems likely that the name was some type of reference to Kansas, perhaps the former home of the original homesteaders.

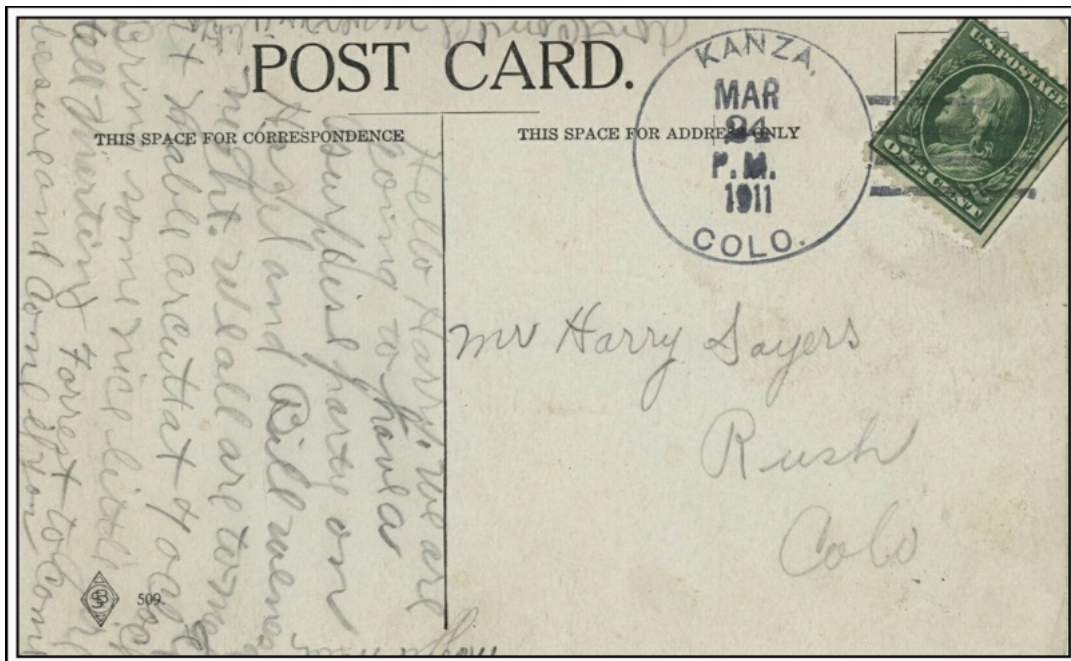
To visit the locations of Kanza, there are two possibilities. The first would be to come south on Elbert County Road 149 from the locations of Keysor and Graceland.

Drive south to the county line and Elbert County Road 2. Turn west one mile. The 1907 site of Kanza was north of Road 2. Return to Road 149 and go back north one mile to Road 6. Turn west for one mile. The 1914 site of Kanza was south of Road 6. The only remnant of Kanza is the Kanza Cemetery with a well-marked entrance gate. The cemetery is on the south side of County Road 6, less than a mile east of the Elbert-El Paso County line and County Road 133.

If this is one more of the stops on your tour of southern Elbert County (Keysor, Graceland, Benko, Kutch, Kanza and Holtwold), then follow the directions to Holtwold before returning to US Highway 24 at Simla. That is, go west to Road 133 and drive north four miles to Holtwold.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 25 1907 ---	SE/4 Sec 33 T13S R58W Proposed postmaster - Sarah F. White
Jul 19 1907	Established
Jul 19 1907	White, Sarah F.
Nov 1 1909	Miller, James
Apr 9 1912	Pace, Charles E.
Feb 20 1914 ---	NE/4 Sec 33 T13S R58W 2-1/2 miles south of Horse Creek
May 21 1914	Franklin, Elisha W.
Apr 14 1917	Discontinued Mail to Yoder



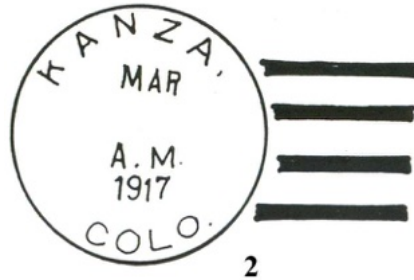
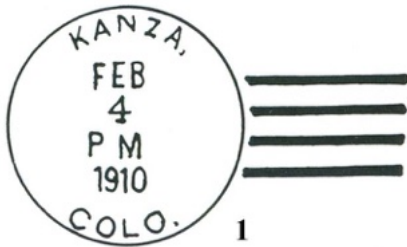
KANZA, / COLO.

March 24, 1911

KANZA – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | KANZA, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | 4 bars S-22x13mm | May 22 1908 Jun 25 1915 |
| 2 | KANZA, / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4 bars S-??x??mm | Mar -- 1917 |



KEYSOR

In 1904 Keysor started as a small farming village when the Keysor brothers opened a store on their ranch. A post office was acquired in 1906 with Oscar Gottlieb Keysor as the first postmaster. It would seem natural that the post office and settlement took the name of Keysor, honoring (or promoting) the Keysor brothers and their store.

There was no organized community and Keysor is classed as a rural post office meeting the needs of the surrounding ranchers. The area is prairie grazing land best suited for raising livestock.

From Matheson on US Highway 24 drive south on Elbert County Road 149 ten miles to the intersection with Elbert County Road 46. The eastern and western sides of this intersection are offset a few hundred feet. Keysor was in the northeast corner of the intersection. In 1996 there was a well kept, active ranch at the location.

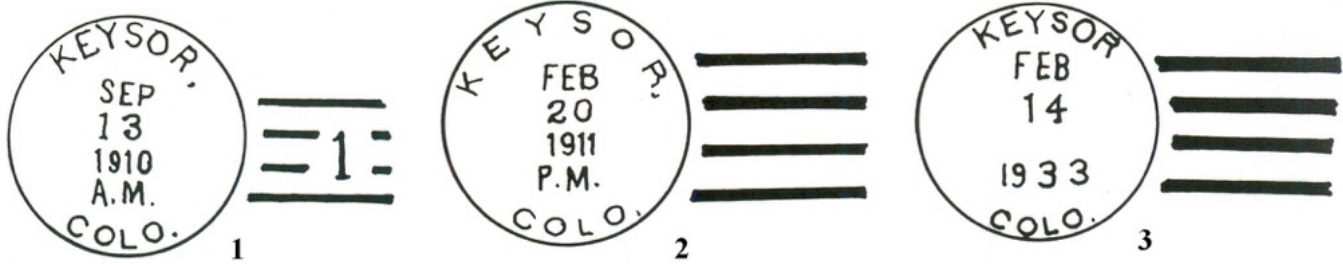
Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 27 1906	---	E/4 Sec 10 T1S R59W On south bank of Rush Creek Proposed postmaster - Oscar Gottlieb Keysor	
May 24 1906		Established	
May 24 1906		Keysor, Oscar G.	
May 15 1908		Brewer, Edgar	Declined
Jul 10 1908			Appointment order rescinded
Oct 9 1908		Lawrence, Jonathan M.	
Feb 25 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 10 T12S R59W 10 rods south of Rush Creek (North Branch)	
May 20 1914		Keysor, Oscar G.	Confirmed
Jun 4 1914		Keysor, Oscar G.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1914		Keysor, Oscar G.	Assumed charge
Apr 26 1934		Keysor, Mrs. Francis R.	Assumed charge
Jul 3 1934		Keysor, Mrs. Francis R.	Acting
Aug 20 1934		Keysor, Mrs. Francis R.	Confirmed
Sep 14 1934		Keysor, Mrs. Francis R.	Commissioned
Oct 1 1935		Riding, Homer	Assumed charge
Nov 1 1935		Riding, Homer	Acting
Nov 13 1935		Riding, Homer	Confirmed
Dec 26 1935		Riding, Homer	Commissioned
Feb 17 1938		Ordered closed	
Feb 28 1938		Discontinued Mail to Matheson	

KEYSOR – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	KEYSOR, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Nov 21 1905 Mar 24 1913 Doane Type 3, with 1; S-??x14mm
2	KEYSOR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	May 19 1910 Feb 26 1920 4 bars S-25x20mm
3	KEYSOR / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Dec 3 1928 Feb 28 1938 4 bars S-24x19mm, tall, close spaced letters



KIOWA

In 1859 Henry Wendling established a stage station on the Smoky Hill Trail at Kiowa Creek. During its early existence the station was also known as Middle Kiowa and as Wendling. By the time the Post Office was established in 1868 the name had firmly become Kiowa, named for the Kiowa Indian Tribe.

Kiowa was in the eastern portion of the original Douglas County. On February 2, 1874 Douglas County was reduced to its present boundaries with the remainder, reaching east to the Kansas border becoming Elbert County. Kiowa was chosen as the county seat and has remained so since the time the county was formed.

For much of its existence Kiowa has depended on agriculture to support its economy. The surrounding countryside is rich farmland but requires extensive irrigation; therefore the raising of livestock has predominated over farming. The presence of the county seat has also helped to support the town.

In the later stages of the twentieth century and as time moved into the twenty-first century, the scene around Kiowa began to change. Colorado Highway 86 provides a travel corridor across the county, and in particular westward into Douglas County and on to the Denver Metroplex. Large, reasonably inexpensive tracts of land have enticed developers to begin the process of subdividing the countryside. There is a growing development of scattered residences throughout central Elbert County.

While this change is good for business, it is straining the county to provide services and in particular county roads capable of handling the increased traffic. This also applies to Highway 86, which often experiences traffic jams.

The town of Kiowa, on Colorado 86 has grown slowly. There are new businesses, a small shopping plaza, new homes and some older homes have been renovated or restored. Assuming that the difficulties with the public infrastructure can be resolved, Kiowa will continue to grow and become, on the eastern edge of the Front Range metropolitan complex, an even more desirable place to live.

Latitude = 39:20:50 North Longitude = 104:27:50 West

KIOWA – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 5 1868	---	SW/SE & E/2 "SW" SE, NW Sec 17 T8S (6S?) R63W The sketch map shows Kiowa occupying the E/2 of the W/2 and the SW/4 SE/4 Sec 17	
Feb 14 1868		Established	
Feb 14 1868		Wendling, Henry	
Jan 24 1876		Rastetter, Charles	
Jul 28 1876		Thomas, Jonathan	
Jul 8 1877	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T8S R63W	
Mar 25 1878		Baldwin, John G.	
Dec 8 1879		Browne, Newell J.	
May 10 1881		Gleason, Newton L.	
Jan 8 1883		Lettig, Henry	
Feb 2 1883		Fohster, Theodor	
Mar 7 1884		Clark, Elijah P.	
Apr 13 1891		Manville, Richard H.	
Mar 22 1895		McCausland, Thomas E.	
Apr 20 1898		Miller, William E.	
Mar 12 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T8S R63W 75 rods east of Kiowa Creek	
Jan 16 1915		Killin, Olive A.	
Apr 1 1917			Office made Presidential
Jul 21 1917		Killin, Olive A.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Mar 18 1919		Finnicum, Ralph E.	P
Aug 29 1919		Finnicum, Ralph E.	P&S
Sep 1 1923		Kendall, Mary E.	Acting
Dec 18 1923		Kendall, Mary E.	Appointed
Dec 17 1927		Kendall, Mary E.	Confirmed
May 17 1932		Eisner, Carl W.	Nominated
Jun 20 1932		Eisner, Carl W.	Confirmed
Jul 12 1932		Eisner, Carl W.	Commissioned
Jul 23 1932		Eisner, Carl W.	Assumed charge
May 7 1936		Killin, Bernard C.	Nominated
May 13 1936		Killin, Bernard C.	Confirmed
Jun 20 1936		Killin, Bernard C.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 22 1936		Killin, Bernard C.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1936		Killin, Bernard C.	Assumed charge
May 24 1940		Killin, Bernard C.	Nominated
May 31 1940		Killin, Bernard C.	Confirmed
Jun 20 1940		Killin, Bernard C.	Appointed Presidential
Jan 5 1942	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T8S R63W Kiowa Creek is 1/4 mile west of post office	
Aug 9 1940		Killin, Bernard C.	Commissioned
Aug 10 1942		Killin, Mrs. Ada	Acting
Aug 11 1942		Killin, Mrs. Ada	Assumed charge
Apr 7 1943		Killin, Mrs. Asa	Nominated
Apr 29 1943		Killin, Mrs. Ada	Confirmed
Apr 30 1943		Killin, Mrs. Ada	Appointed Presidential
May 25 1943		Killin, Mrs. Ada	Commissioned
Jun 30 1943		Killin, Mrs. Ada	Assumed charge
Jul 28 1944		Woodward, Mrs. Frances K.	Appointed
Sep 30 1944		Woodward, Mrs. Frances K.	Assumed charge
Feb 11 1947	---	Not reported A move 117 feet southwest of a previous location Kiowa Creek 1/4 mile west of Post Office	
Jun 30 1953		Woodward, Mrs. Frances K.	Acting
Sep 9 1953		Woodward, Mrs. Frances K.	Assumed charge
Jul 2 1954		Woodward, Mrs. Frances K.	Nominated
Jul 28 1954		Woodward, Mrs. Frances K.	Confirmed, Appt'd Presidential & Commissioned

KIOWA – Continued

Oct 26 1973	Smith, Miss Betty L.	Officer in charge
May 11 1974	Smith, Miss Betty L.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Kiowa Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Aug 29 1878
2	KIOWA / COL CI 11P 24.0/12.0	Hstp Not recorded	Jun 1 1879 Jun 29 187-
3	KIOWA. / COLORADO. OC 10P 27.0x27.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star, Cork smudge, Target	Jun 5 1879 Apr 23 1882
4	KIOWA / COLORADO CI 22P 30.5/29/18/17	Hstp Fancy, Positive star in circle	Dec 25 1884 Dec 16 1887
5	KIOWA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Apr 12 1889 Jan 15 1900
6	KIOWA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 5 1900 Apr 4 1900
7	KIOWA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 3 1900
8	KIOWA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4 bars S-23x14mm	Jan 13 1908 Apr 2 1915
9	KIOWA COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 25 1936
10	KIOWA / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 24 1935 Mar 19 1962
10.1	KIOWA / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 5 1951 Jun 24 1965
11	KIOWA / COLO. CI 10P 20.0	Dplx Grid, 8-bar oval	Sep 12 1948
12	KIOWA, CO / 80117 CI 10P 23.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Sep 29 1965 Aug 7 1973
13	KIOWA, CO / 80117 CI 10P 32.5	4 bars S-25x20mm	Oct 2 1972 Jul 12 1976
14	KIOWA, CO / 80117 CI 10P 34.0	4 bars S-20x16mm	Feb 25 1993 May 28 1993
15	KIOWA CO 80117 / USPS CI 11P 30.0/22.0	Hstp No Killer	Sep 26 2001

Kiowa Col
8-29-78

1



2



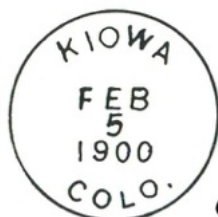
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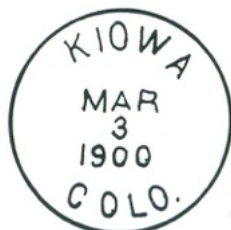
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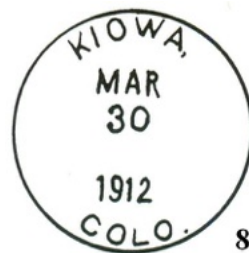
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6



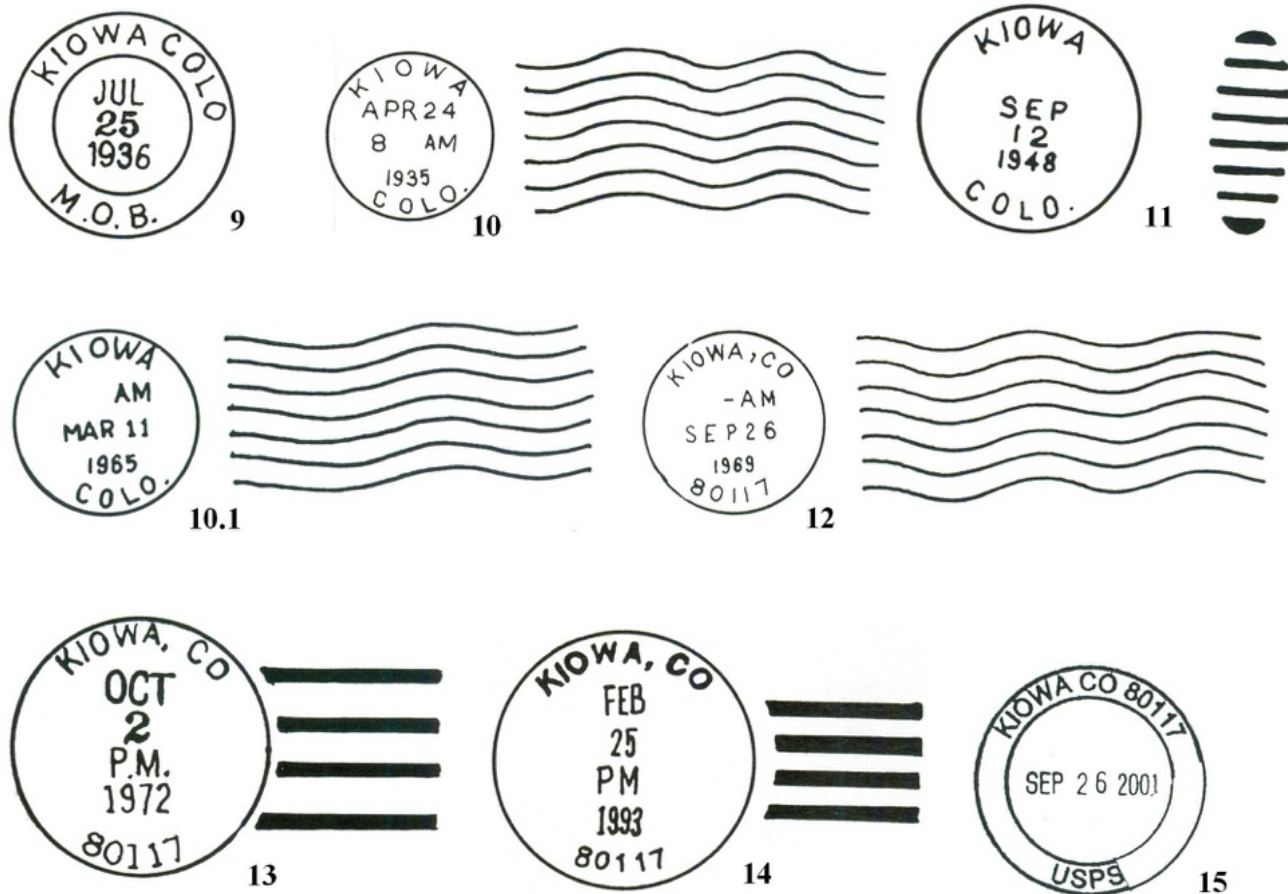
7



8



KIOWA – Continued



KUHNS CROSSING

Kuhns Crossing was located on East Bijou Creek at the XK Ranch belonging to Charles Kuhn. Mr. Kuhn was the first postmaster. The ranch was sold to the Richards. Clarice Richards was the postmaster from 1900 to 1907 and wrote a book, *The Tenderfoot Bride* about her life on the ranch.

The area along East Bijou Creek is rich agricultural land but the area has been mostly used for raising livestock.

The post office at Kuhns Crossing can best be described as a ranch post office as there does not seem to have been a community although it was shown on maps as late as 1980.

Only one location for the Kuhns Crossing Post Office is present in the Geographic Site Location Reports. That document places the post office on the eastern side of East Bijou Creek where Colorado Highway 86 crosses the stream. There is nothing visible at that location that would suggest previous habitation. However, Bijou Creek is known to occasionally go on a rampage and repeated flooding could have erased the signs of occupancy.

The 1973 Colorado Highway Department map of Elbert County locates Kuhns Crossing one mile east of the creek at the intersection of Colorado Highway 86 and County Road 125.

There is another possibility. Lee Whiteley in his book *The Cherokee Trail* places Kuhns Crossing north of Highway 86. A short distance west of the bridge over the creek, Elbert County Road 113 goes to the north. This road leads to an active ranch about a mile and a half north of the Highway. It is an older ranch and could be the location of the old XK Ranch.

KUHNS CROSSING – Continued

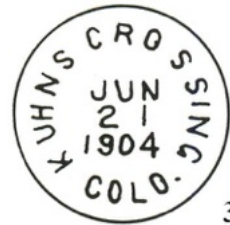
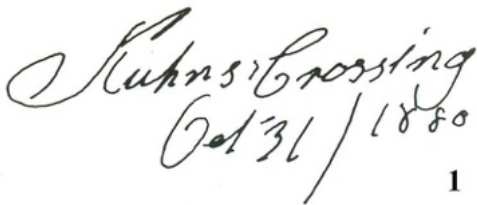
I cannot rule out the possibility that one or more moves of the post office were not reported to the Post Office Department. More study is needed to fully resolve the question of the location of Kuhns Crossing.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 2 1879	---	SW/4 Sec 8 T9S R60W On the east side of East Bijou Creek Proposed postmaster - Charles E. Kuhn
Apr 10 1879		Established
Apr 10 1879		Kuhn, Charles E.
May 8 1879		Crowfoot, David
Jun 19 1882		Matthews, James C.
Dec 11 1883		Kuhn, Charles E.
Dec 5 1900		Richards, Clara O.
Feb 1 1907		Sparks, Glen
Aug 5 1907		Hofer, Elbert E.
Sep 16 1912		Sparks, Ellen
Jan 31 1920		Discontinued Mail to Simla

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Kuhns Crossing MS	Oct 31 1880
2	KUHNS' CROSSING, / COLO. CI 20P 32.0/28.5	Mscp Pen cancel Jan 26 1882 Jul 8 1892
3	KUHNS CROSSING / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Fancy, Outline star in circle Aug 16 1900 Mar 2- 1908
4	KUHNS CROSSING, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm Apr 3 1912 May 13 1914 4 bars S-25x20mm



KUTCH

In 1899 an application was filed for a post office on the ranch of Ira Baker Kutch, to take the name of Kutch. The post office lasted only three months and was rescinded with no reason given and likely was never in operation.

In 1905 the post office at Sanborn was moved to the Kutch ranch and took the name of Kutch. This location was in Lincoln County, little more than a mile south of the Elbert-Lincoln County line. In 1911 the Kutch Post Office moved north into Elbert County and three subsequent moves shifted it further north to the final location in the southwest corner of the intersection of Elbert County Roads 14 and 173. The original location is four miles south of the final location.

From this wandering history of the post office, and having viewed the sparsely populated countryside, I conclude that there was no organized community of Kutch and that it was another of Eastern Colorado's ranch post offices. Kutch enjoyed a much longer life than most such post offices, lasting until 1971.

My October 1996 visit to Kutch began in the north and went south - from the most recent to the original locations.

There were two locations at the intersection of Elbert County Roads 173 and 14. The 1919 site was in the northeast corner of the intersection and in that corner there was an abandoned building that might well have been a store. The 1941 location was in the southwest corner of the intersection and there was an occupied residence in that corner.

From the intersection drive south two miles and descend towards the crossing of a tributary to Horse Creek. The 1914 location was in this shallow valley but nothing remains. The lack of sagebrush and cactus might indicate some sort of previous habitation.

Continue south to the Elbert-Lincoln County line. The 1911 site of the Kutch Post Office was on the east side of Road 173. Once again, there is only an open field to be seen.

You can now go on into Lincoln County to the original, 1905, location of the Kutch Post Office. You should now be on Lincoln County Road 11. The location was to the east of the road and southeast from the crossing of the county line. There is a farm road that goes in that direction and leads to an active ranch or at least some inhabited buildings along Horse Creek.

After visiting all of these locations, I suggest going two miles south to Colorado Highway 94 and then turning west six miles before again turning north, back into Elbert County near the location of Kanza,

Latitude = 37:54:38 North Longitude = 103:52:08 West

Chronology of the Post Office

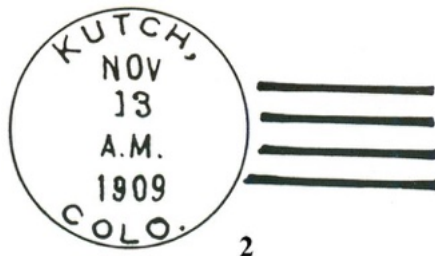
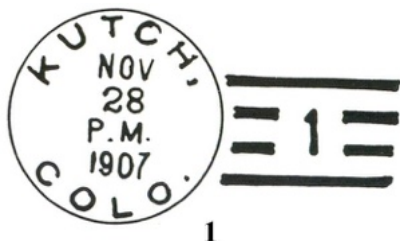
Jul 17 1899	Established	
Jul 17 1899	Kutch, Ira B.	
Oct 9 1899	Order rescinded	
May 13 1905	---	SE/4 Sec 2 T14S R58W (Lincoln County) On the north side of Horse Creek Proposed Postmaster - Ira Baker Kutch
Jun 3 1905	Post office moved from Sanborn	
Jun 3 1905	Kutch, Ira B.	
Aug 20 1906	Park, Mararete M.	
Feb 27 1911	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T13S R58W On north side of Horse Creek
Mar 11 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 35 T13S R58W One mile north of Horse Creek
Aug 12 1919	---	SW/4 Sec 14 T13S R58W A move 2 miles north of a previous location From NW/4 SE/4 Sec 35 T13S R58W
Aug 23 1919	McDonald, Washington C.	
Aug 31 1920	Songer, Will E.	
Aug 21 1933	Tamlin, Francis Albert	Assumed charge

KUTCH – Continued

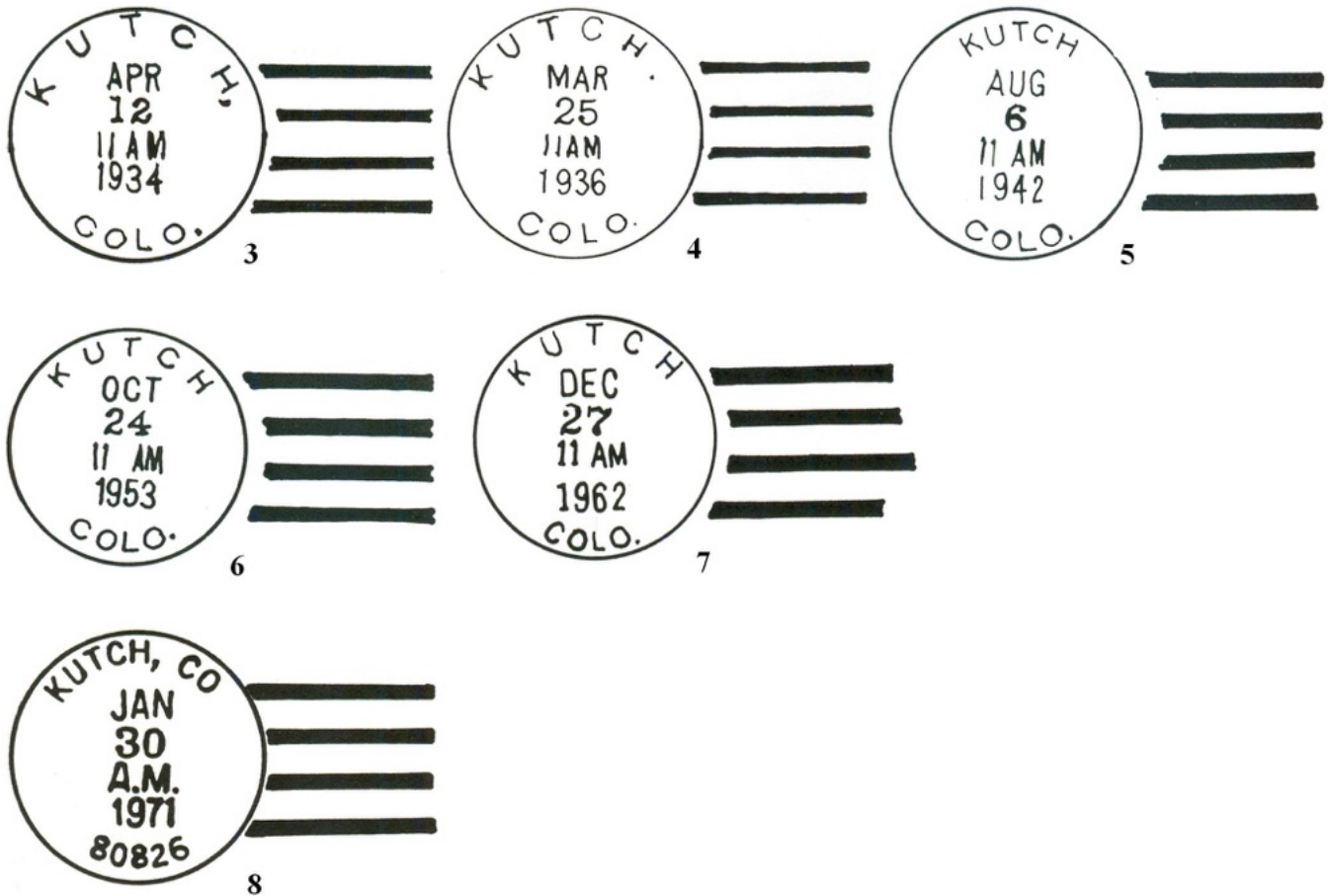
Sep 25 1933	Tamlin, Francis Albert	Acting
May 28 1934	Tamlin, Francis Albert	Confirmed
Jun 1 1934	Tamlin, Francis Albert	Commissioned
Sep 9 1934	Leyerle, Daniel W.	Assumed charge
Sep 26 1934	Leyerle, Daniel W.	Acting
Aug 3 1935	Leyerle, Daniel W.	Confirmed
Aug 16 1935	Leyerle, Daniel W.	Commissioned
Oct 25 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 21 T13S R58W	NOTE: The section is questionable
Oct 31 1945	Sides, Mrs. Nellie E.	Assumed charge
Feb 11 1947	Sides, Mrs. Nellie E.	Confirmed
Feb 21 1947	Sides, Mrs. Nellie E.	Possession
Jan 9 1948	Weber, Grace Josephine	Possession
Jan 27 1948	Weber, Grace Josephine	Acting
Jun 3 1948	Weber, Grace Josephine	Appointed
Jun 22 1948	Weber, Grace Josephine	Commissioned
Jun 30 1948	Weber, Grace Josephine	Assumed charge
Jan 31 1955	Tamlin, Mrs. Anna	Assumed charge
Mar 16 1955	Tamlin, Mrs. Anna	Acting
May 6 1955	Tamlin, Mrs. Anna	Appointed
Jun 17 1955	Tamlin, Mrs. Anna	Commissioned
Jun 30 1955	Tamlin, Mrs. Anna	Assumed charge
Mar 6 1970	Tamlin, John W.	Officer in charge
Jan 31 1971	Discontinued Mail to Ramah	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	KUTCH, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Doane Type 2, with 1	May 30 1906 Oct 24 1908
2	KUTCH, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	4 bars S-25x14mm	Feb 11 1909 Mar -- 1916
2.1	KUTCH COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 31.0/20.0	Hstp no killer	Jun 7 1933
3	KUTCH, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-25x20mm	Apr 12 1934
4	KUTCH, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm, wide spaced letters	Feb 25 1936 Dec 2 1940
5	KUTCH / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm, narrow spaced letters	Jan 15 1942 Feb 12 1951
6	KUTCH / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4 bars S-23x18mm	Oct 24 1953 Apr 30 1960
7	KUTCH / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-24x20mm	Dec 27 1962
8	KUTCH, CO / 80826 CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-24x20mm	Jun 29 1967 Jan 30 1971



KUTCH – Continued



MATHESON

Because of an error in spelling by the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railroad the name of this community was originally Mattison. The railroad soon changed its name to become the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad. However, it took twenty-five years for the town to finally adopt the correct spelling of Matheson in honor of sheep rancher Duncan Matheson. Duncan Matheson was the first postmaster of Mattison and the post office was in his home.

Today Matheson is a small community on the north side of US Highway 24 in eastern Elbert County. It is mostly residential but does offer some services for local residents and travelers on US 24.

For most of Matheson’s existence the railroad served the community bringing in needed supplies and taking out produce. The railroad is gone and Matheson must now rely on trucks coming and going on US 24.

Please refer to the discussion of Mattison for more information.

Latitude = 39:10:18 North Longitude = 103:58:30 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 17 1915	Formerly named Mattison	
Feb 17 1915	White, Orlando M.	
Apr 1 1921		Office made Presidential
Mar 2 1922	White, Orlando M.	P&S

MATHESON – Continued

Dec 9 1925	Parks, William J.	
Oct 1 1926	Matheson, Norman	Acting
Dec 10 1926	Matheson, Norman	Appointed
Mar 2 1931	Matheson, Norman	P&S
July 1 1933	Calkum, William J.	Assumed charge
Jul 12 1933	Calkum, William J.	Acting
Sep 11 1933	Calkum, William J.	Confirmed
Oct 24 1933	Calkum, William J.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 22 T10S R59W 1/2 mile north of Big Sandy River
Jun 1 1944	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Assumed charge
Jun 10 1944	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Acting
Apr 6 1945	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Confirmed
May 29 1945	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1945		Office made Presidential
Sep 26 1946	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Nominated
Oct 29 1945	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Confirmed
Oct 30 1945	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Appointed
Mar 31 1946	Ashcraft, Mrs. Cecile B.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1957		Relegated to fourth class
Jul 1 1958		Office made Presidential
Jan 9 1968	King, Mrs. Dorothy	Acting
Jul 1 1968		Office relegated
Jul 1 1969		Advanced to Presidential
Mar 20 1971	King, Mrs. Dorothy	Assumed charge as postmaster

Confirmed types of postal markings

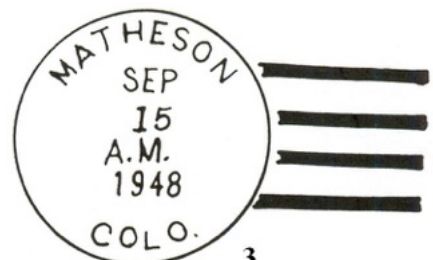
1	MATHESON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4 bars S-25x20mm	Apr 22 1919
2	MATHESON, COLO. CI 10H 31.0	4 bars P-24x18mm	Dec 3 1931 Nov 1 1940
3	MATHESON / COLO. CI 10H 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm	Sep 15 1948
4	MATHESON / COLO. CI 10H 32.0	4 bars Not present	Nov 4 1957 Apr 13 1960
5	MATHESON, CO / 80830 CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x20mm	Dec 30 1967 Dec 19 1975
6	MATHESON, CO / 80830 CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-24x18mm	Oct 9 1996
7	MATHESON CO 80830-9998 / USPS CI 11P 43.0	4 bars 4 bars each side of the cds	Aug 25 2000
8	MATHESON CO 80830 / USPS CI 11P 30.5/22.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 26 2001



1

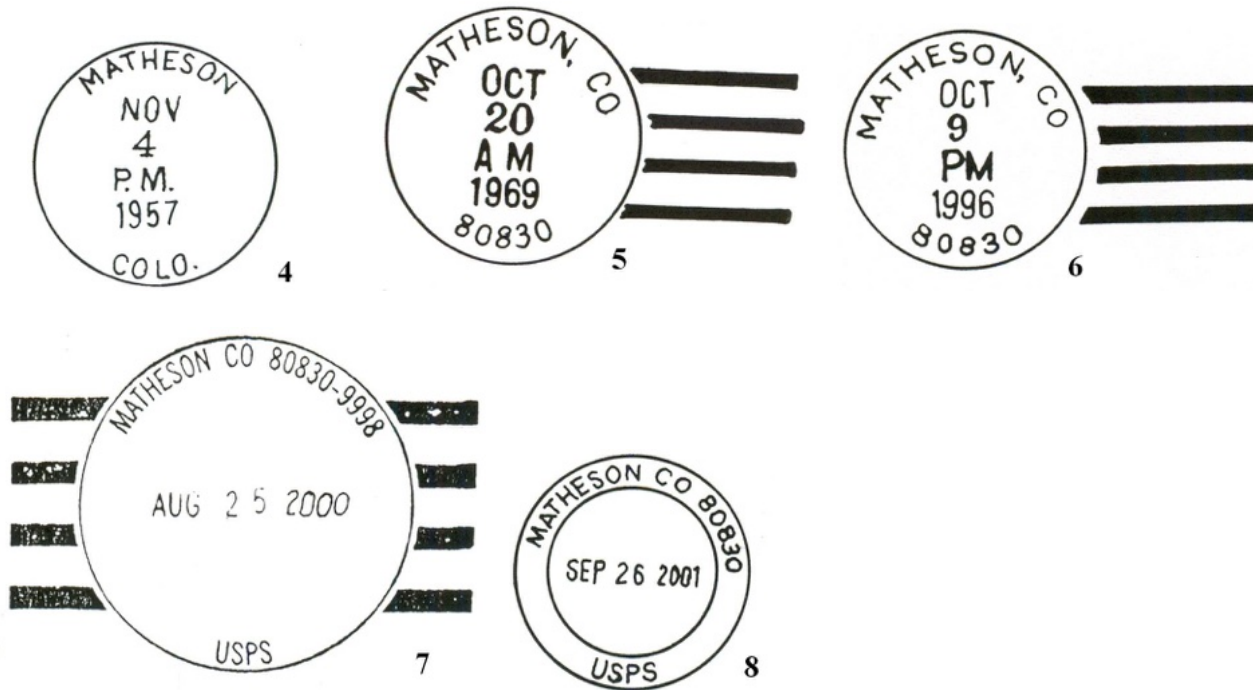


2



3

MATHESON – Continued



MATTISON

In 1889 the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railroad built its line into Elbert County. One of the stations it established was on the sheep ranch of Duncan Matheson. The post office was in the Matheson home and took his name although it was misspelled as Mattison.

The Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railroad soon became the more familiar Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad.

A number of sources claim that Miss Jessie Matheson was the first postmaster here. However the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments do not support that claim. It seems more likely that Duncan Matheson was the titular postmaster but that Jessie Matheson did the work and was regarded by her patrons to be the postmaster. This would not be a unique situation in the history of the United States Post Office Department.

On January 14, 1889 C. F. Julison, working for the railroad filed a town plat for Mattison. As with nearly all the prairie towns established along railroad right-of-ways, the community depended on the railroad for its existence. The railroad brought supplies to be sold or distributed to the surrounding ranchers and farmers and in turn took their livestock and produce to market.

In 1915 the error in spelling of twenty-five years earlier was corrected and at last the name Matheson appeared to honor Duncan Matheson.

Mattison / Matheson is located on US Highway 24 at the junction with Elbert County Road 149.

Chronology of the Post Office

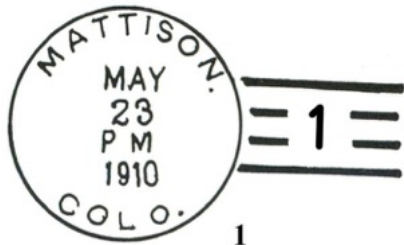
- Jan 29 1889 --- SE/4 Sec 15 T10S R59W 12 feet north side Chicago Kansas and Nebraska Railway
1/2 mile south of Big Sandy Creek
Proposed postmaster - Duncan Matheson
Signed postmaster - Duncan Matheson
- Feb 13 1889 Established
- Feb 13 1889 Matheson, Duncan
- Sep 19 1895 Discontinued Mail to Resolis

MATTISON – Continued

May 12 1906	Re-established
May 12 1906	Matheson, Duncan
Apr 18 1906 ---	SW/4 Sec 14 T10S R59W 1/4 mile south of the Big Sandy River Proposed postmaster - Duncan Matheson
Oct 5 1914	White, Orlando M.
Mar 25 1914 ---	SW/2 SW/4 Sec 14 T10S R59W 1/2 mile south of the Big Sandy River 13 rods south of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad
Feb 17 1915	Name changed to Matheson

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MATTISON, / COLO. CI 10P 30.5	Doane Type 3, with 1	Jan 24 1908 Aug 28 1911
2	MATTISON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-??x19mm	Aug 20 1913 Nov 7 1914



MELVILLE

The Melville Post Office was in operation for only one year, if it was in operation at all. There is no Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report on file therefore I am unable to describe a location for or to report what might still exist at the site.

In addition to the lack of official records I have found no mention of Melville in any of the Colorado history references that I have read.

Information about this place would be most appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

	No document was found in the Elbert County Geographic Site Location Reports
Jan 24 1889	Established
Jan 24 1889	Miller, Ernst A.
Jan 21 1890	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MELVILLE

NORTON

Norton was another of the rural post offices in Elbert County. Apparently the original choice for the name was Stoller. The Post Office Department rejected that suggestion. I have found no information that would explain the choice of either Stoller or Norton as a name for the post office. The area around this location is grazing land, mostly for traditional livestock, but one of the large ranches has taken to raising bison.

NORTON – Continued

From the crossing of East Bijou Creek (Kuhns Crossing) drive west on Colorado Highway 86 two miles to Elbert county Road 105. Go north two miles to County Road 122 and turn west. Go three miles to the intersection with County Road 93. The Norton cemetery is in the southeast corner of this intersection. A few tombstones can still be seen amongst the weeds. That and a few trees are the only remnants of Norton to be found.

At the corner where you turn from Road 105 on to Road 122 there is an elaborate gate to a ranch belonging to the Denver Buffalo Company. The site of the Bland Post Office is within the ranch, about three miles northeast of the corner.

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 28 1898	---	NW/4 Sec 4 T9S R61W Proposed postmaster - Oloff Olson
Jun 29 1899		Established
Jun 29 1899		Olson, Oloff
Jun 15 1915		Discontinued Mail to Ramah

Confirmed types of postal markings

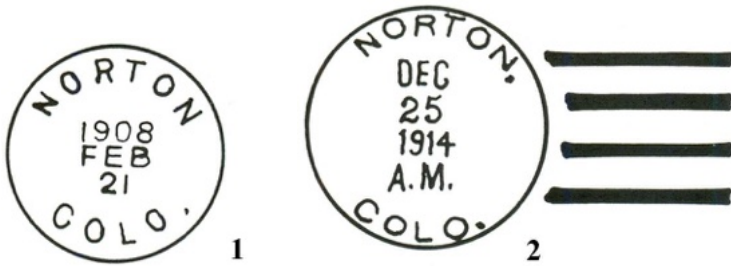
- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | NORTON / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Hstp Not present | Feb 17 1908 Apr 18 1910 |
| 2 | NORTON, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | 4 bars S-24x20mm | Feb 5 1913 Dec 25 1914 |



NORTON / COLO.

February 17, 1908

NORTON – Continued



ORSBURN

Orsburn was a rural post office on the ranch of William Orsburn. He was the first postmaster and was followed by Mrs. Susan R. Orsburn, most likely his wife. The post office took the Orsburn family name.

At the time the post office was in operation this portion of Elbert County was devoted to raising livestock. Today it is rapidly being subdivided into residential developments, a trend that is likely to continue.

The location of Orsburn was on the east side of Elbert County Road 13, six miles north of Colorado Highway 86. County Road 13 is one mile west of Elizabeth and 3 miles east of the Elbert-Douglas County line.

In October 1996 there were no remaining buildings from the early period at the location, only a grove of trees along Running Creek.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 12 1885	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T7S R64W 200 yards west of Running Creek
		Proposed postmaster - William Orsburn
Mar 2 1885		Established
Mar 2 1885		Orsburn, William
Nov 17 1886		Orsburn, Mrs. Susan R.
Jan 28 1896		Discontinued Mail to Elizabeth

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ORSBURN

RESOLIS

Resolis was a small settlement on the line of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railway between Matheson on the Rock Island and River Bend on the Union Pacific Railroad. On November 9, 1888 a town plat for Resolis was filed by C. F. Jilson of the Rock Island.

There was a siding and a station. Resolis was a livestock shipping point on the Rock Island. The settlement did not grow to any significant size and by the mid-twentieth century it was a ghost town. I visited the site in 1990 and all that remained was a small clump of trees next to the tracks and the railroad sign marking the location as Resolis. Since then the tracks have been removed and all vestiges of Resolis have disappeared except perhaps the trees.

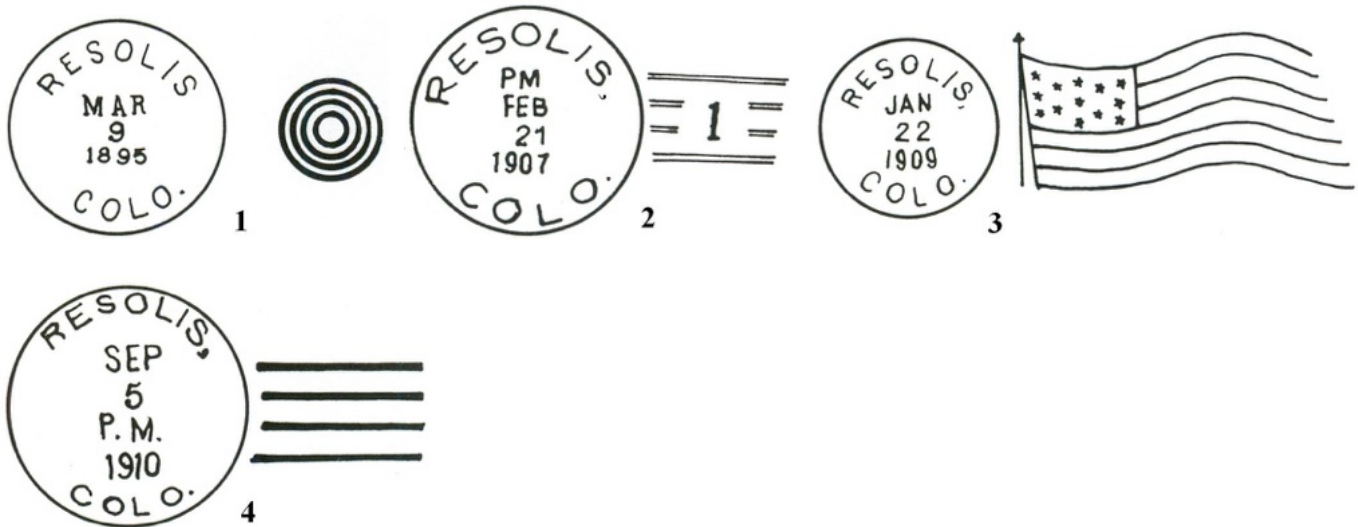
To visit the location of Resolis, start at the exit from Interstate 25 for Elbert County Roads 118 and 190. Drive west two and a half miles. There should be a visible gravel pit to the south of the road. Near there a road from the south intersects the east-west road. Turn onto that road. It goes south to the grade of the Rock Island and then parallels the grade, going southwest. In about one mile the road crosses the old grade. Resolis was back to the northeast of that crossing.

RESOLIS – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 11 1890	---	NW/4 Sec 13 T9S R58W 1/2 mile east of Big Sandy Creek Located at the Depot - Chicago Rock Island Pac Ry Proposed postmaster - William H. Reed
Jul 26 1890		Established
Jul 26 1890		Reed, William H.
Jul 26 1899		Wells, William H.
Feb 14 1911		Moniunger, James H.
May 25 1912		Webb, Frank Lee
Jan 15 1914		Discontinued Mail to Limon

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	RESOLIS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target	Mar 9 1885 Mar 9 1895
2	RESOLIS, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Doane Type 2 with 1; S-23x14mm	Jan 9 1905 Feb 21 1907
3	RESOLIS, / COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Flag 13 star flag	Jan 22 1909 Sep 25 1909
4	RESOLIS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4 bars S-23x13mm	Sep 5 1910 Oct 1 1913

**RIVER BEND**

There were two locations for River Bend. At first it was a station on the Smoky Hill Trail about two miles upstream from the second River Bend.

In 1870, during the construction of the Kansas Pacific Railroad to Denver, what little remained at "Old" River Bend was moved to a new location on the line of the railroad. For a short period of time it was the end of track. After the railroad moved on it became a principal shipping point for cattle from a large surrounding area. During the 1880's River Bend had a reputation of being a true "wild west" town. It boasted of two saloons and a hotel.

Subsequent construction of the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railroad to Colorado Springs led to the slow death of River Bend. The new railroad crossed the line of the Kansas Pacific (Union Pacific) a few miles to the southeast of River Bend. The location of the crossing became Limon, which grew to become the major town of the region. The population and commerce gradually moved to Limon and River Bend slowly faded away.

RIVER BEND – Continued

Although established in the early 1870's it was not until June 21, 1909 that the Union Pacific Land Company filed a plat for the town of River Bend.

The town was named for the wide, sweeping bend in Big Sandy Creek. The creek comes from the southwest, approaches present day Colorado Highway 86 then curves to the southeast along the southern side of Interstate 70.

Very little remains of either version of River Bend. It appears that the first location of River Bend was near the interchange of Highway 86 and Interstate 70, Exit 362. Nothing remains at that location and the construction of the interchange and the rerouting of Highway 86 have extensively disturbed the area.

The later and longer lasting location is two miles to the southeast at the next exit from Interstate 70 (Elbert County Roads 118 and 190). I believe this is where Colorado 86 intersected old US Highway 40 before construction of the interstate. The River Bend cemetery is on the hillside to the east of the interstate. The community was west of the interstate. No old structures remain; however, some newer homes have been built in the vicinity of this intersection.

Latitude = 39:17:17 North Longitude = 103:47:30 West

Latitude = 39:17:47 North Longitude = 103:47:36 West RIVER BEND CEMETERY

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 22 1872	---	SE/4 Sec 5 T9S R57W 1/2 mile north of Big Sandy River North side of railroad, 200 yards from River Bend station	
Jan 4 1875		Established	
Jan 4 1875		Moore, William B.	
Jul 12 1880		Clark, George F.	
Aug 23 1880		Showalter, John H.	
Mar 2 1882		Bishop, Randolph E.	
Dec 12 1884		McIlhenney, Frederick B.	
Sep 21 1888		Fulkerson, Wena S.	
May 23 1889		McIlhenney, Frederick B.	
Mar 23 1898	---	SE/4 Sec 5 T9S R57W 1/2 mile north of Big Sandy Creek About 40 yards north side of KP branch UP Ry	
Feb 13 1906		Roberts, Lillie J.	
Feb 19 1907		Brower, Raymond E.	
Mar 20 1908		Malott, Will R.	Declined
Sep 18 1908		O'Connor, Munroe	
Mar 18 1910		Kesler, Benjamin E.	
Sep 19 1911		Hudson, Lizzie L.	
Feb 20 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 5 T9S R57W 1/4 mile north of Big Sandy Creek 100 feet north of the Union Pacific tracks	
Apr 1 1931		Swartz, John	Possession
Apr 27 1931		Swartz, John	Acting
Jun 20 1931		Swartz, John	Confirmed
Jun 30 1931		Swartz, John	Commissioned
Jan 18 1937		Ordered closed, Effective Jan 30 1937 Mail to Agate	
Jan 27 1937		Order rescinded	
Apr 1 1937		Kesler, Mrs. Cecelia	Assumed charge
Apr 13 1937		Kesler, Mrs. Cecelia	Acting
Apr 24 1937		Kesler, Mrs. Cecelia	Confirmed
May 7 1937		Kesler, Mrs. Cecelia	Commissioned
Jan 13 1939		Ordered closed	
Jan 31 1939		Discontinued Mail to Agate	

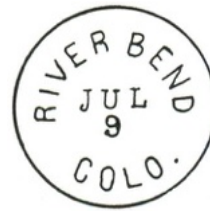
RIVER BEND – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	River Bend, Col MS	Mar 17 1874
2	RIVER BEND / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Mscp Pen cancel Apr 20 187- Oct 8 187-
3	RIVER BEND, / COLORADO. CI 11P 31.0/18.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm Jun 8 1885 Nov 8 1885
4	RIVER BEND / COLORADO. CI 21P 33.0/31.0/22.0	Hstp Target Jul 17 1888
5	RIVER BEND / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Fancy, Postitive star in 18mm circle Sep 28 1892 Jul 19 1896
6	RIVER BEND, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm Oct 3 1908 Jan 19 1910
7	RIVERBEND, / COLO. CI 10P 30.5	Doane Doane Type 3 with 2; S ??x13mm Apr 11 1911 Dec 25 1919
8	RIVER BEND, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x14mm Feb 18 1933 Apr 20 1937
9	RIVER BEND / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm Jan 31 1939

River Bend Cal March 17

1



2



3



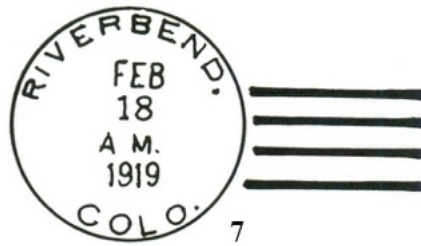
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ROCK BUTTE

Rock Butte, five miles southeast of Elizabeth, was a shipping point on the Denver & New Orleans Railroad for livestock from the surrounding ranches. This facility was shown on railroad maps of the 1882-1897 period. Later, Rock Butte was an unmanned "boxcar station" for cream and milk being shipped to cheese factories in Denver.

By the time the railroad arrived in 1881, the Rock Butte Post Office had come and gone. It was likely no more than a ranch post office serving a small rural population.

From Elizabeth, drive five miles south on Elbert County Road 17-21. According to the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report, Rock Butte was on the west side of the road, east of Running Creek. Nothing is visible there but on the east side there is an inhabited residence.

The small butte, which gave its name to the locality, is also on the east side of the road.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 28 1869	---	SW/4 Sec 5 T9S R64W On east side of Running Creek
Sep 20 1869		Established
Sep 20 1869		Hertel, George W.
Mar 29 1871	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 5 T9S R64W 1/4 mile east of Running Creek
		Postmaster - George W. Hertel
Oct 3 1871		Discontinued
Jan 17 1872		Re-established
Jan 17 1872		Williams, Thomas J.
Aug 18 1873		Mauldin, James A.
Oct 22 1874		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ROCK BUTTE

RUNNING CREEK

Running Creek was established on the homestead of John B. Miller about three miles north of Elizabeth. It was the site of the Ruthton Station on the Smoky Hill South stage route. The station and later the post office were in the home of a Mr. Hagedon. The name was taken from the creek on which it was located. There has not been an organized community called Running Creek.

The surrounding countryside was used for raising livestock. There was also significant lumbering in the region. Today this portion of the county is being rapidly developed into a residential suburb of Denver as the urban sprawl along the Interstate 25 corridor expands eastward into Elbert County. Ranching still exists, but is declining, unless you count the growing number of horse farms that have become chic in the new suburbs.

Enter Elbert County on Colorado Highway 86. Three miles east of the Elbert-Douglas County line, on the east side of the Elizabeth School turn north on Elbert County Road 13. Drive north about two miles and turn into the Running Creek Nursery. Go through the nursery to a farm road that leads to a farmyard. There is an old farmhouse, pretty well hidden in trees. I believe this was the initial site of the Running Creek Post Office. The entrance to the nursery is about a tenth of a mile south of the Running Brook Polo and Equestrian Center.

County Road 13 runs due north from Colorado 86 for two and one-half miles before making a slight jog to the west. Just before that jog there is another old ranch, which I believe was the later location of the Running Creek Post Office.

RUNNING CREEK – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 21 1867	---	NW/4 Sec 31 T7S R64W 20 rods west of Running Creek
Apr 2 1868	---	NW/4 Sec 31 T7S R64W 1/8 mile west of Running Creek
Apr 14 1868		Established
Apr 14 1868		Austin, Harvey E.
Feb 16 1871	---	SW/4 Sec 31 T7S R64W 4 rods west of Running Creek (on map Terapin)
Sep 11 1873		Willard, Frank G.
Apr 6 1875		Brooks, Lewis F.
Jun 26 1876		Discontinued
Oct 4 1876		Re-established
Oct 4 1876		Hageden, J. H.
Mar 12 1883		Discontinued Mail to Elizabeth

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Running Creek Colo MS	Msep Pen cancel	Dec 24 186- Oct 10 1878
2	RUNNING CREEK, / COLO. CI 21H 34.5/32.0/21.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, undated cds	Feb 25 1879 Jul 21 1881

Running Creek Colo
10/10/78

1

**SCHLEY**

Schley was a rural post office north and east of Elizabeth. The Clemmons Post Office preceded it in the area. The area was once agricultural with livestock being the primary product. There are still ranches in the area but residential development is expanding rapidly.

From Colorado Highway 86, three miles east of the Douglas-Elbert County line, turn north on Elbert County 13. Drive north seven miles, passing the locations of the Running Creek and Orsburn Post Offices. Turn east on County Road 166 and go four miles to County Road 29 and then turn north. Schley was four miles to the north and on the west side of County Road 29. In a grove of trees to the west of the road there is a group of older buildings. This site is one mile north of the entrance to the Sun Country Meadows development.

Latitude = 39:32:07 North Longitude = 104:31:52 West SCHLEY SCHOOL

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 13 1899	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T6S R64W 1/8 mile west of Running Creek Proposed postmaster - Clarence M. Richards
Jun 27 1899		Established
Jun 27 1899		Richards, Clarence M.
Dec 12 1901		Weiss, William
Jun 30 1908		Baird, Newton H.
Oct 15 1913		Discontinued Mail to Elizabeth

SCHLEY – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 SCHLEY / COLO
CI 10P 28.0

Jan 11 1908 Jan 3 1912

Hstp Cork, negative X-roads



SIMLA

In 1888, the Chicago, Kansas, and Nebraska Railroad (Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific) established a siding here. The siding was named Simla by the wife (or daughter) of a railroad official who had found the name in a book that she was reading about India. Simla is a hill town in India that was the summer capitol of the British administration.

The town of Simla was established when Mike Altman, a saloon keeper in Ramah, was encouraged to leave Ramah. He moved northeast to the siding of Simla. On January 30, 1909 the Simla Town Company, with William Robinson as president, filed a town plat for Simla. On January 15, 1913 Simla was incorporated.

Farming and stock raising dominate the economy of the surrounding area. Simla has served as a shipping point for produce and livestock. It still serves as a supply center with a modest business district that provides some services to the area and to travelers on US Highway 24. The Rock Island Railroad has ceased operations; thus the town now depends on US Highway 24.

Simla is about six miles west of Matheson and five miles east of Ramah.

Latitude = 39:08:30 North Longitude = 104:05:00 West

Chronology of the Post Office

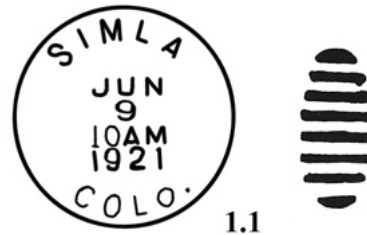
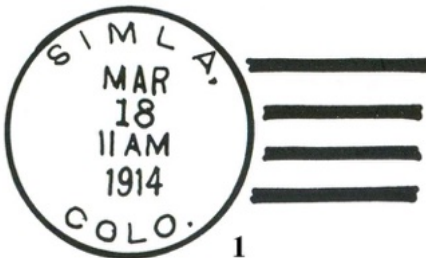
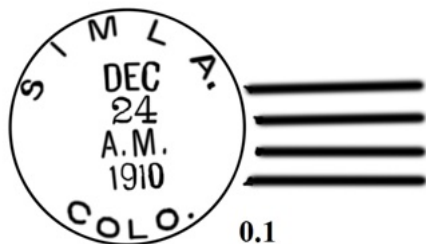
Aug 9 1909	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T10S R60W (????)	
Aug 12 1909		Established	
Aug 12 1909		Housh, Dock	
Mar 17 1911		Housh, Margaret	
Apr 9 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T10S R59W 491 feet south of the Rock Island Railroad 1/2 mile south of Big Sandy Creek	
Feb 14 1914		Armstrong, Lucille	
Oct 1 1918			Office made Presidential
Aug 39 1919		Spangler, Edward S.	P&S
Apr 7 1922		Hofer, William W.	P&S
May 17 1926		Hofer, William W.	P&S
Jun 20 1930		Hofer, William W.	P&S
Nov 16 1934		Moreland, Willard T.	Acting & Assumed charge
Jan 10 1935		Moreland, Willard T.	Nominated
Jan 21 1935		Moreland, Willard T.	Confirmed
Feb 19 1935		Moreland, Willard T.	Commissioned
Mar 4 1935		Moreland, Willard T.	Assumed charge
Feb 29 1940		Moreland, Willard T.	Nominated
Mar 7 1940		Moreland, Willard T.	Confirmed
Mar 11 1940		Moreland, Willard T.	Appointed
Mar 22 1940		Moreland, Willard T.	Commissioned

SIMLA – Continued

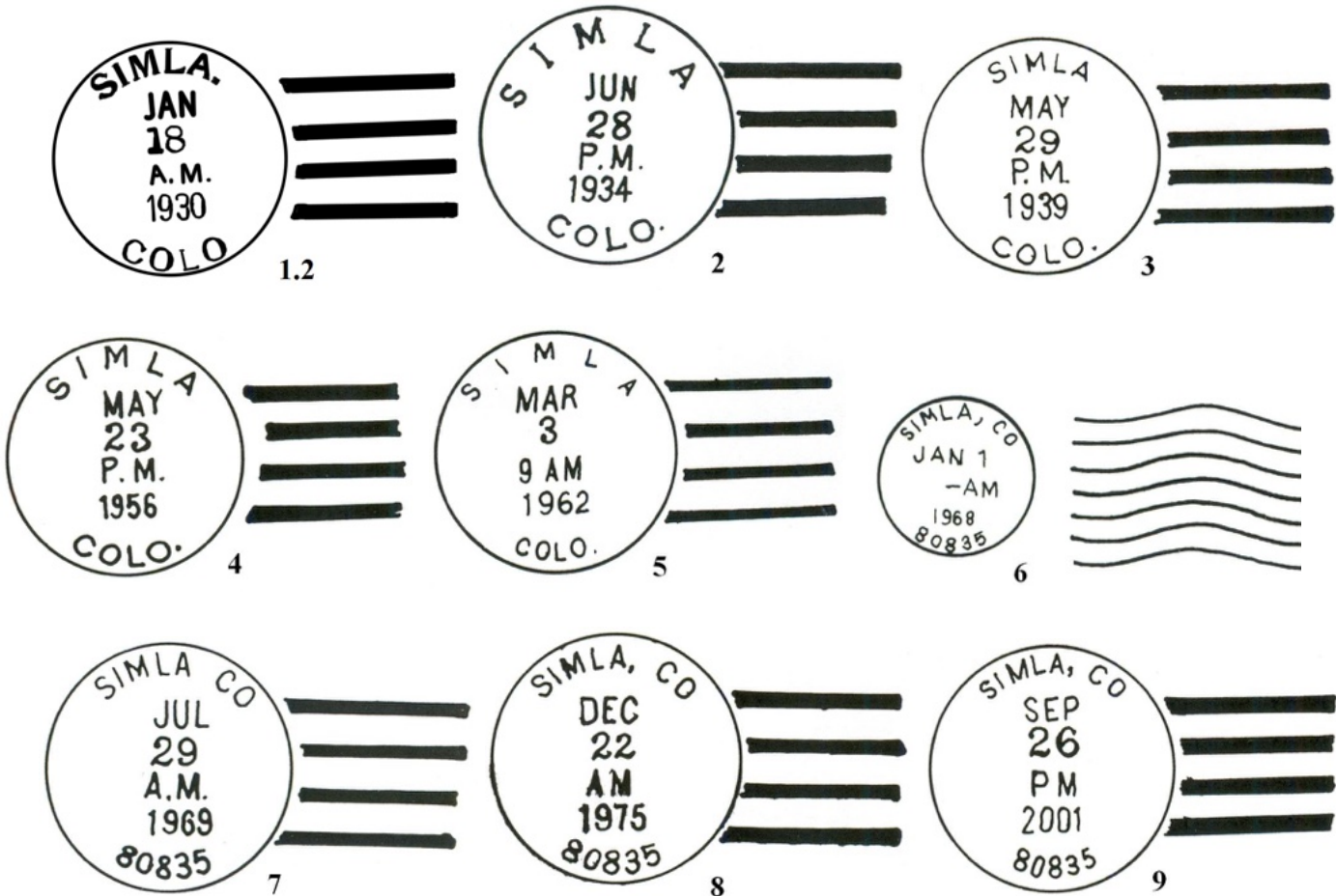
Mar 31 1940	Moreland, Willard T.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 26 T10S R60W Chicago & Rock Island station 500 feet north of Post Office. Big Sandy Creek 1/4 mile north.	
Aug 15 1952	Camp, Peter W.	Assumed charge
Aug 22 1952	Camp, Peter W.	Acting
Apr 30 1953	Kimble, Mrs. Jennie E.	Assumed charge
May 24 1954	Kimble, Mrs. Jennie E.	Appointed
May 25 1953	Kimble, Mrs. Jennie E.	Acting
Apr 14 1954	Kimble, Mrs. Jennie E.	Nominated
May 24 1954	Kimble, Mrs. Jennie E.	Confirmed, Appt'd Presidential & Commissioned
Sep 30 1954	Kimble, Mrs. Jennie E.	Assumed charge
Nov 24 1972	Ackley, Mrs. Viola	Officer in charge
Feb 17 1973	Ackley, Mrs. Viola	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	SIMLA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4 bars S-23x13mm	Feb 15 1910 Dec 24 1910
1	SIMLA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-25x19mm	Mar 18 1914 May 10 1915
1.1	SIMLA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid 8 bar oval	Jun 9 1921
1.2	SIMLA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-24x19mm	Jan 18 1930
2	SIMLA / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4 bars S-25x20mm	Feb 13 1933 Aug 30 1938
3	SIMLA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-25x20mm, narrow spaced letters	Dec -- 1933 Jan 11 1951
4	SIMLA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4 bars S-??x18mm, wider spaced letters	Apr 2 1956 May 23 1956
4.1	SIMLA, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x16.5	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	1950s
5	SIMLA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4 bars S-24x19mm, wide spaced letters	Apr 11 1959 Mar 3 1962
6	SIMLA, CO / 80835 CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Feb 1 1967 Apr 14 1992
7	SIMLA CO / 80835 CI 10P 33.5	4 bars S-25x20mm; No comma	Jan 2 1968 Apr 24 1971
8	SIMLA, CO / 80835 CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-25x20mm; Has comma	Oct 26 1973 Feb 18 1976
9	SIMLA, CO / 80835 CI 10P 33.0	4 bars S-24x19mm	Apr 14 1993 Sep 26 2001



SIMLA – Continued



WOLFCREEK

Wolfcreek was located on the boundary of Elbert County with Arapahoe County. It was a rural post office in an area devoted to ranching and farming. Those activities are still the ones pursued in the area.

I will assume you have been visiting the other post office sites in the northwest corner of Elbert County, having started your journey at Colorado Highway 19 and going north to Running Creek and lastly the site of Clemmons on County Road 29. From Clemmons continue north to the Elbert-Arapahoe County line. Turn east on County Road 194 and go nine miles to the intersection with County Road 65. The site of Wolfcreek was just west of this intersection and likely on both sides of the road. There is an occupied (1996) residence on the south side of Road 194 and a large, old, abandoned barn on the north side of the road. The house appears to have an older portion but has been added to in recent years.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Dec 30 1909 --- NE/4 Sec 6 T6S R62W Wolf Creek is 1/2 mile west of Post Office
- Mar 15 1910 Established
- Mar 15 1910 Ellicott, Charles J.
- Mar 15 1919 Discontinued Mail to Strasburg

WOLFCREEK – Continued



WOLFCREEK, / COLO.

August 31, 1912

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | WOLFCREEK, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4 bars S-23x13mm | Jul 21 1910 Aug 31 1912 |
| 2 | WOLFCREEK, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4 bars S-24x19mm | Apr 15 1913 Feb 3 1914 |



YOMAN

Yoman is one of the Colorado Post Offices which were authorized and shortly thereafter the appointment and establishment were rescinded. It is reasonable to assume that the person who would have been the postmaster declined the appointment, that no one else stepped forward and that the post office was not really necessary.

I have been unable to find any mention of this place in the historical literature of Colorado.

YOMAN – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

	No document was found in the Elbert County Geographic Site Location Reports
Feb 11 1904	Established
Feb 11 1904	Clark, Esther A.
May 12 1904	Order rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM YOMAN

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- CROFUTT, George A. *Crofutt's Gripsack Guide of Colorado*, 1885; Overland Publishing Co; Omaha, Nebraska; Reprint: Cubar Associates; 1966; Golden, Colorado; 266pp; illus.; maps
- DAWSON, J. Frank *Place Names in Colorado*; 1954; J. Frank Dawson Publishing Co.; Denver, Colorado; 52pp
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- CALDWELL, S.L. *Ranching on the Colorado Plains Sixty-one Years Ago*; July 1939, Vol. 16, No. 4, pp148-156
- LONG, Margaret Long *The Smoky Hill Trail*; November 1932, Vol. 9, No. 6, pp218-231
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.

GALLERY OF ELBERT COUNTY COVERS



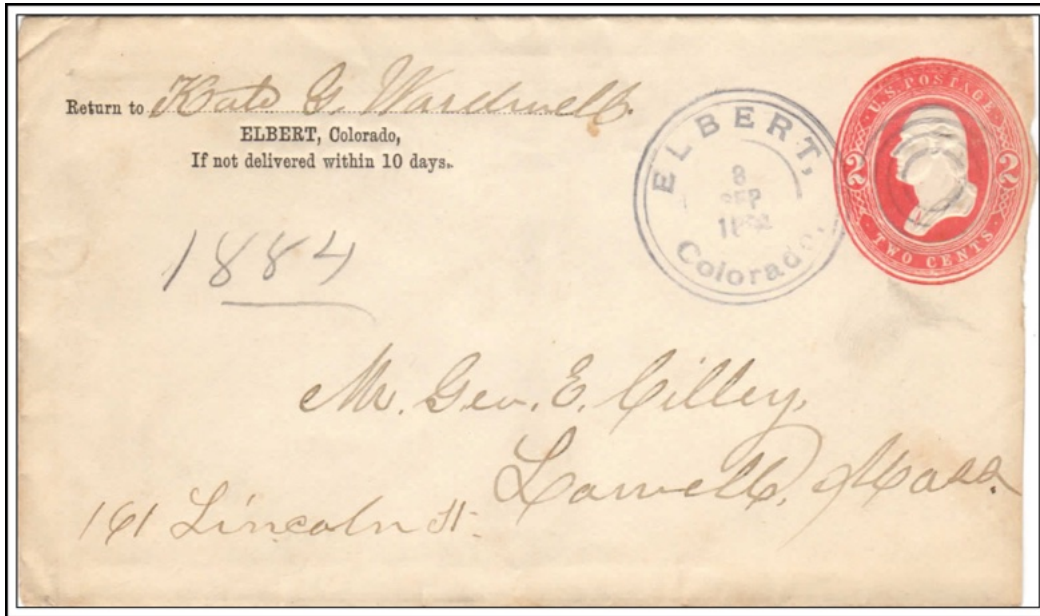
BLAND / COL.

December 18. 189-



CLEMMONS, / COLO.

April 11, 1885



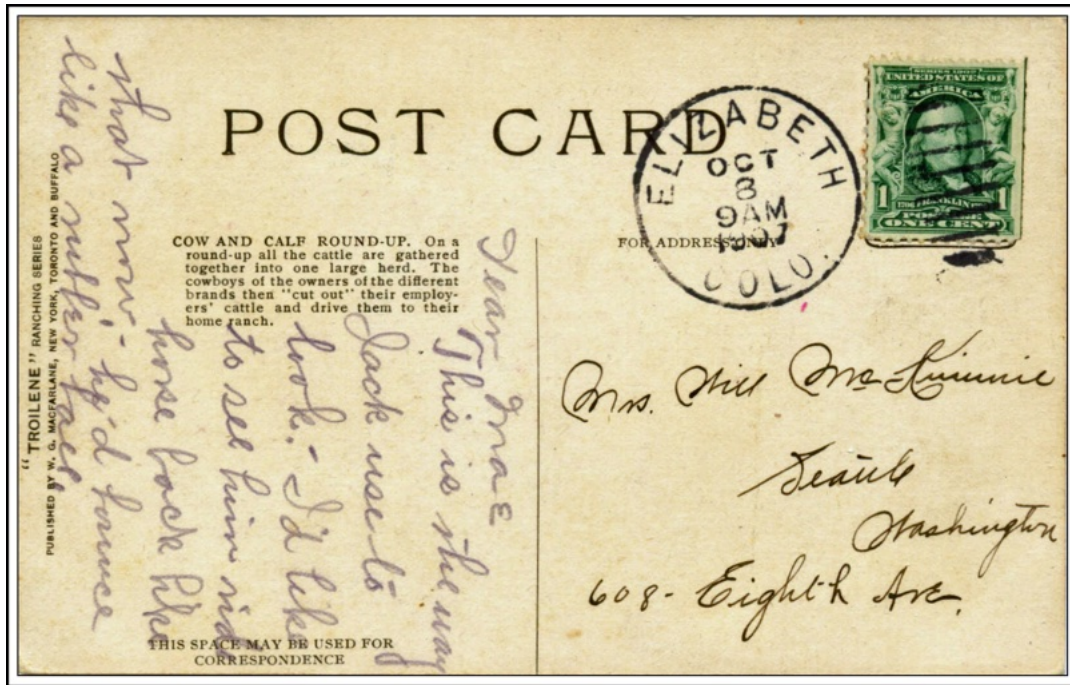
ELBERT, / Colorado.

September 8, 1884



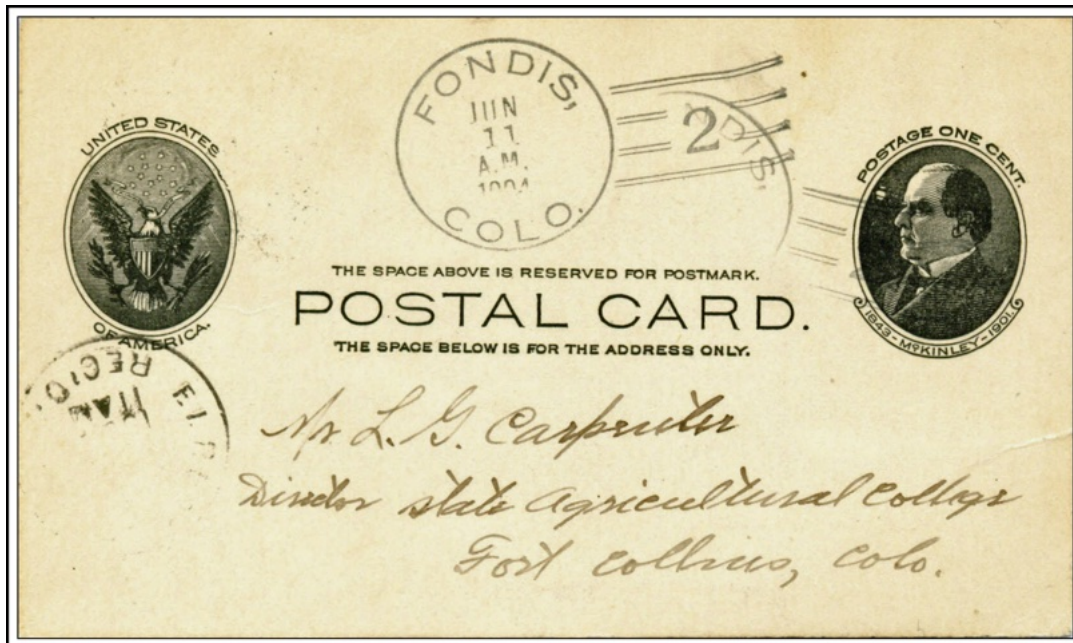
ELBERT, COLO. / REC'D.

November 12, 1909



ELIZABETH / COLO.

October 8, 1907



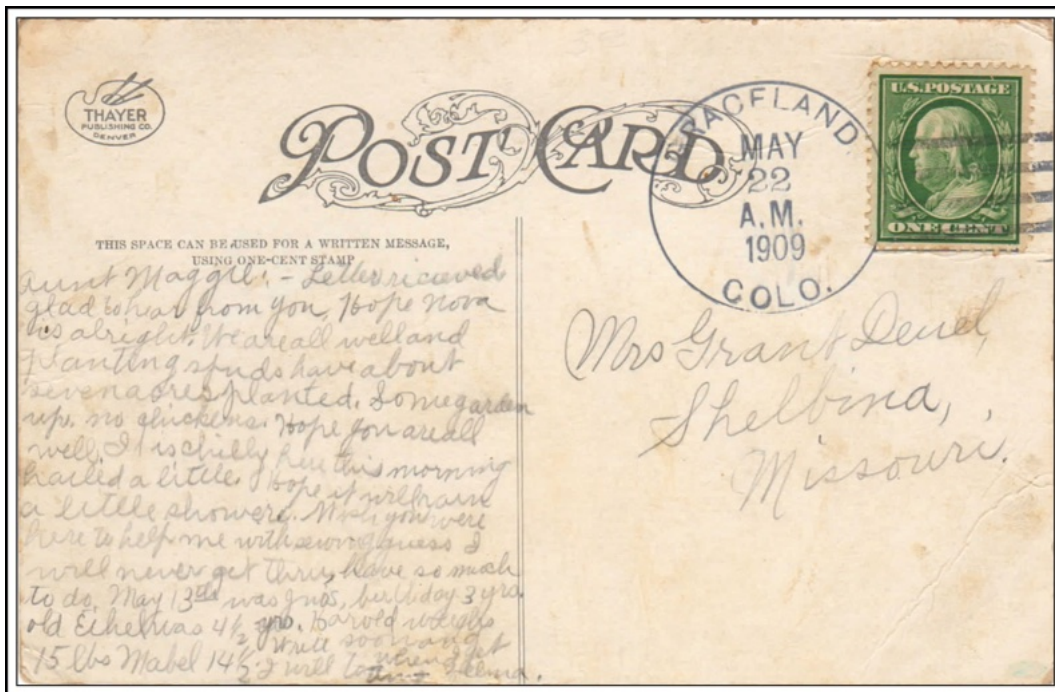
FONDIS, / COLO.

June 11, 1904



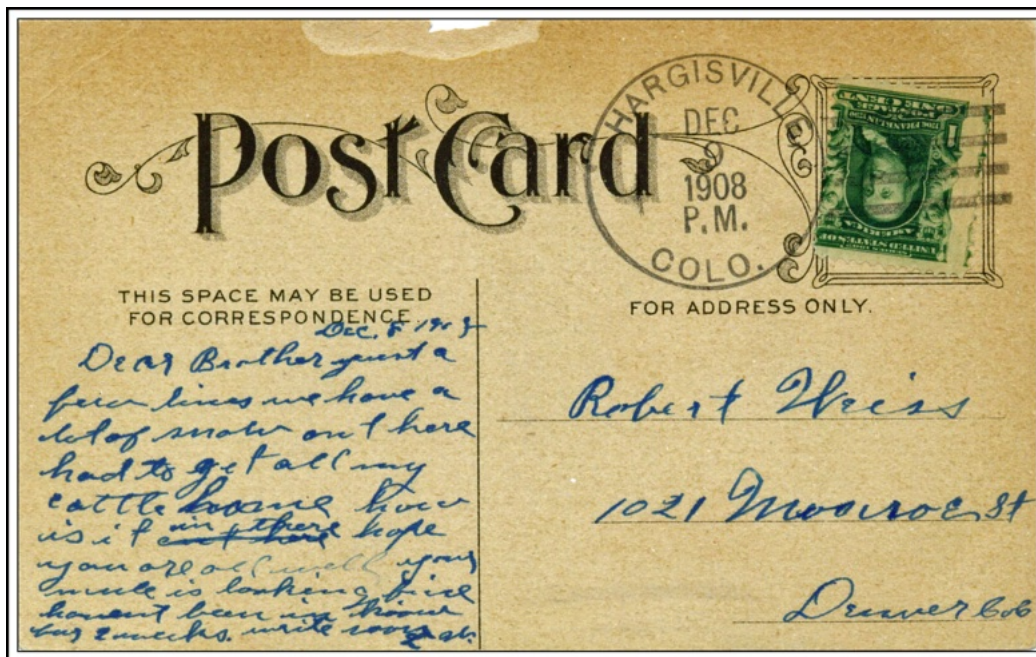
GEBHARD COLO

May 9, 1882



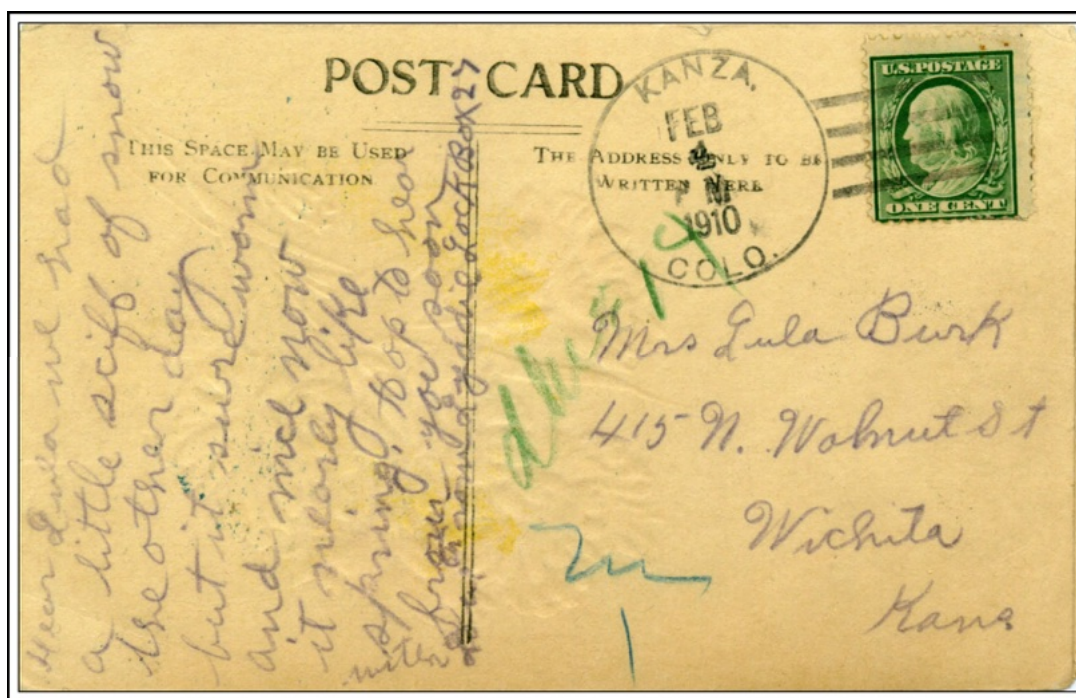
GRACELAND / COLO.

May 22, 1909



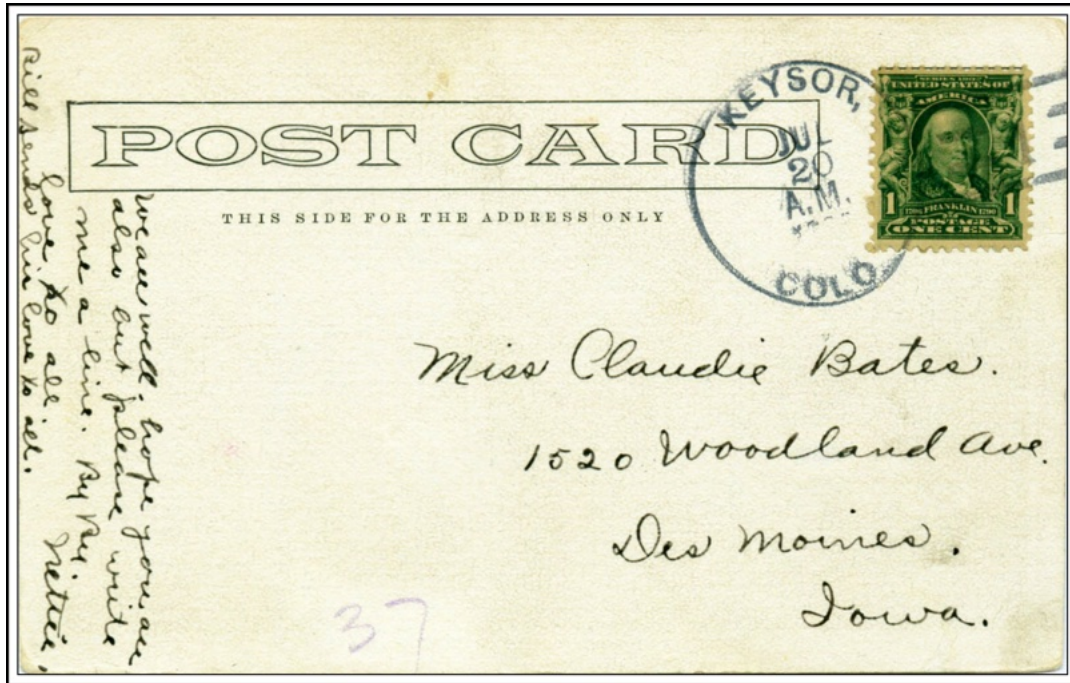
HARGISVILLE / COLO.

December 9, 1908



KANZA, / COLO.

February 4, 1910



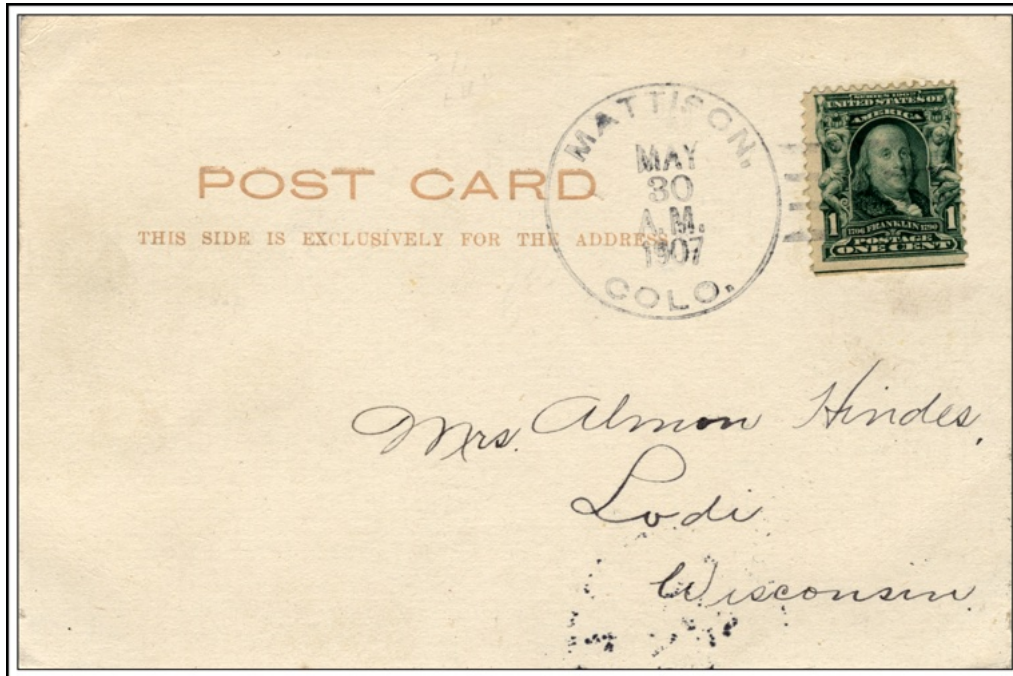
KEYSOR, / COLO

July 20, 190-



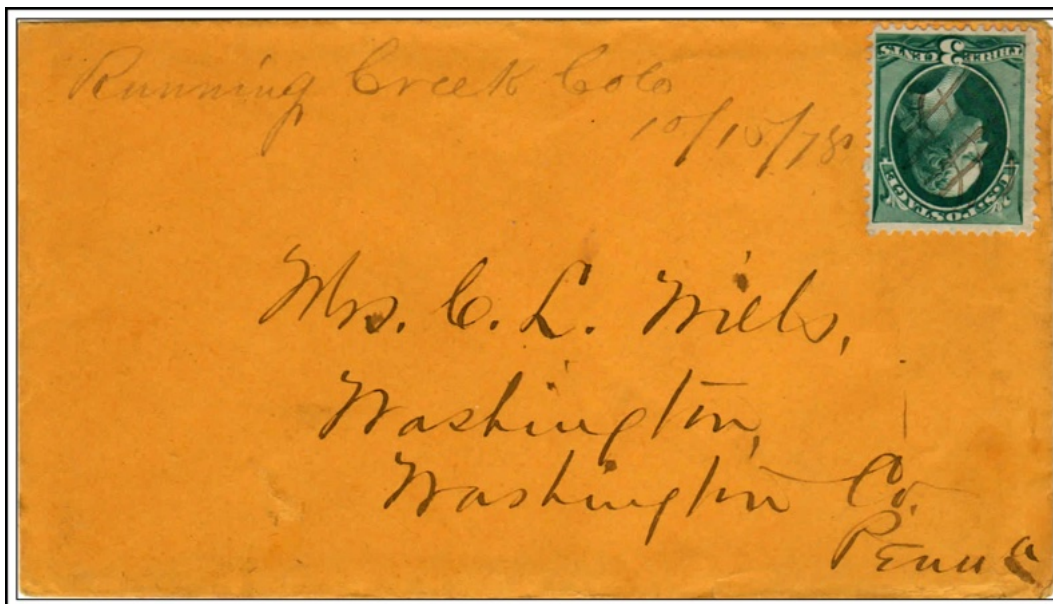
KUHNS CROSSING, / COLO.

July 2, 1883



MATTISON, / COLO.

May 30, 1907



RUNNING CREEK COLO

October 10, 1878

