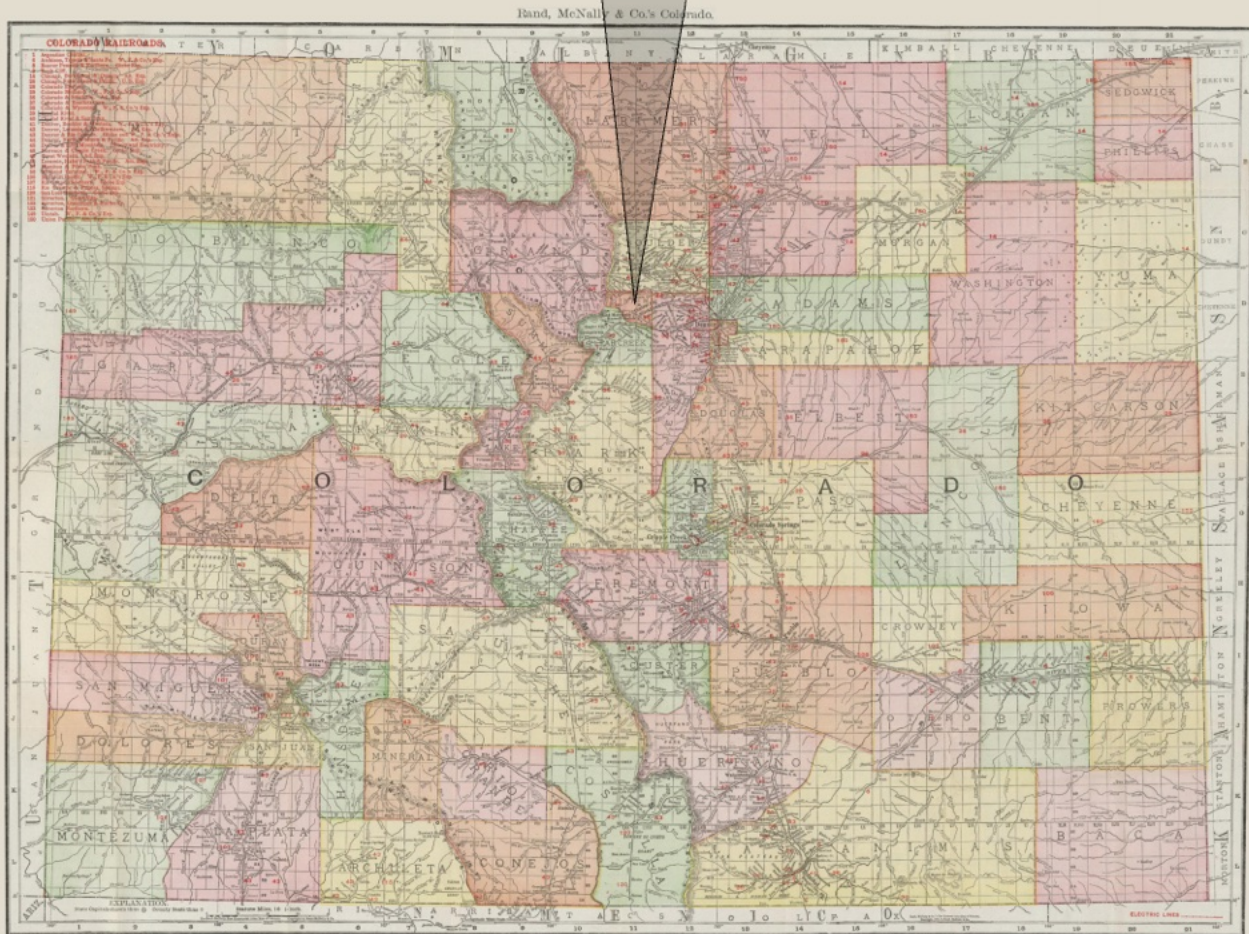


Gilpin County



Map courtesy of <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

Established: November 1, 1861

County Seat: Central City

GILPIN COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Gilpin County lies west and slightly north of the Denver Metropolitan Area. The county is entirely within the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains with a minimum elevation of about 7,000 feet (on North Clear Creek in the extreme southeast corner) to a maximum elevation of 13,294 feet at the summit of James Peak. The southern two-thirds of the county is drained by North Clear Creek and the remainder by South Boulder Creek.

Gilpin County was one of the seventeen original counties authorized November 1, 1861 by the Territorial Legislature. The boundaries of the county have remained unchanged since that time. To the north lies Boulder County; to the east Jefferson County; to the south Clear Creek County and to the west Grand County. The boundary with Grand County coincides with the Continental Divide.

With a mountainous landscape, agriculture has been practically non-existent; however, there has been some stock-raising in small portions of the county and lumbering is significant.

In April 1859, John Gregory discovered a gold bearing vein between what are today Central City and Black Hawk. This discovery, together with the discoveries at Idaho Springs (Clear Creek County) and Gold Hill (Boulder County) established the precious metal potential of the Pikes Peak Region and helped to generate the 1859 Gold Rush. Mining remained as the principal activity of Gilpin County until well into the twentieth century. The value of the metals extracted in the vicinity of Central City led to the area being called, "The richest square mile on earth." By virtue of its financial importance, political power and relative isolation, the area was often referred to as, "The Little Kingdom of Gilpin."

By 1930 the rich ores were gone and the costs of mining outweighed the value of the gold recovered. Even today there is some sporadic mining activity but it contributes little or nothing to the local economy.

During the depression years a group of local and Denver citizens conceived the idea of a summer Opera Festival in Central City as a means to give a boost to the local economy. This event continues today and was the foundation for a tourist industry based on Central City and Black Hawk being fairly well preserved mining towns.

As the twentieth century progressed, with the proximity to Denver, the area became popular for summer homes and permanent mountain residences. The modest tourist industry could not support the growth in population and required services, therefore, authorization was sought and granted by the state, to conduct casino gambling which has certainly revived the county, but at an as yet unknown price. Many historic buildings have disappeared, or been moved, to be replaced by casinos that are intended to simulate the older buildings, but don't quite make the grade. The demands for water, sanitation and parking are taxing to the limit of the capabilities of the available land. Now, even the landscape is being re-sculpted to make room for more and bigger gambling halls.

Early travel into Gilpin County was difficult. One route was up Mount Vernon Canyon, down Floyd Hill to Clear Creek and finally up North Clear Creek to the mines. A second route entered the mountains at Golden Gate, climbed over the hills to Ralston Creek, then over Dory Hill to Missouri Lakes and down North Clear Creek to the mines. Today's Golden Gate Canyon Road duplicates much of that route. Yet another early route was from the north (Boulder County) along what is today Colorado Highway 119, the Peak to Peak Highway. There were other minor roads into the area, including the Virginia Canyon Road from Idaho Springs.

The wealth of Gilpin County was an early attraction for the railroads; William A. H. Loveland and the Colorado Central Rail Road Company acquired toll road and other railroad rights through Clear Creek Canyon. Grading for the railroad commenced in April 1870. By September 1, 1872 the railroad had

reached Forks Creek and by mid-December it had reached Black Hawk. But it would not be until 1878 that the railroad finally entered Central City. From Central City and Black Hawk, the Gilpin County Tram Railway constructed a number of spurs and short lines to serve the mines of Gilpin County. When the mining activity died, so did the railroad.

The second major railroad into and through Gilpin County was the Denver, Northwestern & Pacific - Denver & Salt Lake - Denver & Rio Grande, and now the Union Pacific Railroad. Initially built over Rollins (Corona) Pass, today the road passes through the Moffat Tunnel and is a main line west from Denver. In reality, coming late in the mining history of Gilpin County, this railroad served the county only to a minor extent.

The United States Post Office Department was slow in coming to Gilpin County. The first post office was authorized January 17, 1860 for Mountain City and Missouri City (March 24, 1860) soon followed. During this early period the mail was carried by the private express companies, in particular Hinckley & Co.'s Express. Undoubtedly, Hinckley continued to be an important factor for some time after the first post offices opened. The extent of Hinckley & Co.'s Express activity has been studied only superficially. Much more work is needed and it offers an intriguing subject for a curious postal historian to pursue.

Twenty independent post offices have operated within the boundaries of Gilpin County. All but three were in operation before the end of the nineteenth century. Pactolus and Tolland opened in the early twentieth century and East Portal was the final establishment in 1923.

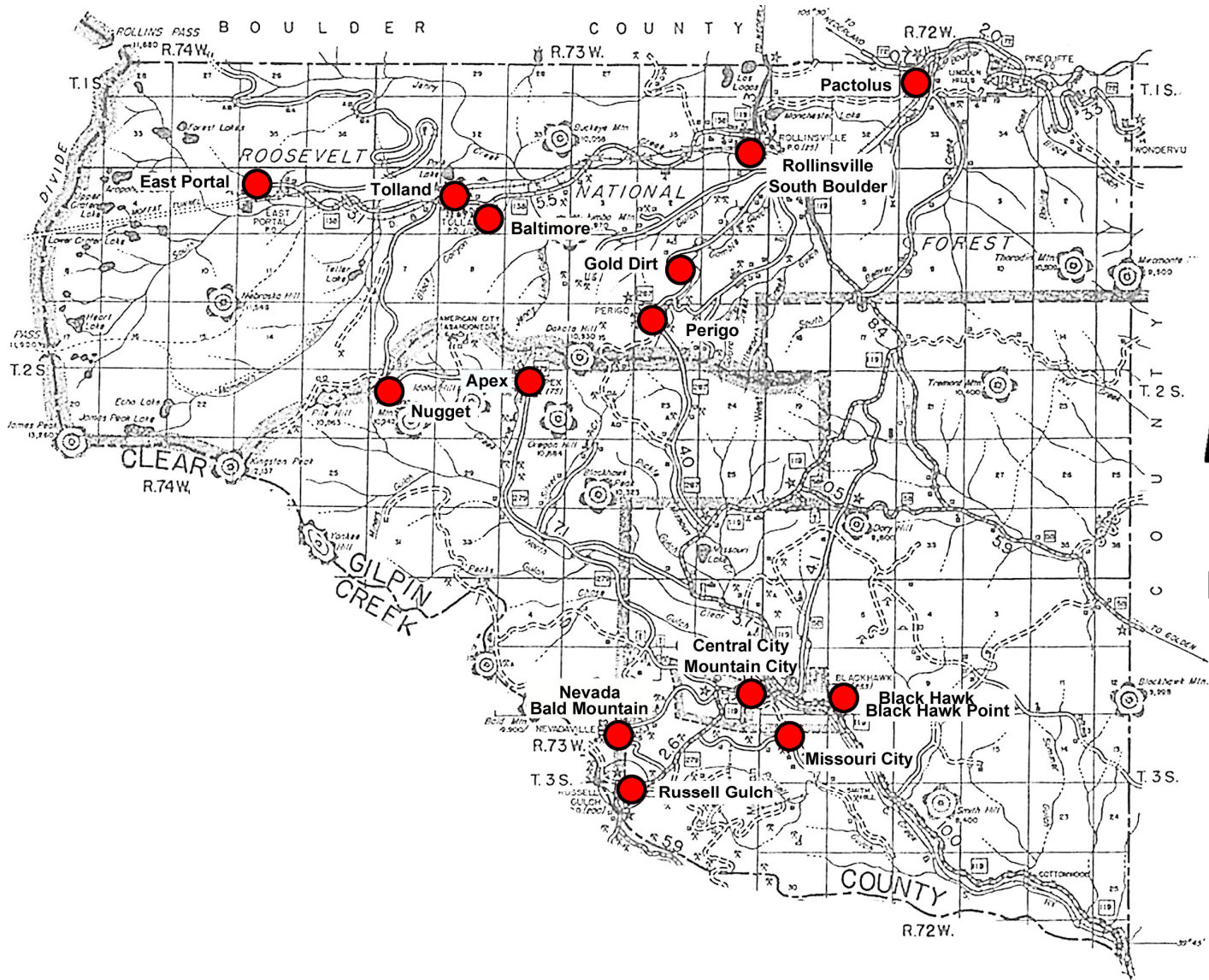
A "post office" known as Colorado Sierra was established in 1966 but this was a Non-personnel station and served only as a central location for a number of post office boxes. No counter services or postal markings were available. Today, only Black Hawk, Central City and Rollinsville have operating post offices. Postal markings have been recorded from all of the independent offices, except Tip Top.



Central City – Heart of the Little Kingdom of Gilpin

Photo by William H. Bauer

May 18, 2004



Post Office Location Map – Gilpin County

APEX

Richard Mackey made the original discovery here in the mid 1890's, at an elevation of about 10,000 feet, some six miles northwest of Central City near the head of Pine Creek, a tributary of North Clear Creek. Platted in 1895, Apex became the trading center for the Pine Creek Mining District in the northwestern portion of Gilpin County. Among the better mines at Apex were the Schultz Wonder, Annie H. Mascot and the Yellow Medicine. The name Apex comes from Latin meaning, "peak." In this instance the reference could be either to the surrounding mountains or to the outcrop of the mineral veins. In 1998, some buildings remain at Apex and several have been converted to summer residences.

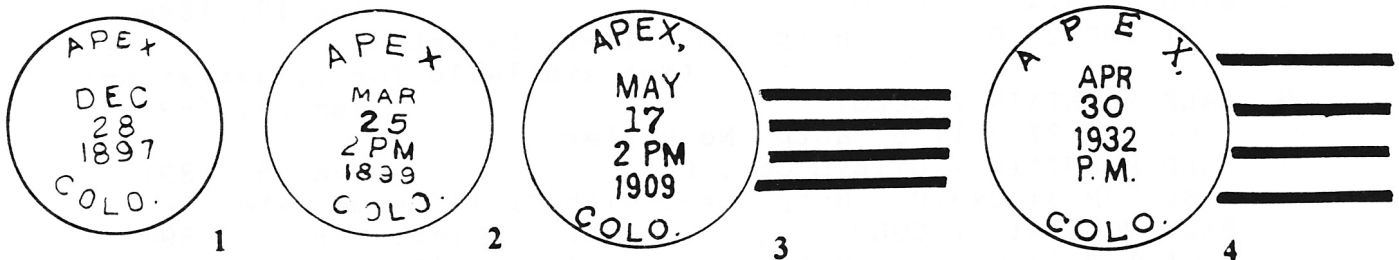
Starting from Black Hawk, drive west through Central City, at the cemeteries keep to the right, go over the hill and continue straight ahead along North Clear Creek to Apex.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 2 1894 --- NW/4 Sec 21 T2S R73W 2 miles north of Clear Creek 200 feet east of Pine Creek
Proposed postmaster - William H. Downs
- Nov 12 1894 Established Not listed in postal guides of 1915 and 1916
- Nov 12 1894 Converse, George A.
- Aug 23 1898 Converse, William D.
- Dec 15 1908 Reid, Francis H. Year questionable
- Jun 14 1916 --- NW/4 Sec 21 T2S R73W 100 feet east of Pine Creek
Applicant for postmaster - William S. Barrick
- Sep 22 1916 Barrick, William S.
- Apr 17 1918 Shaner, Emalene
- Oct 3 1918 Rouse, Vivian P.
- Mar 11 1919 Baer, Charles R.
- Aug 30 1920 Converse, William D.
- May 29 1922 Baer, Charles R.
- Apr 1 1932 Ordered Closed
- Apr 30 1932 Discontinued Mail to Black Hawk

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 APEX / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 2 APEX / COLO.
CI 10P 29.0 3 APEX, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 4 APEX, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar 23 1897 Mar 23 1899
Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, target Mar 25 1899 Sep 19 1906
Hstp Cork, smudge Sep 4 1907 Jun 25 1914
4bars P-24x13mm Jan 9 1924 Apr 30 1932
4bars S-24x19mm, Last Day Cover illustrated |
|--|--|



BALD MOUNTAIN

Originally named Nevada, this settlement is about one mile west-southwest of Central City. The name Bald Mountain was not favored by the residents but this change in 1869 was dictated by the United States Post Office Department to remove postal confusion with Nevadaville, California. The Bald Mountain Post Office continued to operate until 1921 but the residents never accepted the new name. The name derives from the bare-topped mountain of that name, a short distance west of the settlement.

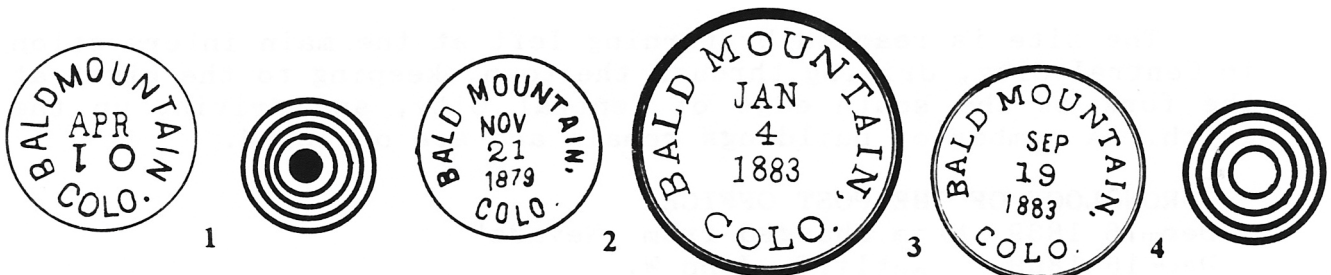
The site is reached by turning left at the main intersection in Central City, driving through the town, keeping to the right at the fork at the south edge of Central City and driving up the gulch. A number of buildings remain and are occupied.

Chronology of the Post Office

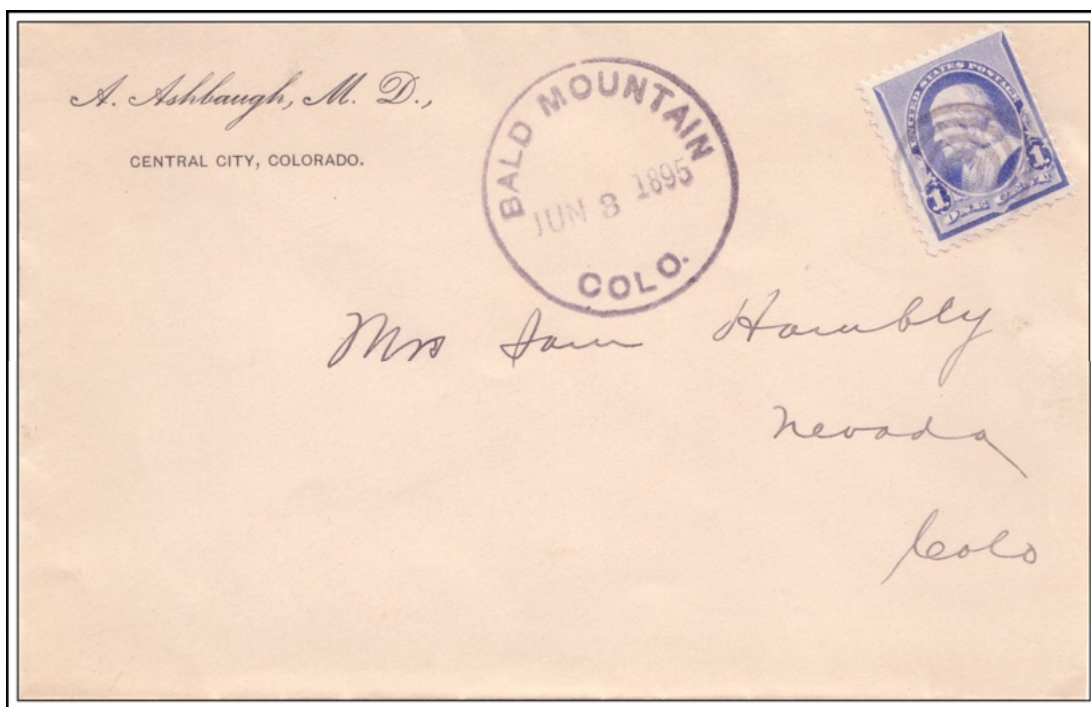
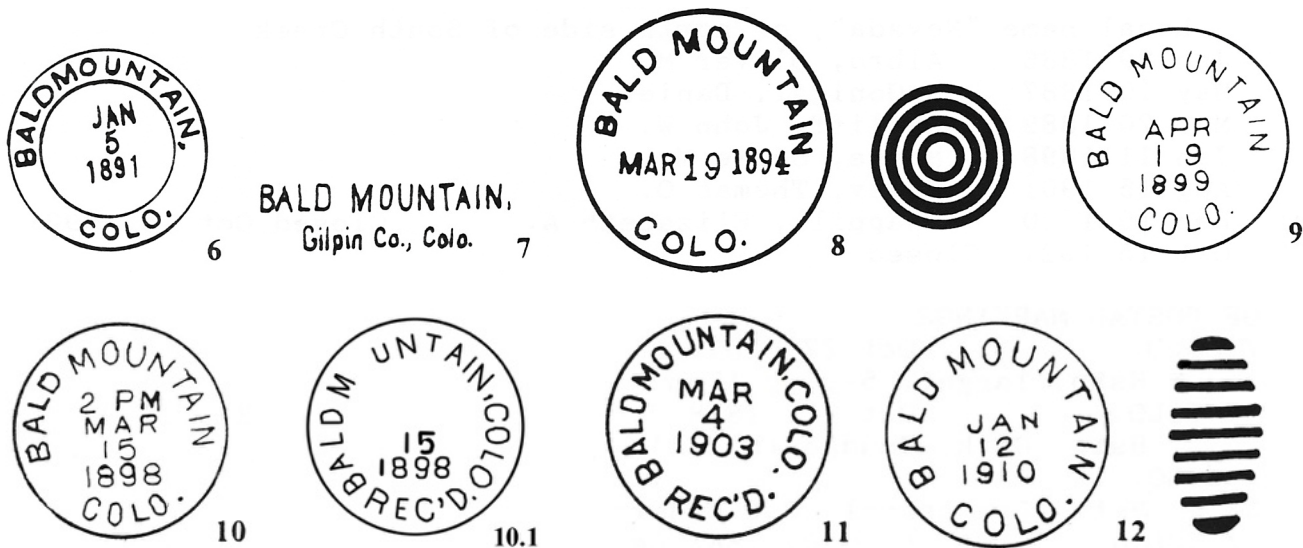
Dec 16 1869	Name changed from Nevada
Dec 16 1869	Ratliff, John W.
Jan 19 1871 ---	No survey available Local name Nevada On north side of South Creek
Jan 29 1886	Albro, Oliver M.
May 10 1887	McGonigal, Daniel
Mar 20 1889	Ratliff, John W.
Jan 11 1898	Morse, Sadie M.
Aug 15 1901	Davey, Thomas O.
Dec 19 1910	Chappill, Elizabeth A.
Oct 15 1921	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Apr 10 1873 Jan 18 1878 Hstp Target, 5-ring 17mm
2	BALD MOUNTAIN, / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Oct 11 1878 Nov 21 1879 Hstp Cork, Smudge (black)
3	BALD MOUNTAIN, / COLO. CI 20P 35.0/33.0	Jan 4 1883 Hstp Pen cancel, Cut square
4	BALD MOUNTAIN, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/27.0	Feb 6 1883 Dec 12 1889 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
5	BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Aug 19 1888 Hstp No killer, backstamp [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
6	BALD MOUNTAIN, / COLO. CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Jan 5 1891 Hstp No killer
7	BALD MOUNTAIN, / Gilpin Co., Col SL 00R 34.0X9.0	Jan 5 1891 Hstp Used with B6 above with same date
8	BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Mar 7 1891 Jun 3 1895 Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm
9	BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Jul 31 1897 Apr 19 1899 Hstp Cork, Smudge
10	BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO CI 10P 28.0	Mar 15 1898 Hstp Cork, Smudge (same as type 9 but with time of day added)
10.1	BALD MOUNTAIN, COLO / REC'D. CI 10P 28.5	Oct 15 1898 Hstp No killer
11	BALD MOUNTAIN, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	Mar 4 1903 Mar 18 1903 Hstp No killer
12	BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Mar 22 1907 Mar 16 1916 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval



BALD MOUNTAIN – Continued



BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO. June 3, 1895

BALTIMORE

Baltimore was a small mining settlement in a meadow to the south of South Boulder Creek. Not much has been recorded of its history but from the dates of the post office (1896-1904) it would appear that it was in some manner related to the development of the Pine Creek Mining District (see Apex, Nugget). It is reported that Baltimore had a hotel, opera house and a lavish social club. There were a number of residences, several of which are still occupied but others are in ruins. The source of the name is unconfirmed but can most likely be traced back to another Baltimore, perhaps in Maryland.

BALTIMORE – Continued

The Baltimore settlement is now on private property. It is reached from Colorado 119. Just south of Rollinsville, turn west along South Boulder Creek, a little more than four miles. About a half mile east of Tolland, a private road goes south to Baltimore, 300-400 yards from the county road.

Latitude 39 54' 12"N Longitude 105 34' 26"W (Location)

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 28 1896	Established
Aug 28 1896	Stradley, D. Fry
Dec 12 1896	Appointment revoked
Dec 12 1896	Discontinued
Jul 27 1897	--- SE/4 Sec 5 T2S R73W 1/2 mile south of South Boulder Creek 100 feet south of Ypsilanti Creek Proposed postmaster - John E. Hatfield
Mar 3 1898	Re-established
Mar 3 1898	Hatfield, John W.
Jun 2 1904	McHenry, Elizabeth M.
Oct 26 1904	Post Office moved to Tolland

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BALTIMORE COLO. RC 10P 25.0x14.0	Feb 2 1899 Hstp Pen cancel, Manuscript date, outside of box
2	BALTIMORE, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Oct 4 1904 Doane Type 3 with 1, S-25x14mm



BLACK HAWK / BLACKHAWK

The name Black Hawk is a reduction of the original name Black Hawk Point. This shortening took place officially in 1871 but most likely reflected local usage and custom in referring to the town. From 1895 to 1950 the name was, according to the Post Office Department, spelled as a single word - Blackhawk. Again, it is likely that local preference brought about a return to the more appropriate two-word spelling.

Latitude 39 47' 49"N Longitude 105 29' 36"W (Place name)

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 8 1871	Name changed from Black Hawk Point	
Feb 8 1871	Orahood, Harper M.	
Apr 15 1873	Conant, Frederick W.	P
Dec 18 1873	Conant, Frederick W.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Jan 22 1875	Beach, Elam C.	P&S
Jan 14 1879	Beach, Elam C.	P&S
Jan 16 1883	Beach, Elam C.	P&S
Apr 20 1886	Blair, George P.	P
Jul 3 1886	Blair, George P.	P&S

BLACK HAWK / BLACKHAWK – Continued

Aug 23 1888	Kellerup, Nels	Acting
Nov 19 1888	Kellerup, Nels P.	P
Jun 2 1990	Kellerup, Nels P.	P&S
Jul 24 1890	Kellerup, Nels P.	P
Dec 6 1890	Kellerup, Nels P.	P&S
Nov 1 1893	Bostwick, Mary E.	P&S
Jan 30 1895	Spelling changed to Blackhawk	
Jan 30 1895	Bostwick, Mary E.	P&S
Jul 1 1896	Bostwick, Mary E.	P&S
Nov 16 1897	Bostwick, Mary E.	P
Jan 10 1898	Bostwick, Mary E.	P&S
Feb 19 1900	Holbrook, Preston	P&S
Mar 2 1904	Holbrook, Preston	P&S
Apr 17 1908	Holbrook, Preston	P&S
Jul 9 1908	Holbrook, Preston	P&S
Jan 21 1913	Sorenson, Minnie	P&S
Mar 14 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 7 T3S R72W 600 feet west of North Clear Creek One block west of the Colorado and Southern	
Apr 14 1921	Crook, Thorwald	P&S
Sep 4 1925 ---	SW/4 Sec 7 T3S R72W 300 feet west of North Clear Creek 953 feet southwest of the Colorado and Southern RR	
Jul 23 1929	Blake, Daisy M.	Acting
Jun 25 1929 (Jul?)	Warren, Mrs. Dora C.	P&S
Mar 12 1930	Blake, Mrs. Daisy M.	Confirmed
Mar 26 1930	Blake, Mrs. Daisy M.	Commissioned
Mar 28 1930	Blake, Mrs. Daisy M.	Assumed charge
Oct 24 1941 ---	Sec 7 T3S R72W North Clear Creek is 4 blocks east of office	
May 17 1950	Spelling changed from Blackhawk to Black Hawk, effective July 1 1950	
Jul 1 1950	Spelling reverted to Black Hawk	
May 31 1951	Belcher, Mrs. Dollie E.	Assumed charge
Jun 27 1951	Belcher, Mrs. Dollie E.	Acting
Jul 28 1952	Goodwin, Mrs. Frances R.	Appointed
Aug 14 1952	Goodwin, Mrs. Frances R.	Commissioned
Sep 15 1952	Goodwin, Mrs. Frances R.	Possession
May 20 1957	Gray, Mrs Lettie May	Acting
May 27 1957	Gray, Mrs Lettie May	Assumed charge
Jan 23 1958	Gray, Mrs. Lettie May	Commissioned
Feb 7 1958	Gray, Mrs. Lettie May	Possession
May 17 1958		Office made Presidential
Jan 2 1969	Hall, Miss Elsie	Clerk in charge
Jun 28 1972	Anderle, Mrs. Winifred	Officer in charge
Aug 5 1972	McNichols, Ronald A.	Possession
Jun 30 1974	Newcomb, Mrs. Sue S.	Officer in charge
Oct 25 1974	Gimsley, John J.	Officer in charge
Apr 11 1975	Wadle, Mrs. Betty E.	Officer in charge
Jul 5 1975	Baxley, Robert A. Jr.	Appointed
May 22 1976	Beaty, Douglas	Officer in charge
Dec 3 1976	Haskins, Ms. Alice	Officer in charge
Jul 16 1977	Trujillo, Tony D.	Commissioned

Confirmed types of postal markings

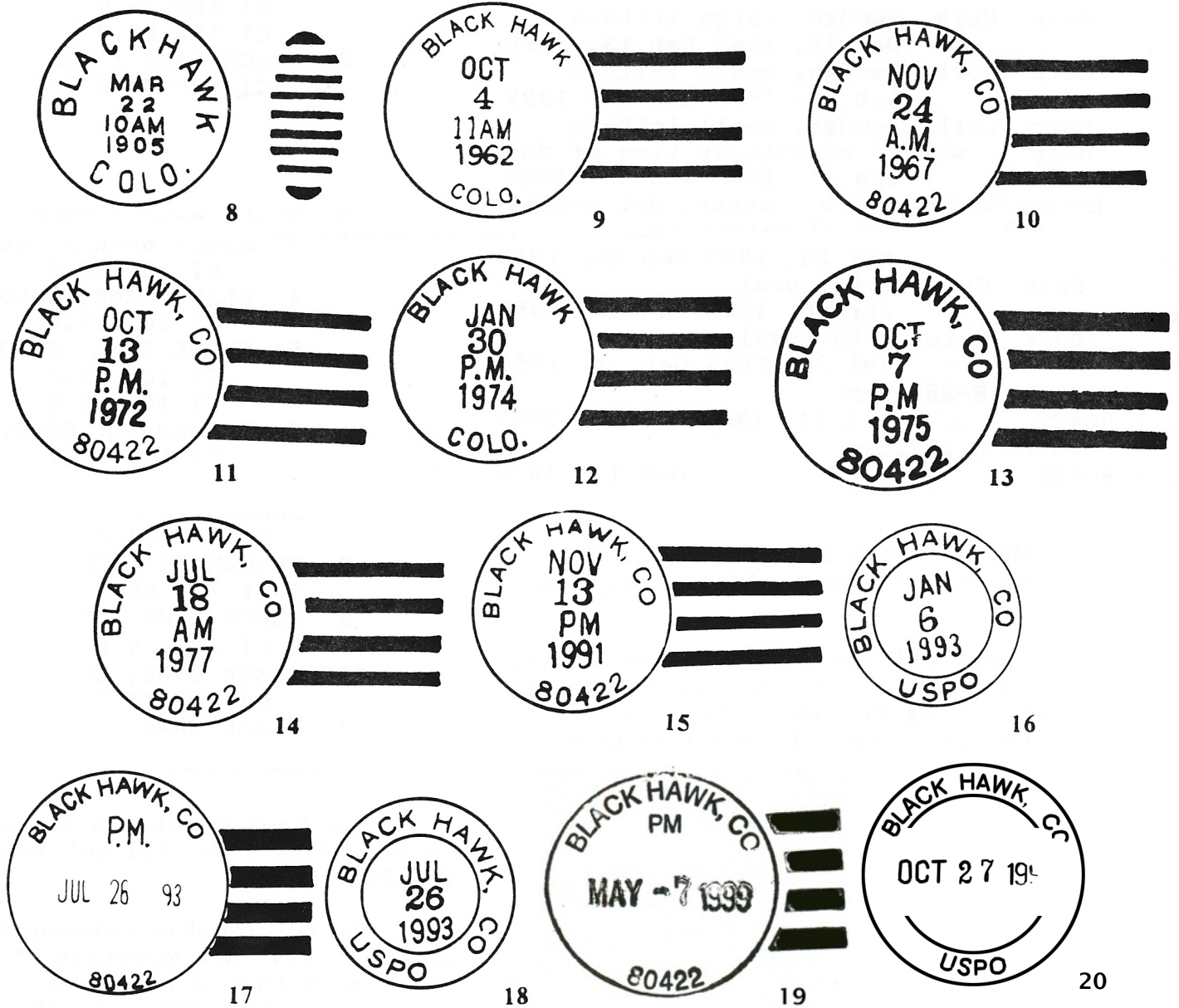
1	BLACK HAWK / COL. CI 10P 26.0	Jun 14 1872 Apr 26 [1875] Hstp Cork, Smudge; Target, 4-ring 19mm
2	BLACK HAWK / COL. CI 10P 26.0	Apr 9 1875 Feb 13 1881 Hstp Cork, Smudge; Cork, Double grid; Target, 4-ring 19mm Fancy cork, double grid, diamond pattern

BLACK HAWK / BLACKHAWK – Continued

3	BLACK HAWK / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jul 4 1883 Nov 20 1893 Hstp Cork, Smudge, large letters
4	BLACK HAWK / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Dec 12 1892 Feb 13 1898 Hstp Cork, Smudge, small letters
5	BLACK HAWK COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Sep 11 1895 Mar 27 1899 Hstp Cork, Smudge, small letters With / or without time of day
6	BLACKHAWK, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Jan 4 1899 Oct 1 1906 Hstp No killer, backstamp
7	BLACKHAWK / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 8 1900 Sep 25 1911 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
7.1	BLACKHAWK / COLO. RC 10P 30.0x18.0	1920s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
8	BLACKHAWK / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Apr 30 1902 Jun 30 1950 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
9	BLACK HAWK / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	Jul 1 1950 Oct 4 1962 4bars S-25x20mm
10	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 32.0	Jun 1 1965 Nov 18 1980 4bars S-23x20mm
11	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 33.0	Oct 13 1972 4bars S-25x20mm
12	BLACK HAWK / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Dec 6 1973 Jan 30 1974 4bars S-24x20mm
13	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 36.0	Oct 7 1975 4bars S-28x21mm
14	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 32.0	Jul 18 1977 Jun 30 1987 4bars s-24x19mm
15	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 31.0	Nov 13 1991 4bars S-26x19mm
16	BLACK HAWK, CO / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.5	Jun 18 1990 Mar 23 1993 Hstp No killer
17	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 35.0	Jul 26 1993 Oct 27 1998 4bars S-16x19mm
18	BLACK HAWK, CO. / USPO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Jul 26 1993 Hstp No killer
19	BLACK HAWK, CO / 80422 CI 10P 35.0	Oct 22 1998 May 7 1999 4bars S-13x20mm
20	BLACK HAWK, CO / USPO CI 11P 35.0/25.0	Oct 22 1998 Nov 25 2000 Hstp No killer Inner circle incomplete



BLACK HAWK / BLACKHAWK – Continued



SADDLE BAG STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jul 14 1991 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
- Jul 19 1992 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
- Jul 18 1993 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 BLACK HAWK / SADDLE BAG STA. / COLO. 80422 Jul 14 1991 Jul 14 1991
SL 00R 37.0x28.0 Pict Scene - Scene - Running Pony in Oval
- 2 BLACK HAWK / SADDLE BAG STA / COLO. 80422 Jul 19 1992 Jul 19 1992
SL 00R 39.0x29.0 Pict Scene - Running Pony in Oval
- 3 BLACK HAWK / SADDLE BAG STA / COLO. 80422 Jul 18 1993 Jul 18 1993
SL 00R 35.0x25.0 Pict Scene - Pony Express Oval and bars

**BLACK HAWK / BLACKHAWK – Continued
SADDLE BAG STATION – Continued**

**BLACK HAWK
JULY 14, 1991
SADDLE BAG STA.
COLO. 80422**



1

**BLACK HAWK
JULY 19, 1992
SADDLE BAG STA.
COLO. 80422**



2

**BLACK HAWK
July 18, 1993
SADDLE BAG STA.
COLO. 80422**



3

BLACK HAWK POINT

Black Hawk Point was one of the earliest settlements in Gilpin County; however it did not receive its own post office until late in 1862.

The relationship between the post offices of Black Hawk Point, Central City and Mountain City is not clear. The sites of all three are within a mile and a half along Eureka or Gregory Gulch. Clearly Mountain City was the first to be established (January 17, 1860). However, the precise, initial location is uncertain; I suspect that it was in the lower part of the gulch near the actual Gregory Lode.

The Black Hawk Point Post Office was established December 6, 1862. By that time the principal settlement and business district of the area had shifted west, higher up the gulch and was already going by the name of Central City. This is confirmed by an August 18, 1860 letter addressed to: "R. M. Pease, Central City, Rocky Mountains". It is likely that very early the Mountain City Post Office was physically moved to Central City but it was not until October 8, 1869 that a change in name actually took place. Although the distance is short, the road is steep and in bad weather difficult. Therefore, the desirability of another post office at the mouth of Gregory Gulch became apparent and Black Hawk Point began operations. However, from documents present in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports it appears that the request for a post office at Black Hawk Point was first made in July 1861, a year and a half before it was authorized. (Refer to the note under Chronology of the Post Office, quoted below.)

The naming of Black Hawk Point is attributed to the arrival in the mountains of a quartz stamp mill, manufactured by the Black Hawk Company of Rock Island, Illinois. The name seemed attractive and was adopted, with the word Point being added, probably referring to one of the nearby rock prominences. Common usage of the shorter name eventually resulted in the loss of Point and on February 8, 1870 Black Hawk became the post office name.

Black Hawk is located mainly along North Clear Creek but does extend up Gregory Gulch to a common boundary with Central City. This location provided a little more space for larger buildings and in particular stamp mills and smelters; hence Black Hawk became the industrial settlement of Gilpin County. In December 1872, the Colorado Central Railroad reached Black Hawk but it was six years before it could climb the difficult grade to Central City.

BLACK HAWK POINT – Continued

By the middle of the twentieth century, the mining industry was no more and Black Hawk had become a place for tourists to visit or for Denver residents and college students to party on weekends.

The more recent advent of casino gambling has radically changed the face of Black Hawk. The section along North Clear Creek has been almost totally rebuilt with large casinos, parking lots and souvenir shops. This activity has progressed to the extent of carving away portions of the valley sides and coating the exposed rock with concrete in order to create room for more casinos. The result is that a quaint old mining town has lost its historic charm.

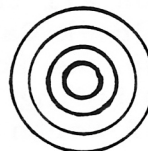
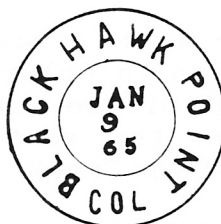
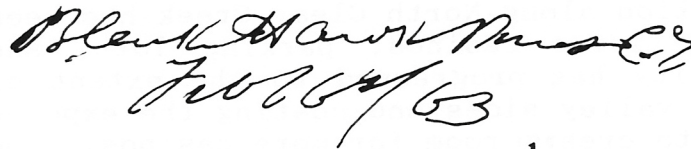
Black Hawk (Point) is on all the maps. From Golden drive west on US Highway 6 up Clear Creek Canyon to Colorado 119, then northwest to Black Hawk. In 1998 the Post Office was, and has been for a long time, in an old building on the southwest corner of the main intersection west of North Clear Creek.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jul 22 1861 -- No survey available Mountain City, a little over 1-1/2 miles in a southwest direction (in a direct line, the way it is traveled farther)
NOTE: "The road from this place to Mountain city is through a very steep gulch and during quite a part of the year is almost impassible on account of the steepness of the road and the heavy rains in summer and heavy snows in winter." (Harper M. Orahood)
- Dec 6 1862 Established
- Dec 6 1862 Orahood, Harper M.
- Mar 2 1867 Orahood, Harper M.
- Feb 8 1871 Name changed to Black Hawk

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Black Hawk Point C. T.
MS | Feb 9 1863 Feb 16 1863
Mscp Pen cancel |
| 2 | BLACK HAWK / POINT / C.T.
CI 10P 30.0 | Mar 25 1863 Dec 11 1863
Hstp Stampless, PAID 3 in circle; Cork, smudge
Cork, circular hobnail grid |
| 3 | BLACK HAWK POINT / COL.T.
CI 10P 30.0 | Feb 3 1864 Apr 18 1864
Hstp Target, 5-ring 18mm |
| 4 | BLACK HAWK POINT / COL
CI 11P 30.0/15.0 | Jun 2 1864 May 9 1867
Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm; Cork, 6-petal flower |
| 5 | BLACK HAWK POINT / COL.
CI 10P 24.0 | Jun 1 1867 1868 Jan 15 1870
Hstp Cork, 3 bar circular grid; Fancy, appears to be a shield
Cork, geometric, smudge |



**BLACK HAWK POINT – Continued
AUXILIARY MARKINGS**

<p>A-1 black hawk point ADVERTISED SL 00R 38.0 X 6.0</p> <p>A-2 black hawk point Un- / claimed SL 00R 12.0 X 7.0</p>	<p>Oct 1 1863 Hstp No killer; Used with type A-2 on cover from New Haven, Con.</p> <p>Sep -- 1863 Hstp No killer; Used with type A-1 on cover from New Haven, Con.</p>
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<p>ADVERTISED</p> <p>A-1</p>	<p>Un- claimed</p>	<p>A-2</p>
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CENTRAL CITY

Settlement at the site of Central City commenced in early 1859, soon after John Gregory’s discovery of gold in the lower portion of Gregory Gulch. The site of Central City, although crowded into the junction of Gregory, Nevada and Eureka Gulches, offered more room for building than at Mountain City. Thus Central City, with an extensive business district, soon became the commercial center for the surrounding mines. The area grew rapidly, rivaled Denver for many years and was even promoted as a potential Territorial Capitol. At one time it was claimed that the population exceeded 10,000 making it the largest city in the Territory. Central City has been the county seat of Gilpin County ever since the county was created.

The name Central City is attributed to William N. Byers, to reflect its central position with respect to the surrounding mines and smaller communities. Surprisingly, the town may not have been formally laid out into lots until 1866 when it was surveyed by George Hill. The platting also is attributed to William Byers, or to Nathaniel Albertson, John Armour and Harrison G. Otis in the summer of 1860. The city was incorporated by an act of the Territorial Legislature, March 11, 1864.

Central City was a cultural as well as commercial center and the Opera House continued to offer a summer season of quality entertainment. As mining declined, the Teller House and other hotels and saloons suffered depression, although many continued to operate providing entertainment to tourists and the people of the Denver Metropolitan Area.

In the 1990’s the advent of casino gambling has changed the face of Central City. Many of the old saloons and old buildings have been remodeled into gambling halls. Some new buildings have been constructed with an attempt to duplicate the nineteenth century style of architecture. While gambling has revived Central City, the town has not had the success of its neighbor, Black Hawk. The lack of parking within the city was not satisfactorily solved by municipal lots on the hills above the town.

By mid-1860 the Mountain City Post Office had moved to a location in Central City; however, the old name was retained until October 8, 1869. It has been reported that Mountain City was used for the post office name since there was already (1860) another Central City in Kansas Territory. Many letters from the 1860’s exist with a Mountain City postmark and a Central City return address. During its existence, the Central City Post Office has occupied a number of sites in the central business district. In 1995, the old post office service windows and grillwork could still be seen in a store on the southwest corner at the intersection of Main, Lawrence and Eureka Streets.

In 1998, because of the need for a larger facility and a pending conversion of the occupied building to a gambling hall, a new post office was built on the east edge of Central City along the road east out of town.

Latitude 39 48' 07"N Longitude 105 30' 49"W (Place name)

Chronology of the Post Office

<p>Oct 8 1869</p> <p>Oct 8 1869</p>	<p>Name changed from Mountain City</p> <p>Wood, James D.</p>	<p>P</p>
---	--	-----------------

CENTRAL CITY – Continued

Jan 24 1870	Wood, James D.	P&S
Jan 25 1871 ---	Not subdivided T3S R73W Black Hawk 1 mile east	
Feb 5 1874	Smith, Ebenezer	P&S
Dec 14 1876	Updegraff, Joseph S.	P&S
Jul 18 1879 ---	SW/4 Sec 12 T3S R73W 1 mile west of Clear Creek 1/4 mile from the Central City Station of the Colorado Central RR	
Dec 21 1882	Updegraff, Joseph S.	P&S
Apr 1 1885	Wiley, Palemon	P&S
Apr 19 1889	Bray, Ambrose	P
Dec 19 1889	Bray, Ambrose	P&S
Jan 29 1894	Leahy, Marcus	P&S
Oct 12 1897	Sears, Henry J.	P
Jan 10 1898	Sears, Henry J.	P&S
Nov 9 1901	Gilmour, James A.	P
Jan 20 1902	Gilmour, James A.	P&S
Apr 23 1906	Wilkinson, Robert	P&S
Apr 21 1910	Sullivan, M. K.	P&S
Jun 23 1914	Parsons, Clifford D.	P&S
Oct 14 1918	Parsons, Clifford D.	P&S
Dec 19 1922	Stahl, Henry J.	Acting
Jan 12 1923	Stahl, Henry J.	P&S
Oct 22 1926 ---	SE/4 SW/4 Sec 12 T3S R73W	
Jan 7 1927	Stahl, Henry J.	P&S
Jan 23 1931	Stahl, Henry J.	P&S
Jun 15 1935	Parsons, Neville G.	Nominated
Jul 2 1935	Parsons, Neville G.	Confirmed
Jul 9 1935	Parsons, Neville G.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 22 1935	Parsons, Neville G.	Commissioned
Jul 26 1935	Parsons, Neville G.	Assumed charge & Nominated
Jul 29 1939	Parsons, Neville G.	Confirmed
Aug 3 1939	Parsons, Neville G.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 29 1939	Parsons, Neville G.	Commissioned
Feb 14 1941	Parsons, Mrs. Lela S.	Acting
Feb 15 1941	Parsons, Mrs. Lela S.	Assumed charge
Aug 21 1941	Robb, Mr. Pearl L.	Nominated
Sep 5 1941	Robb, Mr. Pearl L.	Confirmed
Sep 6 1941	Robb, Mr. Pearl L.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 26 1941	Robb, Mr. Pearl L.	Commissioned
Oct 9 1941	Robb, Mr. Pearl L.	Assumed charge
Oct 21 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 12 T3S R73S Sketch map places post office on the north corner of Main Street, west of Lawrence Street, east of Eureka Street. (Lawrence and Eureka are a continuous street)	
Dec 31 1944	Parsons, Clifford D.	Acting
Apr 11 1946	Parsons, Clifford D.	Nominated
May 2 1946	Parsons, Clifford D.	Confirmed
May 3 1946	Parsons, Clifford D.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jun 30 1946	Parsons, Clifford D.	Assumed charge
May 31 1955	Colburn, Ray E.	Acting
Oct 26 1956	Robb, Max T.	Assumed charge
Nov 1 1956	Robb, Max T.	Acting
Feb 4 1957	Robb, Max T.	Nominated
Apr 8 1957	Robb, Max T.	Confirmed, Apptd Presid. & Commissioned
Apr 19 1957	Robb, Max T.	Assumed charge
Jun 2 1978	Anderle, Mrs. Winifred	Officer in charge
Jul 20 1979	Ottinger, Ms. Dorothy M.	Officer in charge
Dec 15 1979	Keim, Mrs. Charlotte A.	Appointed

**CENTRAL CITY – Continued
Confirmed types of postal markings**

0	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jul 20 187- Dec 21 187- Hstp Cork, Circle of 6 "V"s [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
1	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jan 24 187- May 10 1870 Hstp Cork, circle of 6 "V"s; Cork, 6-piece pie; Cork, circular hobnail grid
2	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Mar 3 1870 Aug 15 1876 Hstp Cork, 8-piece pie; Fancy, Cork, positive, mirror "W"; Cork, circle of 6 "V"s; Cork, Double negative "X"; Cork, circle of wedges; Cork, smudge; Negative X-roads; Cork, Fancy, interlocking triangles
3	CENTRAL CITY / COL. CI 10P 25.0	Dec 19 1873 Feb 26 1882 Hstp Cork, Fancy, positive "W"; Cork, double grid; Cork, Smudge; double grid; Cork, large negative `S' in 25mm Circle; Cork, Fancy, sunburst
4	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jul 17 1874 Oct 6 1877 Hstp Cork, Circle of 6 "V"s
5	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Feb 21 188- Oct 5 1886 Hstp Cork, Smudge; Grid; Target
6	CENTRAL CITY COLO. / REG. CI 10P 26.0	Oct 28 1878 Hstp Not recorded
7	CENTRAL CITY, COLO. / M. O .B. CI 11P 30.0/18.0	Oct 30 1886 Hstp No killer
8	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Aug 9 1887 Feb 14 1890 Hstp Cork, Smudge
8.1	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Sep 14 1887 Jul 8 1888(or 9) Hstp Cork, Smudge
9	CENTRAL CITY, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 21 1891 Hstp No killer, backstamp [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
10	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 20 1890 Hstp Not recorded
11	Central City, Colo. // REGISTERED SL 00R 46.0x19.0	Feb 22 1892 Nov 20 1894 Hstp Registered cover
12	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dec 20 1893 Jan 27 1897 Hstp Cork, Smudge
13	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 15 1898 Apr 7 1899 Hstp Cork, Smudge
14	CENTRAL CITY, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 2 1898 Aug 23 1898 Hstp No killer, backstamp
15	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Jul 26 1899 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
16	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Sep 4 1901 Feb 13 1910 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval, large letters, wide spacing
16.1	CENTRAL CITY, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.5	Jan 2 1907 Jun 4 1910 Hstp No killer
17	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x18.0	Dec 1 1907 Hstp With 30mm Central City duplex
18	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dec 3 1911 Jun 2 1923 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval, small letters, close spacing
19	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jul 21 1934 Jun 27 1953 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
19.1	CENTRAL CITY, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Jan 6 1955 May 17 19-- Hstp, No killer
20	CENTRAL CITY / COLO. CI 10P 20.0	Jun 2 1953 Jun 26 1965 Mach 7 wavy lines

CENTRAL CITY – Continued

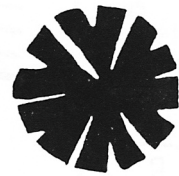
21	CENTRAL CITY, CO / 80427 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jun 25 1966 Mar 27 1976
22	CENTRAL CITY, CO / 80427 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 21 1967 Mar 27 1976
23	CENTRAL CITY, CO / 80427 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 13 1991 Dec 15 1995
24	CENTRAL CITY, CO / USPS-80427 OV 11P 42.0/38.0	Hstp No Killer 3.5mm letters Inner ellipse incomplete	May 7 1999
25	CENTRAL CITY, CO / USPS-80427 OV 11P 42.0/38.0	Hstp No killer 3.0mm letters Inner ellipse incomplete	May 7 1999
26	CENTRAL CITY, CO / USPS-80427 CI 10p 36.0	4bars s-12x22mm	May 18 2004



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



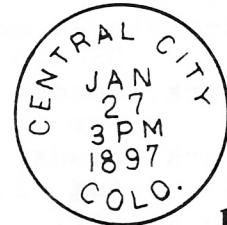
8.1



10

REGISTERED
FEB 22 1892
Central City, Colo.

11



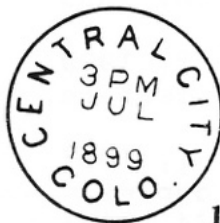
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13



14



15



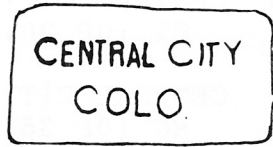
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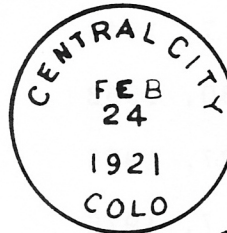
CENTRAL CITY – Continued



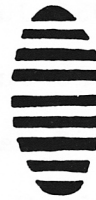
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17



18



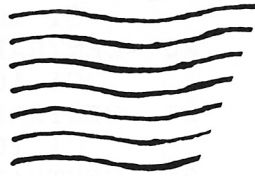
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19.1



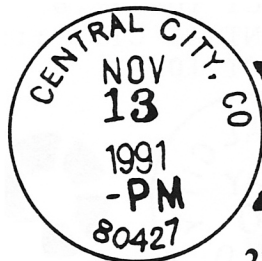
20



21



22



23



24



25



26



AUXILIARY MARKINGS

A-1 central city ADVERTISED
CI 10P ?

A-2 Missent to Central City, Colo.
SL 00R 52.0X5.0

Oct 18 1869

AUX On cover from Holyoke, Mass.

Feb 13 1910

On ppc with B16



A-1

Missent to Central City, Colo.

A-2

CENTRAL CITY – Continued

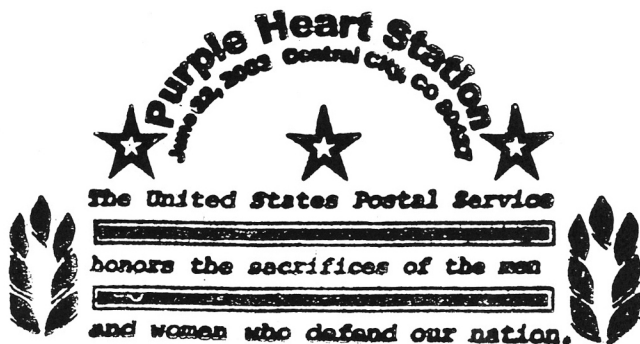
PURPLE HEART STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 22 2003 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Central City, CO 80427 // Purple Heart Station Jun 22 2003
 IR 00R 82.0x43.0 Pict Text only: The United States Postal Service / honors
 the sacrifices of the men / and women who defend our nation.



1

COLORADO SIERRA

This facility opened August 16, 1966 as a non-personnel rural branch of the Golden Post Office. The only services available were mail deposit and patron post office boxes. In early 1971 the building burned. Colorado Sierra did not reopen until 1977 and three years later was closed permanently.

The site is on Colorado 119, between Black Hawk and Rollinsville, about three miles north of the intersection of Golden Gate Canyon Road with Colorado 119.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 16 1966 Established as a non-personnel Rural Branch of Golden
 Feb 28 1971 Discontinued
 Sep 8 1977 Re-established as a C.P.O. of Golden
 May 1 1980 Discontinued (Post Office burned down)

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM COLORADO SIERRA

EAST PORTAL

East Portal was begun in 1923 as a construction camp for the 6.4 mile-long Moffat Tunnel, through a shoulder of James Peak. It took four years and over \$40,000,000 to complete the tunnel that would take rail traffic and water under the Continental Divide. The tunnel route reduced the distance to the Fraser River by more than 22 miles and eliminated a climb of 2,400 feet over Rollins Pass. The name is derived from its location at the eastern entrance (portal) to the Moffat Tunnel.

EAST PORTAL – Continued

The published literature contains some misconceptions about East Portal. First, there are references to a place called Newcomb which is supposed to have had a post office from 1881 to 1887 with Daniel F. Newcomb as postmaster. It is further stated that the settlement of Newcomb became East Portal when construction of the tunnel began. However, the only Colorado post office with that name was in Conejos County (1884-1886) and the name Daniel F. Newcomb does not appear in the Records of Postmaster Appointments for Gilpin County.

The second conflict relative to East Portal is its date of establishment. 1925 is most often given as the year it began, but the post office of that name dates from 1923.

It does appear that there was some settlement in the area prior to the tunnel construction. This would have served as a residence for those maintaining the railroad over Rollins Pass.

East Portal is easy to find. From Colorado 119, just south of Rollinsville, drive west along South Boulder Creek and the railroad, through Tolland to the Moffat Tunnel. East Portal was mostly on the north side of the track as one approaches the tunnel. In the fall of 1997 there were still several small buildings at East Portal. Supposedly the post office stood to the west of the last of these buildings as you near the tunnel.

Latitude 39 54' 12"N Longitude 105 38' 38"W (Place name)

Chronology of the Post Office

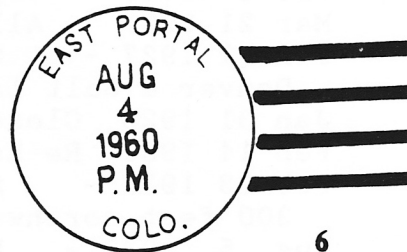
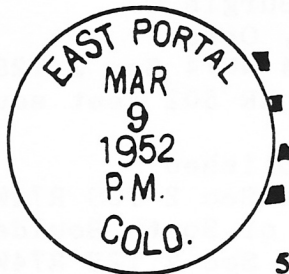
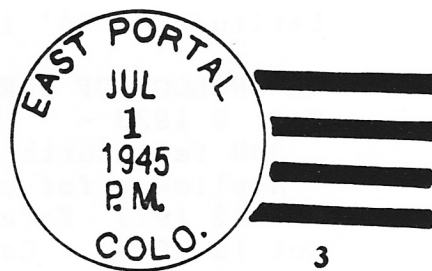
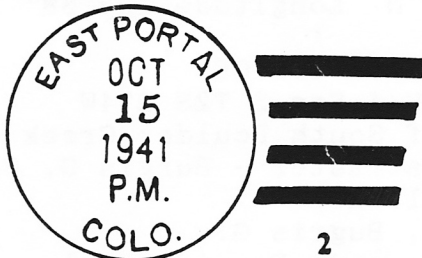
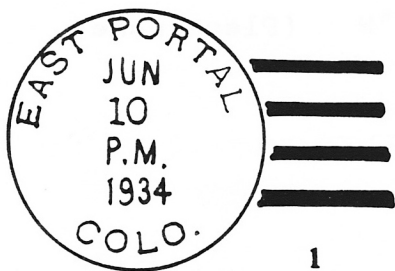
Sep 5 1923	---	NW/4 Sec 2 T2S R74W 300 feet north of South Boulder Creek	
		Applicant for postmaster - Burgis G. Coy	
Oct 12 1923		Established	
Oct 12 1923		Coy, Bugris G.	
Oct 1 1924			Office made Presidential
Feb 10 1925		Coy, Burgis G.	
Mar 21 1927		Allen, Orren	Acting
Jun 17 1927	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 2 T2S R74W Denver & Salt Lake RR 502 feet southeast of Post Office	
Jan 31 1928		Discontinued	
Feb 14 1932		Estabrook, Lucy	Confirmed
Feb 21 1932		Estabrook, Lucy	Assumed charge
Feb 14 1933		Re-Established	
Feb 23 1933	---	SW/4 Sec 2 T2S R74W 300 feet northwest of South Boulder Creek	
Jul 10 1933		Gebhard, Edward	Assumed charge
Jul 21 1933		Gebhard, Edward	Acting
Aug 5 1933	---	East Sec 2 T2S R74W A move 2000 feet northeast of a previous location The building that was occupied was converted into a dwelling.	
Jul 21 1934		Discontinued Mail to Tolland	
Jul 23 1934		Ordered closed	
Dec 18 1936		Re-Established	
Dec 18 1936		Sarten, Mrs. Merle	Confirmed
Mar 29 1937		Sarten, Mrs. Merle	Appointment rescinded
Mar 30 1937		Re-established [? Not clear what this signifies]	
Mar 30 1937		Keck, Henry Joseph	Confirmed
Apr 16 1937		Keck, Henry Joseph	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	Not reported South Boulder Creek is 600 feet south of post office East Portal RR Station is 500 feet south of post office NOTE: "Permission is hereby granted H.J.Kick of East Portal Colo to use the following described lands an area of approximately .01 of an acre in the SW/4 NW/4 Section 2 T2S R74W 6th P.M. on South Boulder Creek as designated by the forest ranger on the ground for the purpose of constructing thereon all necessary structures for maintaining a Post Office." (Dated 4/4/37)	
Jul 1 1945			Office made Presidential
Jul 17 1945		Keck, Henry Joseph	Nominated

EAST PORTAL – Continued

Jul 28 1945	Keck, Henry Joseph	Confirmed
Jul 30 1945	Keck, Henry Joseph	Appointed Presidential
Dec 19 1945	Keck, Henry Joseph	Commissioned
Jul 10 1947		Office relegated
Jul 23 1947	Keck, Henry Joseph	Confirmed
Aug 11 1947	Keck, Henry Joseph	Commissioned
Jun 30 1952	McCollum, Donald J.	Assumed charge
Jul 10 1952	McCollum, Donald J.	Acting
Sep 26 1952	McCollum, Donald J.	Confirmed
Nov 3 1952	McCollum, Donald J.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1953	Goodwin, Mrs. Eula B.	Assumed charge
Jul 23 1953	Goodwin, Mrs. Eula B.	Acting
Sep 8 1953	Goodwin, Mrs. Eula B.	Confirmed
Oct 13 1953	Goodwin, Mrs. Eula B.	Commissioned
Feb 11 1957	Galvan, Mrs. Evie	Acting
May 17 1957	Galvan, Mrs. Evie	Appointed
Jan 20 1962	Ordered closed	
Jan 20 1962	Discontinued Mail to Rollinsville	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	EAST PORTAL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jun 10 1934
2	EAST PORTAL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-22x19mm, narrow spaced "COLO."	Jun 1 1937 Aug 7 1942
3	EAST PORTAL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-22x19mm, wide spaced "COLO."	Apr 8 1942 Jul 1 1945
4	EAST PORTAL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	May 6 1943 Feb 12 1954
5	EAST PORTAL / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Mar 9 1952 Jul 22 1952
6	EAST PORTAL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 4 1960



GILPIN

Gilpin was another of the small mining camps in the northern part of Gilpin County. The date of the first settlement there is unknown. The post office was not established until 1897 but perhaps there was some activity in the area as early as the 1860's when nearby Gold Dirt was active.

The name ultimately honors William Gilpin, the first Territorial Governor of Colorado and the namesake of Gilpin County.

Gilpin is located in Lump Gulch, approximately two miles from Colorado Highway 119. Driving about a mile south from Rollinsville, after crossing South Boulder Creek and Gamble Gulch, on the uphill side of the first sharp horseshoe curve, a dirt road leads south over the hill to Lump Gulch and then southwest to Gilpin. There are a number of buildings at the site of Gilpin and several are occupied either as permanent residences or summer homes. The road to Gilpin is a dead end so you will have to return to Colorado 119.

Latitude 39 53' 27"N Longitude 105 30' 27"W (Place name)

Chronology of the Post Office

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| Feb 26 1897 | --- | SE/4 Sec 12 T2S R73W 200 feet north of Lump Creek
Proposed postmaster - Edward R. Trafford |
| Apr 7 1897 | | Established |
| Apr 7 1897 | | Scott, Atlas |
| Oct 6 1900 | | Hotchkiss, William |
| Jul 24 1901 | | Blaine, John R. |
| Jan 25 1902 | | Laban, Abe L. |
| Jul 2 1906 | | Daugherty, Samuel |
| Sep 29 1917 | | Discontinued Mail to Rollinsville |



**Gilpin, Colorado: Log cabin restored for use as a summer residence
Photo by James L. Ozment April 5, 1998**

GILPIN – Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Gilpin Colo MS	Mscp No killer	May 12 1897
2	GILPIN / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Jan 23 1899 Mar 6 1911
3	GILPIN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-??x17mm	May 7 1917

*Gilpin Colo
May 12 - 97*



1

2

3

GOLD DIRT

Gold Dirt was the site of a mine owned and operated by John Q. Rollins. In the winter of 1860-1861 Rollins built a six-stamp mill at the site and in six years the mine produced \$2,000,000 in gold. There was some later production and the mill was expanded to a sixteen-stamp operation.

Gold Dirt was the earliest of three post offices located in Gamble Gulch. It is often confused with Perigo but there is a separate group of ruins about three-quarters of a mile below the site of Perigo, which are believed to be Gold Dirt.

Rollinsville is the starting place to visit the three sites in Gamble Gulch. From Rollinsville, drive south on Colorado 119. About a half mile after crossing South Boulder Creek and just before crossing Gamble Gulch, take the dirt road (Road 15-N) to the southwest. A short distance from the highway you reach a fork - stay to the left along the creek. At this fork there was a sign that read "Travis Gulch". About three to three and a half miles from the highway you will pass through some scattered cabins and remnants of mines. On the right (north) of the road is a fairly obvious mine. This was the Tip Top Mine. A short distance back down the gulch is Perigo and a mile below the Tip Top Mine was the site of Gold Dirt. Several mine dumps can be found and on the south side of the creek are remnant foundations - most of this is well overgrown and not easily visible. The buildings in this portion of Gamble Gulch are nearly all unoccupied.

No document was found in the Gilpin County Geographic Site Location Reports.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 13 1861	Established Originally in Boulder County, but a re-survey of the county line properly placed Gold Dirt in Gilpin County
Aug 13 1861	Sterling, Theodore M.
Nov 20 1863	Elliott, John
Jul 30 1866	Crook, Edwin M.
Oct 11 1867	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1a	Gold Dirt Col Ty MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Nov 17 1861 Apr 1 1863
1b	Gold Dirt C T MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Oct 27 1861 Jul 9 1866
1c	Gold Dirt Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Mar 10 1865 Nov 26 1866

GOLD DIRT – Continued

*Gold Dirt Loc 24
Mar 17 1861*

1a

*Gold Dirt int. 67
July 26 1861*

1b

*Gold Dirt Loc
Nov 28 1861*

1c

MISSOURI CITY

Missouri City, also known as Missouri Flats, came into existence in 1860 and was one of the smaller camps in the vicinity of Central City. It enjoyed a brief period of growth but difficult transportation and a lack of water led to its quick decline. For many years a single grave was all that remained but even that seems to have now disappeared. Although not confirmed, it seems likely that the name was bestowed by an early group of prospectors who came from Missouri.

One description of the location is, "up Spring Gulch in Missouri Flats at the foot of Quartz Hill." Unfortunately, none of these names appear on modern maps. The site can be reached by driving south from Central City on the road to Idaho Springs. At the top of the steep grade, about a mile south of Central City there is a level area. The road forks here, with one branch going east along Lake Gulch and to a large, new apartment complex. A municipal parking lot is also at this location. Missouri City was in this general area.

No document was found in the Gilpin County Geographic site Location Reports.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 24 1860	Established
Mar 24 1860	Moore, Mark A.
Mar 20 1861	Tunson, William
Jun 6 1861	Owens, Alfred H.
Jan 3 1863	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1a	Mo City K T MS	Aug 24 1860
1b	Missouri City KT MS	Mscp Pen cancel, Kansas Territory Dec 10 1860 Mar 16 1861
2	MISSOURI CITY / KAS CI 10P 25.0	Mscp Pen cancel May 1- 1861 Jun 30 1862
3	MISSOURI CITY / C.T. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Stampless, "PAID" in rounded rectangle Aug 27 1862
		Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm

*Mo City R 3
Aug 24 1860*

*Missouri City
Nov 10 1860*

1b

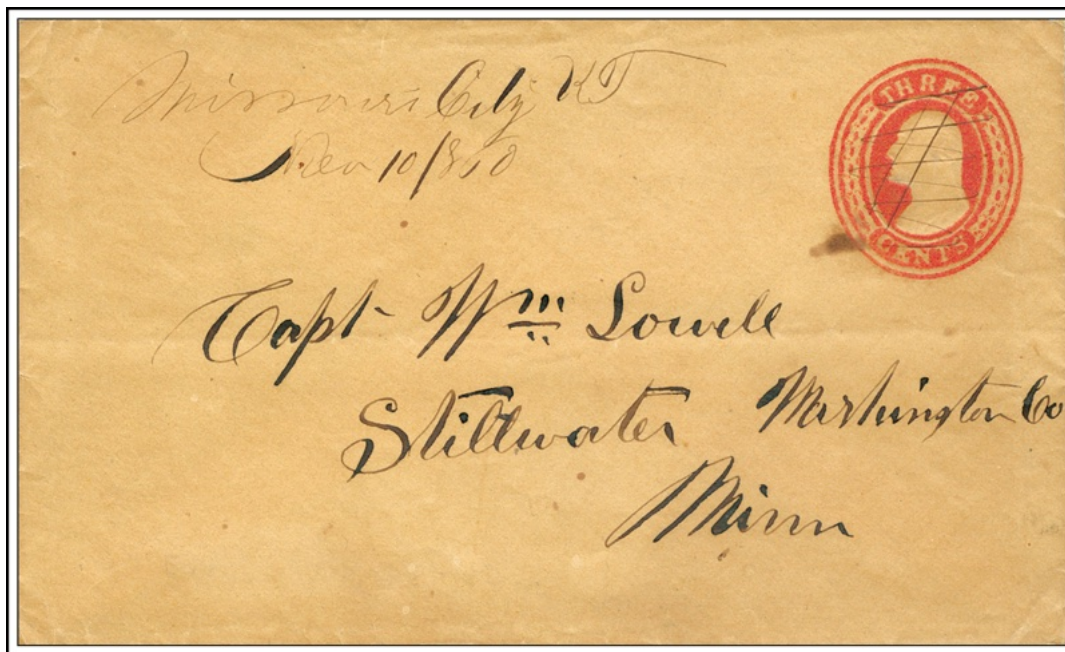


2



3

MISSOURI CITY – Continued



Missouri City K. T. (Kansas Territory) December 10, 1860

MOUNTAIN CITY

Founded in May 1859, Mountain City was the descriptively named settlement that developed at the site of John Gregory's 1859 gold discovery on a tributary of North Clear Creek. The city was laid out by Richard Sopris in the middle of the gulch, almost halfway between Black Hawk and Central City. Mountain City was quickly overshadowed by the larger and better-sited towns of Central City and Black Hawk. It was formally annexed to Central City in 1880, becoming the easternmost portion of that town.

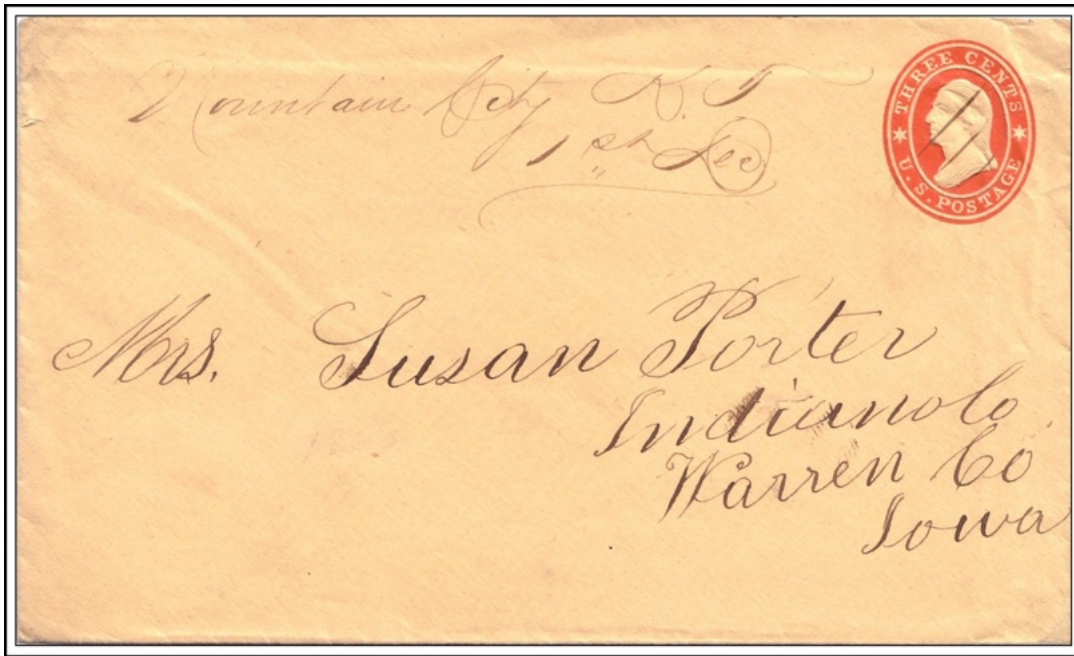
At Black Hawk, turn west from Colorado 119 towards Central City. Within a quarter mile you will see the Black Forest Inn on the left (south). Across from the Inn is a small parking lot with a narrow shallow cut in the hillside. A historical marker designates this as the Gregory Lode. Therefore, Mountain City would have been in this area.

No document was found in the Gilpin County Geographic Site Location Reports.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 17 1860	Established	Moved to and name was eventually changed to Central City
Jan 17 1860	Casto, Joseph	
Aug 4 1860	Hickman, James P.	
Apr 3 1861	Brown, Edwin H.	
Apr 11 1865	Gest, J. H.	
Sep 22 1865	Buell, Samuel A.	
Jul 28 1866	Buell, Samuel A.	
Oct 8 1869	Wood, James D.	
Oct 8 1869	Name changed to Central City	

MOUNTAIN CITY – Continued



Mountain City K. T (Kansas Territory)

December 1, (1860)

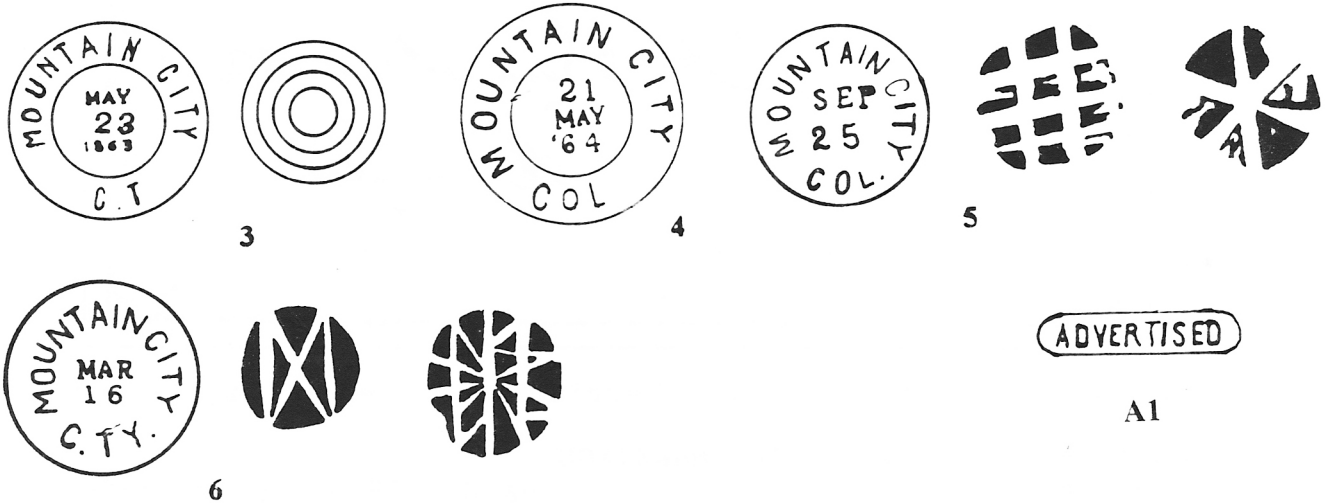
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MOUNTAIN CITY / K.T. MS	Feb 9 1860 Dec 22 1860 Mscp Pen cancel Stampless, 'Paid 3' in manuscript
2	MOUNTAIN CITY CT MS	Mar 27 1861 Jul 1 1863 Mscp Pen cancel Stampless, 'Paid 3' in manuscript
3	MOUNTAIN CITY / C.T. CI 11P 27.0/14.0	Sep 10 1861 Aug 23 1863 Hstp Stampless, Handstamped "PAID" in small, rounded rectangle Cork, 6 bar grid; Cork, 6-piece pie; Circle of wedges Target, 4-ring 19mm
4	MOUNTAIN CITY / COL CI 11P 29.0/16.0	Dec 7 1863 Dec 18 1866 Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm
5	MOUNTAIN CITY / COL. CI 10P 23.0	Mar 30 1867 Feb 16 1870 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads; Target, 4-ring; Cork, hobnail grid
6	MOUNTAIN CITY / C.TY. CI 10P 25.0	Mar 16 1869 Aug 14 1869 Hstp Cork, Geometric pattern

1 Mountain City K.T.
19th Feb

2 Mountain City CT
March 30

MOUNTAIN CITY – Continued



AUXILIARY MARKING

A1 MOUNTAIN CITY
RC 10P 27.0x6.0

Aug 18 186- Dec -- 186-
Hstp On incoming covers, with boxed, rounded ends,
"ADVERTISED" 27x6mm

NEVADA

Nevada is another of the small communities in proximity to Central City. It is situated on the north side of Nevada Gulch on a flank of Bald Mountain. The Burrows Lode was discovered there in 1859. The community developed rapidly with a solidly built business district and several mills for processing ore. The first Masonic Lodge in Colorado was formed in Nevada and the Masonic Hall still stands on the north side of the road through the community. Reportedly it is used once a year for a Masonic service. Nevada has repeatedly declined and then revived. After the initial period of activity there was a second boom in the 1870's. Following the Panic of 1893 Nevada nearly died but then it revived and by the late 1890's had attained a population of over 1,200. A satisfactory source of water was a chronic problem but it was winter weather and travel that restricted growth.

The name of the community was a point of conflict with the Post Office Department. The inhabitants had chosen Nevadaville perhaps derived from the mining town of Nevadaville, California. The post office did not favor this choice but did accept Nevada.

By 1869 even this form had become unacceptable - apparently considerable mail to the two towns was being misdirected. Therefore, the Post Office Department decreed a change in name to Bald Mountain. This change did not find favor with the residents who, even to this day, seldom use the name Bald Mountain and continue to call the place Nevadaville, Nevada City or Nevada.

The name Nevada is Spanish and can be interpreted as, "snow clad", "white as snow", "snowfall" or "a heavy snowfall," any of which would make it an appropriate name for a settlement near the Continental Divide.

To reach Nevada: at the south end of Main Street in Central City, take the fork to the right, which climbs up Nevada Gulch. In about a mile you will reach Nevada. There are brick buildings on the right side of the road and the remnants of a large mill on the left side. Several occupied residences are scattered around the area.

No document was found in the Gilpin County Geographic Site Location Reports.

Latitude 39 47' 43"N Longitude 105 31' 55"W (Location)

NEVADA – Continued



Nevada letter dated August 16 1860, five months before PO opened. Carried by Hinckley & Co.'s Express to the Denver City PO, receiving the rare, sans-serif Denver City tombstone postmark.

Chronology of the Post Office Confirmed types of postal markings

- Jan 12 1861 Established
- Jan 12 1861 Morton, Ira H.
- Jul 5 1861 Ratliff, John W.
- Dec 16 1869 Name changed to Bald Mountain

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 Nevada City K.T.
 MS 1 Nevada C.T.
 MS 2 NEVADA/ COL TERR
 CI 10P 37.0 3 NEVADA/ C.T.
 CI 10P 26.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 16 1860
Mscp Pre-post office establishment; with Hinckley Express
Aug 23 1860 and Denver sans serif tombstone Aug 23, 1860 Dec 2 186- Aug 26 186-
Mscp Stampless, Mscp 'Paid 3'; Pen cancel Jan 6 186- Sep 30 186-
Hstp Pen cancel; Lettering is hand-carved, date is manuscript
Mar 29 1869 Oct 25 1870 Hstp Cork, Circle of 8 wedges |
|---|---|

*Nevada City K.T.
Aug 16th*

0

nevada city my 18 Paid 3

1



2



3



NEVADA – Continued



The Masonic Hall in Nevadaville, Colorado – A meeting is held in this building once each year

Photo by W. H. Bauer

May 18, 2004

NUGGET

Nugget is another of the small mining towns that sprang to life in the Pine Creek Mining District in the 1890's. It was supported by a single mine but by the turn of the century that resource was in rapid decline and the community faded.

The name Nugget refers to a fragment of free gold found in placer deposits.

To reach the site of Nugget follow the directions to Apex. At the southern edge of that town a dirt road to the left leads to Nugget. About one mile west of Apex there is a mine dump on the hill to the north side of the road. The best view of the site is from the hill on the west side of Nugget. No buildings remain at Nugget.

Latitude 39 51' 49"N Longitude 105 35' 16"W (Location)

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 10 1895	---	NW/4 Sec 19 T2S R73W	The sketch map places it on Elk Creek and seems to indicate a desired name of Elk
			Proposed postmaster - Gustav Meyer
Nov 21 1895			Established
Nov 21 1895			Meyer, Gustav
Oct 25 1899			Russell, Reuben C.
Apr 5 1901			Ordered closed
Apr 15 1901			Discontinued

NUGGET – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 NUGGET / COLO. Jul 12 1898 Jul 3 1899
 CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm



PACTOLUS

Almost nothing has been written about Pactolus. One source credits the name to that of a river in Asia Minor that was famous for its gold-bearing sands.

From Rollinsville, drive north on Colorado Highway 119 to the intersection with Colorado 72. Turn east on that road somewhat over two miles to where it comes close to the railroad and there is a side road south across South Boulder Creek and the railroad. A half-mile down the side road, South Beaver Creek comes down to South Boulder Creek. Also, there is road up that gulch. There are several summer cabins and residences in this area, which are shown on today's maps as Lincoln Hills. However, this is where the Post Department Geographic Site Location Reports locate the Pactolus Post Office during its short life.

If you continue southwest along South Boulder Creek for another mile, you will come to another group of cabins. This group is labeled Pactolus on 1980 United States Geologic Survey map of Gilpin County.

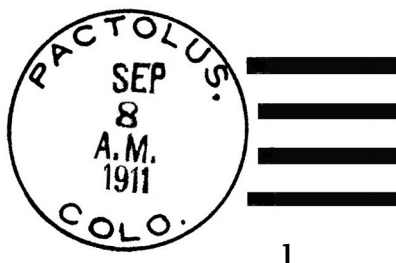
Latitude 39 55' 04"N Longitude 105 27' 50"W (Place name)

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jan 13 1911 --- SE/4 SW/4 Sec 28 T1S R72W Denver Northwestern & Pacific 300 yards northwest Boulder Creek 200 yards northwest of post office
- Mar 9 1911 Established
- Mar 9 1911 Hall, Lester M.
- Oct 15 1912 Discontinued Mail to Rollinsville

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 PACTOLUS, / COLO. Sep 8 1911 May 27 1912
 CI 10P 31.0 4bars S-??x19mm



PERIGO

Perigo is another of the small mining communities that were located in Gamble Gulch and the last of the three to have a post office.

Placer gold was found in the gulch in 1859 by the A. C. (or A. D.) Gambell party and soon thereafter, lode deposits were discovered by John M. Dumond and a partner named Perigo. It would thus appear that this partner was the source for the town's name.

As with many names in Colorado, the spelling of the name Gambell is not clear. In published literature it is Gambell - both the prospector and the Gulch. However, the 1980 United States Geologic Survey map of Gilpin County uses the spelling Gamble. Since that is the spelling on current maps, it is the one I have chosen to use.

There is further confusion as to the existence of Perigo. Did it exist by that name from the time of the early discoveries? Or did it acquire that name as late as 1895 when a post office was established there? From the closing of the Gold Dirt Post Office in October 1867 until the opening of the Tip Top Post Office in April 1890 there was no postal facility in Gamble Gulch and it is likely that there was only minimal activity there during that period.

From 1895 to 1905 Perigo was reportedly quite active and is claimed to have been a rather sophisticated town. There were several mines in the vicinity, a 30-stamp mill and a social club that sponsored dances and attempted to lure traveling shows from Central City and Denver.

To reach the site of Perigo, refer to the directions to Gold Dirt, using County Road 15-N. In the fall of 1997, in addition to mine dumps and scattered foundations, there was one fairly large building on the west side of the road that was undergoing renovation as a residence.

Latitude 39 52' 45"N Longitude 105 31' 49"W (Location)

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 14 1894	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T2S R73W 1/4 mile west of Gamble Gulch Proposed postmaster - James R. Garrew
Mar 2 1895		Established
Mar 2 1895		Garren, James R.
Jul 20 1896		Discontinued Mail to Central City
Aug 27 1897		Re-Established
Aug 27 1897		Earl, Darrius C. E.
Mar 14 1898		Moody, Joseph
Dec 24 1904		Crown, D.
Feb 18 1905		Ordered closed
Mar 15 1905		Discontinued Mail to Gilpin

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PERIGO, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	Apr 26 1899 Oct 3 1899 Hstp Target, 4-ring, used as postmark ?. ?
2	Perigo Colo. SL ? ?	Hstp Cork, smudge; Return address handstamp I do not consider this to be a postmark, therefore it is not illustrated.



ROLLINSVILLE

Rollinsville was named for John Quincy Adams Rollins who arrived in Colorado in 1860. He developed extensive interests in mining and ranching and a settlement, named for him, grew up around his ranch on South Boulder Creek. This location was a convenient rest stop for travelers from the Central City mines to the Boulder County mines and for those who traveled up South Boulder Creek into the mountains. Rollins constructed and operated a toll road over Rollins Pass, which, until the development of a road over Berthoud Pass, was one of the principal roads to Middle Park. This toll road later became the pilot path for the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad over Rollins Pass.

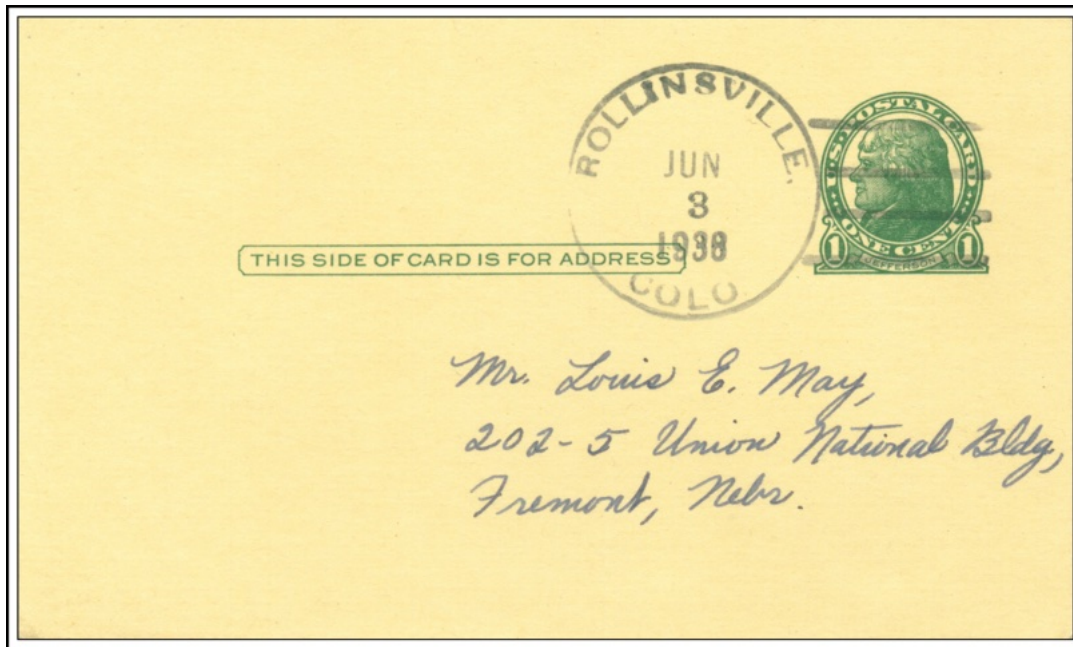
Rollinsville was a rather unique town as saloons, gambling houses and dance halls were not allowed in the settlement. With the advent of the railroad, Rollinsville became a support town for maintenance workers and train crews. Today the town is still active, serving tourists and the surrounding area as a supply center. There is a rail siding and an active post office, which recently moved into a new building.

Rollinsville is located on Colorado Highway 119, north of Black Hawk and about a mile south of the Gilpin-Boulder County line.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 24 1871	---	Not described	On north side of South Boulder Creek	
Jan 31 1871		Established		
Jan 31 1871		Southworth, Mrs. Sarah		
Mar 20 1871	---	SE/4 Sec 36 T1S R73W	Local name is SOUTH BOULDER	40 rods north of South Boulder Creek
Jun 12 1871		Gooch, Fred F.		
Sep 10 1877		Rollins, Jonathan L. A.		
Apr 8 1878		Gooch, Fred F.		
Jan 2 1879		Jones, William		
Apr 18 1879		Gooch, Fred F.		
Jan 26 1911		Rider, Edward H.		
Mar 9 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 36 T1S R73W	450 feet northeast of South Boulder Creek	
Sep 22 1916		Wermelin, George		
Mar 11 1919		Heller, Abraham H.		
Oct 8 1921		Wenger, Samuel E.		Acting
Dec 19 1921		Wenger, Samuel E.		Appointed
Jan 29 1924		Redmen, Samuel		Acting
Apr 26 1924		Redmen, Samuel		Appointed
Oct 31 1930		Jacobs, Mrs. Selma L.		Acting
Nov 1 1930		Jacobs, Mrs. Selma L.		Possession
Feb 21 1931		LaFevre, Margaret E.		Appointed
Mar 5 1931		LaFevre, Margaret E.		Commissioned
Mar 12 1931		LaFevre, Margaret E.		Possession
Oct 22 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 36 T1S R73W		
Jan 14 1949	---	Not reported	A move 250 feet east of a previous location	
			Colorado 119 is 3 blocks west, Denver & Rio Grande 750 feet east of post office	
Mar 18 1949	---	Not reported	A move 300 feet east of a previous location	Colorado 119 is 600 feet west and Denver & Rio Grande is 620 feet east of post office site
Oct 7 1949	---	Not reported	A move 400 feet west of previous location	Colorado 119 is 500 feet west, Denver & Rio Grande is 850 feet east of post office
Jun 30 1962		McCullum, Mrs. Roberta F.		Assumed charge
Jul 6 1962		McCullum, Mrs. Roberta F.		Acting
May 14 1963		McCullum, Mrs. Roberta F.		Commissioned
May 24 1963		McCullum, Mrs. Roberta F.		Possession
Jul 1 1966				Office made Presidential

ROLLINSVILLE – Continued



ROLLINSVILLE, / COLO.

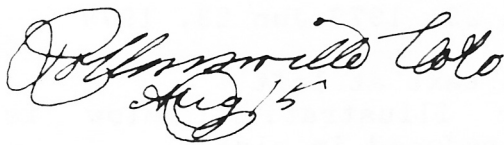
June 3, 1938

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Rollinsville Colo MS	Mscp pen cancel	Feb 26 1874 Oct 26 1880
1.01	ROLLINSVILLE / COL. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Single 14mm circle	Sep 2 1875
1.1	ROLLINSVILLE, / COLORADO. CI 11p 33.0/29.5	Hstp Cork, smudge; Fancy complex	Aug 8 1881 Jul 2 1884 Tracing of killer is partial
2	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring	May 27 188- Jun 19 188-
3	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 17mm	Jan 4 1889 Feb 16 1891
4	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 17mm	Jun 1 1898 Sep 1 1905
5	ROLLINSVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3 with 3, S-23x14mm	May 19 1906 Jan 5 1914
6	ROLLINSVILLE. / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Aug 7 1918
7	ROLLINSVILLE, COLO CI 10H 32.0	4bars P-25x19mm	Jul 24 1931 Feb 14 1933
8	ROLLINSVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24X20mm, wide spaced letters	Sep 16 1934 Jun 3 1938
9	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23X19mm	Jan 9 1939
10	ROLLINSVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jul 8 1940 Jul 21 1953
10.1	Rollinsville, / Colo. RC 10P 34.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	1950s
11	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 10 1959 Jun 20 1963

ROLLINSVILLE – Continued

12	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 35.0x17.0	Hstp Parcel Post box cancel	--- 196-
12.1	ROLLINSVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 3 1964
13	ROLLINSVILLE, CO / 80474 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 20 1966 Oct 21 1970
14	ROLLINSVILLE, CO / 80474 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 19 1975 Dec 14 1989
15	ROLLINSVILLE, CO / USPS 80474 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-12x22mm	Oct 9 1997 Nov 25 2000
16	No Entry		
17	ROLLINSVILLE, CO / USPS-80474 OV 11P 35.0/25.0	Hstp No killer Inner ellipse incomplete	May 7 1999
18	ROLLINSVILLE CO / 80474 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-13x24mm	May 19 2004



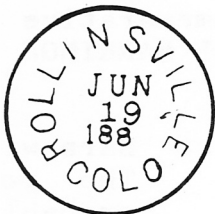
1



1.01



1.1



2



3



4



5



6



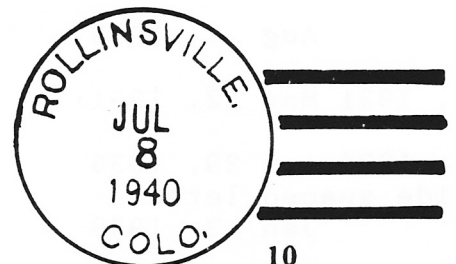
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8

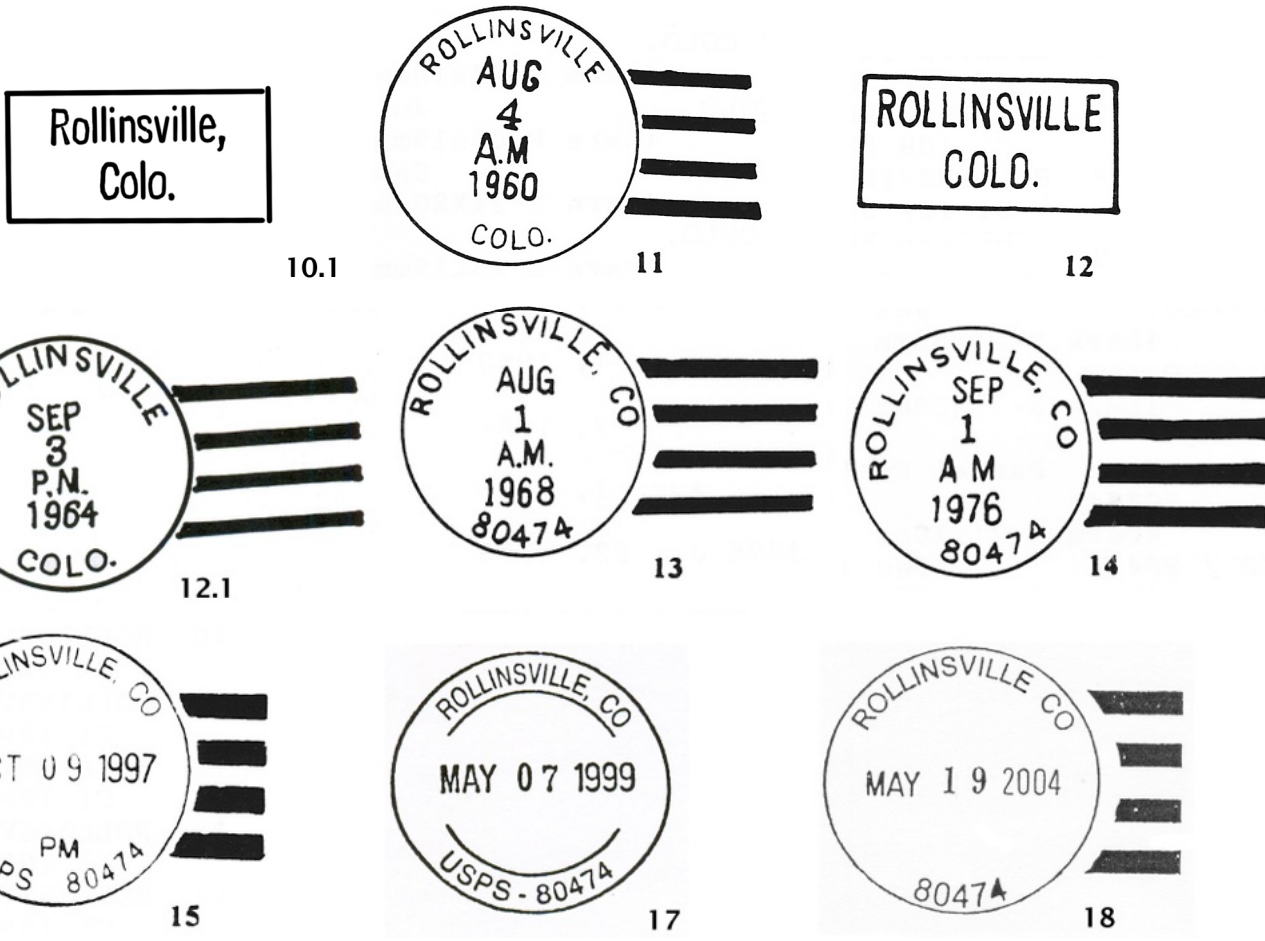


9



10

ROLLINSVILLE – Continued



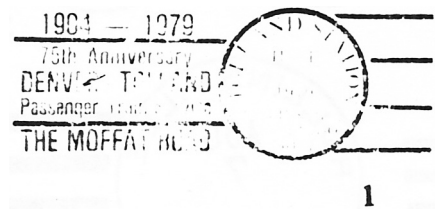
ROLLINSVILLE – TOLLAND STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 23 1979 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 ROLLINSVILLE, CO 80171 // TOLLAND STATION Jun 23 1979 Jun 23 1979
CI 10P 20.0 Pict Bars with text at left: Bars with text at left:
1904-1979 / 75th Anniversary / DENVER- TOLLAND /
Passenger Train Service / THE MOFFAT ROAD
The illustration is probably reduced in size



RUSSELL GULCH

In 1859 a rich placer deposit was found in the mountains about two miles south of Central City, on what became known as Russell Gulch. It is claimed that by 1860 nearly 6,000 people were mining in this area. The name of the gulch and the community honors William Green Russell, one of the party that first discovered gold on the South Platte and who later prospected in this area.

Although the rich placer gold was soon exhausted, numerous discoveries of lode deposits kept the area active well into the twentieth century. In the 1920 there was a minor boom with an emphasis on uranium bearing ores.

Russell Gulch is not a ghost town. The coming of gambling to Central City and Black Hawk has brought somewhat of a revival with a modest number of residences now scattered around the upper end of the Russell Gulch. The post office did cease operation in 1943 after nearly 65 years of activity. As with most communities in Gilpin County, a reliable source of good water is a constant problem.

To reach Russell Gulch, drive south from Central City on the road to Virginia Canyon and Idaho Springs. The road curves around the head of Russell Gulch, through numerous mine dumps. The main segment of the town was below the present road, along the gulch. A portion of the old business district is still standing.

Latitude 39 46' 43"N Longitude 105 32' 11"W (Location)

Latitude 39 46' 34"N Longitude 105 32' 30"W (Cemetery)

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 20 1879	---	NW/4 Sec 23 T3S R73W On the north side of Russell Gulch. Proposed postmaster - Edward W. Williams	
Sep 29 1879		Established	
Sep 29 1879		Williams, Edward W.	
Aug 23 1892		Ashew, Willis B.	
Aug 30 1899		Wagner, Charles A.	
		No further entries prior to 1931 (end of original records)	
Mar 14 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 23 T3S R73W	
Aug 14 1933		Williams, Mrs. Ellena R.	Confirmed
Aug 31 1933		Williams, Mrs. Ellena R.	Commissioned
Sep 11 1933		Williams, Mrs. Ellena R.	Assumed charge
Jun 30 1934		Holmes, Miss Helen L.	Confirmed
Jul 17 1934		Holmes, Miss Helen L.	Commissioned
Jul 23 1934		Holmes, Miss Helen L.	Assumed charge
---	----	Jeske, Mrs. Helen L. Holmes	Name changed by marriage
Oct 10 1934		Reuland, Mrs. Edna	Assumed charge
Oct 18 1934		Reuland, Mrs. Edna	Acting
Dec 24 1934		Reuland, Mrs. Edna	Confirmed
Jan 10 1935		Reuland, Mrs. Edna	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 22 T3S R73W	
May 10 1943		Ordered closed	
May 31 1943		Discontinued Mail to Central City	

Confirmed types of postal markings

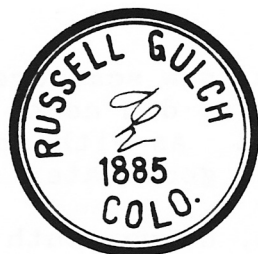
1	Russell Gulch / Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Mar 6 187-
2	RUSSELL GULCH / COLO. CI 20H 33.0/29.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge; Fancy, positive star	May 28 1880 Oct 22 1885
3	RUSSELL GULCH / COL. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm	Dec 29 1886 Mar 11 1891
3.1	RUSSELL GULCH / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 24 1892

RUSSELL GULCH – Continued

3.101	RUSSELL GULCH / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target 4-ring	Sep 30 1898 Nov 14 1898
3.2	RUSSELL GULCH / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not present	May 31 1901
3.3	RUSSELL GULCH, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not present	Dec 30 1902
4	RUSSELL GULCH / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Apr 6 1900 Feb 14 1908
4.1	RUSSELL GULCH, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 31.0	Hstp Not present	Jul 4 1906
5	RUSSELL GULCH, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Jun 13 1908 Apr 4 1912
6	RUSSELL GULCH, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Nov 3 1913 Dec 19 1913
7	RUSSELL GULCH, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Mar 4 1931 May 31 1943
7.1	Russell Gulch, COLO. SL 00R 72.0X7.5	On registry card with	May 17 1938 type 8
8	RUSSELL GULCH / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-20x18mm	May 17 1938 Jul 4 1940

*Russell Gulch, Col
March 4*

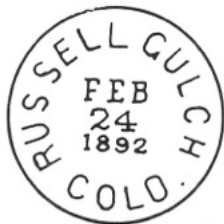
1



2



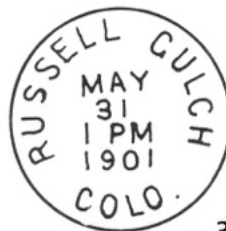
3



3.1



3.101



3.2



3.3



4



4.1



5



RUSSELL GULCH – Continued



Russell Gulch, Colo.

7.1



SOUTH BOULDER

The community of South Boulder was located along South Boulder Creek, a short distance west of the mouth of Gamble Gulch. The townsite was established by John Quincy Adams Rollins, sometime around 1865. In 1871 the place was renamed Rollinsville. South Boulder was a way station for travelers and a supply center for miners in the surrounding hills. Its location coincides with that of Rollinsville.

Chronology of the Post Office

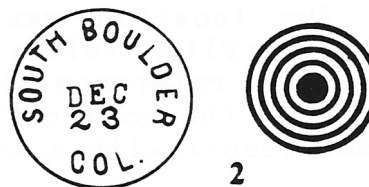
- Nov 30 1865 --- Unsurveyed On the north bank of South Boulder Creek Sketch map shows it where the road from Central City crosses South Boulder Creek
- Dec 14 1865 Established
- Dec 14 1865 Weir, Fred C.
- Feb 19 1867 Boyce, Barton S.
- Mar 18 1869 Austin, Mrs. Julia E.
- Sep 20 1869 Waggoner, Andrew J.
- Nov 22 1869 Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 South Boulder Col Ter MS Mar 26 1866
- 2 SOUTH BOULDER / COL CI 10P 25.0 Mscp Pen cancel --- 20, 186- Dec 23 186- Hstp Target, 5-ring 18mm

*South Boulder Col Ter
Mar 26 1866*

1



TIP TOP

Tip Top was the third of the three post offices in Gamble Gulch. It had a very short life - eight months and should not be confused with the other Tip Top post office, which was at the summit of Rollins Pass (1909-1910) in Grand County.

I have not found any reference to this Tip Top in published literature. The 1980 United States Geological Survey map of Gilpin County labels the Tip Top Mine at essentially the same location as Perigo, at the upper end of Gamble Gulch. In the fall of 1997, to the west side of County Road 15-N, there was a small, relatively clear area in which a mine dump and the caved in entrance to the mine could be seen. It appeared that some environmental reclamation activity was or had taken place here. I believe this to have been the Tip Top Mine, with Perigo located around it and downstream from this point. To reach the site, follow the directions given above for Gold Dirt.

The three communities; Gold Dirt, Perigo and Tip Top are virtually coincident and separated only by the dates of their post offices. They likely represent a scattered settlement and periodic activity along the upper end of Gamble Gulch.

Latitude 39 52' 48"N Longitude 105 31' 48"W (Mine)

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 26 1890	---	Sec 15 T2S R73W
		Proposed postmaster - William H. Cochran
Apr 18 1890		Established
Apr 18 1890		Cochran, William H.
Dec 24 1890		Discontinued Papers to Black Hawk

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TIP TOP

TOLLAND

Tolland was originally the site of stage station on the toll road from Rollinsville to Middle Park. Later it became a station on the railroad that first climbed over Rollins Pass and now goes through the Moffat Tunnel.

The location was the home of Mrs. Charles H. Toll (nee Katherine Ellen Wolcott). It is claimed that she chose the name Tolland in reference to her ancestral home - Tolland, England. In any event the name reflects the family name of Toll. It was a summer resort with a twenty-six-room hotel operated by Mrs. Toll.

The railroad station and community was first known as Mammoth, but was renamed Tolland. The post office at Tolland was moved there from nearby Baltimore in 1904.

To reach Tolland, follow the directions for East Portal and Baltimore. Tolland is about five miles west of Colorado Highway 119 and three miles east of the Moffat Tunnel. There are number of summer homes and residences at the site.

Latitude 39 54' 18"N Longitude 105 35' 19"W (Place name)

Chronology of the Post Office

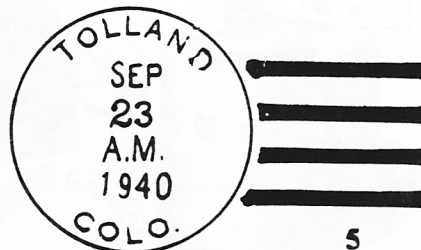
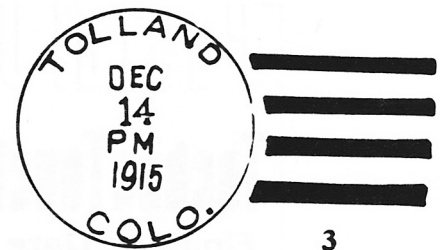
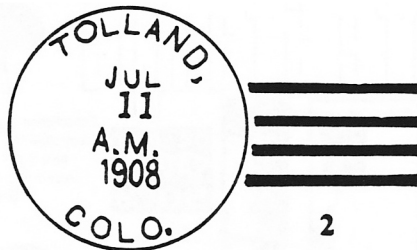
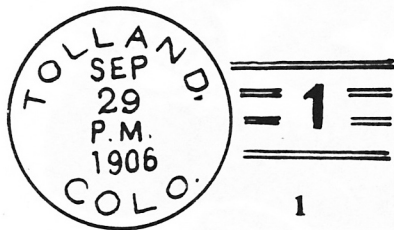
Oct 26 1904		Moved from Baltimore
Oct 26 1904		McHenry, Elizabeth M.
Dec 19 1904	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T2S R73W 500 feet south of South Boulder Creek
		190 feet south of the tracks
Mar 26 1908		Clifton, Elizabeth M.
Mar 6 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T2S R73W 180 feet south of the Denver & Salt Lake RR
		400 feet south of South Boulder Creek

TOLLAND – Continued

Sep 21 1928	Gebhard, Edward	Acting
Dec 15 1928	Gebhard, Edward	Appointed
Date of appointment conflicts with next entry		
Aug 15 1928	Clifton, Bruce	Acting, Possession
Mar 27 1929	Clifton, Bruce	Ad. int.
May 2 1929	St. Clair, Ema L.	Confirmed
May 15 1929	St. Clair, Ema L.	Commissioned
May 31 1929	St. Clair, Ema L.	Assumed charge
Sep 12 1934	Barker, Mrs. Bessie I.	Assumed charge
Oct 23 1934	Barker, Mrs. Bessie I.	Acting
Dec 10 1934	Barker, Mrs. Bessie I.	Confirmed
Jan 18 1935	Barker, Mrs. Bessie I.	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	--- NW/4 Sec 5 T2S R73W South Boulder Creek is 60 rods north of office Railroad station is 200 feet northwest	
Jul 22 1943	Wirth, Mrs. Elsa S.	Assumed charge
Jul 29 1943	Wirth, Mrs. Elsa S.	Acting
May 1 1944	Landin, Mrs. Vera L.	Assumed charge
May 24 1944	Landin, Mrs. Vera L.	Acting
Jun 21 1944	Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1944	Discontinued Mail to Rollinsville	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TOLLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane type 2 with 1, S-24x14mm	Jul 18 1905 Nov 3 1908
2	TOLLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Jun 25 1908 Jul 27 1913
3	TOLLAND / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	May 30 1913 Aug 11 1928
4	TOLLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 16 1933 May 14 1934
5	TOLLAND / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Jul 2 1940 Apr 23 1943



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- PERRIGO, Lynn I., Edit. *H. J. Hawley's Diary, Russell Gulch in 1860*; April 1955, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp133-150
- 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.

WHERE WAS GOLD DIRT?

By William H. Bauer

Every historical reference I have read that has mentioned the mining camp of Gold Dirt in Gilpin County has located it south of Rollinsville in Gamble Gulch. I never questioned that location. Gamble Gulch is where Jim Ozment, Glenn Scott, and I looked for evidence of Gold Dirt. We talked with a Gamble Gulch resident who echoed that information and pointed us to a location. We took pictures, went away happy, convinced that we had visited the site of Gold Dirt.

Prior to publication of the Gilpin County section, I had reviewed the Gilpin County reports and there was no document for Gold Dirt; not overly surprising considering its early and brief existence. However, much later, as I worked through the Fremont County reports I suddenly found a report for Gold Dirt. Oh happy day! At last some definitive information. However, my pleasure quickly turned to consternation when I read the report. The location for Gold Dirt was stated to be, "Situated in Lump Gulch near Gold Dirt Lode." Further, the blank requesting a name for the proposed office read, "Lump Gulch or Gold Dirt." Lump Gulch was crossed out. What happened to Gamble Gulch?

The USGS topographic maps (following page) show that Lump Gulch is the next one southeast of Gamble Gulch and is the gulch where the later mining camp of Gilpin was located.

On my next visit to Colorado, Jim Ozment and I returned to the area to see if we could puzzle out a solution to the location problem. On a previous visit to Gilpin we had driven into the community but had not gone beyond it. This time we turned out of the community, to the south, past small Snowline Lake and to the end of the road. Looking back toward Gilpin we could see a couple of modest sized mine dumps and additional evidence of mining activity but nothing that could be claimed as proof positive. We went back to Gamble Gulch for another look there but the road was blocked by snow and we could not get in as far as we had on the previous visit.

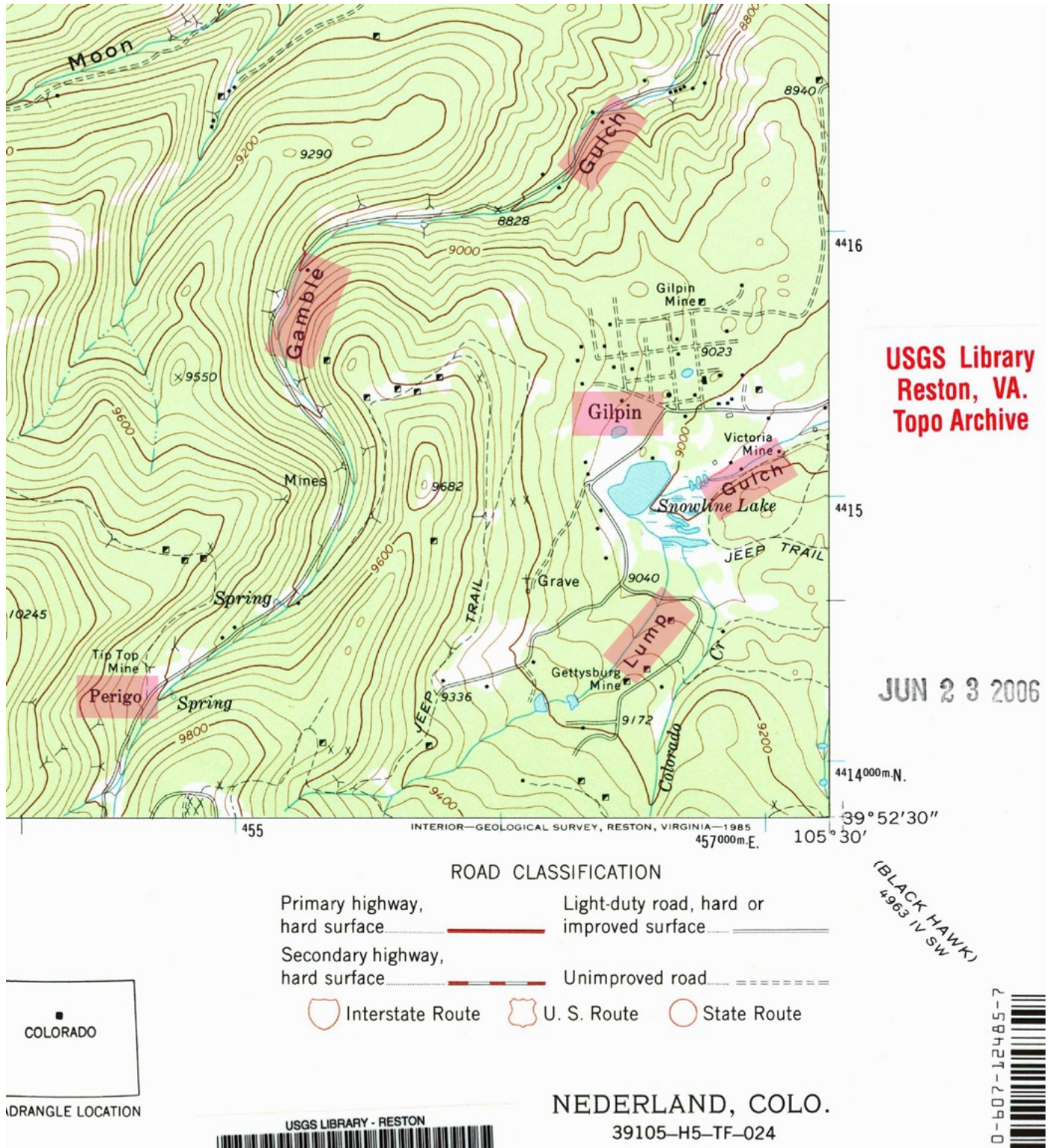
So at this point, I am left with conjecture. I no longer believe that the 1860's settlement of Gold Dirt was in Gamble Gulch. I think it was at the head of Lump Gulch, as the document indicates. Much of the early activity at Gold Dirt was placer mining with only minor lode mining. This soon played out and the miners left the area not to return until the 1890's. At that time mining commenced in Gamble Gulch at Tip Top and Perigo, both of which eventually had post offices.

In addition, there was new mining activity in Lump Gulch, which resulted in the establishment of the community and post office of Gilpin. At some point, the mining activity in Gamble Gulch either encountered one of the old Gold Dirt lodes, or the old name was adopted by a new mine. This new Gold Dirt Mine proved very worth while and it is that mine to which the history of the original Gold Dirt has become attached. The two locations are quite close: a half-mile to a mile apart at most.

Is this the correct answer to the location of Gold Dirt? I don't know for certain. Perhaps some one who wants to do some research and has access to records of the times can dig deeper and confirm one or the other of the two locations as the true 1860's site of Gold Dirt.

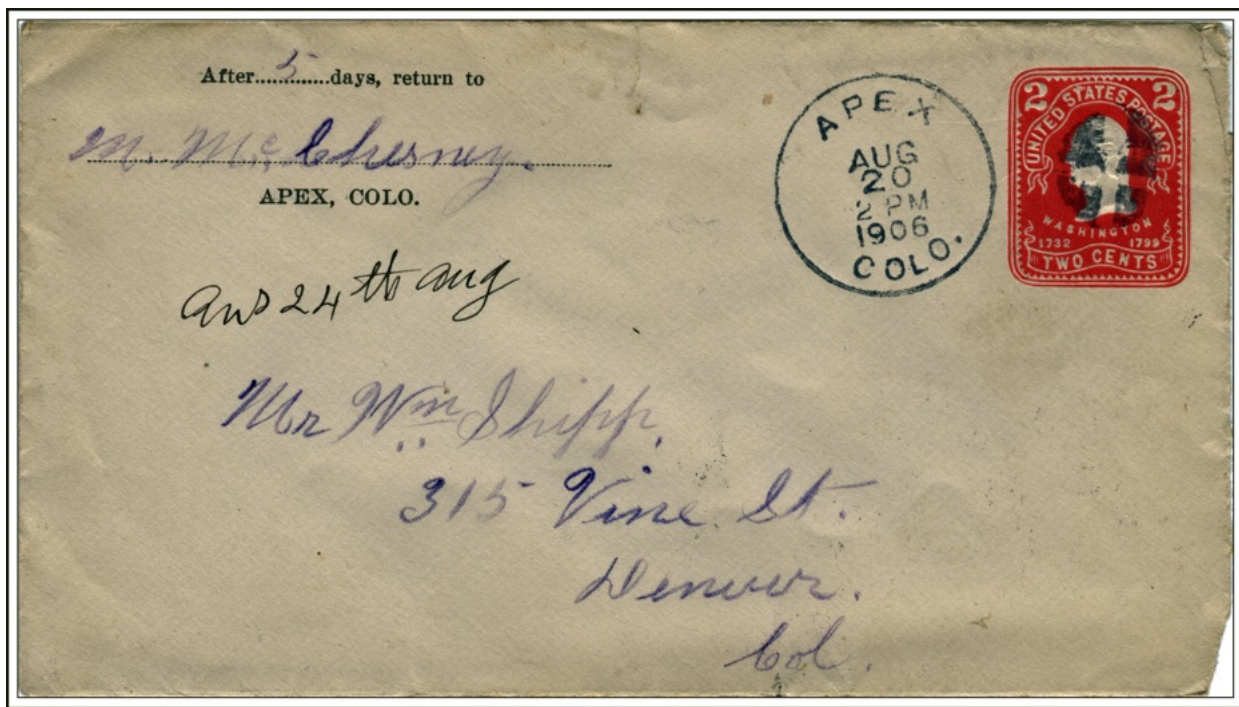
[SRM: I believe the location is far from settled and further research should be undertaken.]

WHERE WAS GOLD DIRT? – Continued



Portion of 1972 Nederland Quadrangle – Gamble & Lump Gulches, Gilpin and Perigo high-lighted
Rollinsville is straight north of “Gulch” in Gamble Gulch.
Published by the United States Geological Survey

A GALLERY OF GILPIN COUNTY COVERS



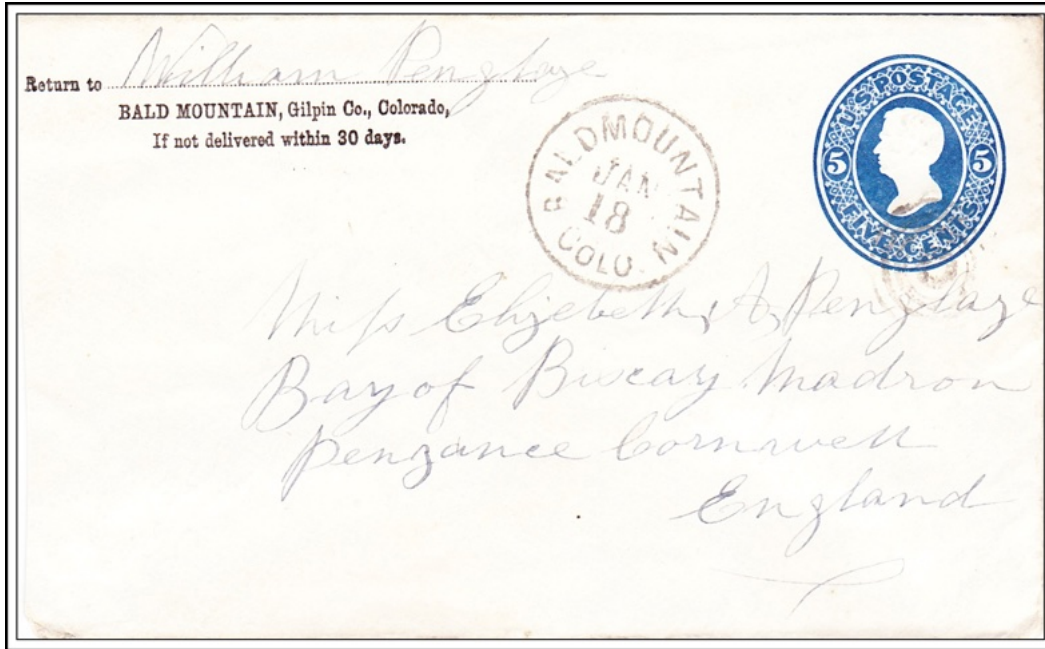
APEX / COLO.

August 20, 1906



BALTIMORE, / COLO.

October 4, 1904



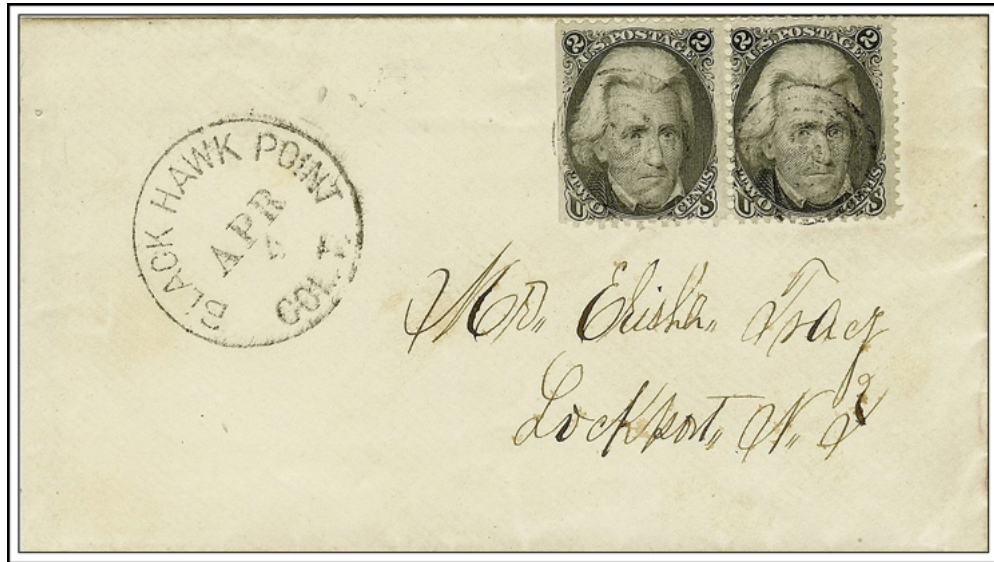
BALD MOUNTAIN / COLO.

January 18, (187-)

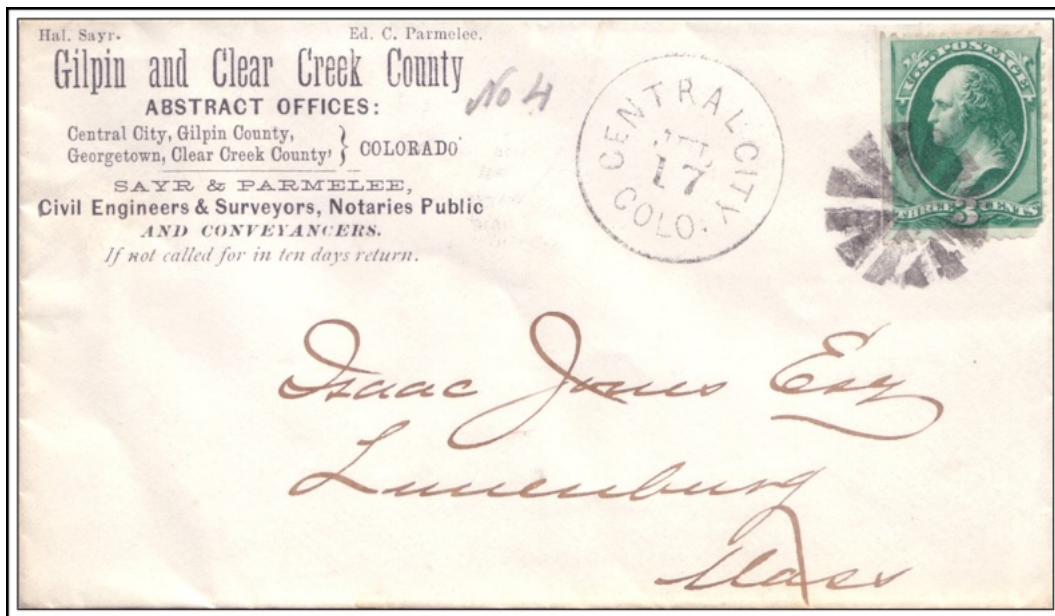


Black Hawk Point C.T.

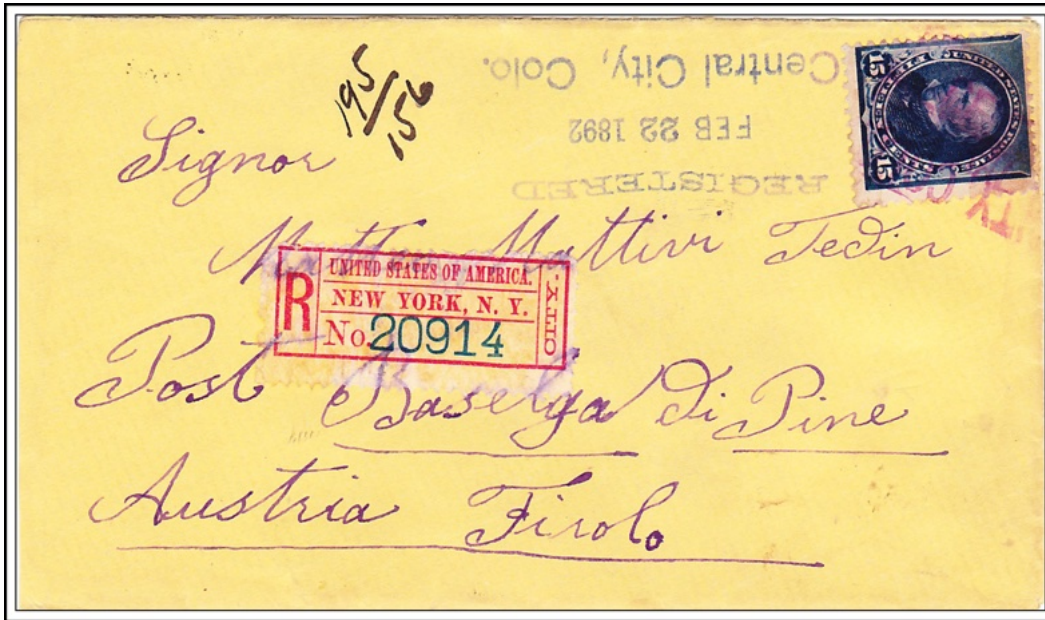
February 16, 1863



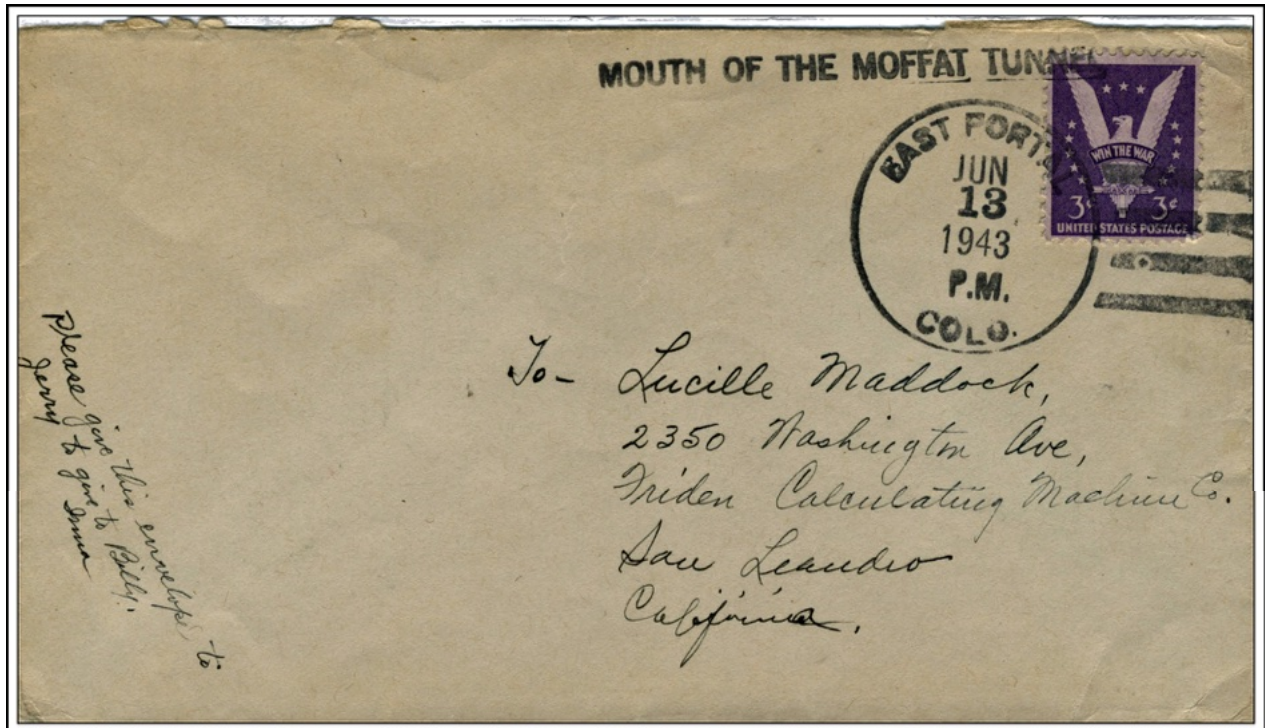
BLACK HAWK POINT / COL. T. April 4, (186-)



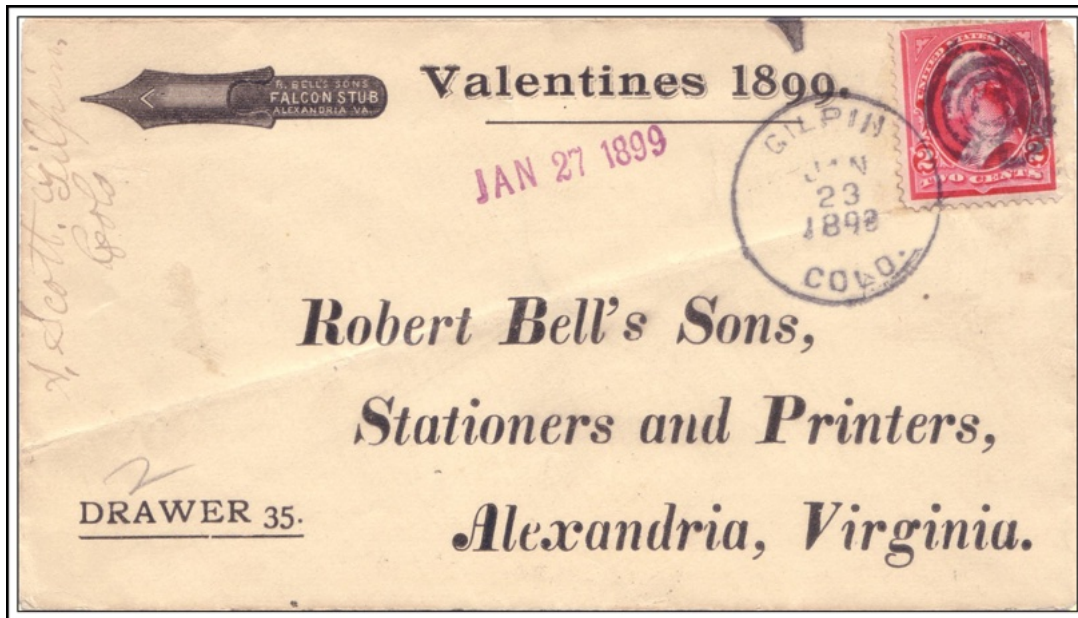
CENTRAL CITY / COLO. July 17, (1874)



Central City, Colo. // REGISTERED February 22, 1892

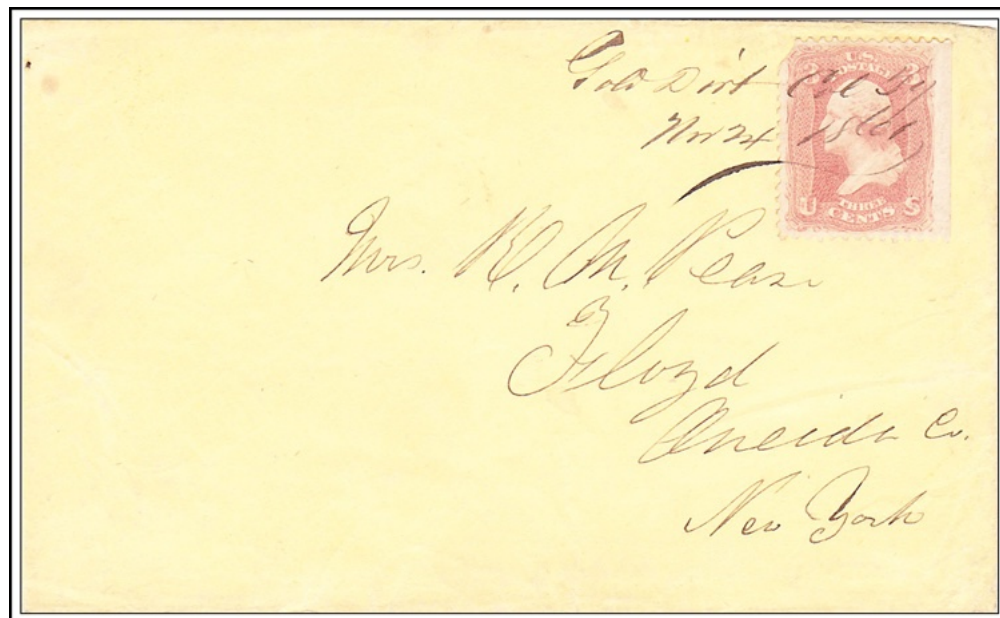


EAST PORTAL / COLO. June 13, 1943



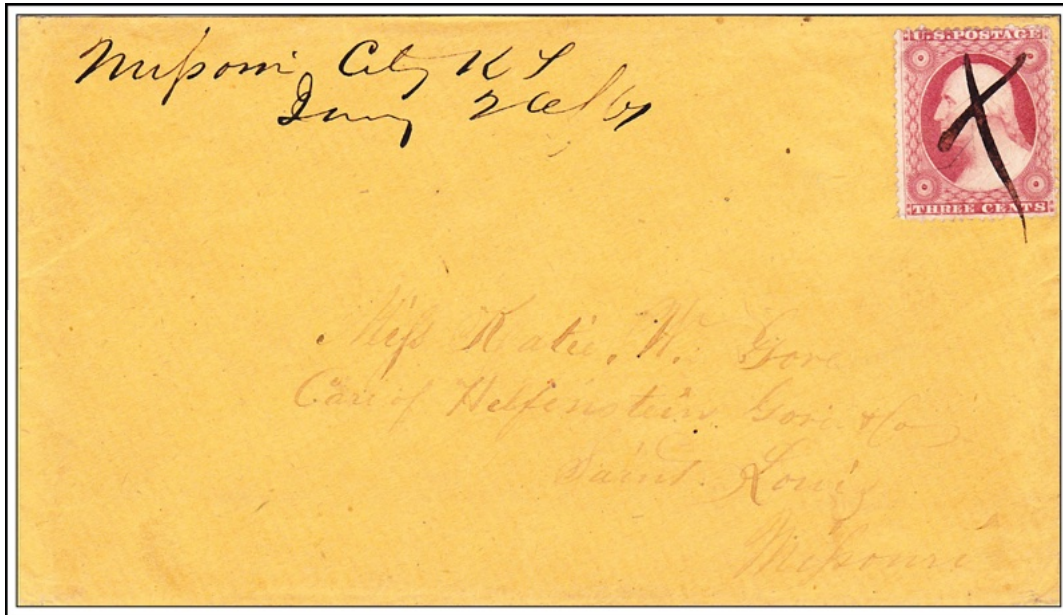
GILPIN / COLO.

January 23, 1899



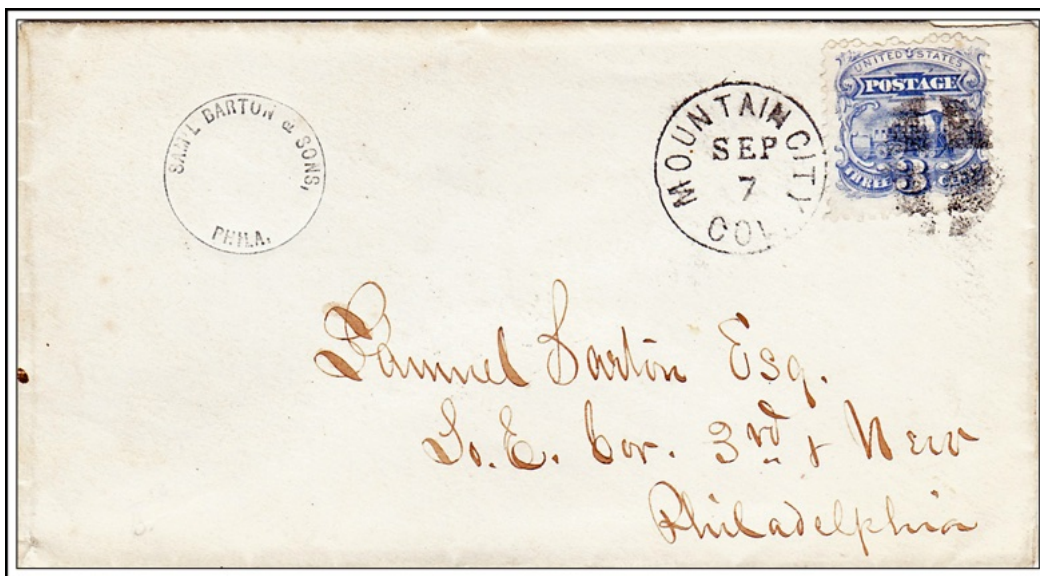
Gold Dirt Col Ty

November 24, 1861



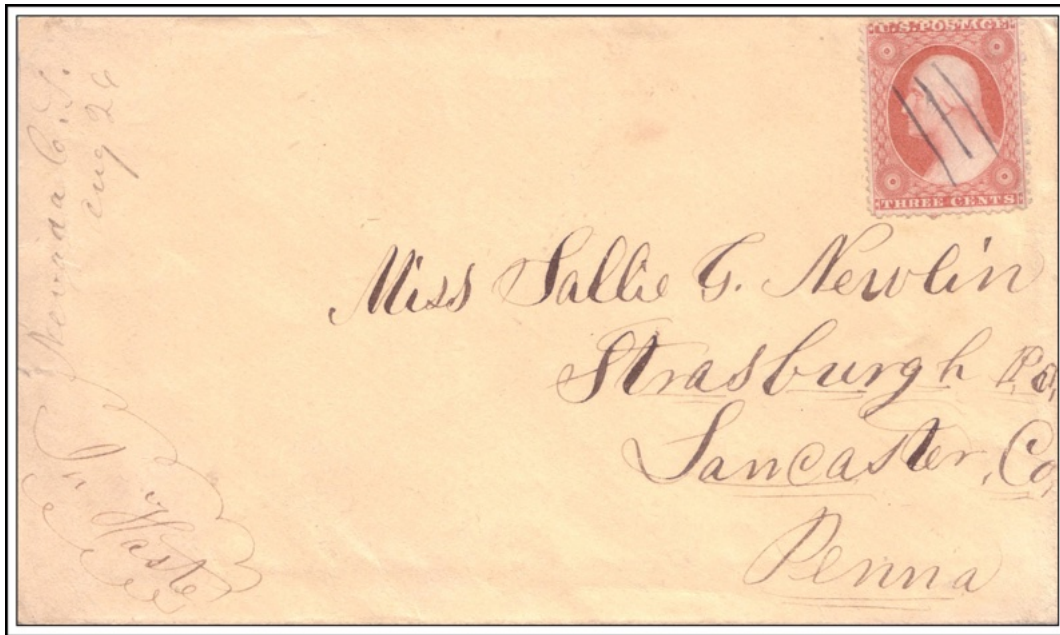
Missouri City K T

January 26, 1861



MOUNTAIN CITY / COL.

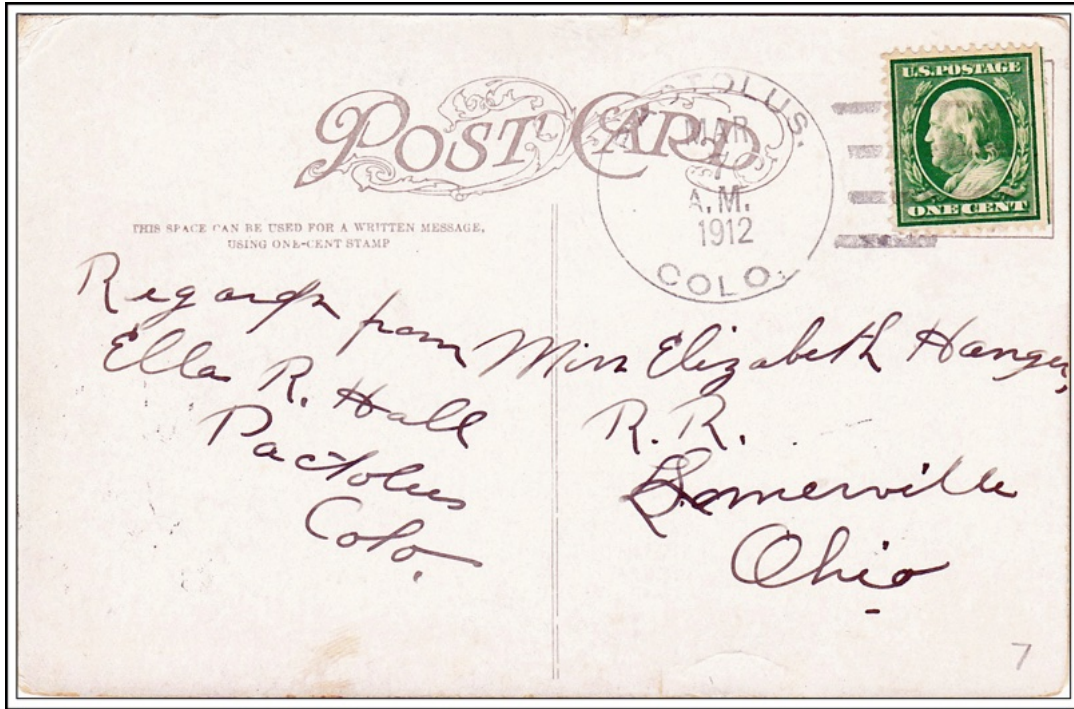
September 7, (1869)



Nevada C.T. August 26 (186-)

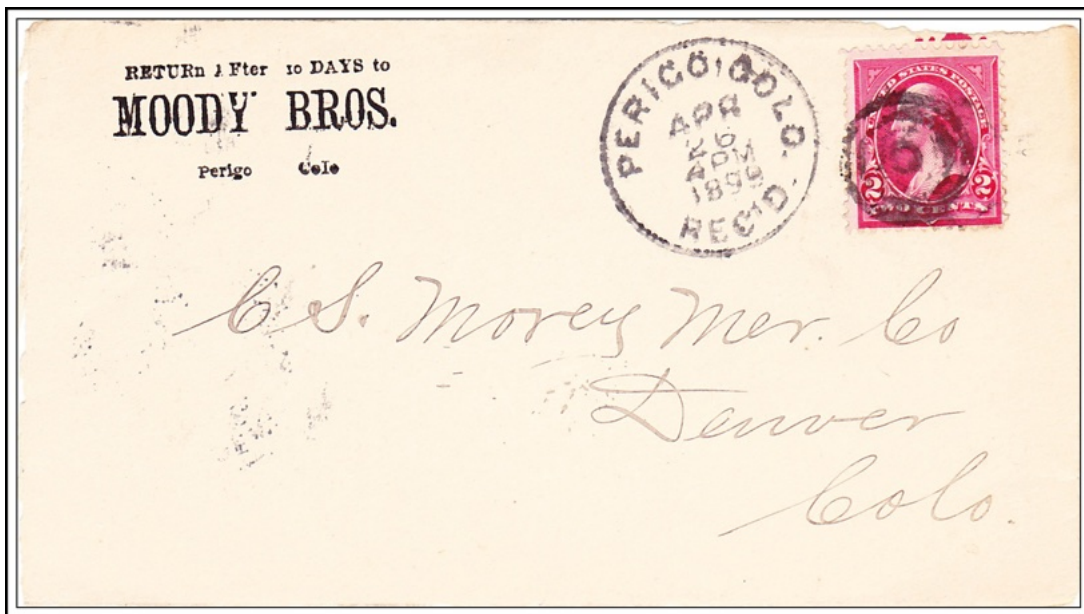


NEVADA / COL TER January 6, (186-)



PACTOLUS, / COLO.

March 7, 1912



PERIGO, COLO. / REC'D.

April 26, 1899

Front only