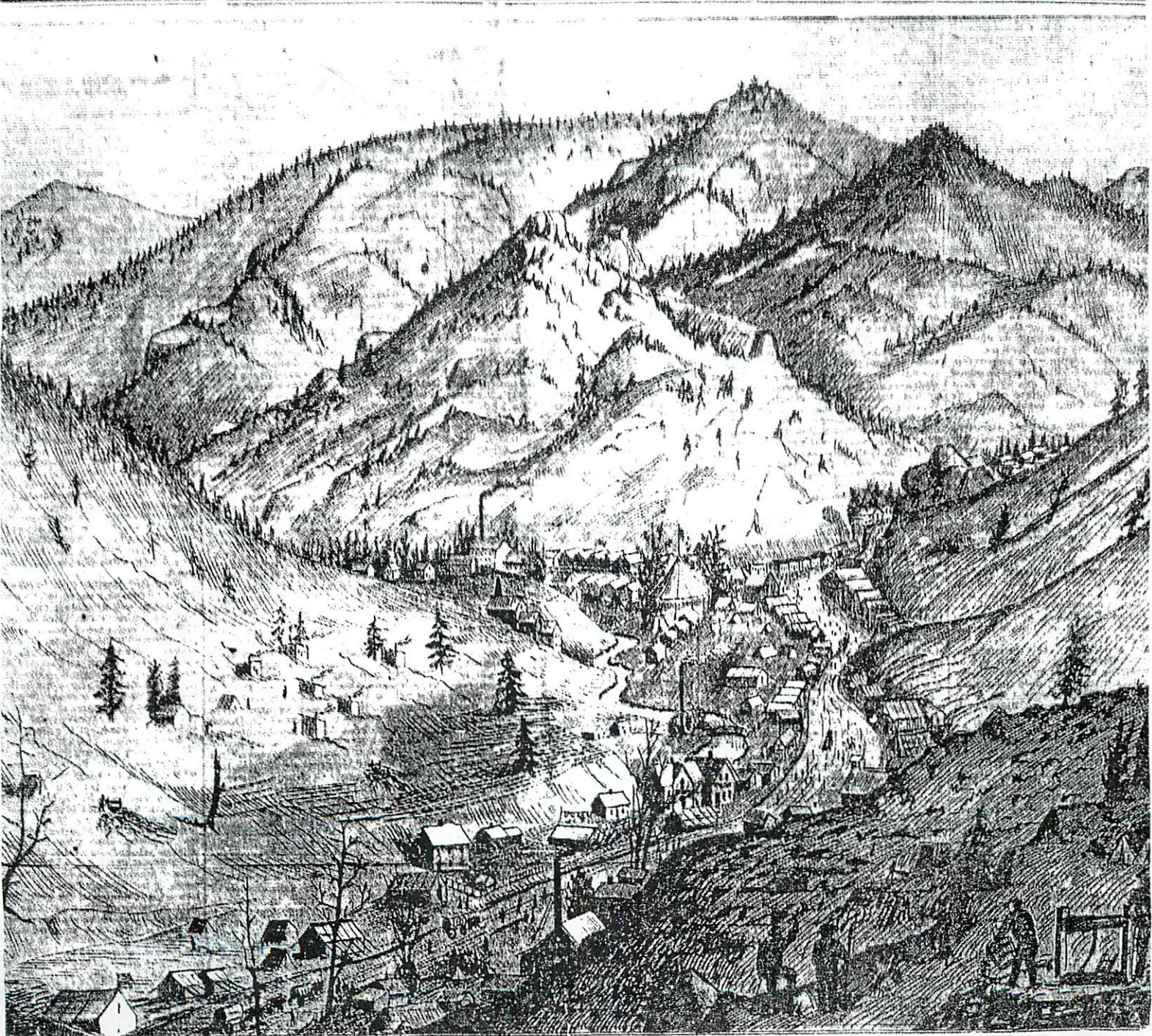


# MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

## A History of Jimtown, Colorado

THE DAILY NEWS: DENVER, SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1883.



JAMESTOWN, BOULDER COUNTY, THE NEW MINING CENTER.



# **MOUNTAIN MEMORIES**

## **A History of Jimtown, Colorado**

**Compiled and Written by**

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This book represents at least partial fulfillment of the dreams of three history buffs. It would never have been completed without help and encouragement from townspeople and the Colorado Centennial-Bi-Centennial Commission. Particular thanks go to Roger Gurnsey for the many hours of research conducted at the Denver Public Library and State Historical Society and expertise on mining technicalities; Lorraine Johnson for her newspaper files and notes; Jim Heaton for his photographic enlargement and processing; Dixon King for photography, proofing and sorting of cemetery records; Elaine Godsoe for her census and typing; Terry and Jo Phillips for technical assistance; and above all, the Town Board for the enthusiasm and ultimate financial backing that made a dream a reality.



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December 4, 1865  
January 3 & 4, 1867  
February 4, 1871  
August 23, 1874  
July 3, 1878  
February 4, 1881

### *Boulder Daily Camera*

April 30, 1907  
May 13, 1907  
November 28, 1949  
November 29, 1949  
February 18, 1968  
July 29, 1973  
April 7, 1976

### *Daily News (Denver)*

March 25, 1883

### *Boulder County News*

February 24, 1874

### *Longmont Ledger*

June 16, 1966

### *San Francisco Examiner*

1885

### *Denver Times*

January 16, 1902  
March 27, 1903

# MOUNTAIN MEMORIES

Memories tumble out in no particular sequence and mount to great quantities of information. These reminiscent, historical, and biographical sketches recite the activities of the builders of Jamestown—industrious people who took what they had and built for the future. They changed the land from the wild pastoral campsite of wandering Indians to a landscape torn and ripped to expose the fabulous wealth below. Finally, the mining district was nearly abandoned, left to return to its natural state and rebuild until Jamestown, 1976, evolved.

Early records show that the first residents of Jamestown were the Southern Arapahoe Indians who had permanent camps in the area. They camped on the beautiful slope southeast of the present townsite where we now see the remains of the Blue Jay mine, and on the hill northeast of town. Local legend contends that Chief Niwot himself resided in the latter location and his followers were lodged across the valley. Seymour and Grant Bowier, while mining up Hill Gulch, dug up an Indian grave. There were two bodies buried in seated positions, facing Porphyry Mountain, wrapped in buffalo robes. They held jewelry and pottery. (Now at the Colorado State Historical Society). Porphyry Mountain, a sacred site to the Arapahoe, lent its peace to the area where the Indians camped several summers after the town itself was established. Local children hunt arrowheads and other artifacts on the sites.

In 1860, George Zweck drove his cattle from his ranch near Longmont to this alpine valley where he found "Generous pasture, water, a niche for a rough shelter, and abundant prospect." The summer yielded promising ore deposits that were to wait years before bringing significance to Elysian Park.

In the fall of 1864, Johnny Knoop and Joe Hutchinson, while on a hunting trip into the area, decided to prospect in the James Creek gulch. They found indications of minerals and located float in the creek which carried lead and silver—an area that they quickly marked.

They returned to Black Hawk, secured a wagon, supplies, and reinforcements, and returned by way of Left Hand Creek, where they left the wagon. With pack mules, they began to make their way up the stream for their camp. The three day trek required the work of five men to cut through only eight miles of brush and timber.

The men sunk a creek bank shaft ten feet, the required depth to survey and record and named it the Buckhorn; then, carrying a chunk of ore weighing nearly twenty pounds, returned across country to Black Hawk. The ore assayed at \$233.50 per ton in silver and lead and started excitement. The first boom began then with about five hundred persons rushing to Jim Creek despite the January weather.

The fervor died quickly, for many of those first prospectors came with few supplies and the wagon road came no nearer to the camp than twelve miles. Mr. Knoop and a few others remained, having faith that the claims would some day be valuable, but the camp was literally starved out that winter.

In the spring (1864), Joseph Hutchinson and James Smith, discovered some rich galena veins at the Jim Creek location. When news of the discovery was circulated, people again moved into the area in large numbers, only to leave as the first snow fell.

The following season (1865), Hutchinson and Smith returned with friends G.W. Buchanan, H.N. Coffey, and John Virden. These five men were to have lasting impact on the camp, the most immediate being John Virden. He built a steam powered sawmill that summer and was kept busy converting the hillside ponderosas to lumber for the cabins and stores being constructed along the two streets of the camp.

The year also saw the first stamp mill erected on Little Jim Creek by Patten and Beebee of Gold Hill.

In May, 1866, three feet of snow fell along Jim Creek, successfully isolating some six hundred miners and prospectors for six days. Many were without adequate provisions and had only parched corn to eat, but they stayed to make Jimtown a permanent camp.

That summer, 1866, the townspeople petitioned the United States Government for the establishment of a post office to be called Camp Jimtown. The government, exercising its prerogative, granted the office, naming it Jamestown, but in the hearts and minds of residents the camp will forever remain Jimtown.

On September 7th, 1866, the constitution of the Central Mining District was approved and signed by sixteen men. This act brought a semblance of law and order into the area and established means of legal claim.

Jamestown's first postmaster, Amos Widner, was appointed on January 8, 1867. On January 31st of that year, Mr. Widner wrote to the *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver requesting that they send him two or three issues of the paper in exchange for the following information from Jimtown:

"First thing that astonished visitors entering town is the absence of town lots—all town and adjacent country being taken up for mill sites three hundred feet long by five hundred feet wide, five acre homesteads, and ranches of one hundred sixty acres. No mining at present due to snow, bad weather, scarcity of green backs. Miners meetings were the order of the day 29th, 30th and 31st—all owing to the manner in which the 'pioneers' abused their privilege of pre-emption. No mails and but very few females, a dozen families in the gulch, arriving at a rate of two a week. Our supply of reading matter has dwindled down to one number of Colorado Transcript and copy of Governor's message. We have broken the stem of our Meerschaum and are out of smoking tobacco. We are contained in our 'palatial residence' by the inclemency of the weather. We have not even a double barrel shot gun with which to shoot jay birds, who come provokingly near our front door—our only one. Our chimney smokes horribly. Our gal has gone to Montana and we are happy!"

(This gentleman became the first Superintendent of Schools in Boulder and a Trustee of proposed Colorado University in 1970.)

Another picture of Jamestown in 1870 can be seen through the eyes of the writer of this excerpt from the *Far Western Series*—an extract from a letter:

"—from two hundred to three hundred prospectors have wintered in the district and a great many lodes have been discovered—Jamestown already boasts from one hundred to two hundred houses. Three sawmills and a smelting furnace were in process of erection between January and February."

"There is great excitement about town lots just now. All the front lots near the gulch are pre-empted for about three miles along the stream; also all millsites. And now as there are some coming in and threatening to jump the lots not built on, it creates some excitement."

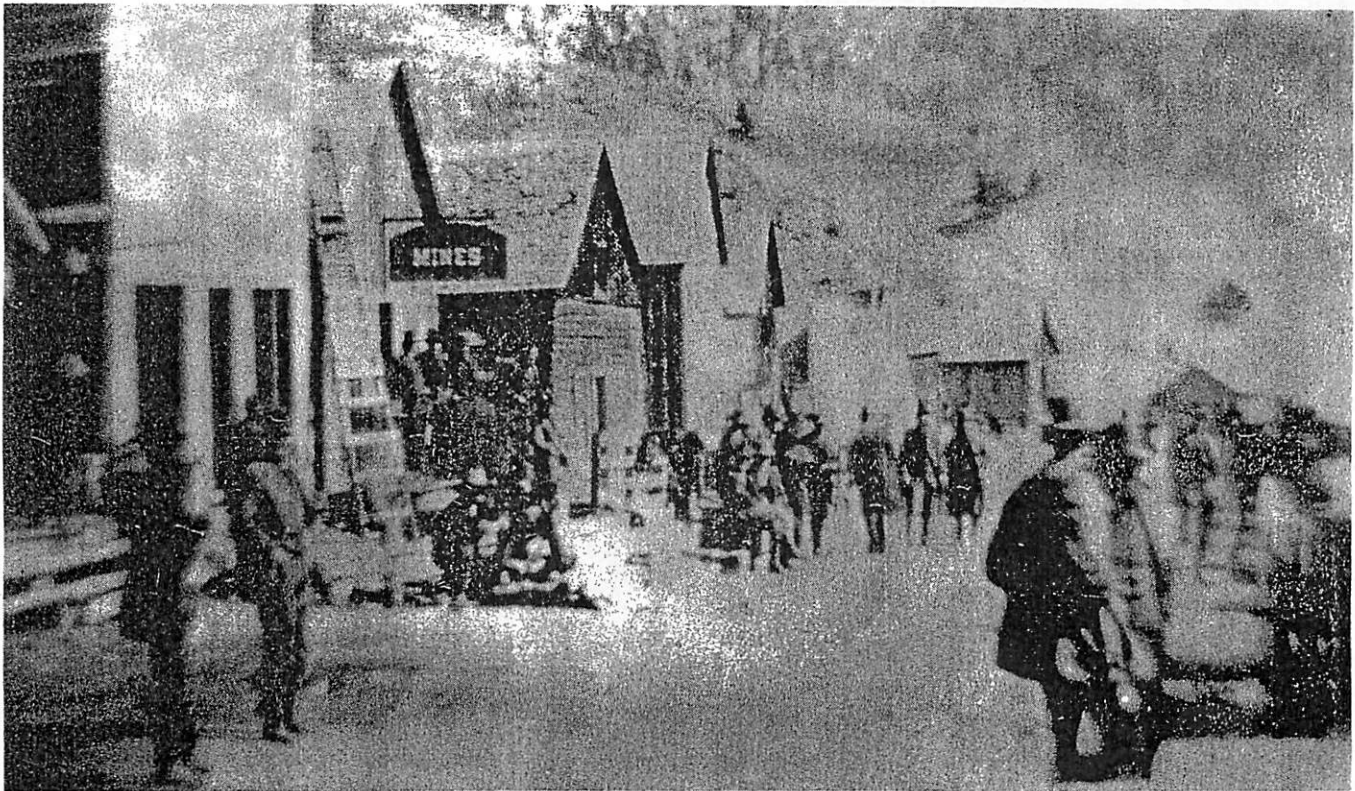
"Miner's meetings are in vogue and we are having a good many. I attended one not long ago, which was conducted after this fashion: When the crowd had gathered, the business was introduced by singing 'Sweet Betsy From Pike,' the chairman then took his seat and the object of the meeting was stated to be 'the opening of the lots held by speculators to actual settlers' and etc. Discussion followed. The floor was soon claimed by three or four to half a dozen, speaking at once, and I could only gather a few words such as 'Open em,' 'Pioneer,' 'Broke the ice,' 'No rights,' etc. —. During the confusion the chairman was seen to wave his hand and speak, but was not heard. At last a man with a stentorian voice reached the ears of the chairman and crowd, and moved that we all *keep still*. Motion obtained. A motion was then made to appoint a committee to inquire into and find out if a lot had actually been sold for a keg of beer. Before the motion could be put, it was stated by one of the best men we have, that no



doubt a lot had been sold for a keg of beer, but the beer was drunk and, drunk or sober, the title was just as good as if the consideration had been money. After a great many other motions and resolutions, which were all as clear as mud, a town committee was appointed to survey lots and see to their impartial distribution, but a man went to work on a lot, another man warned him off; they had a fight, and the one that drew the 'first blood' held the lot—Now the talk is to call another miner's meeting and make it a law that 'first blood' shall hold against all other titles.——Want your candid opinion—is First Blood a good title?"

In spite of such evidence to the contrary, the town was not without the finer things. John Virden presided over the Jamestown Lyceum which met every Saturday evening in 1869. His daughter, Martha (Mattie), kept a successful free school that winter.

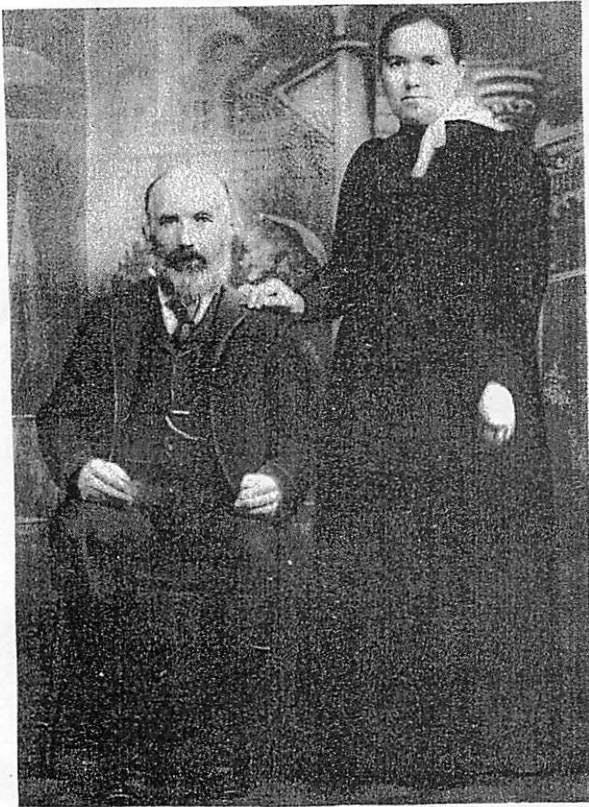
Even as prospecting excitement was waning, J.A. Williard, a Boston capitalist, metallurgist, and experimenter, with a process to test gold ore, arrived in Jimtown. He built a small mill near the junction of James and Little Jim Creek and spent \$75,000 in experimentation. The mill was soon abandoned. Thus ended an era and Jamestown's first "boom."



Looking East on Main Street, 1870's.

Heaton Collection

Charles and Mary Louise Boughton Faivre came to Jamestown from France via Fort Wayne, Indiana. The couple established a store in the community which they ran until 1899 when it was deeded to their daughter, Anna and her husband, Fred Burger. The family raised beef stock, vegetables, and fruit on Twin Lakes Ranch near Altona at the foot of Left Hand Canyon and freighted the merchandise to Jamestown. The Faivre's are buried in the Community Cemetery.



Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Faivre, Jamestown, 1890.  
H. Faivre Collection

These hills, once heavily wooded, were converted to lumber for Main Street, Jamestown, seen here. The photo was taken from the corner of 12th & Main, looking West.  
State Historical Society of Colorado Neg. F-13. 978







Eilenberger Collection

Main Street, Jamestown, looking West from the hillside above the present (1976) fire barn. The church in photo was built in 1870 by the M.J.H. Boyd family, area smelters, who held the Big Thing survey of the Bighorn.

Most historians place the end of the first mining boom in the Jim Creek valley "about 1870." Even at that, the census listed a population of "60 men and 6 families" for Jamestown that year. *The Rocky Mountain News*, June, 1871, called the site "Elysian Park—a splendid valley, 1½ miles long, ½ mile wide—grain and vegetables successfully cultivated—families of refinement and culture. Visitors to springs have advantage of pleasant society."

The beginning of the second mining boom was marked by the discovery of the Mount Pleasant Lode (600 feet north of the Buckhorn) by Walrod, Glaze, and others, in 1871.

In 1872, The Argo (Kismet) was discovered adjacent to the Mount Pleasant. It, too, was supposed to be a vein and assayed as such. The close proximity and the lay of the ore led local citizens to believe that both of these mines were working into a horizontal deposit or blanket vein. With this supposition, the location of claims became an important item.

While work was proceeding on the Argo, the news of the discovery spread over the country. Thousands of people came to visit the mine and the entire state watched its development. During this time, tellurium was identified in the ore of the area.

The Left Hand and Jamestown Wagon Road Company was incorporated on the 21st of March, 1872, for a period of twenty years. The capital stock of \$15,000 was gained by subscription of shares that sold for \$100.00 each. Road completed, the rates were as follows: Wagon, one animal, 15¢; wagon, two animals, 20¢; wagon, four animals, 35¢, with each additional animal going at 15¢. A saddle horse traveled for 10¢ and one head, loose animal for 5¢. Men were not mentioned.

*Boulder County News*, February 1, 1873, reported: "The boom came to effect aspects of the town outside of the mines. A Mr. Thorne reported a proposal to build a new hotel in the town as soon as possible. Jack (John) Virden and Company, proprietors of a sawmill in Jimtown, opened a store that 'proposes of supplying the district with necessities of life at lowest cash rates.'"



Lest we forget the rugged nature of the surrounding countryside, we might note the *Trail Magazine*, 1874, details a hunting trip in which Louis House, Joe Hutchinson, and Fred Batchelder hunted buffalo in the sandhills east of Left Hand Canyon. Wildlife provided a substantial percent of the area's staple diet.

By 1874, even the second mining boom had begun to recede, but other forms of activity and publicity kept a steady stream of new faces moving along Jim Creek. One that stayed belonged to George Walker.

Walker made three trips from Iowa freighting goods by oxen and wagon before he came to Ward in 1872. His wife, Elizabeth Montgomery, found the climate beneficial to her health and provided the impetus for their settlement in the mountains. In spite of the change, she died and Walker moved on to Jamestown, making a living hauling cord wood for the boilers in the mills. He eventually owned and operated a meat market in the camp that was continued by his son, William S., who mined, prospected, freighted and also worked as blacksmith. Also remaining in the town in like capacities were sons, Frank (Pett) and Norman; daughters, Etta and Minnie.

Only William and his wife, Lucy Wegen, were to remain in the community the rest of their lives, raising their sons, Arch and Everett, and seeing the beginnings of what were to become fourth and fifth generation Walkers in Jamestown.



Walker home, Jamestown  
Arch and Everett Walker on burros.

Walker Collection



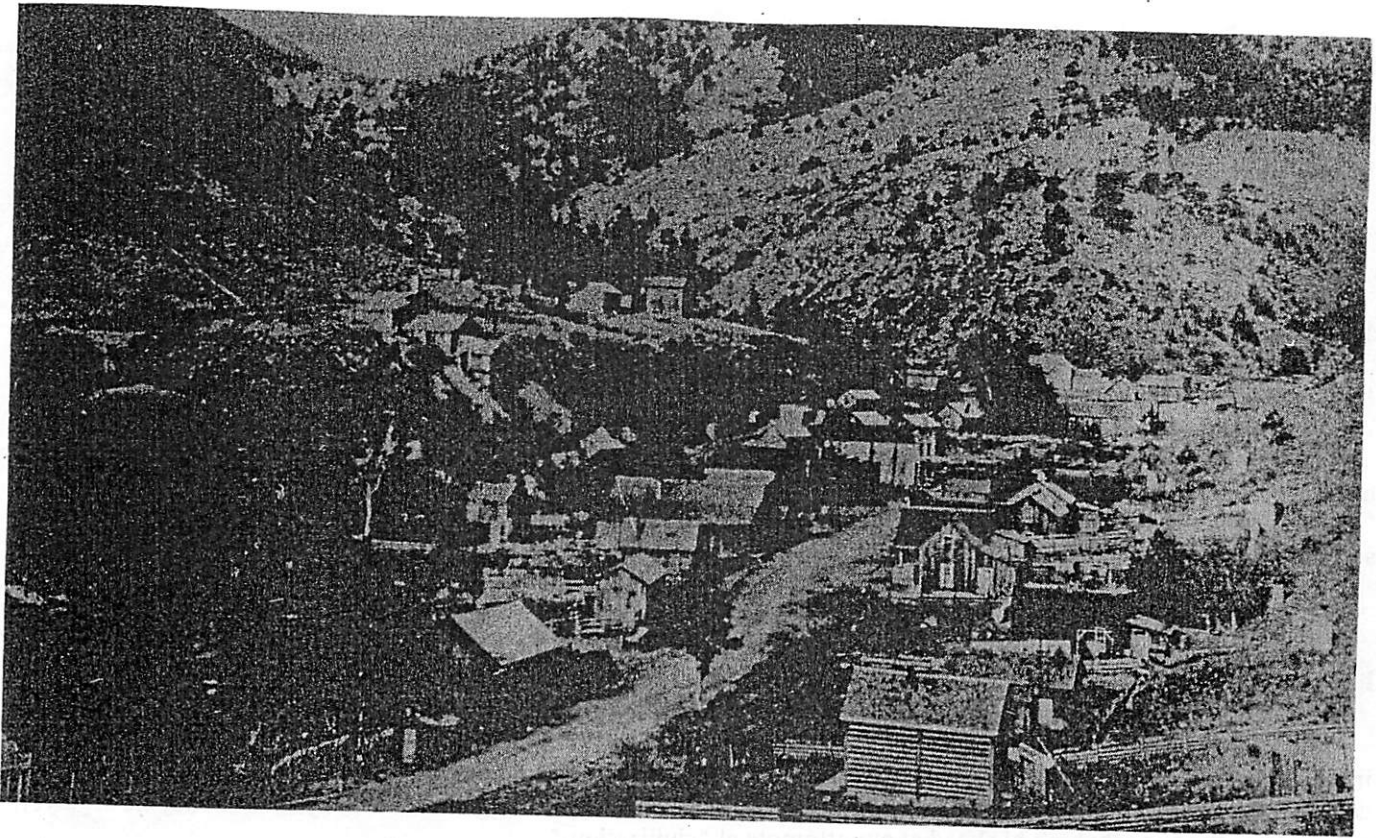
Current, 1976, photo of same structure.

Dixon King

The year 1874 may be used to mark the end of the second mining boom in Jamestown, but it can only be accurately described as a brief recession. Looking from our time perspective it is even possible to see 1874 as host to events leading to yet another period of prosperity.

William McKnight and Company staked a series of claims along Central Gulch of which the *Boulder County News* reported, "We saw a prospect of 33¢ to a half of a pan full of dirt."





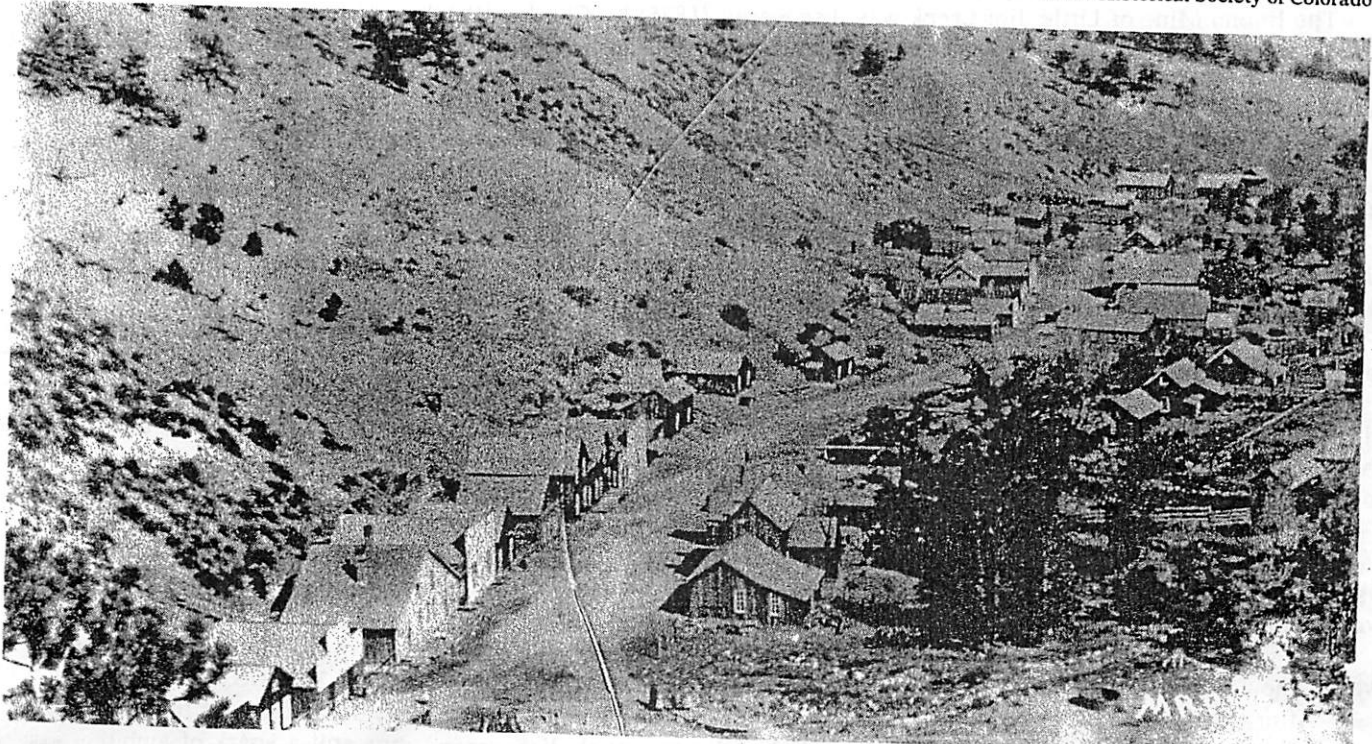
Town - 1870's - looking West - log house in right foreground Walker house.

P.E. Walker Collection

Jamestown looking East from Ward St. - frame house on South side of street still in use (1976.)

1880s

State Historical Society of Colorado



Another issue, same periodical, asserted, "This Central Gulch strike is to the northwest, towards the St. Vrain, from where water may probably be obtained if required. The opening of the Gulch, and the assured return of Mr. Williard (of the experimental mill, circa 1869) this spring to start up the costly reduction works ... Our informant became so enthusiastic as to declare that he believed there would be a thousand people in and about the camp before the close of the season ... As naturally as mountain waters converge, will the ores flow for reduction to this town."

The season of 1875 validated the expectation of a new boom—the third for Jamestown. During that summer, two of what were to prove the most prominent mines in the district, were discovered—the Golden Age and the Bueno (Wano).

The Golden Age, situated on Golden Age Mountain northeast of the townsite, at an elevation of 8,000 feet, was discovered by Frank Smith and Indian Jack Wallace.

Indian Jack, a half-breed, was a tall man of slender build, with characteristic dark features, and was a favorite in Jimtown—especially with the children. One of those children, Martha (Mattie) Wright Rhoades, daughter of Charles Wright, tells how her father "just missed" being a part of the find of the Golden Age.

"Indian Jack thought a great deal of my father, so that morning he came to the house and asked father to go with him on a prospecting trip."

"Father was busy cutting logs, so he told Indian Jack that he couldn't get away. 'I'll lend you my gold pan,' he said to him."

"But Indian Jack wasn't satisfied. 'I want you to go with me, Charley!'"

"Still Father couldn't see his way clear to go. He went on about his work."

"That evening early, Indian Jack was back at the house. He told Father he'd discovered a good lead, showed him some of the ore."

"A short time later, Indian Jack sold his claim—the Golden Age!"

Jack who stayed in the vicinity for years, had come from New York in 1870. He worked at odd jobs, even teaching school when the occasion called for it, for he was an educated man. Legend tells us that whenever he came into camp broke, he would go up into the hills and return with a sack of gold nuggets. Some say that he may be seen yet, squatting in the sun, shaking his head at our attempts at "civilization."

The Golden Age strike was of free gold but Smith and Wallace were to hold on to it less than a year. H.P. Walker paid \$1500 for the interest that he held for four years. During that time, the shaft was lowered from two hundred thirty to three hundred feet and by 1877, a fifteen stamp mill was constructed. The next year, Walker increased the mill to twenty-five stamps. He showed a yield of \$40,000 *that year alone* on his \$1500 investment. This yield produced the richest gold specimens as well as the largest amount of income from any mine in Boulder County.

The Bueno Mine of Little Jim Creek was discovered (1875) by Charles Wright and immediately assayed high. He sold it for \$600 to a Philadelphia Company that finally stocked it for over \$6,500,000. Newspapers were full of glowing and highly colored reports. Perhaps the best of these was Valeria (Lee) Wright Daniels' own account as told to Forest Crossen.

"Father (Charles Wright) went up above Jimtown prospecting. He always said that he was drawn to the edge of a basin. He struck ore all right but it was odd looking stuff, rusty in color. Father's cousin was with him but neither of them had ever seen ore like this."

"They brought it down home. Our uncle, Walter Wright, was operating the stage to Boulder, and Father wanted him to take the ore down to an assayer. But Uncle Walt didn't want to bother with it; he was a great driver—although he only had one hand—and he had no time for mining."

"When Uncle Walt returned from Boulder with the stage the next evening, he asked Father what he would take for his mine. He meant it as a joke."

"'I've already sold it.' Father told him. 'I got \$600 for it today.' That mine sold in a short time—oh, less than ninety days—for \$80,000. The men who bought it picked up enough ore off the dump that Father and his cousin had thrown out to pay for the mine. That rusty ore that Father didn't know proved to be some of the richest ore ever found up here—that discovery was the Wano."

All of the activity in Jimtown in 1875 did not occur in the mines. The first school building was constructed of hand-hewn logs, north of the falls on Jim Creek. (This is one of the earliest buildings and is still standing.) The room was lighted by kerosene lamps since the boys worked in the mines during the day and school was kept at night. It was not unusual to see these same "boys" wearing their guns to school!

The year (1875) was not only a year of discovery and building, but one that foretold the misfortune that Jimtown was to know from the waters that were visited upon it. The *Boulder Daily Camera*, August 29, 1875, told one story.

"After the destructive water spout which destroyed the road down James Creek, the citizens of the town were cut off from the outside world by wagon road. They felt very much discouraged, but still a spark of ambition re-



mained and they set to work, like the boy digging for the gopher, and said 'We must have a road,' although it looked like a big undertaking for so few hands."

"Thanks to a few of the good citizens of Boulder who gave us a helping hand, we now have our road passable, but not complete. Will not our County Commissioners look to this and help us? I am sure they have never helped us but a little, and if they help this road, it will help many more citizens of this area than we are aware of."

Statehood in 1876 did not alleviate the small town's water related tragedy. The *Rocky Mountain News*, July 3, 1878, told of a "Sad Accident at Jamestown." The story read, "Last Friday afternoon, while Mrs. James Turner and her little daughter, Lula May, were out picking gooseberries, Mrs. Turner allowed the child to go to get a drink. The force of the current drug the child in and she was drowned. Search for the body was made through the night but it was not found until the next morning at about nine o'clock. The girl was five years old and an only child," ... the water's first victim?

In the late 1870's, change was apparent in the community of 100 persons. The Golden Age was sold again—this time to Eugene Pike, Parmely, and Shedd of Chicago for \$194,000. the concern now employed twelve men and in April, 1879, they were getting \$17.75 per ounce for their rich gold. Mr. Pike resided in Jimtown and as administrator of the Boulder National Bank, exhibited specimens of the Golden Age nuggets in the bank lobby in Boulder.

Some of the gold extracted from the Golden age was so pure during this period that it was sent directly to the Denver Mint.

The selling of the Golden Age and the dawning of the '80's in Jimtown heralded the end of the third mining boom.

Wright Brothers, Eddie - Walter -Charles

Marr Collection



The United States Census of June, 1880, was the second taken in Jamestown. (The first was in 1870.) On six handwritten pages, Henry Ward, Enumerator, listed a total of 251 names with ages, sex, relationships, birthplace of parentage and occupation of each. As might be expected, most citizens were affiliated with mining although a number of children were assumed to be "at school." Local businessmen and listed occupations were:

John Virden	Assayer
W.G. Clark	Boarding House
J.B. Sybrands	Boarding House
John Hardy	Hotel
C.L. Pease	Assayer
J.B.H. Janeway	Butcher
J. Hutchison	Saloon
F.C. Bucherdee	Saloon
L. Coffman	Stockman
E. Allen	Teamster
Mathew Joy	Livery man
John A. Gilman	Blacksmith
A.E. Hempstead	Millright
Geo. Oglesby	Printer
L.B. Oglesby	Teamster
E. Higgenbottom	Engineer
D. Emmeler	Butcher
C.F. Davis	Farmer
H.L. Wellman	
Chas. Faver	

This period was particularly significant for the town in that it produced most of the lasting construction in the area. By this time, the community boasted two hotels, a church, a school, some thirty saloons, gambling parlors, dance halls, and parlor houses busy around the clock. A community hall was built and dances were held nightly. Access to the town was achieved over the toll road up Left Hand Canyon.

Elk and deer were plentiful in the area and due to the new repeating rifle, were easily obtained. There were no hunting restrictions at this time and no Indians?!

Yet another boom erupted in Jamestown in 1882 and the population of two hundred was said to swell as high as 10,000 persons. The town continued to grow meeting the needs of the populace with three stores (Faivre's, Virden's and Walker's), a small post office building, blacksmith shop, and six ore mills utilizing four different methods of extracting gold. Lippo and Blumbeon's stage line made three trips a week to the thriving camp.

Reports on lifestyle in the town vary greatly. Thomas Noland, writing of the Central Mining District in 1882 said, "The town is noted for its absence from drunken brawls, gambling and other ordinary evils of mining camps, the citizens having come to stay, and their time being fully occupied in the development of their mining properties."

The other side of the coin was represented by a full page article on Jamestown in the *San Francisco Examiner*. That reporter stated that Jimtown "was a hard working and hard playing set of miners that took over the mountain hamlet and made it a rip-roaring mining town. There wasn't time to build houses so the miners lived in tents. When the boom was at its peak, there was an area two to three miles square that was packed with tents. Half of the tents were places of entertainment; there were dance halls, variety theaters, drinking parlors, gambling parlors and all the other hot-spots that go with a wild mining camp. The miners dug into the earth all day looking for gold, when darkness came, they turned the night into day and played until it was time to go back into the mines and dig for more gold."

"Gun play was the rule. A six shooter was a man's authority and his law. The click of the ball and the roll of wheel were a familiar tune. Dice rolled, cards were shuffled, and dealt. High stakes always prevailed. Intermingled with all the activities were the dance hall girls who bloomed and faded with the boom."

Whatever the night-time activity, day's light brought an ever increasing number of strikes. The *Boulder Daily Camera* reported what came to be a typical strike; "Mr. P.C. Chatard arrived in Jimtown and the day following his arrival started out prospecting. In digging a hole within ten minutes walk of Jimtown, he struck a vein of free gold at

a depth of five feet from the surface. It is a splendid showing, the discoverer is to be congratulated in being so fortunate."

Success breeds confidence and, accordingly, the *Rocky Mountain News* (Denver), April 25, 1882, reported that "Jamestown is agitating question of incorporating their town. Temperance element is in favor; liquor dealers opposed. Likely to be quite a lively time over the question."

On March 10, 1883, the incorporation papers for Jamestown were filed in the County offices ... temperance will out?!

The first weekly edition of the *Jamestown Whim* newspaper was issued Saturday, April 21, 1883, by Mary E. Lee, Editor and Publisher. (This first issue is preserved in the library of the *Boulder Daily Camera*.)

Ms. Lee listed subscription rates at \$2 per year, 5¢ per copy. Advertisements were taken at 10¢ per line and local notices could be made for 10¢. Ms. Lee's notice in this first issue stated: "We are not a woman with a 'mission,' nor do we publish this paper in the interest of the 'enslaved sex.' It is simply a business venture, and as such we beg our friends to regard it."

Jamestown news items were minimal this first week but those of interest mentioned that the camp boasted at this time ten general mercantile stores, two drug stores, two jewelers, one hardware store, one commission house, two sawmills, one church, two stamp mills and four dance halls. Ms. Lee goes on to state that there are "plenty of boarding houses. Twenty-five cents per meal is the regulation tariff, and living may be considered cheap. Beds are only twenty-five cents per night."

Lee further states that, "Unlike in Leadville, the Chinaman flourishes like the green bay tree." We have no record of a "Chinaman" having ever lived in the city.

"The Longmont, Middle Park & Pacific Railroad will build to Jamestown," states another news item. The following may be considered further random selections from the *Whim*:

"We are indebted to the gentlemanly and obliging G.C. Howard for much assistance in getting out this number of the *Whim*."

"Mr. S.B. Lum, Jr., will call on the citizens of Jamestown to solicit advertisements for this paper. Any favors extended him will be appreciated."

"We hope to see a whim (windlass/ore bucket arrangement) in every mine in this camp lifting the precious metals to the glorious sunlight and a *Whim* in every house, cabin and tent, being read from early morn till candle light."

Under the headline "Dave Day's Opinion of Our Town," we read: "Jintown is pronounced a humbug by several of our exchanges. The precious veins are fluor-spar and pyrites with just enough galena to lead a tender foot into the second story of geological deception. The formation is gneiss and other creeds of granite, and there is no silurian lime within miles of the camp. The wholesale whiskey merchants and railroads are reaping the fruits of a boom that will never fall four bits to the bullion output of Colorado." *Solid Muldoon*.

The editor retaliates with: "Correct. We shall advocate your appointment as State Geologist. This sounds like old time talk in the early days of Leadville. Strangers knew more about its formation than residents of the camp. The next things in order will be for you to lie about Garfield. Come over and see us and then you can give an intelligible and premeditated misrepresentation of the camp."

"All-fools day came on Sunday this year and when our preacher thought to fool the congregation by going fishing, he was more or less surprised to find the entire congregation sitting along the bank waiting for a bite—Crain, Van Doren, Elder Ripley and Jo Bell!"

And, finally, the paper's only advertisement, that of the Denver, Utah and Pacific Railroad with "Denver and Jamestown Short Line" guaranteeing that "Secor and Gilbert's stages make sure connection at Longmont with passenger trains."

The same year 1883, saw publication of a second weekly periodical, the *Jamestown Miner*, intended to represent the laborers of the camp.

Martha (Mattie) Wright Rhoades and her sister Valeria Wright Daniels recall school days in early Jamestown.

"We used to have some exciting times at school—fifty or sixty students, but only one teacher. If we didn't like the teacher, well ..."

"There was one woman teacher who would put the wraps on the recitation bench after noon and go sound asleep. So the older boys would motion to us younger children and they'd take us up on the hill in the sunshine and there'd be no more school that day."

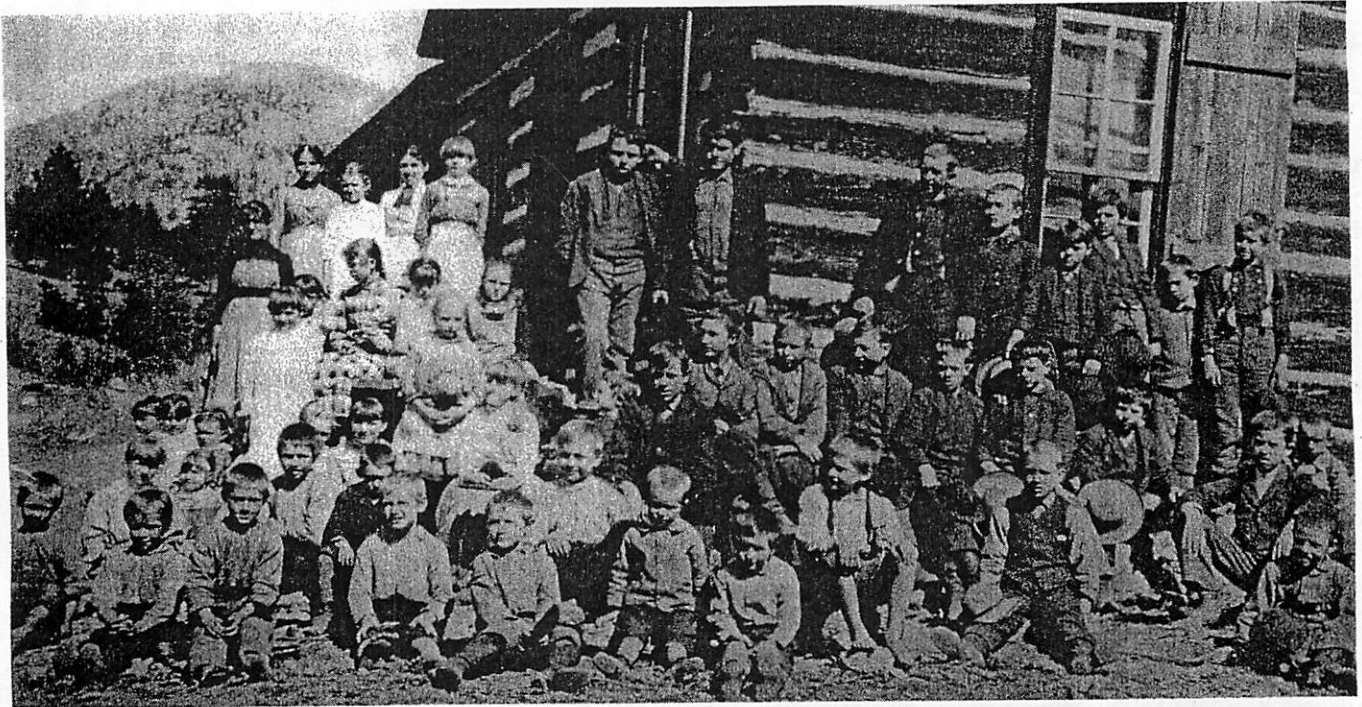
"Then these boys would climb up on the roof and stuff gunny sacks in the chimney and smoke out the teacher. She'd wake up and find the school empty of pupils and full of smoke."



"Our first teacher was Mrs. Alice Dawson. Then we had Miss Winifred Adams, a Mr. Maxwell, Elbert A. Greenman (1893) and Anna Blanchard. They taught a six month term."

"Dances in the roller skating rink which stood east of where the Jamestown Mercantile is now (washed away 1894). We also had dances at the Evans House (hotel).

"We had other entertainment which was widely attended, literary society meetings were popular. We had them each week, on Friday night. We'd get together and sing, hear speeches, dialogues and debates."



Jamestown School, 1881

Walker Collection

Martha Rhoades and Mrs. Daniels continue:

"Now there was during the 1880's and 90's a stage coach driver operating between Boulder and Jamestown whose dextrous handling of four or six horses never failed to command the attention and admiration of newcomer and old-timer alike. For the driver had only one hand.

"People up here still talk about Walter Wright, or Walt, as they all knew him," said Mrs. Martha "Mattie" Rhoades. "He was our uncle. He and father had the stage and freight lines to Boulder. They would take turns driving the stage. They said he was a better driver than most of the others, even if they did have two hands."

Mrs. Valeria "Lee" Daniels smiled. "That's right. He was on the road most of the time. It took the stage about four hours to go to Boulder. He usually drove four horses when the weather was good, six in the winter when there was snow on the ground. He or father went every day, for they had the mail contract."

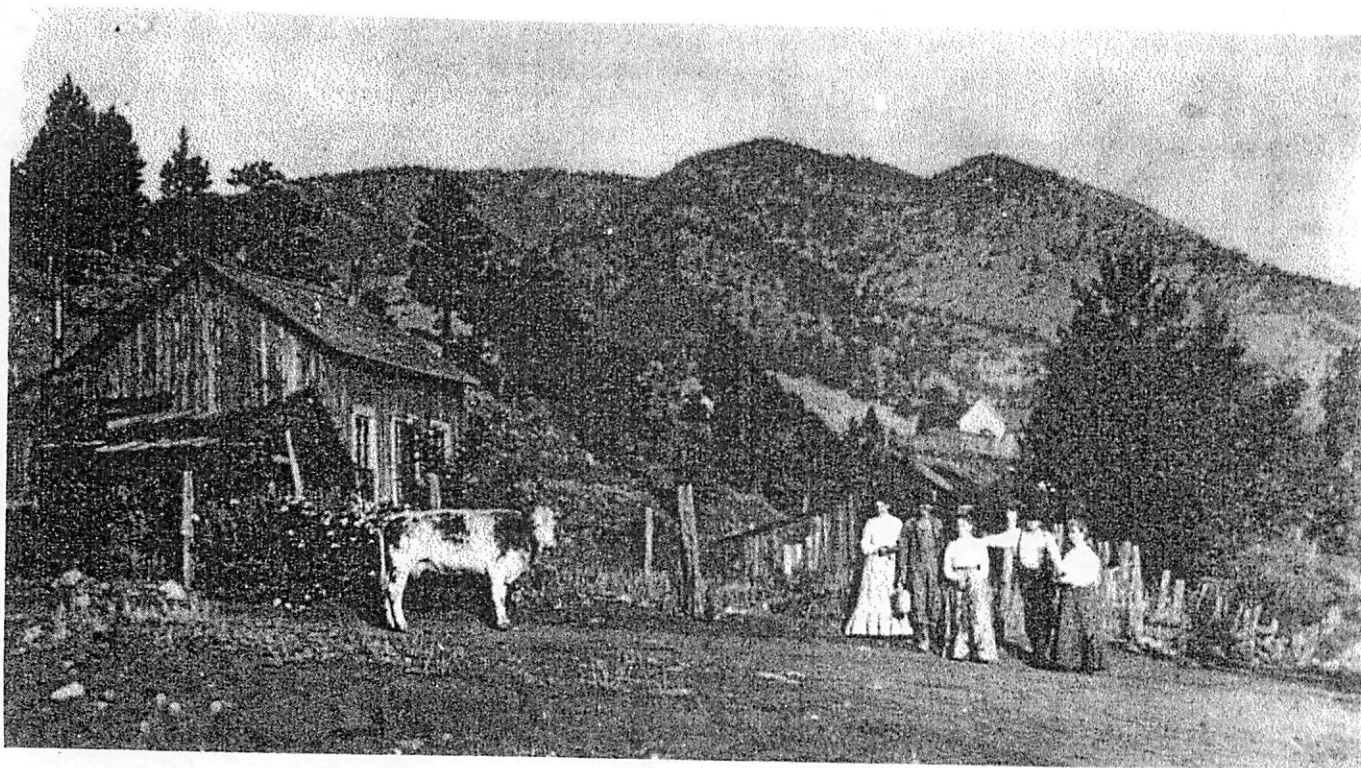
"It was something to see Uncle Walt drive. He'd grab up the lines, wrap them around the stump of his right arm—it was off just below the elbow—then came out with his whip. The way he could touch up those leaders!"

"The men used to say, 'Whenever Walt's teams aren't doing what he wants them to, he puts buttonholes in their hides!' And, 'Walt can clip a fly right off his leader's ears!'"

"...old Mr. Higgenbottom, who burned charcoal up Big Jim Creek a couple of miles. That was up at Providence, a little camp where Walt Beach had a saw mill."

"Mr. Higgenbottom used quaking aspen and ironwood for making charcoal. In those days there was a demand for charcoal; blacksmiths burned charcoal in their forges. The old man hauled charcoal to Boulder with oxen."

"I can remember seeing Acey Hempstead, the blacksmith, shoe old Mr. Higgenbottom's oxen," put in Mrs. Daniels. "He had a chute to sling the oxen in; some of them were unruly and had to be tied down like that before the blacksmith could shoe them."

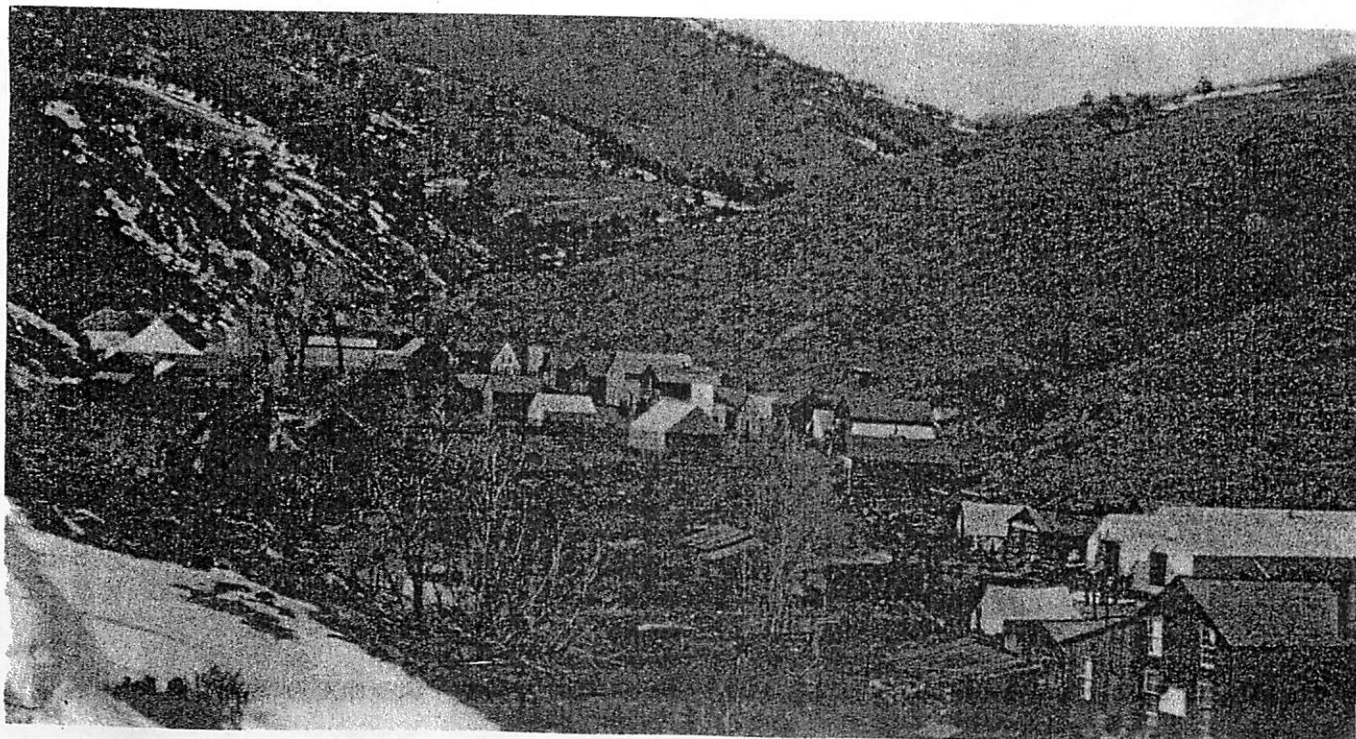


Do you recognize this house at the corner of 12th & Main? Circa 1880.

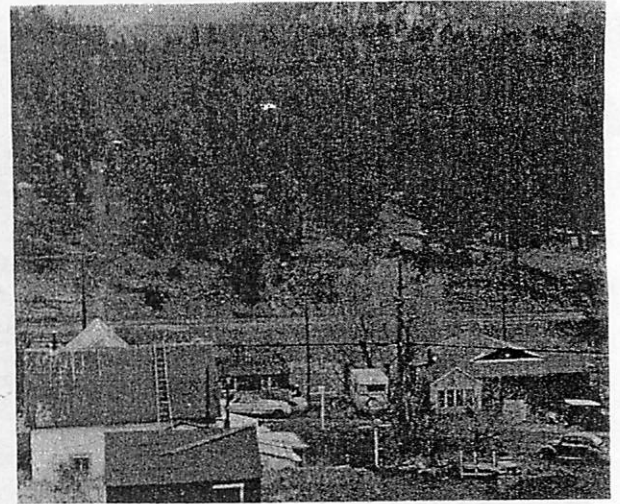
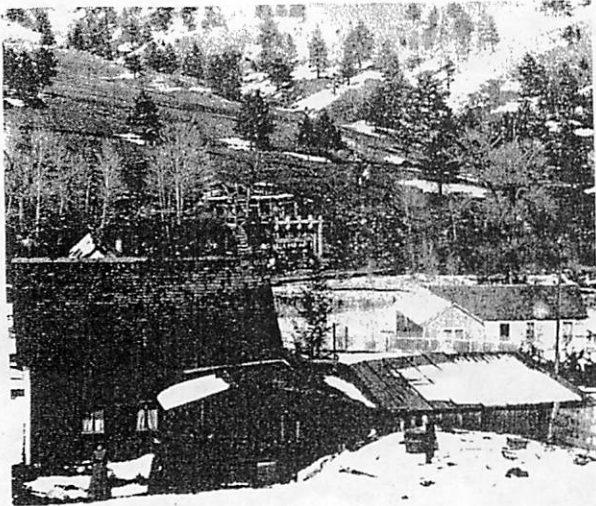
Arch Walker Collection

Jamestown, March 2, 1883. Note white roofed winter tents. With warmer weather there would come an influx of one and two man tent "homes" that sustained the major part of the town's sometimes population.

Denver Public Library, Western History Department







Colorado State Historical Society Photo F 24, 027

The Emily Mill about 1883. Water was diverted up the pipe above the shed in the lower left of the picture and ran east along a sluice just below the road on the hillside to the water wheel. (The road is still visible just below the front of Dixon King's.) The large building closest to the photographer is the Martin House (hotel), rear entrance. (Still standing, 1976, called the Goddard's). The small light colored house on the right of the photo still stands as part of a larger structure belonging to Steve Strickler, 1976.

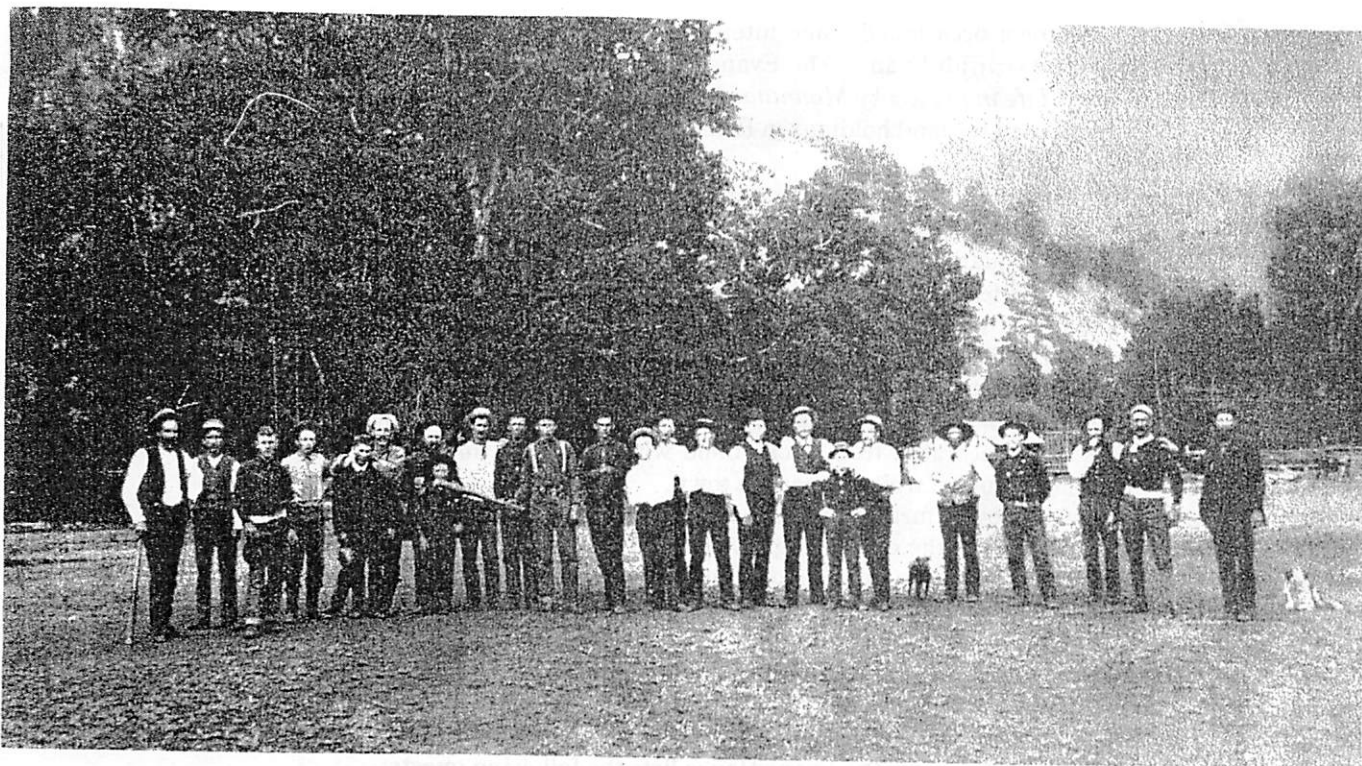
The Budweiser Palace, 1884.

The Palace bears the name Von Richthofen, which is also on the office sign to the right of the main entrance. Baron Walter B. Von Richthofen (1848-1898) came to the area from Prussia about 1871. His nephew, Manfred Von Richthofen became the WWI flying ace known as the Red Knight of Germany or, popularly, the Red Baron.

Heaton Collection





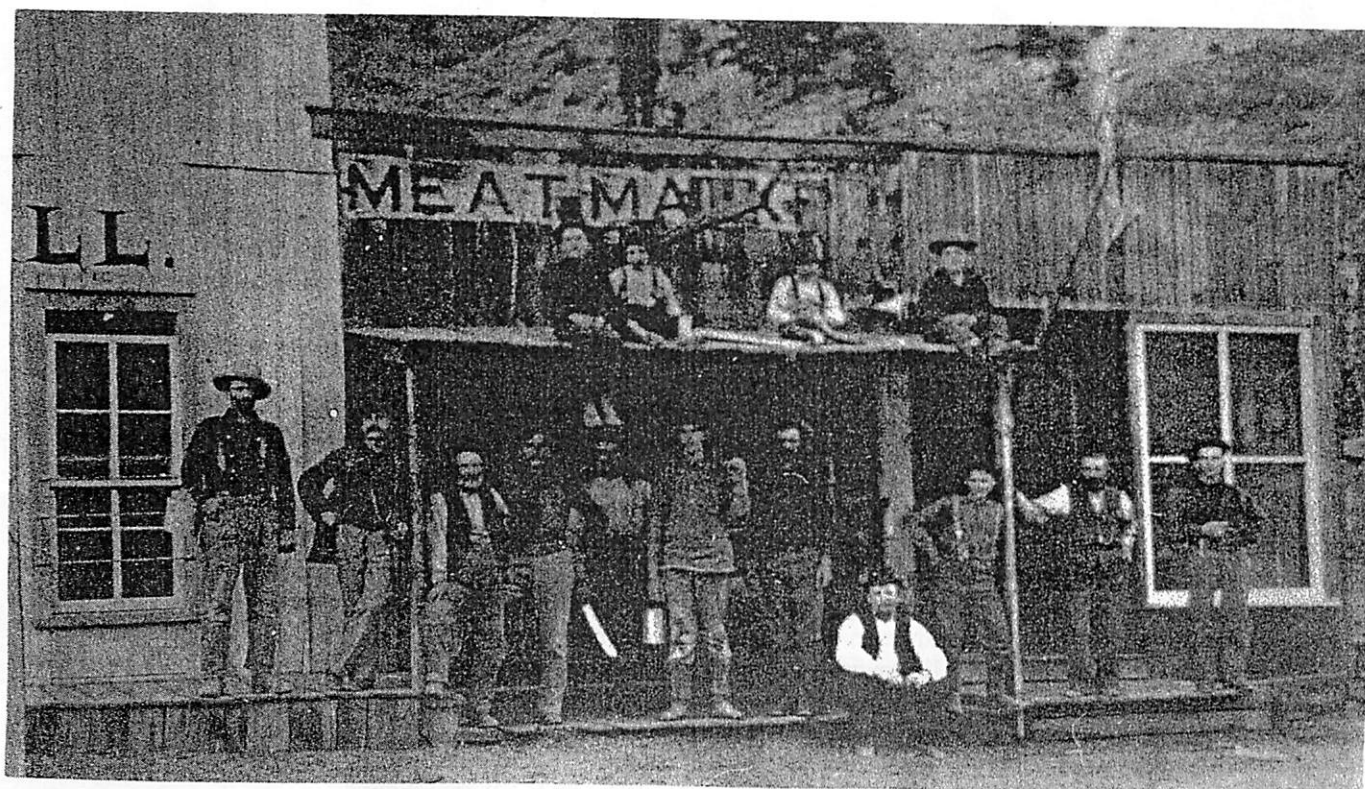


Baseball team at the town park, 1885. Men pictured, left to right, Joe Jondras, William Emanuel, Wilton Seamore, Will Owens, George Evans (son of Griff), Hank Dwyer, Jack Jennings, Charlie Owens, Dan Hutcheson, Lou Davis, George Davis, Bert Carnihan, Jack Fairbanks (John - older brother of Douglas, Sr.), Tom Emmett, Lou Booth, William Walker, Harrie Atkinson, Pett Walker (child), Free Cook, Louis House Norm Walker, Hugh Owens, Virgle Berkie, Louis Donofan.

P.E. Walker Collection

George Walker's Meat Market, 1885. William Walker holding knife.

P.E. Walker Collection



New residents in Jamestown occasioned some interest even during a boom but one that arrived about 1890 excited unusual attention—one Griffith Evans. The Evans' were in Colorado as early as 1871 when they served as hosts to Isabella Bird (*Lady's Life in the Rocky Mountains*) when she visited Estes Park.

In 1874, Griffith Evans turned his land holdings in Estes over to Lord Dunraven, for whom he had homesteaded, and moved to the Longmont area.

The family established the St. Vrain Hotel (Imperial) in Longmont, then returned to Estes where they kept the Estes Park Hotel. Just prior to moving to Jamestown, Evans quarried in Lyons and built an attractive stone home near the creek just below the old quarry that is still occupied.

In Jamestown, Evans, his wife, Jane Owens, and their six children built the Evans House hotel (completed in 1892) which they operated until it was sold in 1905 to Albert B. Hubbard. The hotel was located near the bottom of Anderson Street (the front hill) and was eventually made uninhabitable by the flood down Central Gulch in 1913.

The Evans' fit readily into the social life of the town, giving the town its first resident Father Christmas. A Christmas Eve party, first held in the 1880's, had become traditional. Maude Hogue directed the crowning of Christmas made complete by a decorated tree, socks filled with oranges, candies, and nuts, and Evans, "Father Christmas," proud owner of the longest whitest beard in town.

"Griff" Evans, as he was known, further enlivened the camp with his musical talent. The church in the community had witnessed a split that left the off-shoot group holding services in a tent on the east side of town, with no music of their own. Griff, who had studied to be a choir director at home in Wales, took his Melodian and provided music "because no church should be without it!"

During the summer of 1895, Jane Evans and Mrs. Clemens were picking berries up Jim Creek when they saw a big bear. They came back to town in a hurry, according to members of their families. Lou Evans (Griff and Jane's son) and Frank Tower went on a bear hunt. They found they had to borrow Mr. Wright's wagon to bring the bear in.

On February 10, 1898, the register for the Evans House lists the following guests:

Harry Will	Denver, Colorado
Patk. Murphy	City
Wm. Brown	Springdale
A.E. Brown	Central Gulch
Mr. & Mrs. B.W. Avery	Davenport, Iowa

Family members say that this entry can be considered as representative.

The talented Evans family contributed mightily to the cause of civilization which so often came to be neglected in mining camps. The entertainment at the Evans House was widely attended and consisted of dances, literary society meetings, singing, speeches, dialogues and debates. Bed, board, and entertainment came to be the expectation of their many guests.

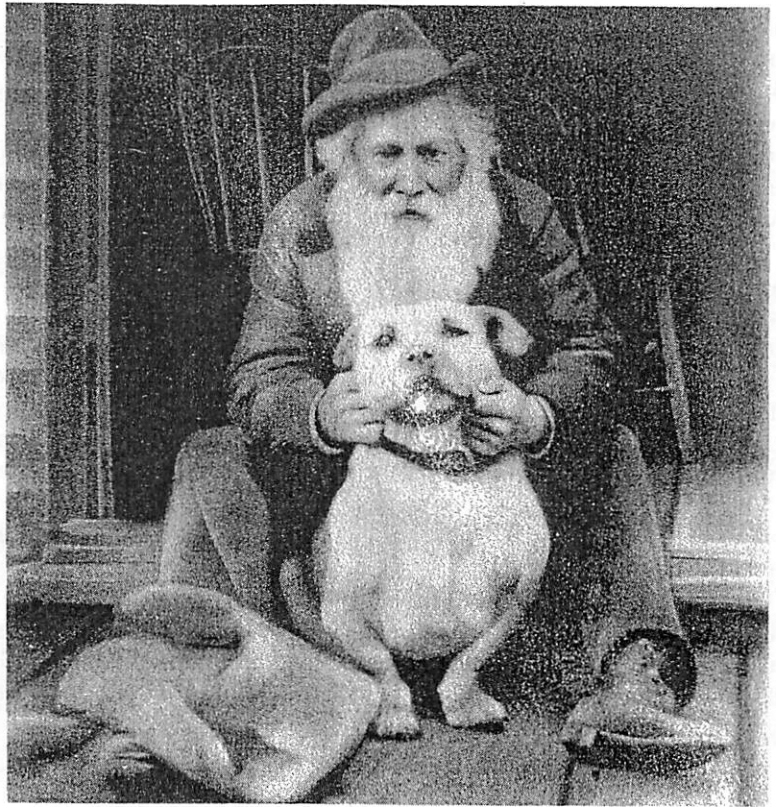
The mood of the boom continued and escalated as the century drew toward a close. The *Boulder Daily Camera* was optimistic as it stated, "The location of this camp presents a more promising outlook than any other for the reason that it is so near to Denver and the mines can be more cheaply worked than in most any other portion of the country."

"The boom has now reached such a height that it is not at all improbable to suppose that it will spread over the entire county during the coming season. And no other county produces better mines or richer ores than Boulder County. Mine owners are already making preparation for extensive developments all over the county. There will be mills and smelters to build, dwellings and business houses, wagons and railroads, and timber to cut. And, as capital takes hold of the situation and develops her resources, there will be none unemployed. The outlook for those who depend on a mining camp, speculative or otherwise, for revenue is most promising."

The town continued to grow and prosper. The Faivre's completed construction of their new store building with living quarters behind. The home boasted the first bathtub with running water in Jimtown by virtue of a ditch constructed from a spring up the hill under Porphyry dike to the store building.

Fred Burger, who married Ann Faivre in 1899 and received the store business as a wedding present, told the *San Francisco Examiner* about life in Jimtown as he knew it. It seems that Burger played with the orchestra at the Mint Saloon.

"The guests were dancing a square dance one night," Burger recited, "when the town bully insisted upon edging into the dance, which left one man each time without a partner. The guests threw him out several times and the bully finally went to his cabin and got a gun. On his way back, he was shot somehow."



Mrs. Jane Evans  
Marr Collection

Griff Evans  
Marr Collection





About this time a grave appeared under a wide spruce in the local cemetery overnight. It is unusual in that it lies north/south in discord with the usual east/west lay of the graves, and at no time bore a marker.

Burger further related, "The violinist had the bad habit of putting his feet on the piano. The pianist didn't appreciate the posture that the violinist assumed and asked him several times to be a gentleman. 'If you put your feet on this piano again, I'll put a hole in it,' the pianist said. The violinist was quite a game fellow and he put his foot back on the piano. The pianist shot off a toe! And the dance went on."

And then—again—the *Boulder County Herald*, October 7, 1891, tells of the collapse of even this boom.

"For weeks the excitement raged higher and higher, and not until the money grew short did the crowd realize that no ore of any amount was being shipped out of the camp (Jimtown), while thousands of dollars were being spent in development of valueless veins. The crisis came, and the result is too fresh in the minds of all Boulder County people to write here. The very name of Jamestown, when connected with any mining enterprises, would suffice to drive away capital; at even this late date, the camp suffers from that ill advised bar."

The years then became more quiet in Jimtown, with a regular populace making its living by sheer determination. Hunting was still good, trout could be caught, and the ground that had yielded so much glory now yielded corn and rutabagas, in spite of the short growing season. And then, the waters chose to test the town again.

Jamestown did not have a disastrous fire as many of the other boom towns did, but a flood roared down Jim Creek in June of 1894, and washed away much of the low-lying area of the city. The flood was caused by a cloudburst on top of the heavy run-off.

The *Boulder Daily Camera*, June 1, 1894, reported: "Mel Warren walked down from Jimtown today crossing by way of the Gray Eagle Mill. He says Jimtown is ruined, every house on the north side has been ruined or gone down stream. The river took the center of the street and all houses. Griff Evans' hotel is in the center of an island; Lloyd and Co. and Faivre's stores are ruined, though their stocks were saved; the Golden Age Mill was destroyed; every outhouse but two were destroyed."

#### *Roy Dunbar's memories of the flood at Jamestown in 1894.*

The *Boulder Daily Camera*, February 13, 1946, carried, "The young man stopped, his skin suddenly tight with the premonition of danger. He lifted the lantern higher, trying with its feeble light to pierce the rain-filled darkness. Then with an audible gasp, he drew back. Water—a great leaping stream of it—filled the gulch he had started across. It was the beginning of June, 1894."

"That was the worst surprise I ever had," admitted Roy C. Dunbar, pioneer of the Jimtown district. "I was working in a little stamp mill in Central Gulch, my first working out (away from home) for wages. I was on the night shift with a man by the name of Rufus Pogue, a devil of a good mill man. I was feeding stamps."

"About four o'clock in the morning we discovered there was no water in the mill tank. I took a lantern and went down to the pump, which was in the gulch."

"I couldn't get near the well. It was buried in mud, and sand and timbers. The water was coming down in a stream. You couldn't have crossed it with a horse."

He had gone back and reported. The older man had shaken his head grimly, told him to get home as best he could. The heavy, wet snow of a few days before had gone, melted by the steady downpour of rain. They were in for a flood, which in this mountain land of great drainage could easily be disastrous.

"I had to ride my saddle horse around the heads of the gulches to get to our ranch on Balarat Hill," continued Mr. Dunbar. "Every gulch was full. I had breakfast, then decided to go down to Jimtown to see what was left."

"When I got there it was just terrible. Little Jim Creek and Big Jim were both flooded. Houses and buildings were already washing away. I jumped right in and started helping people move their things out."

"It kept raining all day long. I got soaked to the skin, and so did everybody else. Along towards evening I started to go home. I'd been up all the night before, and I hadn't had any sleep. I was about all in. Just then I happened to hear Charles Faivre, who we called Old Charley, tell young Charley that he'd better get someone to sit up with him that night to watch the goods. You see, Mr. Faivre had a general store, and he had to carry the stock out and pile it up on the sidehill to save it from the flood. There was all that stuff, out in the open."

"I spoke up to young Charley, 'I'll sit up with you.' Mr. Dunbar chuckled, "I forgot all about being tired."

"That seemed to make them both happy. Mr. Faivre had a little cellar up behind his store where he kept blackberry brandy. He sold it in the store, and it was the best you could get anywhere. He handed the key to this cellar to young Charley and told him and me to help ourselves. 'Drink all you want but don't take enough to get drunk,' he said."



This had delighted the two youths. They had fallen to work, planted four stakes in the ground and stretched a sheet of canvas over them. They had started a fire and settled down around it like two frontier scouts.

"About this time along came Charley's cousin, Alphonse Faivre, who had come over from France only a short time before. He couldn't speak much English, but he was already well liked. He said he'd sit up with us and help keep watch. We were glad to have him."

Mr. Dunbar smiled boardly and slapped his thigh. "We had a lot of fun that night. We drank all the blackberry brandy we wanted, had all the food we could eat and smoked good cigars. Yes, we had a good time even if we did nearly freeze to death before morning."

Drenched but optimistic, Jamestown survived. The church had floated down the gulch, bell ringing, but the bell tower was salvaged and new churches could be built. The basket socials and bazaars held to finance rebuilding helped to knit the townspeople yet closer together.

The road had to be rebuilt, this time roughly along its present route above the creek. There was no natural grade on the sharp left curve below town and a gentleman named Elliot chose to create a grade for the road using blasting powder. After loading holes to shoot the corner, he waited too long before removing himself from the scene, and was killed; thus resident Jimtowners mark their ascent to the town by "shifting down" at "Elliot's Pitch."

Citizens recognized the need for a larger school building and, abandoning the riverside site, erected a large school high on the front hill where the present school stands at the southwest junction of 16th and Mesa Streets.

The quieting camp faced a moral crisis when a group of "fancy ladies" came up the canyon intending to settle in Jimtown. Representatives of the local Odd Fellows group and town women met the group below town and made it quite clear that they could not become residents. Consequently, the girls set up their own "camp" down the canyon on a site across the creek from the cemetery.

A study of burial dates on local cemetery stones indicates for us the smallpox epidemic that hit Jimtown in 1893. The tragic circumstances provided an opportunity for the "ladies" of Lower Jimtown (Bummerville) to redeem themselves. As most of the townspeople became ill, the ladies who seemed to be possessed of some immunity, moved up to town and nursed the "solid citizens" back to health (and righteous indignation?).

In 1897, the *Denver Daily News* reported a daily output of only two hundred tons of tellurium gold ore for Jamestown. Though gold had bought the town its initial population, the lure of the mountains and the spirit of the community caused people to stay.

By 1900 the gold mines, although still active, were slowly exhausting the ore in the area. By 1902, the Golden Age had been in continuous operation longer than any mine in the state. The Wano had been in operation since its discovery and was still a good producer. In 1906, both the Wano and the Golden Age Mills were operating. Gold was separated from the ore and made into bricks at the Wano Mill.

Dorothy Mohr Walker tells of the first bricks run off when her father worked at the mill.

"That day we had a big party with chicken and all the trimmings. It was a real holiday."

A sawmill was built at the millsite to provide large timbers needed in the construction. This sawmill continued to operate for some time. The Wano had its own power plant and supplied electricity to people in the town for one dollar a month. Only a few houses in town had electricity, the Beach house and the Fred Burger home at the store were two.

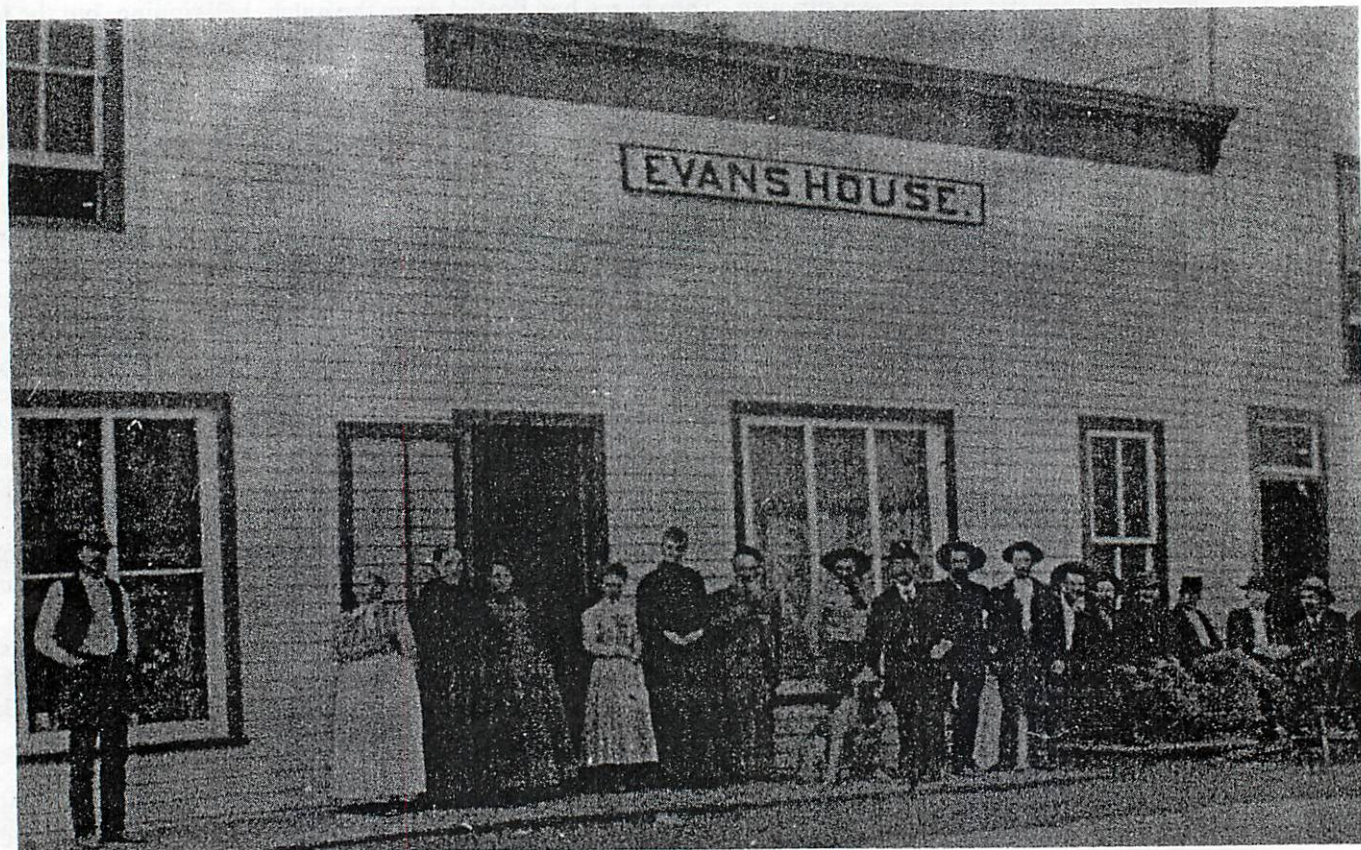
The town population was larger than today. Many more houses were scattered up and down the two creeks. The Evans House was under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard in 1905. Cleinens operated a rooming house across the street.

Jamestown, What Memories It Brings Back: From a letter. November 28, 1961 — Albert B. Hubbard:

"In 1905 and 1906 my wife and I ran the Evans House (hotel) in Jamestown. (I resided in Colorado for 33 years.) In February of 1905 my wife and I took over the Evans House which originally was a roller skating rink and consequently the dining room was very large and kept one person busy a good share of the time feeding one of those old time sheet iron stoves. The day we moved in the thermometer went down to 28 below zero and I was busy until 10 o'clock sawing wood to feed the sheet iron monster. My wife was a good cook and in those days people made their own bread especially away from the cities. My wife would make up a batch in the old time big tin dishpans, then set it next to the wood burning kitchen stove hot water tank before retiring. Then cover it with several blankets. Upon rising in the morning we were sure to find our big yellow tabby cat on top of the blankets thus keeping herself and the bread warm enough to raise. On the fourth of July, Jamestown put on quite a celebration and to prepare for same my wife baked 100 lemon pies. Saturday nights a dance was held in the hall over the general store and my wife



being quite a musician was in demand to play for the event. Most of our groceries we bought in Boulder and Mr. Mallory the stage driver brought them up. However, we had another source for eggs and vegetables getting them from a farmer in the valley who came up once a week. I remember particularly one week when he did not appear and my wife was quite put out and told him so in rather vigorous language. His defense was, "Mrs. Hubbard, I have had awful trouble. First my wife died that was bad and then my horse died that was worse-a wife I can easy get but a horse-that costs \$200."



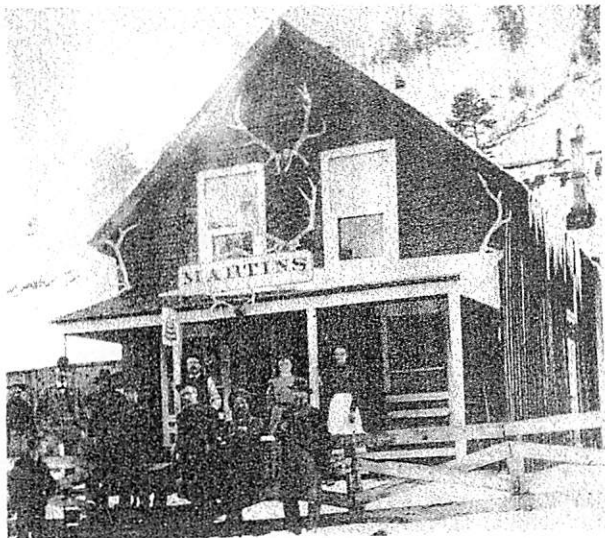
A. Walker Collection

Evans House

The Martin House operated by Mrs. Martin was always filled to capacity as were others in town who kept boarders, as did the Charles and May Teena Smith boarding house on Main Street. During the summer of 1912, Sylvester Garvin with his granddaughter, Zora Smith Janssen brought fresh farm produce from his farm near Longmont to enliven the meals of the mines. They sold to many of the boarding houses. The Emily Mill was at the east end of town. There were houses all along Main Street to the site of the present store. A blacksmith shop stood near the junction with Skunk Tunnel Road. Nearby was the log house owned by Walkers, and the Wasson House next to the store. All the way up the canyon and up Balarat Hill were little and big mines. The miners either had small homes on their claims or lived in the boarding houses in town.

Main Street in Jamestown was often enlivened by an ore wagon drawn by four or six horses, careening down Falls Hills carrying a lad of ten or twelve years standing astraddle of the teams and racing through town. This was during the years surrounding the turn of the century and the boy was Douglas Fairbanks. From his early Jintown escapades he went on to conquer the early motion picture world. Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. lived in Jamestown with his mother and brother for some years. His grandparents operated a boarding house at the foot of Falls Hill. His brother, Jack, resided here for several years after the rest of the family left. According to local lore, Douglas, the youngest member of the family, was a tag-a-long and was called "Me-Too" by his family; since he always wanted to be included and asked "me too?"





Martin House

Colorado State Historical Society

*(Rocky Mt. Joe's photo)*

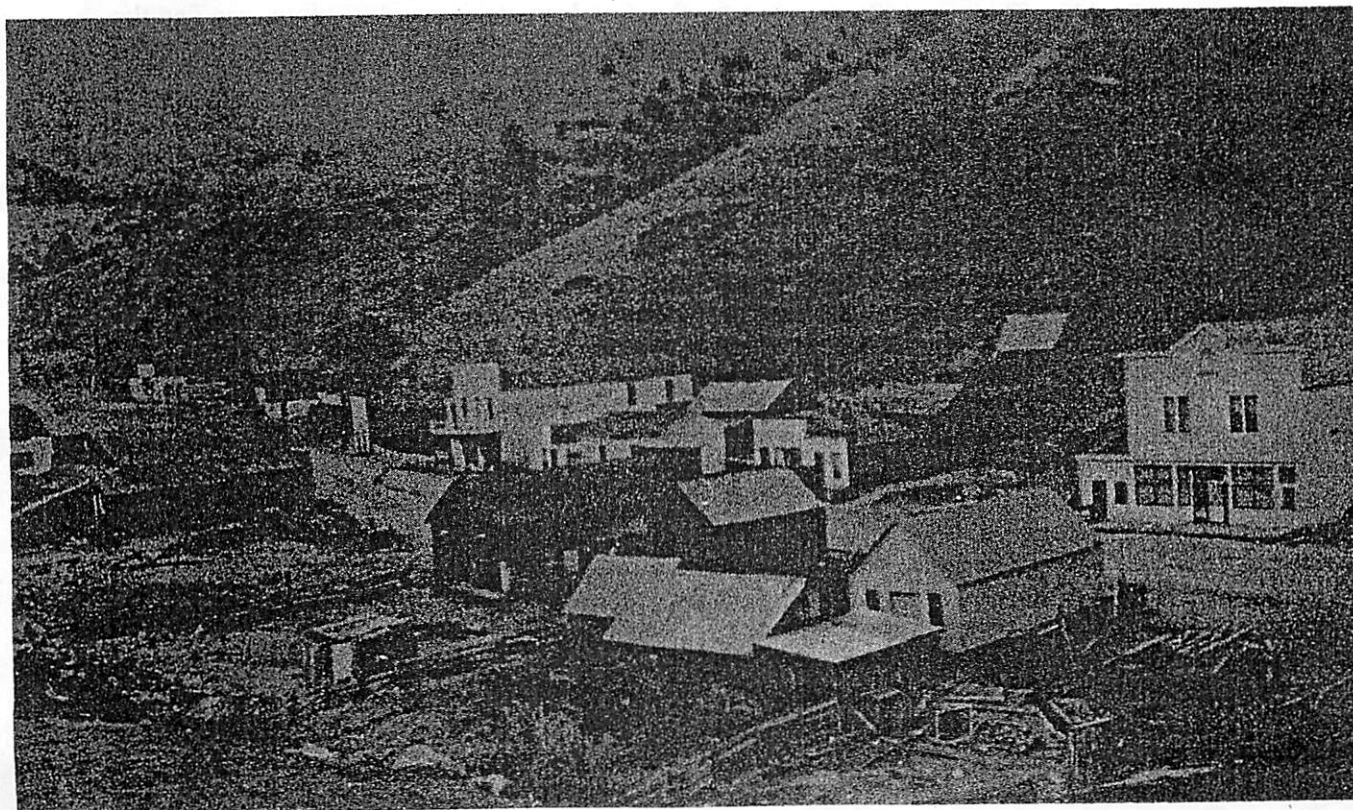


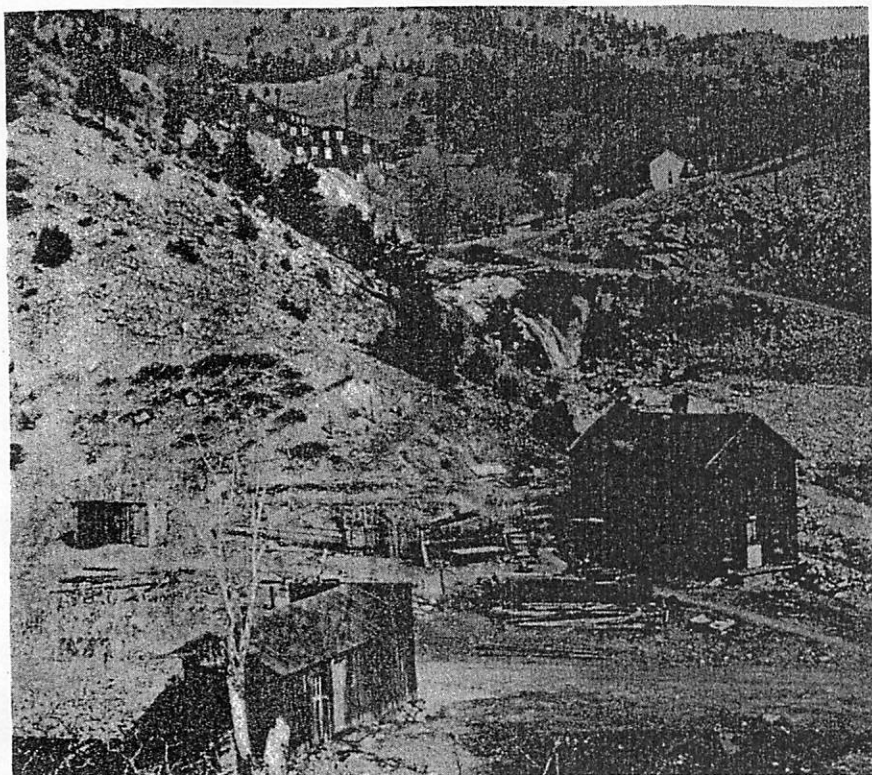
Current, 1976, photo of same structure.

Dixon King

Main Street, Jamestown, 1900

A. Walker Collection





Douglas Fairbanks' Home  
- Bottom of Falls Hill

Marr Collection

In approximately 1902, Walter Mallory started to make the stage run between Boulder and Jamestown. It took two and a half hours to make the run that was the only mail link with Jamestown. His stage was a spring wagon, it had three seats that sat three people each and the mail and packages were tied on the back. The foot board of the drivers seat extended out over the front of the wagon. For three days one winter, Mr. Mallory was the only moving thing between Jimtown and Boulder. The snowdrifts were three to five feet deep and it was difficult to even find the roadway. His wagon was usually pulled by a two-horse team except when the going was rough and he had two teams. He occasionally had a runaway horse. One such time, Mr. Mallory had gotten off the stage and was leading the horses across a bridge when the mean bay on the right stepped through the plank and raced past him. He tried to jump on the back, but unlike the movie heroes he missed. The two horses, upon reaching a tree, went on opposite sides and the stage smacked into the tree which left a mark you could probably see today.

On the way to Boulder once with Mrs. Fred Burger and her baby as passengers, one of the horses was stung and the horses started to kicking the tongue of the wagon; this in turn sawed into the horses legs and turned them crazy. Mr. Mallory finally stopped them three-quarters of a mile later to find the legs of the horses off the edge of a cliff. Mr. Mallory told Mrs. Burger to get out with her baby. This baby, Helen Burger, later became the wife of the orchestra leader, Glen Miller. Mr. Mallory worked until 1907 when he couldn't find work, so he went to night school. In 1914, he became an instructor at the University and was associated with the University for forty-one years.

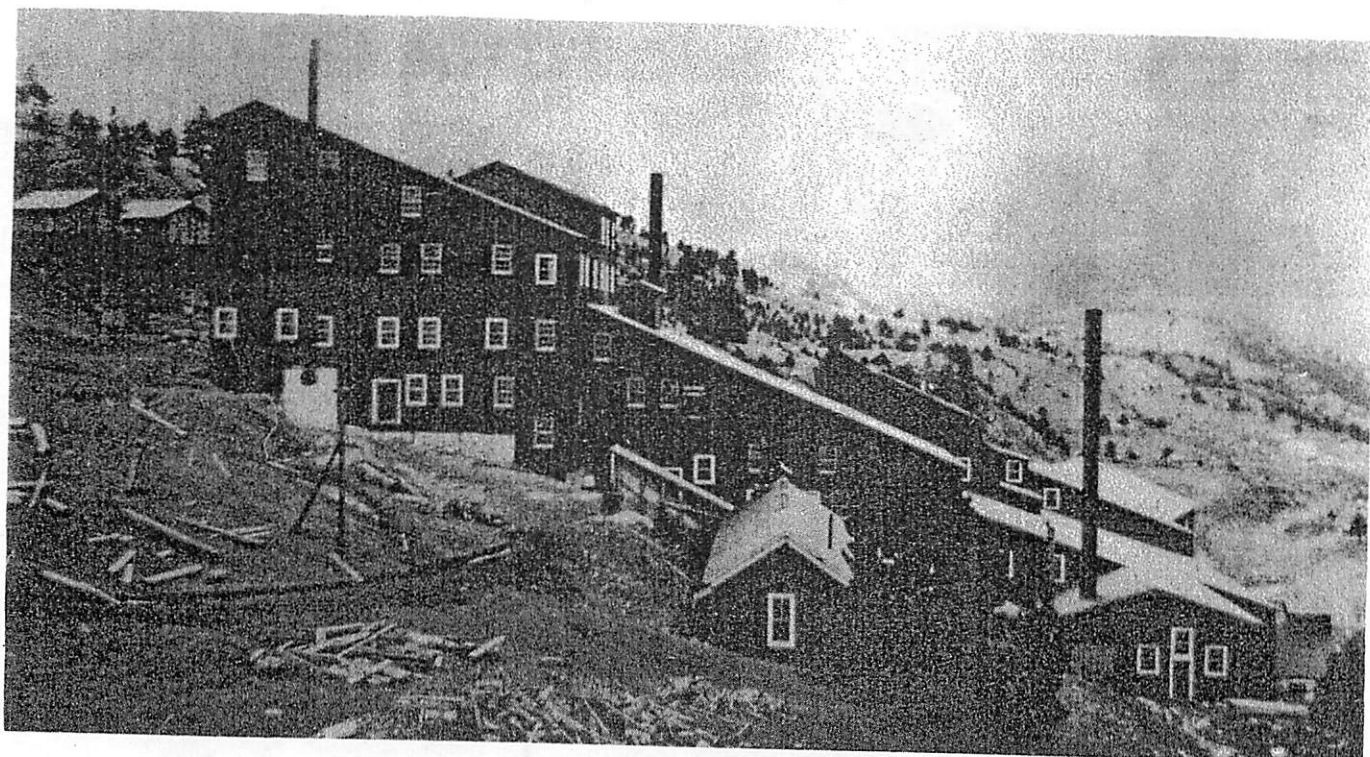
The town again prospered according to the following news item from the *Boulder Daily Camera*, April 30, 1907:

"W.H. Davis, metallurgist and manager of the great Wano Mill at Jamestown, has been in Boulder on business with the general offices of the company during the week. Mr. Davis says simply 'everything is running smoothly and the mill is doing splendid work.' What this means to the mining interests of Jamestown and to the whole county can be appreciated by those who know the long struggle and the tremendous outlay of capital involved in the solution of the serious problem of saving values in the ores of Boulder."

*Boulder Daily Camera*, May 13, 1907:

"Pres. T.S. Waltemeyer of the Monarch Consolidated Co. to to Denver today 12 pounds of gold bullion which he sold at the mint. It was the second brick from the big Wano Mill and was valued at \$2500. The test two weeks ago made at the initial run of the mill realized a brick that brought the company \$1107. Pres. Waltemeyer is justly proud of the mill and its resulting gold product. Chas. Dopp and Dr. Carson, prominent Jimtown men were in Boulder today. Mr. Dopp said Jimtown people were very enthusiastic over results of the operation of the Wano Mill and mine."





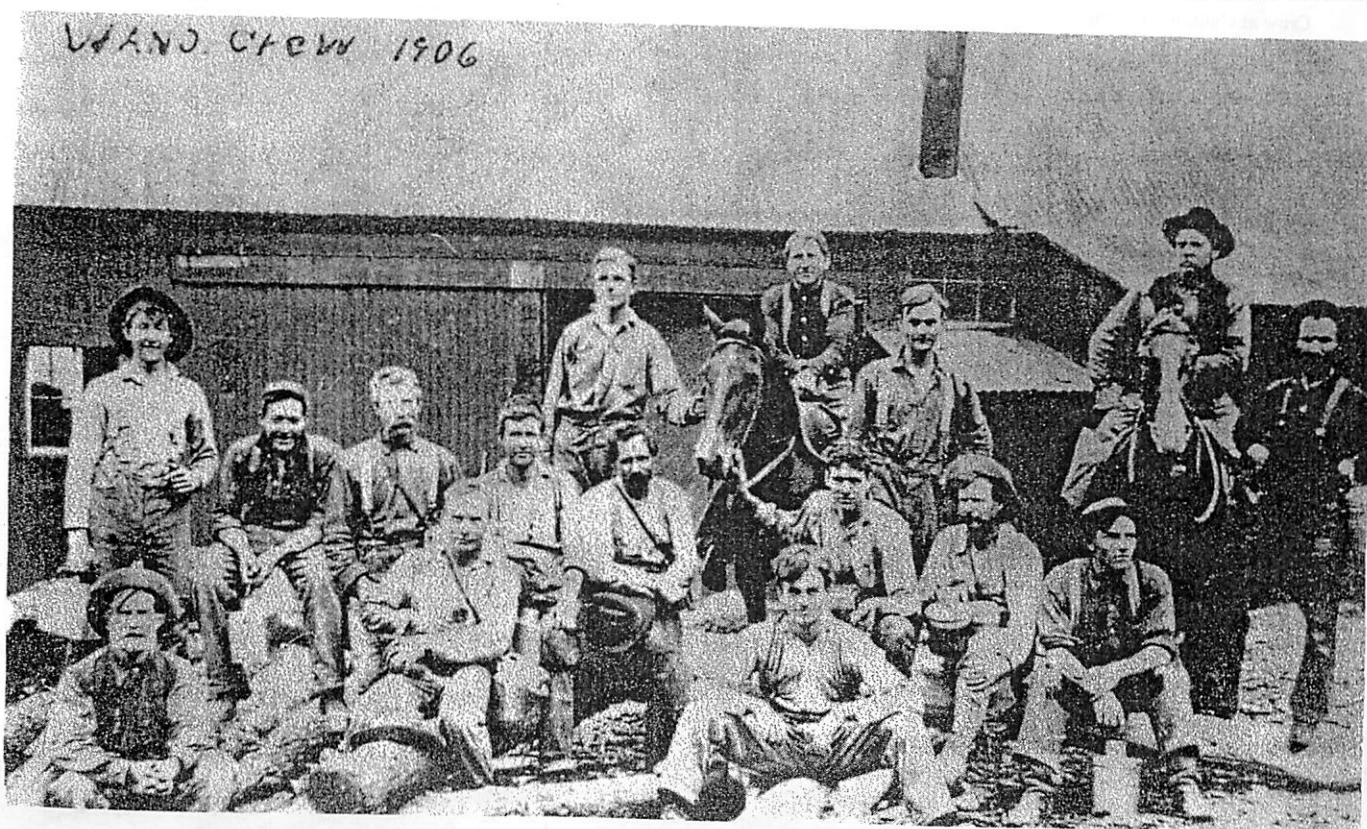
Wano Mill

A. Walker Collection

Wano Crew

Back Row: Tom Mohr, Ford Dunning, Jim Warren, Harry Johns, Bill Sherman. Second Row: Chas. Beach, Ace Hempstead, ?, Gord Beach, Ern Broughton, Bill Jones, Jonah Hill, Frank Warren. Front Row: Hillbren, Lew Evans, Lee Evans.

A. Walker Collection





Crew at Golden Age Mine

Marr Collection

Fred Dopp & Chas. Dahlin

Arch Walker Collection





In the early 1900's, the social activities of the town were many and varied. Evenings were often spent listening to the tales of a local storyteller. One such story teller was a Mr. Jonas Hill. Whenever the moon was full, children would sit on his porch and listen to adventures as recalled by Jonas. One night Jonas came to the Pool Hall. He was terribly excited. He told of a little man in pink boots who he had just seen in his house. One evening several days later he came charging in to report that he had the little fellow trapped in the old stove and he needed help to capture him. All the patrons followed him to his house. He asked one friend to hold the door and he'd grab the creature as it came out. He jerked open the door to expose a gallon of whiskey. Another exciting pastime was the Hard-Rock Drilling contest. The *Boulder Daily Camera* reported a contest in 1905. The third team to drill was Fred Dopp of Jimtown and Cliff Collins. Both men were younger than the other contestants and it was their first time in a contest. The first prize went to Dopp and Collins. Fred Dopp won just about every contest he entered. The first time he was defeated was in 1937. The man who defeated him was Arch Walker, also of Jimtown, who Fred had taught to drill and who drilled with Dopp on many occasions. In the spring of 1937, local mine owners sent Fred Dopp and Arch Walker and other Jimtowners to San Francisco for the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge and a big drilling contest. They captured every prize in the competition. Walker and Ed Saunders, another Jimtownner, won the double-hand drilling while George and Micky Coughlin were runners-up. Fred Dopp kept his singles title and became World Champion Hard Rock Driller.



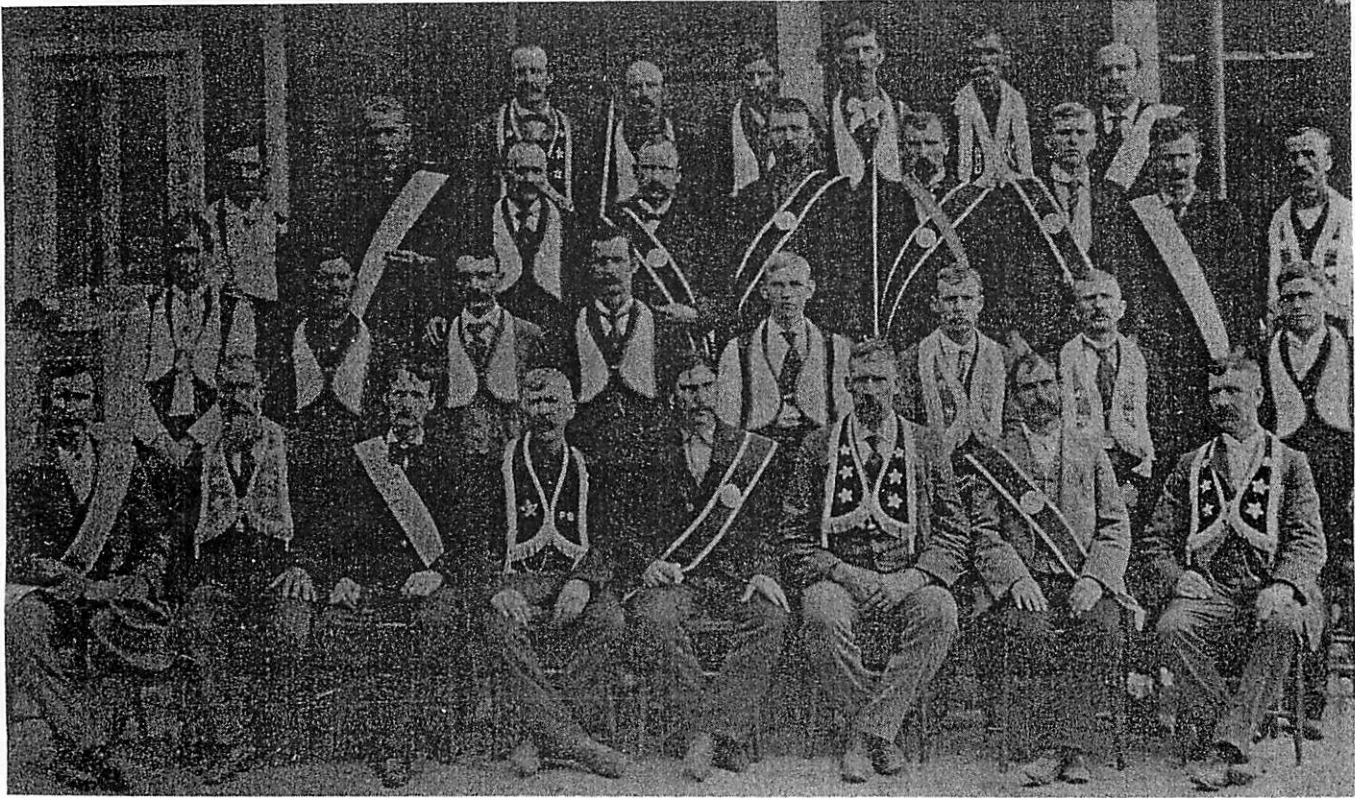
P.E. Walker Collection

The Antelopes, the local ball team always drew crowds. They played all the neighboring teams and even walked or rode horseback all the way across Buchanan Pass to play at Granby. Members of the Team in 1905: First Row - Carl Beach, Cliff Collins, Clarence Atkinson, Frank Walker, Will Dopp, Thurm Collins. Second Row - Harry Kelsy, Gord Beach, Nate Pennock, Fred Dopp.

The town suffered a serious set back in 1913, when another flood almost washed the town away. Many houses on the main street were inundated. From the *Boulder Daily Camera*, August 9, 1913: "Jamestown suffered heavily from the worst storm which has occurred in the region in years early Monday morning, according to District Clerk Fred W. Burger.



"Mr. Burger says that practically every house along the banks of Jim Creek, in camp, was more or less damaged by water or mud. All wagon and foot bridges were swept away by the flood, and the house of Mrs. Payton was completely filled with water. It will take two weeks to open the road to ore traffic. The commissioners expect to have the road open for light traffic in one week. The worst of the storm struck Jintown about 11 o'clock and many families were routed out of their beds by water."



**1897 Odd Fellows Lodge**

Bottom row, left to right: Josiah Barr, Jim Russell, Fin Eagelton, Doc Sercy, Ben Turner, Chas. Geer, Bill Sherman, Tom Shelody. Second row: Lon Collins, Bill Tower, Geo. Bradfield, E. Ekey, John Pullam, Bert Rose, Chas. Berryman, Pett Walker. Third row: ?, ?, John Lewis, Doc Abbot, Walt Clemens, Tom Barr, Dick Swanson, Jonah Hill, Pete Lareby. Fourth row: Tom Swift, Con Swift, Taylor Wright, Turner, Walt Wright, John Jones.

By 1916 the town was changed from the thriving metropolis of the turn of the century. Some of the buildings that we see today were here in 1916. The Pool Hall was the building that stood across from the present store until it washed away in a flood in 1969. There was an old building beside the pool hall that housed the Post Office for many years. A grain dealer had his business on the site of the present church. Only one saloon was left in operation, the Dopp Saloon. There was an ice house on Main Street that was deserted by 1916; the huge building that was the Evans House was boarded up and the stables and out buildings had fallen in disrepair. The school stood where the present school stands and housed fifty or more children within its walls. Children came down from Overland and Balarat to attend school. In the winter they often stayed at the Evans House before it closed its doors and disappeared.

The Willard Mill was still standing at the junction of the two streams and much equipment was still in it. The children of the time liked to explore there.

Another mill run by water power was situated at the east end of town. Water for power was piped from the creek and elevated fifteen feet to provide power. Mr. Ed Lehman a local resident operated this mill.

At the extreme eastern end of town was the picturesque park often seen in old photographs. Its huge cottonwood trees and level lawns offered varied recreational activities.



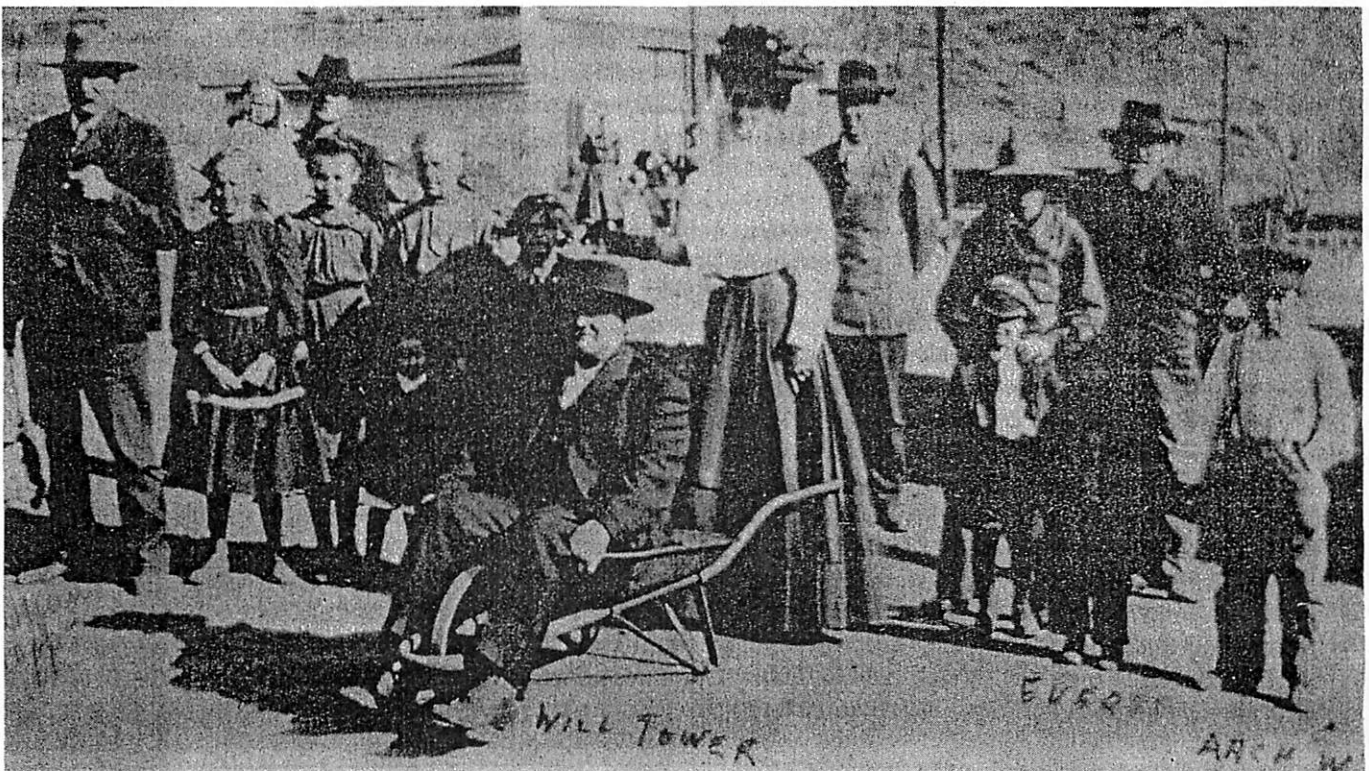
School Picture - 1911

Arch Walker Collection

Back row: Cecil Stockton, Ellen Klean, Tchr., Neva Dunbar, Ada Smith, Mabel Newell, Helen Sherman, Aida Wright, Ralph Walker, Maude Newell, Carrie Evans, Lilly Tower. Middle row: Dorothy Mohr, Ethel Hagerman, Albert Smith, Geroge Hagerman, Robert Smith, Norman Rhino, Arch. Lively, Edna Hagerman, Esther Newell, Gertrude Wright, —Stockton. Front row: George Funk, Arch Walker, —Newell, Helen Burger, Hazel Hagerman, Everett Walker, Sylvia Stockton, Clance Vawton, Carl Hagerman, Frank Newell, Gladys Keller.

Election Year Bet Paid In Full.

Walker Collection







**Downtown Jamestown Flood, 1913**

Eilenberger Collection

Then came the changes wrought by war. In 1917 the town again experienced a boom. At the request of the War Production Board, the Wano Mill was remodeled and equipped to produce much needed fluorspar used in production of steel.

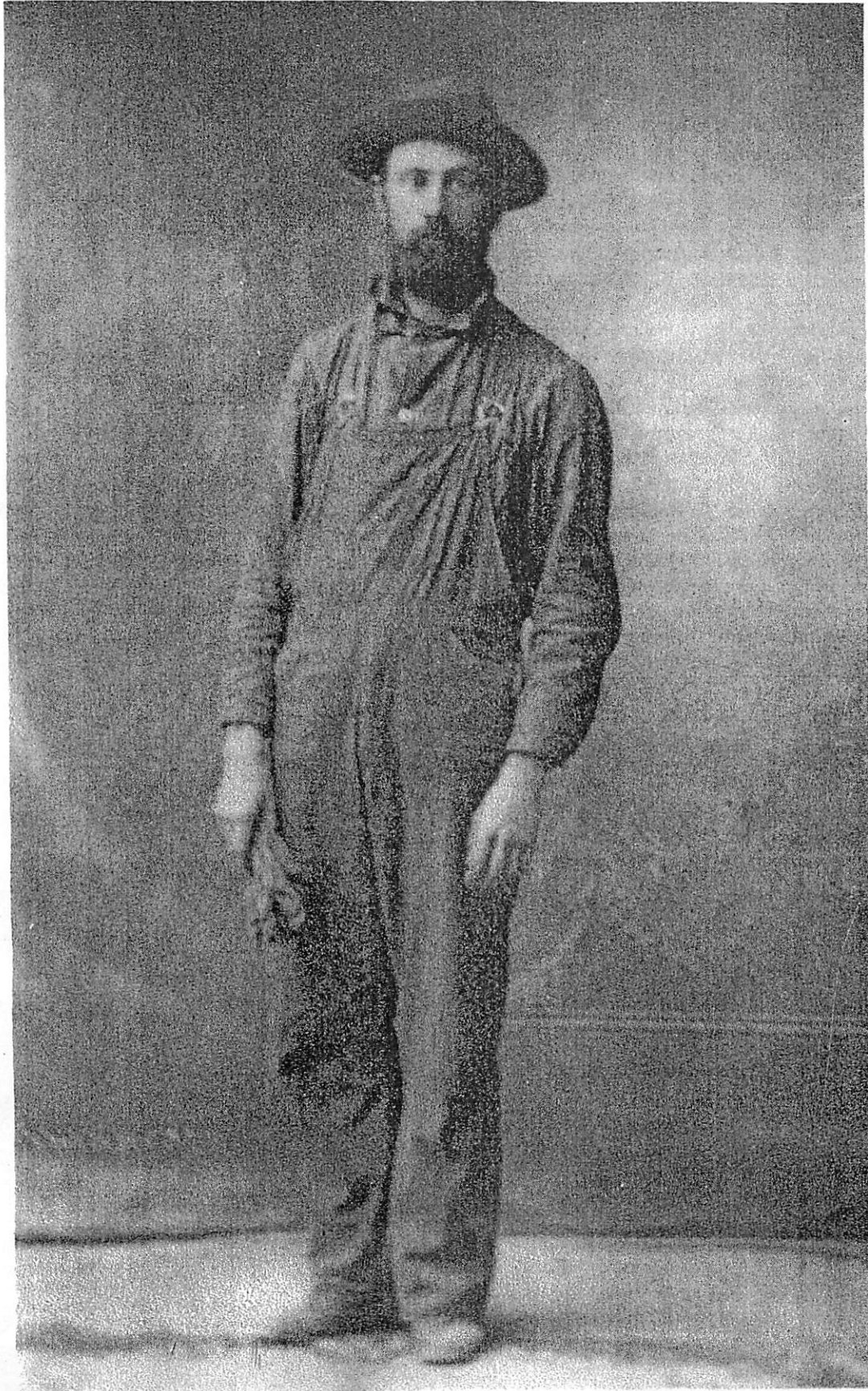
The town grew little in outward appearance and it showed little change but employment brought prosperity. The first gasoline powered washing machine in town was purchased in 1922. Some citizens became affluent and purchased electric generating plants to replace the kerosene lamp. In 1916, a thriving business which made backings for corsages was moved to the town by Mrs. John Evans. This business employed up to twenty of the local women folks and continued until depression times when corsages were no longer in great demand. The general store was in business, operated by the Lively's and later by the Kempter's.

The thirties arrived in Jamestown, as they did elsewhere in the nation. Poverty was not unknown, but pride and determination that has always sustained independent people, like those of this town, prevailed. The store changed hands again. This time the operators were the Sawyer family. There was a revival of the gold activity and this family stayed and kept the town going. The Town Hall was constructed in 1935 with the assistance of the government. A water system was planned. The townspeople hoped for help from the federal government again. However, as has happened so often in small towns who choose not to lose the autonomy, the majority favored to wait until they could finance the system themselves and therefore, the city relied on private wells and springs and hoped that the water supplies on hand would handle any emergency.

The Community Church was built in the thirties, it has served God the the community well for the last forty years. The following extract from the *San Francisco Examiner* in the late 1930's tells the story of its founding:

**FIRST MINING TOWN COMES BACK WITH CHURCH AS DANCE HALL** — Headline. "The doxology is ringing out in Jamestown, Colorado. In place of the tin-panny tones of the dance hall piano the low murmur of the organ can be heard. The chanting of prayer replaces the high pitched hysterical laughter of paid lady entertainers. Wicked Jamestown in the wilderness region of mountainous central Colorado is having a renaissance. One of the biggest mining camps in the region has got religion. Jimtown, as the community is known throughout the state, has turned its old dance hall into a church. Dimes that used to go to feed the kitty are dropped into the collection plate as the little mountain hamlet takes its religion seriously. 'Slim' Haney is the preacher ... Slim like the old dance hall had to be converted. Slim whose family gave him the Christian name of Herbert, has a police record which has been





**Ed Lehman, 1904**  
60-year resident of the town of Jamestown, moved here in 1916. He had a gold processing mill in town. Mr. Lehman celebrated his 99 birthday in April, 1976.

Skip Breffle Collection

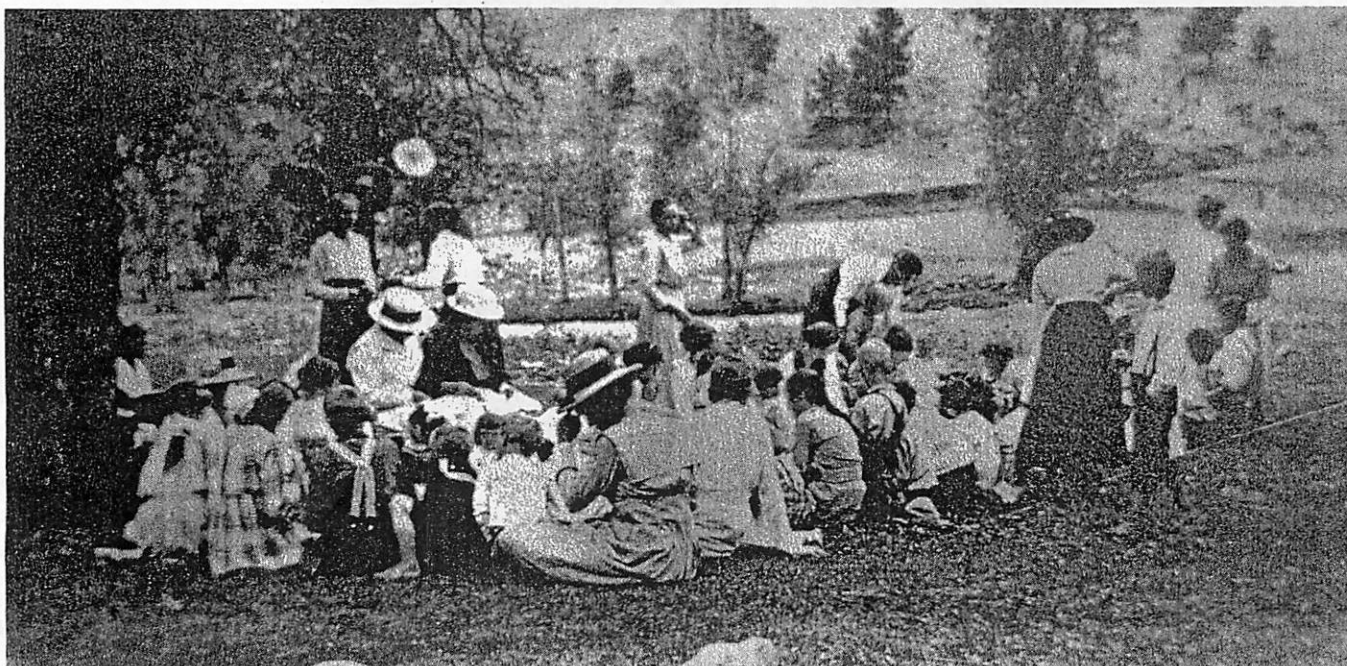
written into the books of Boulder County. But the folks in Jimtown like Slim. They like his preaching and his church and practically the entire population, some three hundred individuals, are supporting the new church and its new parson.

Remnants of the boom still stand. The old dance hall or the new church is one. Another is a house built only of glass paneled doors. The doors were the only thing handy the day the owner decided to construct a residence. The doors still stand but they are without their glass panels. The dance hall originally was a room for feed storage, it was owned by Burger who sold it to Lew Dodge who rebuilt it into a dance hall. Last April it was sold to E.L. Choates, administrator of the Dodge estate to the Jamestown Community Church. Purchase price has not been determined. Finally, Choates said, negotiations are still in progress. Just as soon as the deal was completed the new members of the new church started then to furnish their house of worship. A bargain in chairs was found and each member bought his own chair for the church. Chairs were purchased at bargain prices of fifty cents each.

Slim Haney, who conducts services every Sunday, urges the congregation on the higher ideals, and shoots straight from the shoulder in showing what will happen to the person who allows his steps to falter or stagger. The townspeople are sold on Slim and his teachings and the church is well attended every Sunday. The records at the county seat show that Haney had only slight brushes with the law. The books show that Haney was arrested May 16, 1933, by officers from the Sheriff's Office on charges of larceny of a cable and a pipe from a mine near Boulder. After spending twelve days in jail the records show that Haney was released after paying for the materials which were missing from the mine. The prosecuting witness never pursued the complaint against Haney. On February 5, 1934, Haney ran afoul of the law again. He was arrested and the records show on charges of assault and battery. He was released later and no information on the final disposition of the case was available. When Haney was arrested the first time, his finger prints were sent to Washington to the Bureau of Identification and the report was returned that he had no previous record. Now he is the preacher in the little town that is staging a comeback. With gold and silver paying heavy returns, this town is again fighting along the back trail to regain its lost prestige. The population has jumped from a scant sixty-five or seventy to more than two hundred. Automobiles with license plates from many different states crowd the streets and the town gives promise of pulling itself out of its lethargy. Slim Haney and his followers are determined that Jamestown shall progress along the comeback trail and they are determined that Jimtown shall not be known as the 'Wickedest Town in the State.' "

Town Park - School Picnic, 1917

P.E. Walker Collection





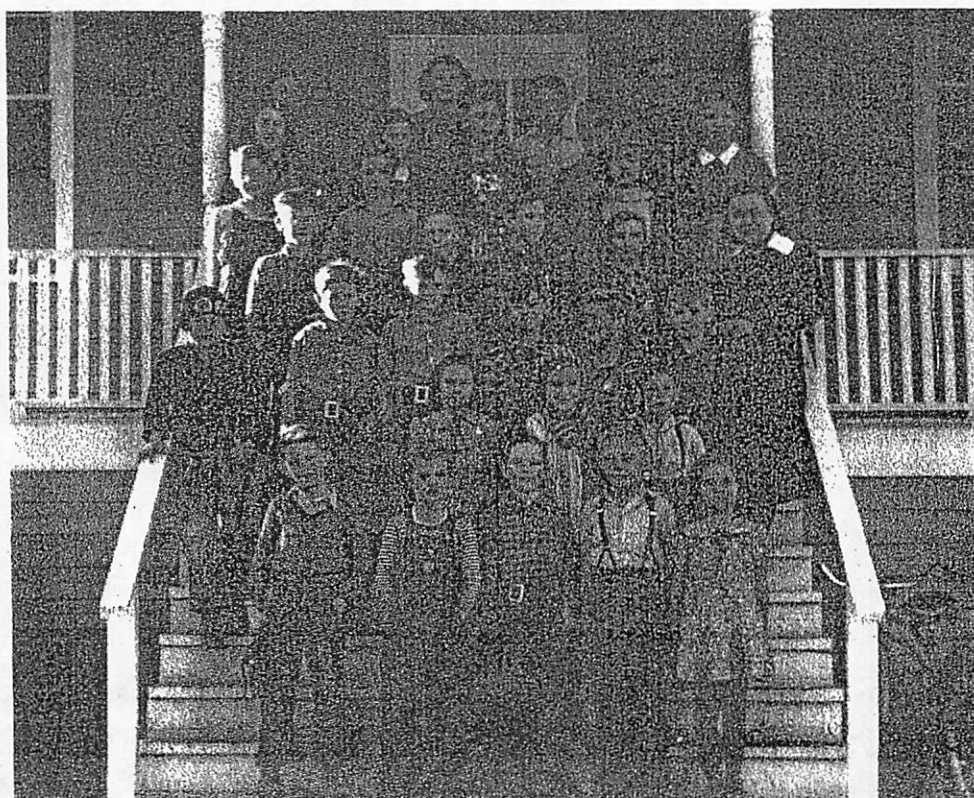


Church

Heaton Collection

Jamestown School, 1937

Front row, left to right: Robert Peress, Gary Coatsworth, Richard Davis, Richard Hagerman, Merle Jean Cook. Second row (short row beginning behind Richard Davis); Verna Lee Cook, Rita Roach, Sonny Smith. Third row: Richard Williamson, William Hodel, Paul Hodel, Robert Taylor, Donald Imal, Clyde Coburn. Fourth row: Robert Sawyer, Robert Coatsworth, Ray Imel, Vernon Davis, Phyllis Davis, Louise Balmer, (teacher). Fifth row: LeeRay Dayhoff, Jesse Smith, Olita Smith, Leona Mae Hartzkey. Sixth row: Twila Starr Keneer, Fern Cook, Don Ralston, Molly Hodel, Wayne Briton, Ray Taylor, Frank Roach (teacher).



Marr Collection



Changes wrought by time left little to remind the resident of the fabulous era of the 80's and 90's; but the quality of the population as always was tops.

Seventeen young Jimtowners fought for their country in the Second World War. Some giving their lives so that others could enjoy the freedom they loved so much.

The need for fluorspar and the reopening of the Burlington and Emmett mines brought new excitement. Those not directly involved in the conflict overseas were busy in the mines and mills of the area.

Electricity, via Public Service Company of Colorado, finally reached the town. This source of power furnished the energy necessary to process the fluorspar.

A water system was completed in 1958 at a cost of \$32,000 and many friendships. The long bitter fight preceding the construction culminated in a 24-22 vote approving the bond issue. The system was enlarged greatly in 1958 and more water rights were procured in 1975.

The school building erected in the 1890's had deteriorated to the point where it had to be replaced. The building was sold to Milton Gunn for \$65 ... the school board retaining ownership of the bell. (The great Bell Mystery is still a debated subject and topic of frequent discussion and speculation. "Where is the bell?").

The building was torn down and the board sought means to finance construction of a new school. Members of the building committee contacted a bonding company in Denver. When the representative of the Bonding Company questioned them as to why they needed a new school, their reply was, "We tore the old one down." This so surprised the man that his reply was, "Well, I guess that is as good a reason as any." The present school was built in 1953 at the top of the hill on the corner where the previous building had stood for so many years.

#### Jamestown Elementary School, 1976

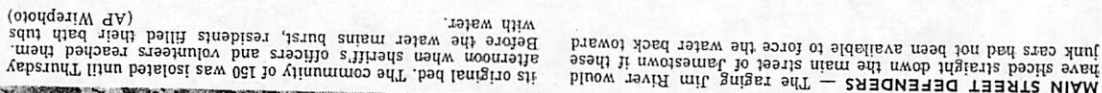
Back row: Michelle Stein, Bruce Wohler, Karin King, Rosemary Hollenbaugh, Richard Balster, Craig Yager, Peter Haas, David Mans, Cathy Phelan. Middle row: Missi Schilling, Melinda Birch, Megeara Stewart, Betsy Gurnsey, Doug Hollenbaugh, Jimmy Iams, Jerry Iams, Brian Varner, Bill Jones, John Mans, Adam Garsky. Front row: Gregor Visconty, Jason Daniels, Juliet Jacobsen, Megan Jones, Jenny Haas, Nancy Varner.



Now summer brings an influx of sightseers and picnickers. The town offers visitors a big celebration on Independence Day each year with a pancake breakfast, fireworks display and a variety of activities in between. Most years, before the snow flies, the Jamestown Players present an old fashioned Melodrama. The whole town participates in making scenery, costumes and sometimes writing their own play centered around the colorful mining history.

Citizens were united, however, in 1968 as they organized to fight the biggest civilian bureau in the federal government. The Post Office Department insisted on constructing a new \$14,000 building to replace the old facility in the Jamestown Mercantile Company. Post Office officials were quoted as saying, "We can't make any progress if we have a third class Post Office in the corner of the general store." Residents, however, felt that the location contributed to the community's charm, was adequate for their needs and that the new building would be an unnecessary expenditure of the taxpayer's funds. Citizens opposing the new facility formed a group called VOICE (Voters Opposing Iniscriminate Civic Expenditure) and gained national support for their cause. The Post Office Department finally cancelled their contract for the new building. Al Bussian, chairman of VOICE, said he was hopeful that the victory would be encouragement to others to deal with their problems within the law and to pursue their goals by calm and reasonable means.

Most residents in recent years are employed in Boulder, Denver or Longmont, preferring to commute and enjoy the benefits of rural living. There is a lively interest in town government and affairs. Nearly everyone has a definite opinion on most issues and is keen to air his views.



14 BOULDER DAILY CAMERA  
Friday, May 9, 1969



Many activities center around the school which has Kindergarten through sixth grade. Junior High and High School students are bused to Boulder as the school is part of RE 2 School District. Many parents feel that the small school offers special lessons in leadership, tolerance, and understanding of each other and involvement with natural surroundings. The children are included in local affairs, observing elections, delivering town news bulletins and attending town meetings which may concern them, such as a recent park planning session.

The town purchased twenty acres of tailings ponds just below town and plans are underway to restore the park pictured earlier in the book.

There is a local joke about the many different hats a Jintowner can wear depending whether he represents the Parent-Teachers Organization, Civil Defense Unit #5, The Town, or whatever, on any given issue. Conflicts of priority arise due to the fact that many residents are active in several or all the organizations. However, the disputes are quickly forgotten when there is a Church Supper, School Party or when the fire siren blows, once again uniting the citizens in a mutual cause. Townsfolks must like it the way it is because they are very touchy about changing it.

Two fire fighting organizations share a fire hall constructed by residents and dedicated July 23, 1967, to the late Glen W. Upp who served as Fire Chief of CD #5 and Mayor of Jamestown. The town owns and maintains one large fire truck presently being equipped to fight house fires. Rural Civil Defense District #5 (nicknamed Jintown Rural) protects a fifty-four square mile area including Jamestown, Overland Hill and Left Hand Canyon. Both units are



Dixon King

Jamestown-CD #5 Volunteer Fire Department, 1976

Left to Right (standing): Richard Hasse, Horace West, Dixon King. Left to Right (on trucks): Steven Strickler, Roger Gurnsey, Claudia Daniel, Susan King.

presently involved in upgrading equipment and training the volunteer personnel. Firefighters in town, including Fire Chief Richard Beck, serve both organization.

In a scene reminiscent of this mountain community's old mining days, it took two high card draws from a deck of playing cards to select the winner of the final seat on the Jamestown Town Board. The high stakes poker game came after candidates Steve Strickler and Carolyn Perrin finished in a tie for sixth place with forty-six votes each, in the 1976 election. State law requires that tie votes be broken by having the candidates draw lots. The mayor and the town clerk decided on a high card draw to determine the winner. A deck of cards from Harold's Club in Reno, Nevada, was shuffled, and the candidates drew their cards. Strickler and Perrin both came up with the highest possible cards—aces. A second draw gave Strickler a 10 of hearts and Perrin an 8 of diamonds, and Strickler was declared the winner.

In this spirit we leave the readers, hoping they have enjoyed this chronicle as much as we, the authors, have enjoyed compiling it.



Present day picture of the town.

Heaton Collection

Martha Rhoades and Valeria Daniels, daughters of Charles Wright.

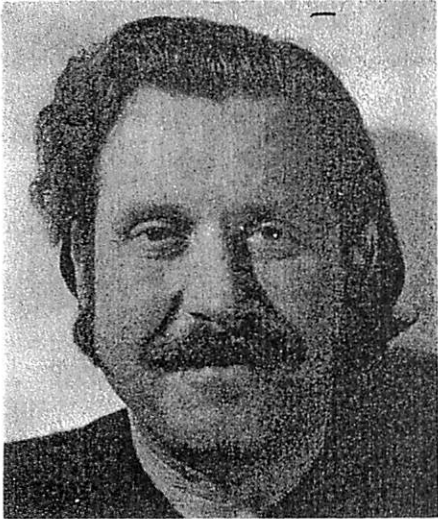






Florence Walker, first lady mayor of Jamestown

JAMESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL, 1976



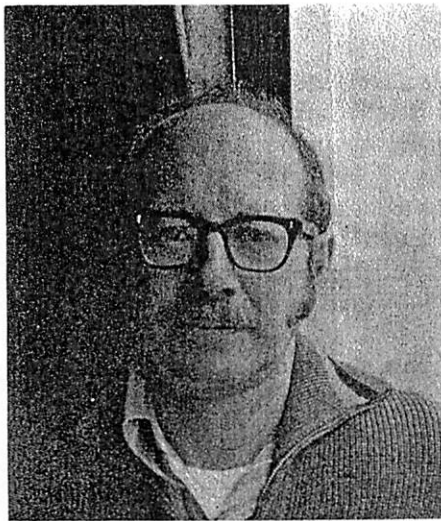
Mayor, Robert Godsoe



Clerk, Anne Hasse



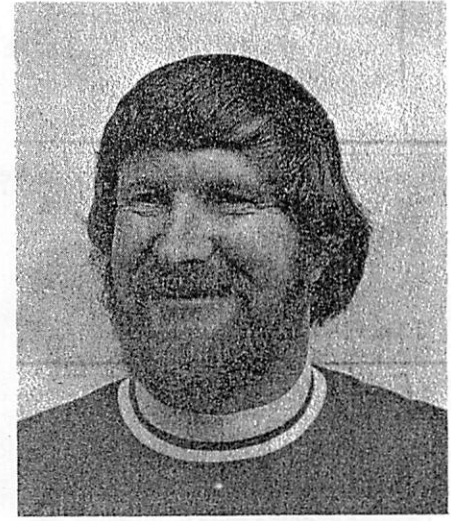
Treasurer, Doris Schell



Trustee, Richard Hasse



Trustee, Dean Hollenbaugh



Trustee, Dixon King



Trustee, Rena Mans



Trustee, Steve Strickler



Trustee, Darrel Wright

Photos by Dixon King



## HAP WALKER

Hap Walker was that kind of guy  
That at the drop of a hat  
Let his fists fly.

Though scarred a bit  
from many a brawl;  
After a couple of drinks  
no man looked too tall ...  
For Happy to take any kind of guff  
From some smart alec who thought he  
was tough.

But it took a four legged critter  
To scatter the earth with Happy's litter.

'Scuse me, I'm really sorry,  
I'm getting way ahead of my story.

'Twas back in the 30's  
and for most any good reason  
A man might go hunting  
Regardless of season.

Hap was one to try his luck  
To get himself a four point buck,  
He started out with great ambition  
Packing his gun and amunition.

He climbed the mountain to his favorite  
spot.

Sat and waited until he got a shot.  
When a buck came through running  
like heck.  
He let it have one in the neck.

That buck took off down through  
the aspen,  
With Hap behind a pantin and gaspin.  
It staggered around a cliff  
where he could not see,  
So he set down his gun to  
approach cautiously.

Looking over the ledge in his  
quiet hush  
He saw the deer, below, in the bush.  
He drew his knife, leaped on its back,  
Grabbing with one hand, he seized the rack.

That buck stood up and snorted  
then tore up the ground  
With Hap hanging on  
he whirled round and round.

Snorting, pawing, branches a crashing ...  
But Hap hung on cutting and slashing.  
His pants tore off as they rolled  
through the stumps  
And with every leap came bruises and bumps.

His shoes were gone, his shirt was tore,  
The deer and he were a bloody gore.  
For Hap was scratched from stem to stern  
But there is one thing you are about to learn.

He would not give up til the deer was down,  
And as naked he stood in surprize he found,  
The one he had ridden and finally got,  
Was not the first one at which he had shot.

Robert K. Perrin

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# JAMESTOWN RESIDENTS, 1976

Diane Aguiar  
 Ronald Aguiar  
 Edward K. Andersen  
 C.B. Arrigo  
 Dana Basden  
 Mimi Basden  
 Al Basnett  
 Doris J. Beck  
 Richard D. Beck  
 Joan Blondeau  
 Charles E. Breffle  
 Delores "Skip" Breffle  
 Wayne Breffle  
 Dale Bunzey  
 Dr. Alfred E. Bussian  
 Auguste M. Bussian  
 Erich P. Bussian  
 Peter G. Bussian  
 Kenneth Allen Butts, Jr.  
 Bret J. Dalton  
 Claudia M. Daniel  
 Dan Daniel  
 Gabriel C. Daniel  
 Jason F. Daniel  
 Sarah Maria Daniel  
 Jan Dorsey  
 Dan Eipper  
 Stephanie Eipper  
 Cora Marie Flint-Smith  
 Roscoe Flint-Smith  
 Lila Irene Fredrickson  
 Manney C. Fredrickson  
 Adam Garsky  
 Heidi Garsky  
 Jan Garsky  
 Paul Garsky  
 Patrick Gill  
 Brendan Gillis  
 Lani Gillis  
 Paul Gillis  
 Amanda Pauline Godsoe  
 David M. Godsoe  
 Elaine Gadzinski Godsoe  
 Jeremy N. Godsoe  
 Jessica Linsey Godsoe  
 Kay Godsoe  
 Robert James Godsoe  
 Al Goodard  
 David Goodard

Adriana Hendriette Groicher  
 Hermann Groicher  
 Kajetan Hermann Groicher  
 Willempje Maria Groicher-Hoogendoorn  
 Elizabeth Lynn Gurnsey  
 Jann G. Gurnsey  
 Louis Roger Gurnsey  
 Matthew Louis Gurnsey  
 Jennifer G. Haas  
 Karen Bengel Haas  
 Peter A. Haas  
 Anne Hasse  
 Dick Hasse  
 Deborah Ann Heard  
 Barbara Saunders Heaton  
 James Edwin Heaton  
 James Staab Heaton  
 Dan Hollenbaugh  
 Dean Hollenbaugh  
 Doug Hollenbaugh  
 Gill Hollenbaugh  
 Rosemary Hollenbaugh  
 Stacey Imhoff  
 Frances Wray Inman  
 Milton G. Janssen  
 Zora Z. Janssen  
 Susan Kelisek  
 Leah Kent  
 Lorna Kent  
 Mike Kent  
 Romy Kent  
 Dixon E. King  
 Jean King  
 Karin R. King  
 Susan L. King  
 A.H. Koenig  
 Matthew Koenig  
 Trista Koenig  
 Josephine Korsoski  
 Chris Kurelja  
 Rita Kurelja  
 Mrs. K. Orlando Lee  
 Don Lorenzen  
 Sharon Lorenzen  
 David Mans  
 John Mans  
 Rena Mans  
 Jason Mastran  
 Karen Mastran



Richard Mastran  
Barrie Fyfe McLean  
Anthony McGinnis  
Jean McGinnis  
Andrew Morehouse  
Jesse Morehouse  
Jim Morehouse  
Lucy Morehouse  
Nathan Morehouse  
Carl B. Mount  
Jeffrey E. Pearson  
Carolyn J. Perrin  
Robert K. Perrin  
R. Rick Perrin  
Jo Phillips  
Linda Phillips  
Terry Phillips  
Davide R. Picard  
Don S. Robb  
Carol A. Rowe  
G. Richard Rowe  
Doris J. Schell  
Missi Ann Schilling  
Vicki Ann Schilling  
Shirley L. Sheers  
James Blake Smith  
Arthur C. Stewart  
Doris G. Stewart  
Dee Strickler  
Steve Strickler  
Orma Taylor  
Patsy Taylor  
Elizabeth M. Thompson  
Gail Toups  
Jim Toups  
Florence M. Walker  
P. Everett Walker  
Helen M. West  
Horace B. West  
Jeremy West  
Peggy West  
John Wood  
Darrel H. Wright  
G. Bernice Smith Wright

## JAMESTOWN CEMETERY

NAME	BIRTHDATE	BIRTHPLACE	DEATH	CENSUS		VOCATION & MISC.
				1870	1880	
1. Allen, Edgar R.	1854	Illinois	10-2-1912		X	Stockman/Veteran Buried next to Edgar
2. Allen, Infant						
3. Augustus, Osiah Rayburn	7-28-1854		7-7-1901			
4. Bader, Ada Boot	1860		3-17-1906			Dau.-Henry & Sarah Boot Mar. to Fred Bader Dau.-Calvin Mosher Dau.-Dubois Dopp Veteran Wife of Henry Boot In Boot plot Son of Henry/Sarah
5. Bayse, Minnie Myrtle	8-31-1887		11-27-1918			
6. Bennett, Cassie E.	12-16-1880		1-31-1964			
7. Boot, Henry	1818		12-19-1880			
8. Boot, Sarah	2-3-1825		11-9-1910			
9. Boot, M.B.						
10. Boot, Walter	1855		12-22-1882			
11. Benjimen,						
12. Bright, R.L.						Co. F. 2nd Ind. Cav. Veteran In Neptune plot
13. Burke, Ben			1931			
14. Carpenter, Lucy Anne	4-14-1862		4-16-1940			
15. Chambers, James	1789		1-19-1877			Veteran Son of Ellen Evans & Walton, Clemens
16. Clemens, Boyd						
17. Clemens, Morris						
18. Clemens, William						
19. Collins, Henry B.	1-29-1865		3-12-1889			Son of John & Phebe
20. Collins,						
21. Cruthers, Mark, Jr.	1-12-23		8-30-1934			
22. Dage, J.						
23. Dalrymple, Robert W.	10-9-1906		1-2-1936			Son Martha Dalrymple Rhoades
24. Dallie,	1818		3-2-1918			Veteran Dau. of Alice/Howard Husb. of Valeria/Vet. Veteran
25. Daniels, Jeanette						
26. Daniels, John F.	2-18-1876		3-25-1934			
27. Daniels, Lee						
28. Daniels, Samuel Z.	1887		1958			
29. Daniels, Valeria E.	1883		1972			Wife of John F./Dau.-Chas. Wright
30. Dopp, Charles H.	1858		1925			
31. Dopp, Clara E.	1852		1946			Wife of Charles
32. Dopp, Fred C.	1884		1963			"World Champion Hard Rock Miner"
33. Dopp, Will D.	1881		1949			
34. Dubi, Infant	8-9-1891		9-17-1891			Son of Mr. & Mrs. J.J. Dubi
35. Dunning, Ford			1939			Veteran
36. Eagleton, Finley D.	1863		1-6-1902			Veteran
37. Emanuel, Alonzo	1858	Illinois	6-6-1885		X	Miner
38. Emanuel, Mary	10-3-1894		10-4-1902			Dau. of W.H. & Eva Emanuel



NAME	BIRTHDATE	BIRTHPLACE	DEATH	CENSUS 1870 1880	VOCATION & MISC.
39. Ernst, Peggy I.	5-28-1937		9-26-1937		
40. Evans, Jane Owens	9-20-1837		1926		Wife of Griffith
41. Evans, John O.	1876		1950		Husb. of Winnifred Owens
42. Evans, Griffith ("Griff")	5-2-1832	Wales	1901		Evans House Hotel
43. Evans, Winifred O.	1879		1959		Wife of John
44. Faivre, Charles	11-27-1845	France	5-18-1934		Husb. of Louise/Genl. Merc./Vet.
45. Faivre, Edward J.	1-9-1875		6-30-1893		Son of Charles
46. Faivre, Mary Louise Boughton	1-25-1852	France	7-1-1894		Wife of Charles
47. Foster, V.F.	1-4-1902		10-20-1903		
48. Gebhard, Infant			6-26-1891		
49. Hempsted, Asa E.	7-17-1834	New York	3-8-1891	X	Blacksmith
50. James, Benjiman	8-19-1864		4-19-1941		
51. James, Myra E.	8-9-1889		8-11-1947		
52. Johns, Annie Jane	9-2-1894		1-16-1897		
53. Johns, Floyd	9-12-1898		5-6-1904		
54. Johns, J.	2-15-1856		8-24-1913		
55. Johns, Minnie	1884		7-24-1890		
56. Joy, Anna					
57. Joy, Cana A.	1861		1930		Wife of John
58. Joy, John W.	1852		1922		Husb. of Cana/Vet.
59. Joy, Matthew	1836	Ohio		X	Teamster/Veteran Co. K. 10th Lt. Art.
60. Knoop, Uncle John	3-30-1809		8-20-1886		Veteran
61. Knope, John					
62. Lewis, John			1907		Veteran
63. Liske, Boy (Bob?)			Early 1930's		"Died of eating green apples."
64. Martin, Emery					Veteran/Martin House Hotel
65. Martin, Mary	1847		1917		
66. Mason, Infant					
67. Mosher, Calvin J.	4-2-1837	New York	6-15-1887	X	Teamster/Veteran/Son of Geo.
68. Mosher, Christa Frazier	8-14-1854		1-1-1882		Wife of Edwin
69. Mosher, Edwin	3-15-1839		3-24-1894		Veteran/Bro. of Cal./Son of Geo.
70. Mosher, Martin Luther	5-13-1884		1938	X	Veteran/Son of Calvin
71. Neptune, Bradford	7-27-1857		3-20-1939		Veteran
72. Nichol, David W.	11-24-1881		2-9-1929		
73. Nichol, James			1931		Veteran
74. Nichol, Mary E.	1888		1928		Wife of David/Veteran
75. Noyes, John T.			10-1898		Veteran
76. Oumer, Belle					
77. Oumer, Joseph					Veteran
78. Owens, Hugh	12-21-1835	Ohio	8-18-1910	X X	Farmer/Miner/Veteran

*JOHN EVANS - 2nd Territorial governor - buried in Denver  
GRIFF EVANS is buried in Jamestown Cemetery*

# Mountain Men

By Bill Lambdin  
The Voice Staff

Joel Estes was the first settler in Estes Park, homesteading there in 1863. But he was not the first white man in Estes Park.

A mountain man named Rufus Sage was there 20 years earlier. In 1843, Sage hunted big game and trapped beaver in the park for a month during the early fall.

He was the first person to write about the beauties of Estes Park when it was a wild, unspoiled wilderness, calling it a valley "ridged by lofty ledges of precipitous rock and hemmed in by vast piles of mountains climbing beyond the clouds."

The valley "affords every variety of game," he wrote, "while the lake is crowded with geese, ducks and gulls to an extent seldom witnessed."

Sage knew he was seeing this

land as few others would ever know it, in its primeval state, pure and unspoiled.

"What a charming retreat for someone," he wrote. "He might here hold daily converse with himself, Nature and his God, far removed from the annoyance of man."

After hunting in the park for a month, Sage took his beaver pelts to Fort St. Vrain on the South Platte River near Greeley and returned to the East, where he married and spent the rest of his life on a farm.

But in 1846, he wrote a book called "Rocky Mountain Life" in which he told of his days in Estes Park and other areas of the West where he spent three years trapping beaver. He subtitled his book "Startling Scenes and Perilous Adventures in the Far West During an Expedition of Three Years."

Little else is known about Sage except that he was unusual for his

time. Most mountain men in the 1830s and 1840s did not write books. Many could not write at all and were French-Canadians who spoke broken English, French and a smattering of Indian words they needed for survival.

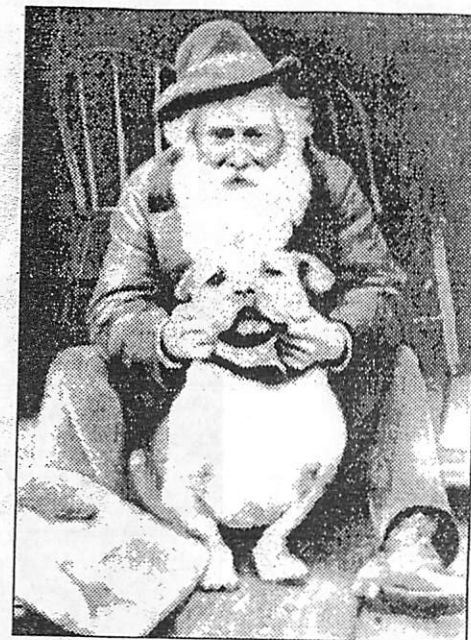
Why a literary man like Sage came to the wilderness remains a mystery. But he gave us the first written glimpse of Estes Park.

Another early Estes resident many people don't hear about was Griff Evans, who homesteaded there shortly after Joel Estes arrived.

If Joel was the park's first settler, Evans was its first inn keeper. He built some one-room log cabins on his homestead and rented them to the first travelers in Estes Park.

One who stayed at Evans' place was British traveler Isabella Bird, who in 1873 was one of the first women to climb Longs Peak.

She described Evans, his wife



Griff Evans.  
Colorado Historical Society.

and children as "jovial, hearty Welsh people...free hearted and hospitable."

She also described their food and cabins: "There has been fresh meat each day since I came, delicious baked bread daily, excellent potatoes, tea and coffee...I have a clean hay bed with six blankets."

Isabella's guide to the top of Longs Peak was a mountain man

**Continued next page.**

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## Mountain Men, Cont.

called Rocky Mountain Jim, also one of Estes Park's early residents.

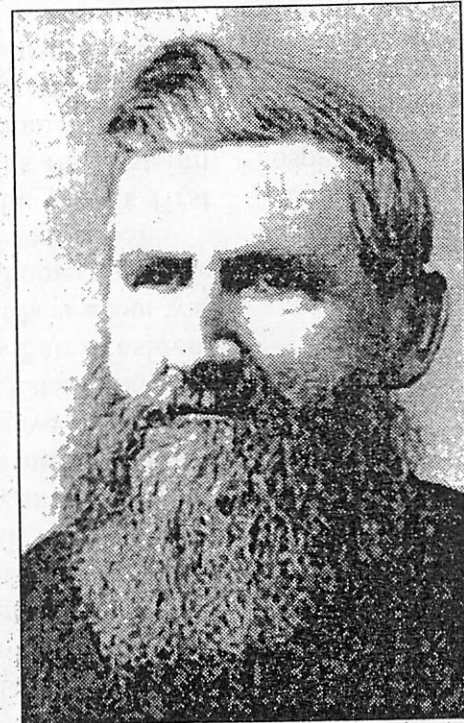
Not long after she left, Griff Evans shot Jim. No one knew why, but both men were known to be violent when drunk. Some said Jim was eying Evans' teenage daughter.

Jim died several weeks after the incident, and Evans was never sent to jail.

Longmont pioneer George Brown recalled hauling Evans' possessions to Estes Park by wagon when the Welshman first homesteaded there. The family's worldly goods consisted of "a broken cook stove, two chairs past using, a table with one leaf gone and a few pieces of bedding," said Brown.

The wagon overturned on the rough mountain trail, and Evans' possessions were even less useful by the time they were unloaded in Estes Park.

Brown saw the family's predicament and shared his bullets and gun powder with Evans. He also gave the family flour and potatoes, wondering if they would



**Rufus Sage.**  
**Colorado Historical Society.**

survive the winter.

They did. After several years, Evans sold his homestead in Estes for a handsome profit and moved to a large red sandstone house that still stands near the entrance to St. Vrain Canyon just west of Lyons. ■

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## BLUE JAY HISTORY AND FACTS

as per walk-through with Rebecca Waugh, Colorado Preservation Coordinator

2/28/00

The Blue Jay's beginnings date from around 1903 according to a relative of <sup>"</sup>Mr. Emerson<sup>"</sup> who worked in the mine at that time. It was a fluorspar mine and was never a mill. It also flourished in the 1940's.

The huge above ground structure is called a head frame and is perched above the main mine shaft, estimated to be 30 feet<sup>7</sup> where one can see water in the bottom. It is not known if it ~~se~~<sup>3</sup>ascended farther than that. Ladders allowed the men who were very superstitious to get in and out of the mine as well as to the top of the shaft where a wheel sat that displayed and controlled the cable which went down into the mine bringing baskets and/or cages up and down. The men didn't like to descend into the mine using the buckets and preferred instead to walk down the ladders. They would ride the cage/bucket up though. The buckets brought up chunks of rock and were tipped to let the rock contents fall down one of two chutes visible halfway up the head frame on the north side. The rock was then transported by wagon and later by truck to a mill which would separate out the fluorspar. It may have been shipped to Pueblo. Fluorspar is used as a metal in steel; it also is used for glass and as a kind of acid. This particular mine was known for producing very high end stuff.

Further up the hill, just above the head frame, sat the hoist house. In this house sat the hoist man, the highest paid man on the job. He was responsible for the operation of the buckets. The miners communicated to him through a system of bells which indicated up, down, stop, emergency! The system was powered by steam, which also operated the drill. The hoist house houses a large water storage tank; just outside the west door sits a concrete form that held the boiler where the water was heated up. On the east side is a little shed that held the coal which was the fuel. Later there was a compressor and you can see the transformer platform on the old utility pole. Pipes took the steam to the engine (location?); pipes also can be found venting steam and water from the mine. Besides the steam, another source of water was needed down in the mine to spray over the walls and buckets keeping down the dust. Just inside the western wall, you can see a stove pipe vent through the roof. It is likely that this was the spot for the blacksmith, the next highest paid mine employee. He sharpened tools and repaired cable; he was needed to fix broken parts and as well as create a tool on the spot to fit a particular problem. Other employees were the trammers who pushed the ore carts around in the mine, the nippers who helped the blacksmith, the timbermen who shored up the mine with timbers, and the muckers, the lowest paid workers, who after a dynamite blast shoveled out the junk and got it out of the way. Usually an injured miner or sometimes a young boy acted as the braker boy; this employee was the ore sorter, deciding which ore was good, if it was good enough to ship. Always there is the bad ore pile, or the mine tailings, which you can see in various places near shafts or entryways on the Esmeralda/Violet Ray claims.

If you walk around the Blue Jay you can see several tunnels into the hillside; the most prominent is located 100 yards east of the mine and has prominent dark granite rock hanging like a ledge over the hole. If you follow the mining road to the left of the Blue Jay and then further to the left hugging the hillside, you will come to another <sup>tunnel</sup> where the road ends. These entryways, called adits, dig in and search for fluorspar. If successful, a shaft is dug straight (more or less) down and if a vein is found, horizontal tunnels take off from the shaft. Walking around the area, you can see many sinkholes or depressions. These suggest the underground presence of the tunnels. There are also pipes visible in a couple areas that come out of the ground and don't seem to be related to anything else; these work like shunts allowing water to escape from the mine.

On one of the window frames is written the date 1953 and various names of miners including several with the last name of Walker and Taylor. Mining was a significant occupation for many Jamestown residents in the earlier and middle years of the 20th century.

*Wendy Stoker*

OPEN SPACE REPORT FOR THE TOWN BOARD

MARCH 6, 2000

The Boulder Parks and Open Space Department (Mr. Ron Stewart and Mr. Mel Stonebraker) came up twice to walk the Blue Jay property during the month of February. The second time they brought with them two representatives from Boulder Historic Society, Ms. Rebecca Waugh, and Ms. Margaret Hansen, as well as Mr. Rich Koopman, Resource Specialist from Parks and Open Space.

Following the second walk-through, Boulder representatives tried to ascertain what kind of financial commitment each entity (Town of Jamestown, Boulder Historic Society) could make. After the initial discussion (in January), it appeared that Jamestown's contribution would need to be in the \$9-18k range. Each month, it came down a bit more, down to \$10k and then \$9k (spread out over one year) which was how we left it after the second walk-through. The Historic group is interested in using their money toward preservation (not restoration). Ms. Waugh was extremely knowledgeable about mining and as we walked around the Blue Jay shared a vast quantity of information about how this mine had been set up and when (see attached). There was a brief discussion as to whether Jamestown's contribution would best go toward a share in the grants that the Historic Society is planning on writing or whether it should go toward the purchase price. I suggested that it probably would be preferred by Jamestown residents to contribute to the purchase price which would give us more of a say in management.

The next day, Mel called me and said they had put in an offer to the realtor and wondered if Jamestown could come up with \$5000 in two months (by end of April) instead of \$9000 over a year, toward the purchase of the land. I said that we would discuss this at the March 6, 2000 Board Meeting and let him know. We have \$3700 in the Conservation Trust; General Fund has a reserve of \$2300. Funding options might include a JAM benefit. I would be willing to draft a letter to residents explaining the situation and asking for donations if the Board thinks that is appropriate.

Input into management of the area is something that we can give to Boulder Parks & Open Space. Their intention is to leave it as is with no change intended. Although it needs to be placed eventually on a County map, Mel thought this might be able to be stalled; same would be true of a sign. With the talk of land exchange between entities and this being bounded on 3 sides by USFS, it is possible that BCOS might at a later date want to trade this property to the USFS for something else. There are many stakeholders in open space property and a lot of pressure from different groups. Right now it appears that jeeps are using Gillespie Gulch for recreation. We could decide to keep things as is and see what happens. We don't know the effect of the closing of Ward Street. We also have residents who enjoy the Blue Jay for dirt bike riding although the majority seem to use it for hiking. Local use does not seem to include 4wd vehicles.

Wendy Stokes, Open Space Committee  
cc: James Creek Watershed Initiative

