

Park County Local History Archives

ISSUE II

NEWSLETTER

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New books: *William & Mary Ann (Davis) Friedlander Family 1814-1930* by Diana Renner Walsh; *Jefferson, Colorado* by Jefferson Community Civic Association Board; *Proceedings from Sixth South Park Symposium Fairplay June 25-26, 2010*

Send comments, requests and suggestions to:

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ABOUT ARCHIVES COLLECTIONS

The Park County Local History Archives has many photographs, newspapers, manuscripts, business records, maps, minutes, books, deeds, personal papers and other ephemera on-site. Since its inception in the year 2000, the Archives has steadily added to its available materials. There are more than 3,000 photographs available online for your immediate viewing!

Many of these are one-of-a kind pictures from personal family collections that were donated to the Archives. Donations do not require giving up your originals—a copy, a "photo of the photo," or an electronic scan with our new hand-held scanner (donated by PCHPAC) can easily be completed without harming your originals. Before donated pictures are posted online, you will be requested to sign a "Deed for Copying Photographs." This simple one-page form allows us to post your photos for public viewing and adds an appropriate credit line.

To view the Archives photos on our website, log on to www.parkcoarchives.org and locate the "Photos" link on the left side of the screen. Click on this and an alphabetized list will appear by category; click on your category choice and all the available photos will appear. Click on a single photo to enlarge it on your screen.

Digital copies of photos can be purchased in CD format for \$1 per scan plus shipping and handling. Reprints of photos are also available—check the "Fees" link for costs.

If you use a photo from the Archives for any public purpose, please give proper credit to the owner as copyright laws provide.

OPEN HOUSE on Friday, May 6
from 10am to 2pm
Lower level, Bailey Library

THE NAMING OF HALL VALLEY

by Christie Wright



Hall Valley, located on the east side of Kenosha Pass, was one of the many mining districts coined in the 1800s in Park County. Given its thirty-five mile

distance from the county seat of Fairplay, it was not as widely publicized as the Mosquito Range mining districts such as the Buckskin Joe or the Consolidated Montgomery Mining Districts. In addition, the Hall Valley mines were not quite as productive as the Mosquito area mines, although several individual mines were very successful.

Hall Valley had several names: Hall's Gulch, Hallville and Hall City. It was named after Colonel Jarius Wm. Hall, who first came to Colorado in approximately 1868 after completing a brilliant Civil War career in the 4th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. According to his biography in the American Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men (Michigan Volume) 1878 by Wm. H. Gordon, Jarius Hall joined up in that state, quickly progressing through the ranks to attain that of Brigadier-General, although he always preferred to be called "Colonel." He was involved in over ninety battles including Gettysburg, Antietam and Nashville. He was never absent without leave and never reprimanded.

Initially settling in Georgetown, Colorado, the Colonel managed a bank for two years and learned the mining business, continually seeking to improve himself. This was rewarded by his election to the Upper House of the Territorial Legislature; he was then appointed Chairman of the Finance and

Penitentiary committees. Colonel Hall married in 1872 and his brother, Cassius "Cash" Hall also joined him in the mountains. The Halls then went over the range to mine in the area just south of Webster Pass. This valley gradually acquired the Colonel's name due to his prominence and leadership qualities, although a man named Scott Shaw previously prospected there.

The Whale Mine, located just beneath the Continental Divide, was the best mine, purchased by the Colonel in 1872 for \$20,000. Investors were garnered and the Hall Valley Silver Lead Mining and Smelting Company formed. They built a smelter below the mine and a tramway system was installed, but unfortunately the composition of the ore made it difficult to process. The Colonel eventually left Colorado and died in England in 1903 at the age of 63.

Due to its remote location, the valley and town itself had its share of "roughs"—drifters who followed mine work and were tough characters. At one point, even the Colonel's life was in danger, forcing him to shut down the local saloons. On August 12, 1873, two of these characters named Michael Boice and Henry Hall (no relation) threatened the townspeople with guns and were promptly restrained and locked in a storeroom overnight for "safe-keeping." The intent was to escort them to the Fairplay jail at morning's first light; however, this never happened. The two were hustled out of their confines in the middle of the night and lynched by vigilantes about half a mile down the valley. According to one of Henry Hall's friends at the time, Henry was buried "near the mouth of the gulch."

Today, Hall Valley is County Road 42 off Highway 285, just east of the base of Kenosha Pass. A bumpy gravel road runs for five miles to two National Forest Service campsites: the Hall Valley Campground and Handcart Campground. Part of this road is private property and must be respected.

A.C. DAKE AND HIS TOWN ON THE SOUTH PARK LINE *by Bob Schoppe*



Alvin Chaplin Dake

Alvin Chamberlain Dake was born August 1, 1849 in Ellensburg, Clinton County, N.Y. and worked for a time with his father in the lumber business.

In July 1868 he left home and engaged as an agent for a coal business. After one year he returned to Clinton County where he profitably engaged in the coal and wood business until 1873. He then went to Lake Superior and spent the summer in the coal business for an iron company, returning in the fall to Clinton County where he took part in a wood contract for the state.

In spring 1875 he moved to Northampton, Massachusetts, and engaged in the fish and oyster business until fall 1876, when he sold out and again returned to Clinton County.

In spring 1877 he moved to Summit County, Colorado, in the Breckenridge district and engaged in placer mining until that fall, when he moved to Denver. In February 1878 he went to Leadville, where he continued mining and during that summer began a very successful business manufacturing charcoal. He constructed kilns along the Arkansas River in the Buena Vista area and in 1883 at Dake on Kenosha Pass, which was named for him. During his time in Leadville, he returned to Northampton in 1879 to be united in marriage to Charlotte E. Taylor.

The charcoal produced at Dake was shipped by rail to Denver and used in smelters in the South Park-Kenosha Pass area, and also in Central City and Blackhawk. At the height of his charcoal operations in Colorado he had 400-500 men employed and was the largest charcoal dealer in the state, manufacturing nearly 1,300,000 bushels of charcoal per annum. After moving back to Denver in 1887, Dake continued in the charcoal business until 1893 when he turned his attention to the cattle business, buying and selling large herds until he died in Denver in September 1902 at age 53.

The town of Dake was founded in 1883 for the purpose of manufacturing charcoal for fuel and lasted until around 1893. Dake was a center for the early charcoal industry and thus was associated with three important themes in Colorado history—railroads, timbering and mining.

There were 30 kilns and 2,094 feet of spur track servicing them. Dake was also a stop on the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad at milepost 74.2, station no. 1045, about 2 track-miles below/east of Kenosha Pass and 4.8 track-miles above/west of Webster. There were approximately 210 men employed cutting timber and feeding the kilns.

The town of Dake had about 300 inhabitants and featured a post office, store, saloon, blacksmith shop, stables and boardinghouse. The post office opened on May 23, 1883, and closed on October 8, 1892.

Most of the town was on the south side of Hoosier Creek, while the kilns were on the north side. A boardwalk was built along Hoosier Creek on the bog of the original wetlands. It was used by workers to reach the kilns on the north side of Hoosier Creek from the town of Dake on the south side. Later, charcoal deposits dumped here provided a walkway across the creek. The railroad fill above the creek was probably used as a walkway as well.

"THE COURT THAT NEVER ADJOURNED"

In March of 1953 the Fairplay Flume reported that items had been found in the basement of the Park County Court House (now used as the library), reminiscent of the 1880 trial of J. J. Hoover.

"Hoover was incarcerated in that smudgy cell for a year awaiting trial for the brutal killing of Thomas M. Bennett, a young clerk of the Old Fairplay House...

"When Hoover's trial came up it lasted a week. When the jury brought in their verdict of manslaughter, Judge Bowen sentenced him to eight years in Canon City. The old courtroom was filled with members of "The 105" Vigilantes of Fairplay. There were yells of "get a rope" and other paralyzing threats. That night a mob called at Sheriff Ifinger's home, took him from his bed and carried him up town where he was held, while the mob took his keys, went to the jail, captured his two guards and tied them up.

"Hoover heard the mob, and realizing his fate, took his boot and broke out the window lights between the bars, yelling frantically for help. The mob came to his cell and apprised him of his immediate fate. He begged for 'just a few minutes to pray.' They hissed that he had given 'that boy' no time. He was dragged up the narrow stairs to the east windows and hanged out of the window, his feet reaching to within four feet of the landing at the big double door entrance.

"... 'Someone' got the rope, coiled it neatly, and with a threatening note left it on Judge Bowen's desk to greet His Honor when court would convene the following day.

"The Judge's apprehension can be imagined; for the first case on the docket that day was the trial of Cicero Simms, another cold-blooded murderer from Alma. It took the jury and the Judge just forty-five minutes to find Cicero guilty of murder in the first degree, and sentenced him to hang.

"Judge Bowen's wife was sitting back in the court room among the spectators. Evidently she heard some of the mutterings of the Vigilantes, for she went to the Judge's stand and whispered in her husband's ear.

"As soon as the sentence had been passed on Cicero, Judge Bowen declared a recess. He, his wife and District Attorney Burris jumped into their buggy and whipped their horses out of Fairplay—never to return. Court was left recessed but not adjourned."

Judge Thomas Bowen, an attorney who had served as an officer in the Union army, came to Colorado Territory in 1875 and was elected judge of the Fourth Judicial District for a four-year term.

After the 1880 incident in Fairplay, he decided to give up the bench and began to supervise operations in his gold mine in Del Norte. The mine turned out to be very profitable—"a 17-foot crevice of gold," and the Judge made his fortune.

But politics beckoned and, in the fall of 1882, Bowen was running in a hotly contested campaign for a U. S. Senate seat. Hurrying to get to Denver, Bowen missed his train from Del Norte by three minutes. He commandeered some men to push a handcart on the tracks to try to catch the train. For 29 miles they struggled to pump the handcart, and came in sight of the train just as it was pulling out of Alamosa. Bowen then commandeered a locomotive and again gave chase. They finally caught the train to Denver as it reached the top of La Veta Pass.

Bowen was elected to the U.S. Senate and took his seat on December 3, 1883. Judge Bowen and his wife Margaretta lived in a mansion in Pueblo during their final years and, upon their deaths, the heirs donated the property to the Town.

The mansion has been converted into the Planning and Development offices of the County of Pueblo, but its historic character has been maintained.