

WEST WOOD



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February, 2009

THE TWO ENCAMPMENTS OF THE 1st COLORADO

by Dave Hughes

Field Armies have to camp somewhere. That was certainly true of the 1,000 men of the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. In 1862 the very first Colorado Territorial military unit, organized at Camp Weld in Denver marched 400 miles south over sparsely settled land to fight the Texas Confederate Army invading New Mexico. And then, when the battles were won and the rebels were kicked back all the way to Texas, the 1st Colorado had to camp out for two full months in your dear old Colorado City.

Now we have only the sketchiest information about where, exactly, they set up camp locally. We were left no maps.

But we have several primary sources that tell us when the 1st Colorado was in Colorado City and what it was doing. One source was the wonderful detailed Diary kept by Ovando J. Hollister, a lowly private in Company F of the 1st Colorado - the only company that had horses.

The first trip that brought Captain Cook's 100 man Company F to Colorado City was the capture of 44 Confederate guerillas who had held up a train in Southern Colorado. Captain Elmer Otis' Regular Army troop of the 4th US Cavalry captured them and held them at Fort Wise (Fort Lyons today). Then mounted Company F, rode south to march them back to Denver under control of Federal Marshal Townsend to be tried for treason. They were insurgents, not prisoners of war.

We have a colorful description by Hollister after he described Fountain Creek, the springs, and the 'romantic' place he identified with "...someone with a large spice of buncombe christened 'The Garden of the Gods.'" He said "The command camped in Colorado City one night, got drunk and were noisy and turbulent, as usual in such cases. Pigs and chickens were missed the next morning by the citizens. Of course it was laid to the soldiers; I suppose justly, though I am sorry to admit it. Such petty plundering is beneath respectable freebooters. The sufferers were paid in coffee and bacon at least tenfold, and the Captain hurried away from a place where 'rot' was all the stock in trade." Hollister didn't think Colorado City was worth much. "...the idea of locating the capital there is ridiculous."

So Whisky - 'rot' - for sale at \$2 a gallon seemed ample in Colorado City even then! After Company F fetched the prisoners from Fort Lyon, and a 6 lb canon Hollister reports they arrived back in Denver on November 18th, after traveling 18 days and "...from Colorado City seventy-five miles, without stopping to eat or sleep..." Each prisoner was guarded, by one Company F trooper. They were led on horseback, some shackled, with 38 soldiers standing guard at night. The soldiers bet Cook couldn't get them all back

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Old Colorado City Historical Society

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The Old Colorado City Historical Society

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS THE 15th OF EACH MONTH

MISSION

Revised April 2004

The Old Colorado City Historical Society was founded as a volunteer organization to recognize the historical significance and unique culture of original Old Colorado City and early El Paso County. This spirit is perpetuated through the preservation of artifacts and archival materials, encouragement of research, education of the children and the community, through the membership and the operation of the History Center at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships are welcome at any time. Membership renewals are due on the anniversary date of the initial membership. Members receive the *West Word* newsletter, discounts, local meetings and programs.

Annual membership classifications are:

Student	\$15	Lifetime	\$150
Individual	\$20	Business	\$50
Family	\$25	Corporate	\$250

Funds from a Lifetime membership are placed into a Perpetuity/Endowment Fund to be used only for projects which have been approved by two-thirds of the membership. Only the interest will be used for current expenses. We welcome gifts to this fund, which will be credited to the donor or as a memorial.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	Sharon Swint	630-8384

MEETINGS

OCCHS Monthly Meeting & Program is held at 11 a.m. on the second Friday of each month, except during June, July, and August. The History Center opens at 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting for refreshments and visitation. The program begins at 11 a.m. This meeting is free and open to the public.

WELCOME TO OCCHS! ~ NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

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MOVING?

ZIP CODE CHANGE?

We don't want to lose you! New postal regulations do not forward this newsletter. Please notify us of your change of address. If you have a P.O. Box, we need your "mailing address". Apartment numbers and ZIP code changes are also important.

Thank you! - the Newsletter & Membership Committees

Volunteer Spotlight – meet Chris Heinich

By Barbara Barbaro

Chris likes to refer to herself as “the original Durango kid”. There’s a lot of Durango family history that goes way back, starting with grandparents, who were pioneers in Durango. She, herself, was born and raised in Durango, and didn’t leave that breathtaking, scenic area until she went away to college in Greeley, Colorado.

Like many of the other History Center volunteers, Chris was a teacher. She taught physical education and English to junior high students for many years. Her love over the years for teaching hasn’t waned, though. Although she never formally retired, she continues to stay active in the educational arena by teaching English as a second language on a volunteer basis. With a sparkle in her eyes, Chris explains that whenever she can get enough persons together, she’ll set up a class. Her love for teaching has spilled over into other areas, too. At times, she and her husband, Bob, will combine their love for traveling with a student exchange program. In 1986 for example, they went to China and took thirteen students with them. They spent a whole semester there, where, among other things, they learned Chinese. In return, eight Chinese exchange professors came over to the United States to upgrade their educational system. They’ve hosted many exchange students and families over the years, including ones from Bosnia.

Chris has worked in the bookstore as a substitute for nearly ten years now. She and Bob have a cabin in the mountains in Durango, where they spend each summer, so her work at the History Center is typically during the winter months. They discovered the History Center many years ago when driving by one day and saw the sign outside, and then found out more about it through a close friend. Soon after, they both became active in the Center (at one time Bob held the position as president of the Historical Society).

Her favorite activity within the History Center is its Friday morning lectures. Chris fondly recalls her favorite lecture – the one where a representative from the Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center in Florissant brought in a wolf for everyone to “meet”. Chris says she has never forgotten that beautiful, docile wolf, with its fur so

deep that “you couldn’t get down to its skin” when you petted it. With an excitement in her voice like that of a young girl’s, Chris tells that she even got to kiss the wolf. “It was the first time I ever kissed a four-legged wolf, and I wasn’t going to let that chance pass by!”

Her favorite part of local history is studying the Indians of the region. Chris was introduced to Native American culture at an early age. Her mother was a nurse in the early 1900s on the Apache Indian reservation near Dulce, New Mexico. Most of the children that her mother took care of had tuberculosis. Her mother felt a great affinity for the Indians, and even spoke Navajo, one of the most difficult Native American languages to master. That was when the Indians were forbidden to speak anything but English, but when no Indian agent was nearby her mother would encourage the children to talk in their native language. Her passion for the Indians was passed on to Chris.

Chris respects the importance of her treasured heirlooms from her mother’s past, and has donated several items to the museum in Durango. During the months that she and Bob are in Durango she keeps active by working in the museum.

We’re so pleased that we have Chris here at the History Center the rest of the time.



First Colorado *(continued from page 1)*

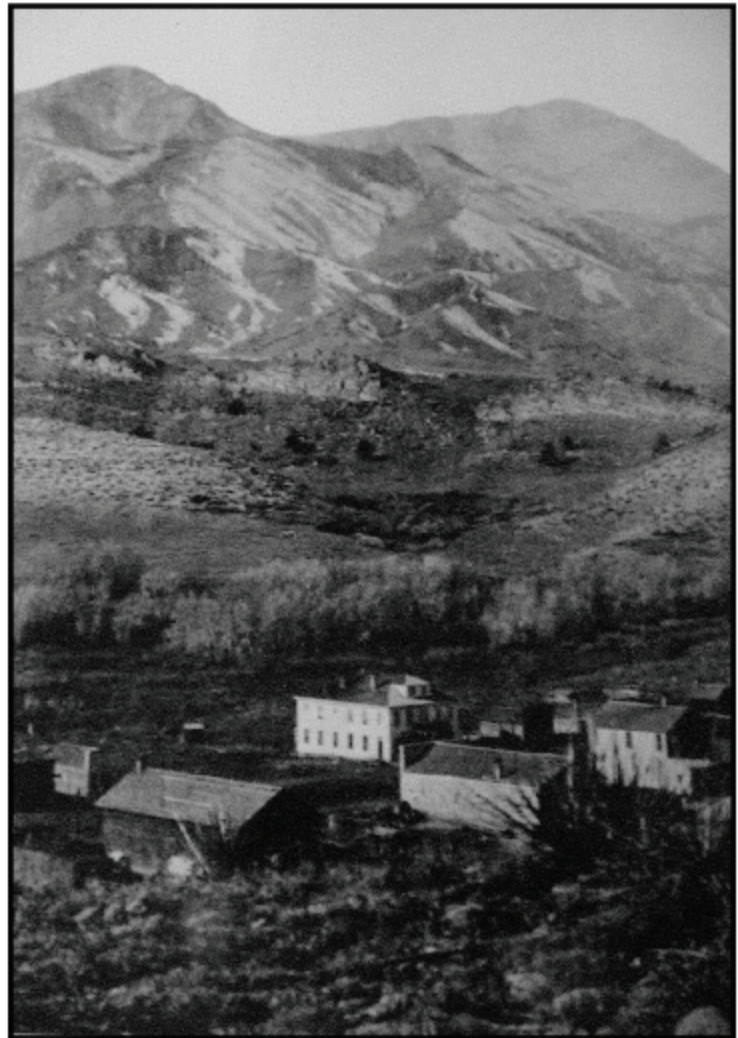
to Denver. But Hollister quipped 'The Captain was on his mettle' and all arrived safely. The Colorado City Journal of November 28th, 1861 - of which this society has one of only four existing original copies - detailed the results of the mission. It also featured a recruiting ad for 'Company A', and a call for 'musicians' for the Regimental band.

Three months later on February 22d, 1862 after Sibley's invasion of New Mexico and after General Canby, in New Mexico's desperate appeal to Governor Gilpin for help, the fully formed 1st Colorado started south to reach lightly defended Fort Union in northern New Mexico before the Texas Army did.

The third overnight stop by the 1st Colorado out of Camp Weld near Denver was at an encampment called 'Camp Colorado' opposite the Garden of the Gods, probably right astride Camp Creek. Colonel Slough, the politically appointed and unpopular Commander rode into Colorado City ahead of his soldiers in a carriage and stayed comfortably overnight, probably in the El Paso House - the only hotel.

An illuminating incident occurred the next morning. The soldiers of Company I, which was mostly composed of German immigrants, under German-born Lieutenant Kerber their commander, refused to fall out and march. They complained in this near-mutiny that they had been discriminated against because of their nationality and were given only two wagons with which to carry their company supplies, while all the other companies had been given three!

Colonel Slough had to ride back to the camp from Colorado City to see what the delay was. He gave Lt Kerber and the men a direct order to fall in. They refused. Slough then ordered Company A, nearby to load their muskets and disarm Company I. Lt Kerber then ordered his men to load their weapons and announced no other company



El Paso House where Cannon Balls were found and where the 1st Colorado probably Headquartered

could disarm them or force them to march. Whereupon Slough ordered Captain Anthony's Company E to load their weapons and subdue Lt Kerber. And Colonel Slough then drew his revolver on the lieutenant. At the sight of this Kerber's men aimed their muskets at Colonel Slough, one man shouting if he shot Kerber they would put sixty holes through him!

Colonel Slough deciding it was time for discretion rode off in the direction of Colorado City without a word. The German company got their third wagon. Nothing more was said, and the Regiment marched off.

A soldier reported to the Herald and Denver Republican newspaper that "We passed through Colorado City this morning,

marching down Main Street in open order..." Main Street of course being Colorado Avenue. That would have been the first parade ever in Colorado City!

This incident near Colorado City was only the first serious conflict the very unpopular Colonel Slough, had with his soldiers. Slough was no leader, only a cold inexperienced commander.

Right after the battles at Glorieta a month later, during which he swore he was shot at by his own men, Slough resigned his command. By petition which all the 1st Colorado officers except Lieutenant Colonel Tappan the second in command signed, General Canby promoted Major Chivington to become the Colonel of the Regiment over Tappan who would normally be given the command. But Chivington had become the popular, fearless, and very successful leader on the battlefield at Glorieta. That promotion started friction between Tappan and Chivington that resulted three years later of extreme prejudice against Chivington after the 1864 Sand Creek operation, greatly stirred up by Tappan in Denver.

After the 1st Colorado - including the fully loyal German company- reached Fort Union, they defeated Sibley's Texas Confederate Army at Glorieta Pass, destroyed all their supplies and pursued it all the way back to Texas by the fall of 1862. That battle is another story entirely that was told in the October 2004 issue of Westword and is on our web site.

As soon as Federal troops under General Carlton reached New Mexico from California, the 1st Colorado was released back to duty in Colorado. It was ordered to assemble at Colorado City, be supplied with horses and reorganized into an all mounted Cavalry Regiment. Fighting Indians needed Cavalry.

That assembly, outfitting and reorganization took from November 1862 to early January, 1863. Thus the Regiment was based in Colorado City for two winter months.

Now where did that regiment camp? We do not know exactly by written descriptions left us, but two items help fix the probable locations. The first comes from my military experience as a regimental (Brigade) sized Army unit commander 100 years later. The

second - physical evidence - pretty much reinforced my judgments.

Where would I, as Colonel Chivington, have ordered the Regiment to encamp? First of all, the bulk of the troops and their horses would have to be near water - Fountain Creek. Most of the soldiers would have to sleep in small tents in the open - few enough cabins and frame buildings existed in Colorado City. Fountain Creek comes, at about today's 28th street, close to Colorado Avenue which existed then as the main street through Colorado City. Which is also near the intersection of Fountain Creek and Camp Creek - the route north which was the primary route to Denver. The El Paso House, the only hotel in Colorado City was right there at that intersection.

I would have ordered the regiment to camp in the wooded area - giving some shelter - surrounding Fountain Creek. Picketing the horses further downstream. The earliest photographs of Colorado City show how large the wooded area was close to the Hotel. I would have put my Regimental headquarters and billeted officers in that El Paso House. Sheltered rooms, warm dining facilities - probably managed by the famous Mother Maggard who advertised in the Colorado City Journal - and a bar! Then I would have ordered my few artillery pieces to be parked and guarded on solid ground close to the headquarters at the hotel.

No document yet found confirms my choices. But in 1977 the Amarillo Motel - which today occupies the very same lot that the frame El Paso House occupied, later replaced by the stone and brick Stockbridge House at today's 2801 West Colorado - was purchased and its new owners did construction around the motel parking lot. Guess what they dug up right there, just west of the building? THREE civil war era canon balls!

That archeological reality reinforces how and where I think the 1st Colorado camped. One of those two canon balls is in the Glorieta Battle Items display case in our Old Colorado City History Center.

With 925 men still present with the Regiment after having suffered 140 combat casualties in New Mexico we are sure the Colorado City merchants happily sold more



What 1st Colorado Might Have Looked Like

than just liquor to them during that two months encampment.

Unfortunately we have no colorful description of their activities while in Colorado City for so long. Our chronicler Hollister stopped his journal entries as he was mustered out in Denver. We do have a picture and sparse comments of a well turned out young Vermonter who was there - R. B. Wallace. The accompanying picture was taken just after he got to Denver.

Wallace reported that the horses were 'brought in from the East.' He said they started Cavalry drilling right at Colorado City. We know from other sources that local farmers were delighted at the prospect of suddenly providing forage - corn, oats, hay, corn, straw and corn- stalks for 1,000 horses. It was reported that "Liberal prices" were paid even for the meager offerings of locals.

We can imagine that there were parties and revelry over Christmas 1862 in Colorado City whose population was less than that of the Regiment. The troopers didn't have to steal chickens this time for the Regiment had been visited by the paymaster and there were happy merchants ready to sell.

Colorado City citizens were also undoubtedly relieved to have 'the Army' stationed there - as protection from hostile Indians. While Ute Indian tribes were peaceful and welcome in Colorado City the Arapahoe and Cheyenne were not.

Then the party in Colorado City was over. Right after the New Year, 1863 the 1st Colorado Volunteer Cavalry Regiment rode out of Colorado City to Denver City where it got a huge reception as the Victors of Glorieta! The 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment was no more.

So today, on the Capital Grounds in Denver there is a large multi-faceted statue identifying the 1st Colorado CAVALRY. But nowhere on it is the name 1st Colorado INFANTRY even though it was the true victorious unit identity during the battles in New Mexico!

Since there is no monument in Denver for the 1st Colorado Infantry Regiment, it seems that one would be more than appropriate in Old Colorado City. After all, when Colorado City was legally the Capital of the Territory the proud 1st Colorado was defeating the Confederacy in New Mexico in the "Little Gettysburg of the West."

The most appropriate place for a marker or statue would be on the slab next to the 1859 Cabin in Bancroft Park which has been just waiting for an historical item to be put on it since 1976 when the cabin was first refurbished, flagstones were put down around it, and a flagpole was erected.

Shouldn't we erect it in 2009, the year of the sesquicentennial of the founding of Colorado City?

From the President's Desk-

If you were to look at my desk, it would be covered with a calendar and piles of emails for planning and scheduling the varied events and programs for 2009.

Yes, we have kicked off 2009 with Old Colorado City Sesquicentennial events. At our monthly Friday morning program, the Museum was filled with laughter and attention as some of our members in costume portrayed James Devlin, Lucy Maggard, Denver Dan, Anthony Bott, Col. Chivington, and a visitor from the Florissant cemetery telling about life in early El Paso County and Old Colorado City. We welcomed 11 new members that day! And on Sunday, January 11 along with the OCC Carnegie Library, we co-hosted a wonderful reception for Kenyon and Therese Jordan celebrating the 5th anniversary of their Westside Pioneer publication. A new event in OCC was the ice carving competition the weekend of Jan. 17. The focal point was a huge carved rendition of a Midland Railroad engine with smoke rolling out of its stack. With the large crowd on Jan. 9 and another 150 people on Sunday plus the thousands who attended the ice carving, we are excited (and a bit breathless) at the beginnings of this year.

A calendar of events and programs will be available next month at the February 13 program and in your next WestWord.

Many of you have heard rumors about the monument we are proposing to be erected beside the Garvin Cabin in Bancroft Park. It will be unveiled and dedicated at Founder's Day and become a gift to the City of Colorado Springs. Final City approval and the grant request are won't be determined until February and March. Even with the economic downturn, it is still fitting that we commemorate the 150 years of Colorado City. Can't do this in 2010! I guarantee that you will want to participate in some of our fundraising events!

With new postal regulations, we have had newsletters returned for a better address. Sometimes we don't know if someone has moved, is quite ill, even died, or simply a ZIP code change so please help keep us informed.

Finally, we are always looking for more volunteers...in the Bookstore, archives, helping with events and walking tours, working on research or writing, even for short periods of time. If you want to know more, contact one of the Board members listed in this issue. We have many short term projects.

Best regards,

Joanne Karlson

Treasurer's Report December, 2008

The end of 2008 reports some bad news and some good news.

First the good news. Our bookstore, helped by a late burst of book signings by speakers managed to transfer \$2500 rather than the anticipated less than \$2000 into our general account.

Our Bed and Breakfast Tour netted \$1,409 rather than the projected \$1,000 given the state of the economy. It was helped by paid advertising in the Cheyenne Edition, which brought more affluent visitors than we saw in previous years.

So our total income for 2008 was \$22,650.

And we have been blessed with 18 new paid memberships, including a \$150 lifetime one, this first month of 2009.

The bad news was getting hit for three, instead of two, unanticipated costs this year. \$6,800 for the outside painting, \$2,700 for a furniture replacement - and because that triggered a building code requirement occasioned by the new furnace, we face in January another \$2,400 cost to reline our chimney inside. So we were out \$11,900 the end of this year which hurts our war chest for our big Sesquicentennial projects, especially the 150 years of History Monument the Board had been planning to create and dedicate August, 12th, 2009.

These late year 'hits' on both our general operating fund, the drop of federal interest rates to near zero, and our painfully accumulated savings outside our \$90,000 fixed endowment fund has very much depleted our ability to do all the things we would like to do and must do to keep our doors open.

A grant request for \$10,000 toward the monument cost is pending. If it does not come through by March we will have a hard time covering all the bases.

So we are starting 2009 with only \$12,415 that the Board can allocate toward the Monument and all related expenses without asking the Society to authorize the drawing down of our Endowment Fund to pay for that permanent once-in-150 year monument covering the history of the Westside since 1859.

And of course with national interest rates in the tank, the best we can get for our Endowment fund, at 2.75% interest, less than \$3,000 in earnings for the entire year. Versus the 5% and \$6,000 we earned the last several years.

Dave Hughes
Treasurer

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Friday, Feb. 13th 11 a.m.

"The Spanish-American Northern Frontier & Early Spanish Presence in the Pikes Peak Region"

presented by Joe Barrera, local historian and well-known speaker. His illustrated program followed by discussion will enlighten your knowledge of this period of history and its influence on our state.

Come at 10:30 for coffee and museum visitation.

Saturday, Feb. 28 2 p.m.

Mel McFarland presents his annual program. The title this year is *"The Trains of Colorado City: a look at the railroad activity around Colorado City from 1881 until 2000."* Don't miss his vintage photographs and railroading tales! Seating is limited. McFarland's books will be available for purchase and book signing.

For more information, call (719) 636-1225 or email history@oldcolo.com