

WEST WOOD



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JOHNSON'S RANCH AT GLORIETA - PART 2

by Dave Hughes

Confederates were preparing to take Colorado Territory and gain control of the Colorado gold fields. At least that is what General Sibley thought as his men marched toward Fort Union with the hope of re-supplying his 2,000 man force with supplies which had been shipped there when he, himself, had been the U. S. commander at Fort Union.

Meanwhile, in the absence of any large Federal troop force in Colorado Territory available to oppose the Confederate invasion the 1,200 man 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment was being organized in Denver City, thanks to Governor Gilpin. To raise this army, Governor Gilpin had indebted the US Treasury to the tune of \$375,000 without firm authority. He was fired for it, but his actions saved Colorado for the Union.

The 1st Colorado, which didn't have enough money to become a horse mounted Cavalry Regiment, started south on foot by February 22d, to try and reach Fort Union before the Texas Army could seize it and its supplies. It marched right through Colorado City, down its main street - Colorado Avenue - without stopping.

By March 24th 1862, advance Units of Sibley's Army under Major Pyron, started for Glorieta Pass right on the Santa Fe trail. They reached Johnson's Ranch. The rebels forced Anthony Johnson, Cruzita, and all her family members out of the ranch facilities and took it over for themselves.

We don't know precisely where Johnson and Cruzita first retreated to during that very cold March. One report said they hid out in the forests nearby. But, Cruzita had so many family members living in that part of New Mexico, possibly some in very close-by Canoncita, it is probable they were taken in by her relatives.

The Johnson Ranch was just what the Rebels needed. Water, feed for their Cavalry horses, shelter, a place for their hospital, and some food and supplies. In fact they ransacked the Ranch, stripping it bare.

By that time the 1st Colorado had already won the race to Fort Union, having force marched on foot during a snow storm the last 92 miles, over Raton Pass, in 36 hours. That rag tag volunteer Regiment recruited from tough mountain men from the mountain gold camps, Denver, and Colorado City, was promptly equipped with regular Army supplies, uniforms, and standard weapons stored at the Fort. They were prepared to fight.

The commander, Colonel Slough ordered Major Chivington to take a portion of the force and press on toward Santa Fe. That he did, going over 7,421 foot Glorieta Pass before running smack into the leading elements of Major Pyron's Texans. A 'meeting engagement' battle in Apache Canon - just east of Johnsons Ranch - ensued. Under the forceful leadership of ex-minister Major Chivington the tough and mountain hardened Colorado men, supplemented by several regular Federal Cavalry, and Artillery detachments which had still been at Fort Union, won the first engagement, capturing nearly 80 Texas Confederates. Pyron's men fell back -retreated - to Johnson's Ranch awaiting Sibley's main force. Chivington's force first returned to the vicinity of Pigeon's ranch for water, which was insufficient, then to Kozlowski's Ranch further east.

The Texans dropped their scornful epithets, and thereafter called the 1st Colorado the 'Regular Demons'

Continued on page 4

Old Colorado City Historical Society

1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319
<http://history.oldcolo.com> 636-1225

WEST WORD

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The Old Colorado City Historical Society

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LETTERS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTIFACTS AND STORIES CAN BE
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WEST WORD Editor c/o OCCHS

1 South 24th Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80904-3319

or Don Ellis - splderwort@pcsls.net

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	\$25	Business	\$50
Family	\$30	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

President	Phil McDonald	532-0881
Vice President	Janice deChadenades	598-7183
Secretary	Sharon Swint	630-8384
Treasurer	Johnie Jackson	550-0999
	Beverly Dlsch	634-5023
	Tom Hendrix	633-7392
	Dave Munay	527-6778
	Suzanne Schorsch	488-0256
	Paul Shepard	633-8090

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

Leslie Bergstrom

Charlease L. Bobo

Michael H. Lloyd Davies

Glen F. Driscoll

Jack & Judith Ekstrom

Jim & Carolyn Engquist

Diana Francese

Michael Gemmill

Anthony Johnson

Barry & Ellen Johnson-Fay

Kathleen McBride

Shirley Sampson

Niente Smith

Margaret Williams

C. A. & M. M. Yowell



Students from West Elementary School visit the History Center by Barbara Barbaro

Wednesday, October 27th was an exciting and fun filled time at the History Center for its volunteers and its special visitors. That's when West Elementary school teacher Marti Wilshusen and her 21 kindergarteners breezed into the Center and spent the next hour learning all about the museum and how kid's lifestyles differed decades ago, from what they are today.

With a concern that kids these days don't have a clue as to how children from the past played and learned, or what family life was like back then, Wilshusen contacted Kathy McBride, long time History Center volunteer and retired school teacher, to see if she could bring her children over to the Center. Her idea was for them to see that children's lives haven't always revolved around cell phones or the latest toys found at Toys R Us. McBride eagerly said "yes", and then persuaded four other volunteers, Kay Atteberry, Martha Lee, Judy Willey and Barbara Barbaro to help pull the program together.

The program included having the students look at old photographs to compare life as it was then, to now, learn about what early schools were like, play with some of the toys that children used to play with, participate in a guessing game where they were shown odd-

looking items such as a cherry pitter and spats, and then try to guess what they were, and lastly, take a trip downstairs to the Collections department to get a first-hand look at some old and interesting artifacts.

After the laughter and fun had died down and the children had gone, it was agreed by all those involved (you might call them the newly-formed Educational Committee) that the Center needs to do more in this regard. "This was a prime example of our West Side community outreach efforts coming together to help enrich the lives of these young children," McBride said proudly. As a first step in that direction, McBride has already begun interfacing with school district leaders to generate continued interest in partnering with the schools.

Originally, plans included taking the children over to Bancroft Park afterwards to play some old-time games. Unfortunately, those plans were dropped due to time constraints, coupled with a cooler-than-expected temperature outside. Now, with anticipation growing that more children will be visiting the Center, the question is...anyone out there interested in helping teach a couple dozen of five and six year olds how to play hopscotch, marbles, or maybe even duck, duck goose?

Save the Date!

Saturday - February 26th

10 - 6 pm

Old Colorado City Historical Society's Bookstore

and

Mother's House Publishing

present

Writers Rave

at the History Center

1 South 24th Street

Come meet local Colorado writers, talk about their books

Get out of the Cold with a hot cup and a good book

Questions? 636-1225

Johnson's Ranch *continued from page 1*

By March 26th the main body of the rebel force had already come forward, passed Johnson's ranch, and headed onward to engage whatever troops were west of Fort Union. They parked all 80 supply wagons at Johnson's Ranch, and reportedly put the 500 horses and mules needed to haul the wagons in his corrals. Johnson's Ranch would be Sibley's Army supply base, hospital, and prisoner jail until Fort Union was occupied.

But they did not provide a disciplined unit to defend the supply base at Johnson's ranch. Oh yes, there were two German companies detailed to protect the supply base, but when the sound of firing further up the trail reached them, they told the Texan who was supposed to command them that they came for glory, not to guard mules. They abandoned their post at the Ranch and headed toward the sounds of the guns. Only a few guards, one six pounder canon on a hill overlooking the ranch, and teamsters remained to defend the vital supply base at Johnson's ranch.

The smaller Union main force, which by then had started marching toward the pass out of Fort Union, made a fateful decision. Col. Slough, in consultation with Chivington, decided to try a classic 'flanking' maneuver. He sent Major Chivington with a third of the entire force - 530 men - up over the Glorieta Mesa to fall on the flank of the advancing Confederates. Chivington could find his way through unfamiliar terrain because he was guided by Lt. Colonel Manuel Chavez, experienced New Mexico Militia officer, who knew his home territory.

The main body of the two armies clashed east of Glorieta Pass early on March 28th. While the Coloradans put up a spirited attack and defense, they started being relentlessly pushed back by the larger Texan force in a series of engagements, including one at Pigeon's Ranch. Meanwhile Chivington's force in crossing the Mesa, swung too far south around the Rebel flank to know, or hear, exactly where the main Rebel force was. It had moved further east along the trail than Slough and Chivington had counted on.

But Lieutenant Colonel Chavez, later called the 'Little Lion of the Southwest' did his guiding job well. By afternoon he had led the Coloradans to a 700 foot high steep hill which overlooked Johnson's Ranch, with all its parked Rebel supply wagons and the hundreds of horses and mules! Having approached quietly, silently capturing

one sleeping Confederate sentry on top of the bluff, Chivington was able to study the ranch area below. He saw only a handful of soldiers, some wounded men and Union prisoners, and the one canon. Nobody down there at the ranch heard the 500 men about to descend on them!

Chivington gave the order to attack. His force slid, fell, rappelled down the cliff opposite the ranch, while the canon only got off a few ineffective shots at them, teamsters and soldiers ran away, and Chivington's men set about burning, blowing up, and destroying all 80 wagons - killing and running off all the animals, freeing Union prisoners, and killing half the crew manning the canon while taking some prisoners. It was a total Confederate disaster at Johnson's Ranch!

Before nightfall, and before Chivington had gotten back to Union lines at Kozłowski's Ranch after ten thirty at night, Col. Scurry in command of the Texans, realizing all the Rebel supplies were gone, asked for a normal mutual 'burial truce' with Union commander Col. Slough, who did not yet know what a calamity had befallen the Confederate Army at Johnson's Ranch. The burial truce was agreed to, but in the dark, Scurry and his entire Rebel force started their ignominious retreat, which did not end until all of badly depleted Sibley's Army was forced back into Texas with less than 1,000 men, 7 wagons, and a few canon captured at Valverde.

The victorious 1st Colorado Infantry Regiment was ordered back to Colorado City, where, in November and December 1862, it was finally equipped with horses. After the regiment camped and trained in and around Colorado City, it rode off to Denver in January, 1863, as the 1st Colorado Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, ready to deal with the growing Indian depredations threat that led to the Battle of Sand Creek a year later.

Anthony and Cruzita Johnson were able to reclaim their ransacked ranch property. Later Anthony Johnson put in a \$4,075 claim to the US Government for his losses caused by the Confederates, including fair compensation for a lost barrel of whiskey - \$80.

While it took time to rebuild and restock their ranch, they continued to operate it as a popular stage stop right up until 1870 when the railroads started to take away trail business. Anthony even helped build the first railroads by hauling timber for ties.

After the severe drought of 1869, and with the declining traffic on the Sante Fe trail due to

"Johnson's Claim For Losses"

One Horse	\$ 150
2 oxen	\$ 70
20 fanegas (1.6 bushels) corn	\$ 240
10 sacks of flour	\$ 100
15 fanegas corn meal	\$ 225
40 gallons molasses	\$ 180
1 barrel whiskey	\$ 80
2 sacks sugar	\$ 80
1 sack coffee	\$ 80
3 boxes soap	\$ 45
3 boxes candles	\$ 45
1 gross sardines	\$ 60
4 dozen cans oysters	\$ 40
Damages to house, corral, walls and fencing burned up	\$1,500
Harness, saddles and farming equipment stolen or destroyed	\$ 500
Clothing for myself and family, bedding, mattresses, blankets, sheets, books, table, furniture, cooking utensils, etc.	\$ 700
Total	\$4,075

Railroad competition, Anthony and Cruzita decided to abandon Johnson's Ranch and move to Trinidad, Colorado with their three children. Then began new chapters in the varied and exciting lives of the Johnson children, their spouses, and their children - including adventurer James White. The Johnsons and Whites became both prominent and notorious in and around Trinidad, with hangings, shootings, and frontier life involving the family. They even went into coal mining.

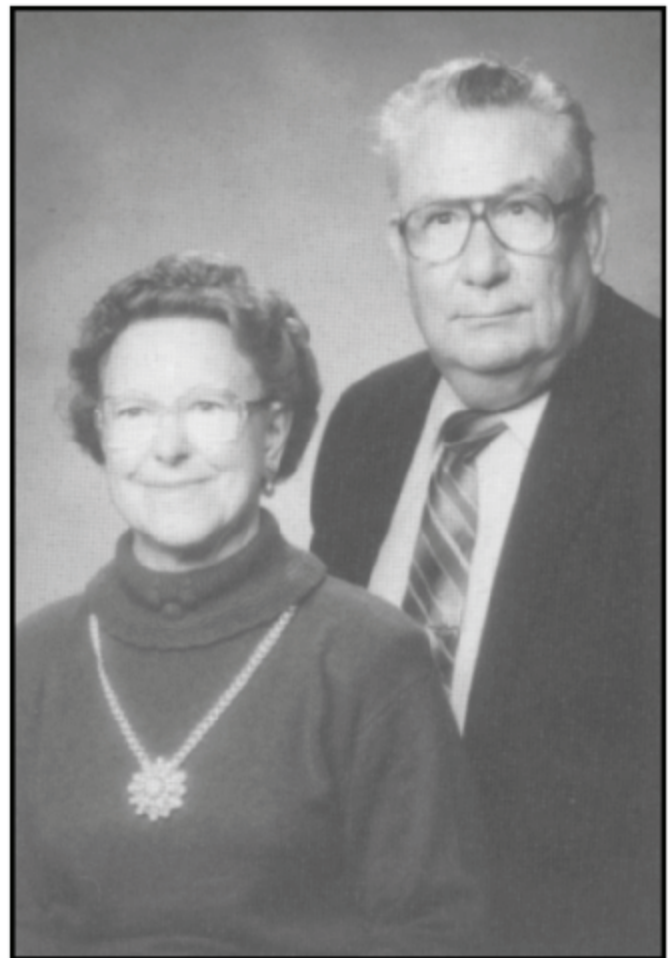
Anthony continued freighting supplies to and from southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico until his life was cut short at 56. On January 6th 1879 two men he gave a ride to on a wagon freighting trip out of Las Colonias, New Mexico, murdered him. They stole his team and money and then tried to party back in Las Colonias, near the Canadian River in southern New Mexico, where his horses were recognized, and the killers - one named Antonio Maes - were arrested and jailed.

Cruzita lived on until age 85, surrounded by her family. She died in 1913 and was buried in Trinidad. Unfortunately no photograph of either Anthony D. nor Cruzita has ever been found.

But the narration and photographs in

Anthony Gabriel Johnson's book continue to follow Anthony D's and Cruzita's descendants right through the lives of some of the third generation in Colorado Springs as they worked in the Pike View and other coal mines that powered, not only the 1900s railroads but also the gold mills of Colorado City.

There are only a few copies of Anthony and Aleta Johnson's original limited-printing left. I have ensured that one copy will be in our center's Reference Library for those interested in further research. It is possible that our Society can even reprint it - with new copies put on sale in our book store. The fortunes of Colorado Territory and especially the original Colorado City were decisively altered by the Civil War in the little understood battles in the far west. The story of Anthony D. Johnson's life and his Santa Fe Trail ranch is forever linked to the fortunes of Colorado Territory and especially the original Colorado City.



Anthony G Johnson, great grandson of Anthony D and Cruzita, with wife Aleta. They co-researched and authored the "Legacy" book in 1992.

Need a Holiday Gift Idea?

*Geologic Folio
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Old Colorado City Historical Society Museum Bookstore



Tickets are still available
at the History Center and at participating Inns
Sixteenth Annual
Holiday Bed & Breakfast Tour
Sunday, December 5 1-5 PM

Old Colorado City Historical Society President's Report

November 2010

By Phil McDonald

First of all, I'd like to extend my best wishes to our loyal members for a joyous Holiday season. May you all experience the warmth and fellowship of good friends and family. I am hopeful that your seasonal plans include a tour on December 5 of the many lovely B&Bs that Bev Disch has worked so hard to organize. Keep in mind that the proceeds from ticket sales to this event are one of the major sources of funding for the many programs and activities of our society. Tickets may be purchased from any Board member or at the bookstore.

I'd like to publicly extend my gratitude to Susie Schorsch for the hard work that she has done at our bookstore and for her efforts to upgrade our website. Thanks, Susie, for all the time and effort that you have expended on behalf of our society.

I'm happy to report that Dave Hughes has purchased an original 1859 Colorado City Fosdick Plat fold-out. This rare item is in virtually mint condition and will make an excellent addition to our collection. Next time you see Dave be sure and ask him about this rare treasure. Thanks, Dave!

On Wednesday, November 10, I had the pleasure of attending a pot-luck dinner held at the OCCHS that was sponsored by the Old Town Merchants association. Food and drink were plentiful and a good time was had by all. Most importantly this event served to reinforce the bond between the society and our neighboring merchants. It's clear to me that our mutual interests will be served by this relationship.

On Friday, November 12, paleontologist Mike Nelson presented his program on "Geology of the Pikes Peak Region." Mike's presentation was well attended and elicited many questions. Our next event, of course, is the December 5 B&B tour. Let's make the 2010 event, the best ever. Buy your ticket if you have not already done so!

That's all until next time.

Phil McDonald
President, OCCHS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, OCTOBER 2010

Where has the year gone? As I sit down to write this report, I am amazed that it was a year ago in November that I became active with OCCHS and started to learn the Treasurer's position. I'm still somewhat awed that I could even begin to think that I could follow Dave Hughes in this position, a job he had held for some ten years. Why the man has forgotten more about Colorado City than I will ever know. I do want to thank everyone on the Board from 2009, the current Board of Directors, and other members that have been an invaluable resource in helping me through the year. They have been an immense help in steering me through the ins and outs of our Society. I am proud to be able to report that our Society has gotten even stronger over the past year, thanks to the mighty efforts of our volunteers. Our investments, even in a bad market, has gained over \$5000 in the past year. Through the gracious donations of our members our digital program has grown by more than \$5000. Check out the Website. It is different, thanks to Susie and David Hughes, III. We had a mixed year with our events, some were abandoned, but new ideas came at the right time and they increased our income. New members have joined in working to make several departments better. I would encourage any new member to get active, ask anyone, "How can I help?" We celebrate another Sesqui-centennial (old spelling) in the coming year, the beginning of hostilities during the Civil War. If you have ideas, let us know. Get active we can use your help!

OCCHS TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS

OCCHS Bank Account	\$	10,224.60
Book Store Bank Account	\$	3,279.70
Memorial Hos. Rev. Bond	\$	52,330.00
Cal. Regents Revenue Bond	\$	26,322.75
Edward Jones Bonds (Cash)	\$	3,639.09
Total Fixed Endowment Funds	\$	96,867.18
Earned Income Savings	\$	11,153.07
Shirley Bonds Digital Account	\$	9,158.20

TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS \$ 130,682.75

Johnie E. Jackson, Treasurer
Old Colorado City Historical Society

OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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December / January Calendar

History Center
Bookstore/Gift Shop
Tues. thru Sat, 11 to 4

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5
2 - 5 P.M.
(History Center open
noon - 5:30)

Friday, January 14
11 a.m.

Give a "gift of history" with a book, an OCCHS membership, vintage table top accents, OR shop for quilt items and jewelry. All profits support OCCHS. Bring your friends!

Sixteenth Annual Bed & Breakfast Holiday Tour
A festive holiday afternoon visiting eight local inns. Refreshments and door prizes at History Center. Tickets available online, at the History Center, or at any participating inn \$12 in advance, \$15 on the day of the tour.

This is a major OCCHS fundraiser enjoyed by both men and women! Help sell tickets! Bring your friends!

Program: "Miramont Castle: Its History & Stories"
Staff and volunteers will present a special look at the "castle" built during days of early El Paso County. Its continued use is a tribute to its construction and those who are passionate about Miramont's history. This will be an armchair tour....no stairs!

Old Colorado City History Center

1 S. 24th. Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - 636-1225 - <http://history.oldcolo.com>

Museum Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 11 - 4 Free Admission. Donations greatly appreciated.