CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM

PIECES OF THE PAST

The Story of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

Photo courtesy of Carol Tunner

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December 2008

City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program

naturally yours

City of Fort Collins
Natural Areas Program

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program was started in 1992 with the first of several citizen-initiated sales taxes to conserve lands with natural values. As of January 2008, the Natural Areas Program has conserved more than 35,000 acres of land.

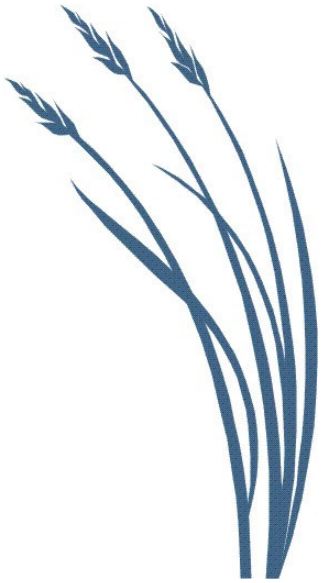
In 2003, the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program purchased the 2,606-acre site that was to become Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. This natural area opened to the public in fall, 2006.

Mission

The mission of the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program is to protect and enhance lands with existing or potential natural areas values, lands that serve as community separators, and lands with scenic values. Conservation of natural habitats and features is the highest priority, while providing opportunities for education and recreation for the Fort Collins community.

Funding

Funding for the research and production of the historical record of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area was made possible through a generous grant from the D.R. and Virginia D. Pulliam Charitable Trust.



Historian

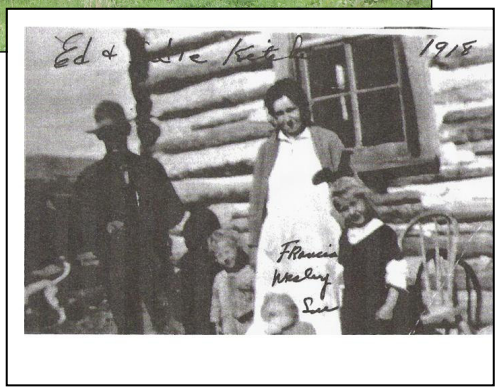
In the spring of 2007, Carol Tunner was hired to research and write the historical record of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. Carol has a B.A. in Geology and an M.S. in Planning and Design. Her thesis was on the history of Fort Collins City Park. Carol is familiar with the City of Fort Collins government, having spent 23 years in its employ, starting as an intern, then a Graphic Technician, Historic Preservation Specialist and finally Historic Preservation Planner. Carol also is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation, and has led many tours of historical features throughout the city.

Carol officially retired early in 2007, and then joined the Natural Areas Program in a contract position for this project.

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to all the family members and residents who generously shared their family histories, stories and photographs. If any errors are found please contact Carol Tunner at carolptunner@aol.com or Sue Kenney, Outreach and Education Coordinator, City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program, 970-224-6118, skenney@fcgov.com

Bobcat (*Lynx rufus)* at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. *Photo courtesy of Bonnie Bowne.*



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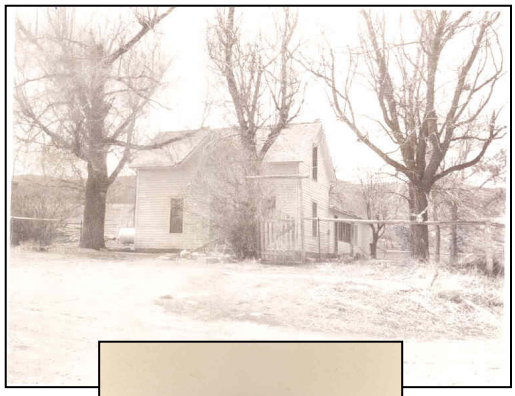
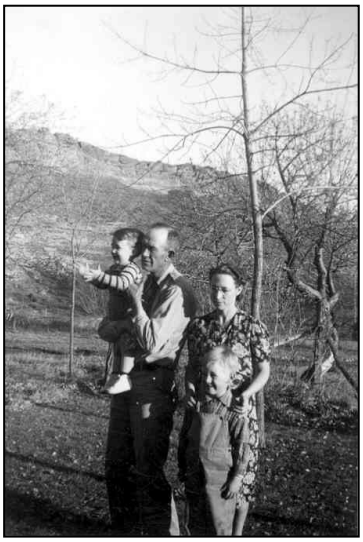
The Story of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area

By Carol Tunner





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CHAPTER 1.

INTRODUCTION

Note from Historian Carol Tunner

The goal of this historic research report is to provide an accurate history of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area so that it can be interpreted to visitors. Research began with a review of *Historical/Archaeological Planning Report* (2004) by Tatanka Historical Associates, a Historic Structure Assessment by Aller-Lingle Architects, and the assimilation of this information in the Cultural Resources Chapter of the *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan, 2005* written by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program staff. Research included interviews of descendants of pioneer families, and local history archival research in census, marriage, divorce, cemetery, newspaper, and Larimer County records. A valuable resource was the review of reminiscences and biographies of the Smith and Spence families, major early land owners. These people came from a long line of well-educated school teachers that excelled in storytelling, and were a gold mine of information about the life and times of the early settlers. Finally, publicizing the project led the Hyatt, Roseberry, Rosebrook and Griffing family descendents around the country to surface and share their own private written histories.

This report is about Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, but to understand its context, the histories of the Buckhorn Valley where the post office, store and school existed, and the surrounding areas of Crystal Mountain, Roosevelt National Forest, Redstone Creek, and Milner Mountain add to the story. This small piece of the Rocky Mountain foothills was a microcosm of local life isolated from the nearby growing cities of Fort Collins and Loveland. A few families that had occupied or owned Bobcat Ridge Natural Area emerged, and researching their complicated genealogy was an important step in understanding the way things were. Some of the earliest pioneers in the foothills were sheep ranchers, quarry workers and orchard owners, but the people who lived on Bobcat Ridge subsisted off the land by farming, dairying and cattle ranching. They also hunted and fished for food. Divorce was extremely rare because they "didn't believe in it." (Norris and Toni Kitchen Interview, May 18, 2007:14). Pioneer families didn't travel far once they settled in the area, so they intermarried a great deal. In these early days, children grew up, married and stayed near their parents.

Personal interviews uncovered a wealth of new information as well as correcting some early misinformation, but they frequently opened many more questions, some of which will never be answered. The masses of information began to fit together like a giant jigsaw puzzle, and became "Pieces of the Past, The Story of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area."

CHAPTER 2.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

As stated in the *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan* (City of Fort Collins 2005), topography was an important factor in pre-historic and historic settlement of this area. Topographic features were often named for pioneer settlers or explorers of a region. The varied topography of Bobcat Ridge is indeed the source of the site's scenic and ecologic resources. Mountains, cliffs, rolling terrain, drainages and a flat valley are all found within this landscape. High, sharp ridges known as hogbacks, run north and south, and separate a series of wide-open valleys known as glades.

Forested hills covered by ponderosa pine and Douglas fir reach to over 7,000 feet in elevation and dominate the western section that comprises Green Ridge. The top of Green Ridge is two miles and a 2,000 foot climb from the valley floor. west of the ponderosa pine forest and the crest of Green Ridge is a rimmed grassland valley known to early settlers as Mahoney Park. It was thought to have been named after an early settler. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:6). The north-south valley section of the property east of Green Ridge is known as Green Ridge Glade or West Glade. It consists of open, flat grasslands once used for agriculture. The elevation of the valley bottom ranges from 5,500 feet on the west to 5,400 on the east. In 2000, a large fire (more than 10,600 acres) started in Bobcat Gulch north of Drake, Colorado on the Big Thompson River. The fire spread east and crested Green Ridge a short distance into what would become Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 1. Green Ridge looking northwest in 1993.

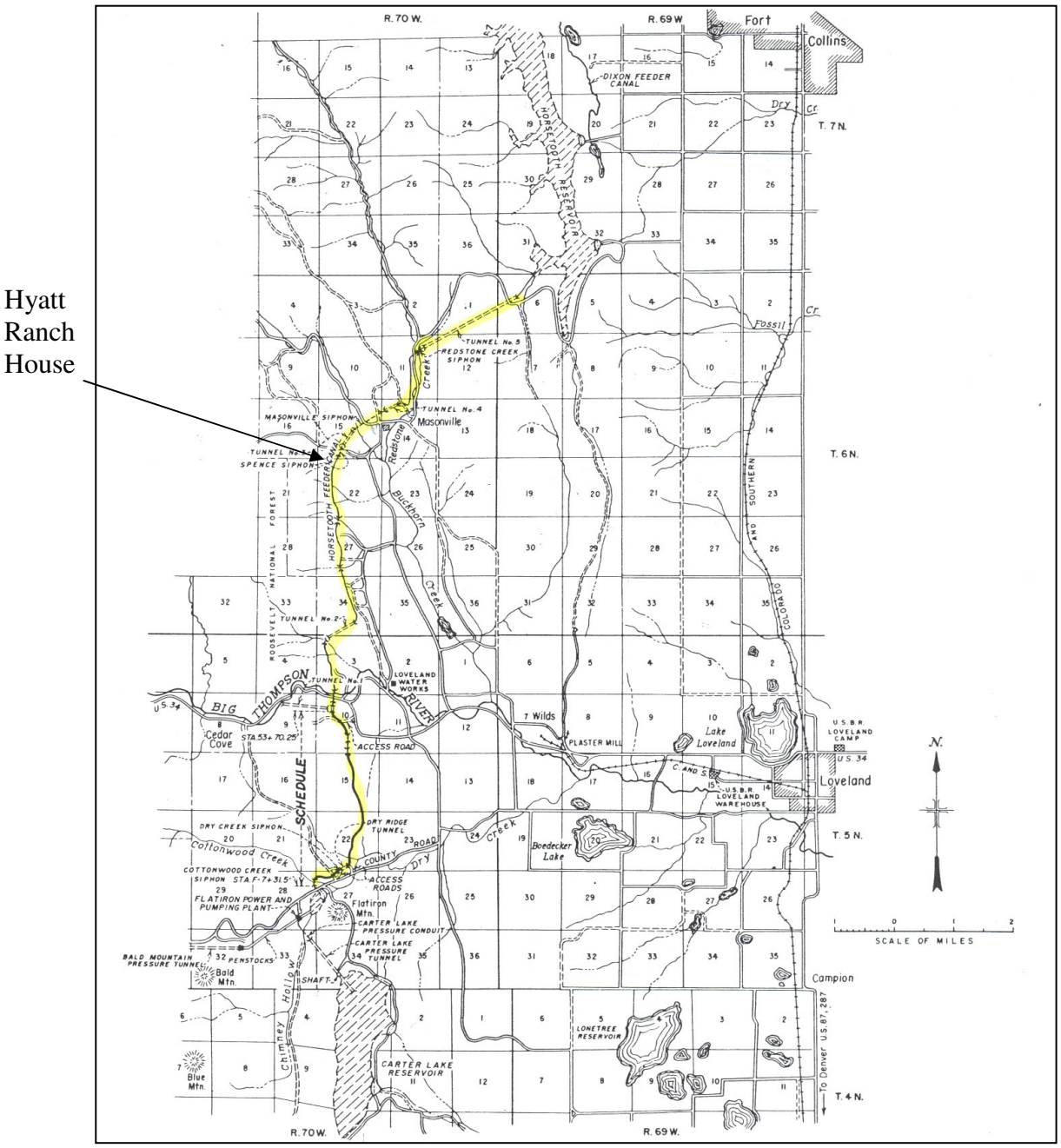
Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 2. Green Ridge, looking west in 2007. West Glade is in foreground. Results of the 2000 Bobcat Gulch Fire remain evident.

A major concrete-lined waterway constructed in 1948-1953, bisects the valley. It was named the Charles N. Hansen Feeder Canal after the death of the president of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District in 1953. It begins at Flatiron Reservoir in the south and goes north for about thirteen miles to Horsetooth Reservoir. It also delivers supplemental irrigation water to the Big Thompson River, and supplies water to Buckhorn Creek and nine farms, including Bobcat Ridge via the Spence Siphon. The property is also bisected north to south by the Buckhorn Highline Ditch in West Glade. It is an older historic water irrigation system.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 3. Charles Hansen feeder canal.



Courtesy Northern Colorado Water Conservancy

Figure 4. Map of Charles Hansen feeder canal through the property.

On the natural area's eastern edge is an unnamed hogback with a high, sharp ridge. The hogback is made up of red sandstone cliffs that rise to an elevation of 5,600 feet. This creates two canyons that cut through the hogback and drain eastward. Buffum Canyon is located on the north end and provides the main access to the site along County Road 32 from the east. This short road was a mile long to the houses, and wound down through the canyon over several brook crossings. It was rutted, icy and dangerous in the winter. To early residents civilization lay beyond the canyon: the school, post office, store, and church. The Buckhorn Creek outside Bobcat Ridge had a house every half mile or so along its banks. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:38). The Larimer County topographic map shows that quarry mines once existed

along the hogback. Some are still mined today. Brooks Canyon, located in the south portion of the property, is an ecologically vibrant canyon, rich in plants and wildlife. Brooks Canyon was named for Israel Brooks, who homesteaded with his wife, Alvina, on nearby Buckhorn Creek in 1880. (Bureau Land Management, Government Land Office, Tract Book:56). Sarah Milner Smith's brother Ben F. Milner, later bought Brooks' "squatters rights" to the property. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:90).

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 5. West Glade looking northeast at hogback with elk in foreground.

The region around Bobcat Ridge Natural Area is important to this story. Green Ridge roughly parallels the Big Thompson Canyon to the south, and leads indirectly into Cedar Park, located a mile and a half north of Drake, Colorado, halfway up the canyon. Roughly "forty-five miles to the west of Green Ridge is the crest of the Colorado Rockies towering up to 14,000 feet above sea level. In the lower mountains, deep valleys, lakes and creeks…prospectors had scratched, dug and gouged in that wonderland, hoping to find mineral treasures equal to those unearthed in the Rockies west of Denver. But the geology was different and the early prospectors found little evidence of mineralization. In this thousand or so square miles that lie in the area west of Green Ridge between Big Thompson River on the south and Buckhorn Creek in the north, there were no really navigable roads, just a few unused and badly-aged logging roads which penetrated only a short distance into it." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:38-39). Spruce and Alexander mountains in Roosevelt National Forest are west of Green Ridge. Pioneer settlers pastured their cattle on the government land for free. "On the lower slopes of Green Ridge,

Alexander Mountain, and Spruce Mountain there were always a sufficient number of live springs." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:174).

To the south of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, there are stone quarries on the hogback. These quarries operated not only during the stone industry heyday of the 1880s, but have been rejuvenated in modern times. West Glade (also known as Green Ridge Glade) continues south to the Loveland Filtration Plant and Sylvan Dale Ranch north of U.S. Highway 34.

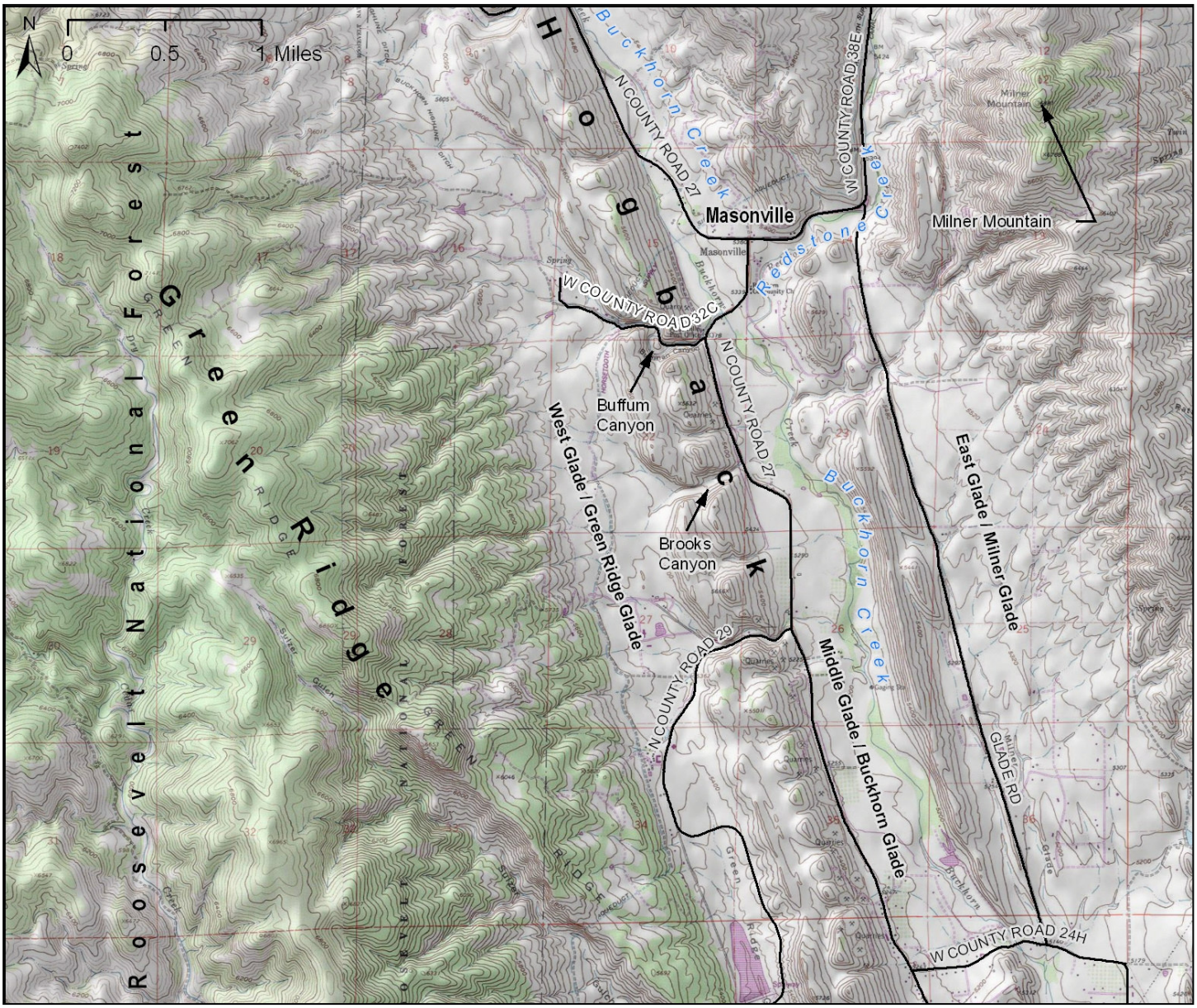
East of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area is Buckhorn Valley (or Buckhorn Glade), the drainage way for Buckhorn Creek, which comes in from the northwest and Redstone Creek, which comes in from the northeast. These creeks meet below Masonville. County Road 27 parallels the Buckhorn Creek south to U.S. Highway 34 and the Big Thompson School on the corner. Buckhorn Valley is sandwiched between two north-south unnamed hogbacks, one already mentioned as being sliced by Buffum and Brooks Canyons. Early pioneers named Buckhorn Valley after the large number of deer in the area. Even today, people gather up "buck horns" which are actually antlers from deer.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 6. Antler collection.

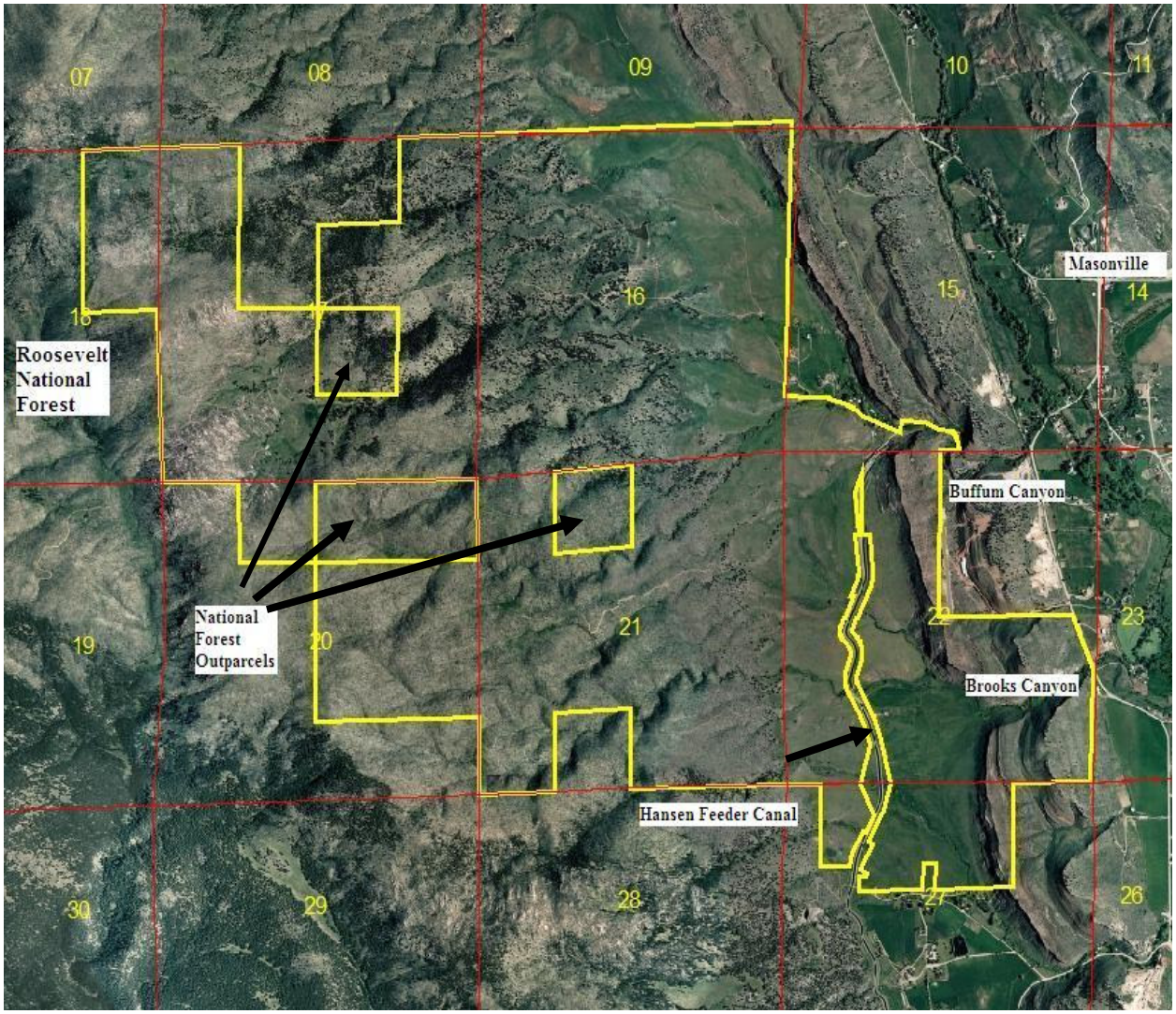
The next valley east of Buckhorn Valley is Milner Glade or East Glade. It is traversed by the North Glade Road also known as County Road 25E. The east border of Milner Glade is the large Milner Mountain, all named after the Milner pioneer family who arrived in the late 1860s and had a large cattle ranch. Milner Pass in Rocky Mountain Park is also named for them. Redstone Creek flows southwesterly at the western base of Milner Mountain. Various small hogbacks east of Milner Mountain give way to Loveland and Fort Collins on the edge of the foothills.

To reach Fort Collins from Bobcat Ridge, it was necessary to climb up over the "divide" separating the drainage of the two main watersheds, the Big Thompson in the south and the Poudre River in the north. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:74). Fort Collins was actually three miles further than Loveland was from Buffum Canyon, so the pioneers tended go to Loveland for staples and to take their cattle to the Loveland stockyards. Fort Collins was where they sent their children to college. This comprised most of their contact outside of their homes in the foothills.



Courtesy of City of Fort Collins GIS Services

Figure 7. Topographic map of the region.



Courtesy of *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan*

Figure 8. Bobcat Ridge property boundary (yellow lines) and section lines (red lines).

Technical Geology

The geology of Bobcat Ridge varies widely across both space and time. Different formations dating from the Precambrian era and up to the Quaternary period are found here. In general, the geologic formations are older on the western, mountainous areas of Green Ridge. Younger formations are found directly east along the hogback ridges.

TIME SCALE OF EARTH HISTORY (adapted from Longwell, et al., *Physical Geology*:582)

Major Divisions of Time	Subdivisions of Time		Notes
Cenozoic Era - recent 70,000,000 Years ago *Age of Mammals*	Epochs	Holocene	Quaternary* 10,000 years to today (Man) 1.8 million to 10,000 years ago
		Pleistocene	
		Pliocene	
		Miocene	
		Oligocene	Warm-blooded animals and flowering plants
		Eocene	
		Paleocene	Folding in the Rocky Mountain region
Mesozoic Era - middle 130,000,000 Years ago *Age of Dinosaurs*	Cretaceous		
	Jurassic		
	Triassic		
Paleozoic Era - ancient 300,000,000 Years ago *Age of Fishes*	Permian		Ingleside and Satanka Formations
	Pennsylvanian	Carbonif-erous	Fountain Formation
	Mississippian		
	Devonian		
	Silurian		
	Ordovician		
	Cambrian		
Pre-Cambrian Era 1,500,000,000+ years ago	Late		Green Ridge
	Middle		
	Early		

Courtesy of UCMP Web Time Machine — http://www.estucmp.berkeley.edu/help/timeform.html

Figure 9. Time scale showing Earth's history.

Green Ridge is entirely Precambrian (oldest) era metamorphic tonalite (an igneous rock containing major plagioclase, quartz, and hornblende or biotite or both) and metasedimentary (partly metamorphosed sedimentary) rock. Tonalite is light gray and varies from medium-grained, equigranular to fine-gained, porphyritic (large crystals embedded in a finer-grained matrix). The mineralogy of the metasedimentary rock varies with metamorphic grade. Within Bobcat Ridge these rocks are primarily quartz-feldspar schist and gneiss, and mica schist and gneiss.

The valley floor (West Glade/Green Ridge) was formed in the Fountain Formation (Carboniferous Period) overlain by Quaternary era alluvial fan deposits. The Fountain Formation is red and minor gray, coarse-grained sandstone with lenses of siltstone and fine-grained sandstone. Alluvial fan deposits consist of material washed off of Green Ridge and deposited within the many east-west drainages that cross the valley.

As the valley floor rises to form the hogback ridge, the Fountain Formation can be seen on its western slopes as exposed red cliffs. Moving eastward, the top of the hogback is primarily the Permian Period Ingleside and Satanka Formations. The Ingleside Formation consists of red calcareous, fine-to-medium-grained, well-sorted, cross-bedded sandstone while the Satanka Formation consists of red siltstone and fine-grained sandstone. These formations form the red

cliffs visible on the higher elevations of the unnamed hogback in Buffum and Brooks canyons. Lyons Sandstone dating to the Permian period covers the eastern-most slopes of the hogback and is made up of red and pink fine-to very fine-grained, well-sorted, cross-bedded sandstone (from Braddock, et al. 1970).

Interpretive Geology

The Rocky Mountains consist of a core of ancient Precambrian (one and a half billion years ago) metamorphic and igneous rocks. In simple terms, metamorphic rock such as gneiss and schist is formed from pre-existing rock in the earth under great heat and pressure. Igneous rock like granite and glassy obsidian is formed from solidification of molten rock in volcanic activity.

A series or great inland shallow seas covered this core, and sedimentary layers of sandstone, shale, and limestone formed. Settling sediments in the seas formed the sandstone and siltstone of the Front Range hogbacks. Red sandstone layers in the foothills indicate that iron concentrations were created in volcanic activity and washed out of the mountains into the early seas. Then much younger igneous intrusions of volcanoes pushed up again and again through these layers forming the Rocky Mountains. That volcanic activity from below pushed up the sedimentary layers on top and forced them aside to dip away from the central mass, neatly framing it. Rivers and creeks developed in the high mountains and cut down through the layers to expose the upturned edges of the more resistant beds of strata below (Longwell et al, *Physical Geology*:503-505). This created the foothills hogbacks, sharp-crested ridges formed by a hard bed of rocks that dip rather steeply downward. Mountain streams carved the ravines and glades leaving the hard sandstone ridges or hogbacks. The hogback's high cliffs, known as a scarps, face west to the central Rocky Mountains where the uplift occurred. Creeks and rivers flowing out of the mountains from west to east created Buffum and Brooks canyons in Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. These canyons were cut by the still-existing drainage ditches and they were once much larger than now. The Charles Hansen Feeder Canal and the irrigation ditches that cross the property may have diminished the size of drainage ditches in the 1950s.

The mountains of the eastern foothills are geologically very young, as shown by their sharp relief, cut by deep canyons and steep walled gorges (M. Yelm, *Archaeological Survey of Rocky Mountain National Park—Eastern Foothill Districts*:9), i.e. in the Big Thompson Canyon. "Milner Mountain was sort of a nonconforming upshoot of an intrusive formation…it was heaved up through the sandstone [sediments]…there were sediments both to the east and west of this sharply inclined mountain of schists and gneisses...and right on top was a bubbling spring of the coldest, sweetest water…which attracted animals." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:68). Green Ridge rock formations are mainly schists and granites but there is one special formation that is a sedimentary knob, that the locals call "Table Mountain."

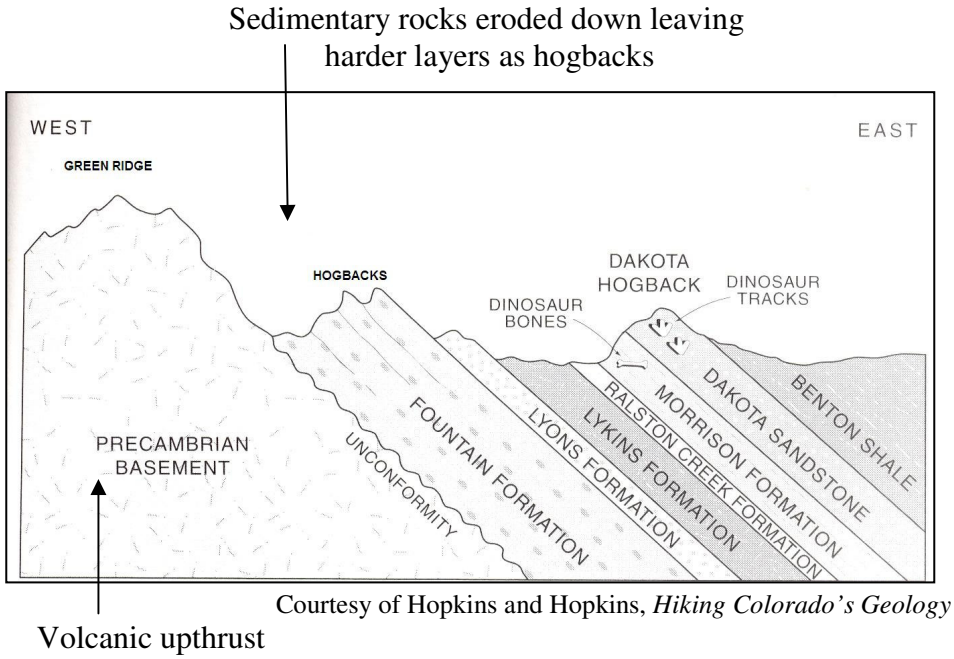


Figure 10. Cross-section showing Precambrian era intrusion and sedimentary layers uplifted, tilted and eroded.

Although no dinosaur bones have been found in Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, some were found in the nearby Masonville area. Paleontologist Robert Bakker, adjunct curator of paleontology at the University of Colorado Museum, found remains of an allosaur dinosaur named *Epanterias*. It was dubbed the "Masonville Monster." Mr. Bakker said, "The find represents the first significant dinosaur found on the Front Range north of Morrison. The Morrison Formation is the most famous dinosaur layer in the world." (Lenthe, *Remains of Rare Dinosaur Unearthed Near Masonville*:1-2).

Mining In the Region

On a map in an 1870s Fort Collins newspaper, gold and copper are indicated west of Laporte and Livermore; however, the foothills really weren't a place to get rich quick. The red and buff sedimentary sandstone rocks of the hogbacks were heavily mined for building stone and sidewalk flagstones in the 1880s. A railroad from Loveland to the stone quarry town of Arkins Buckhorn Valley west of Loveland, Colorado shipped the stone all over the country. By 1915, concrete was used for building foundations and sidewalks. The quarries went out of business until recently when sandstone for landscaping came into demand.

Crystal Mountain, located west of Bobcat Ridge, is a 9,000-foot peak where beryl crystals were found on the headwaters of Sheep Creek located at the base of Crystal Peak. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:109). Near the top of Crystal Mountain was a bismuth mine. A by-product of the mining was a beautiful pale pink rose quartz. "There slabs of it were a foot thick, almost as clear as slightly pink glass." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:93). East of

Crystal Mountain were mica mines. While prospecting for gold in Dry Creek, south of U.S. Highway 34, Gerald Spence, who grew up on the John H. Spence farm adjoining the Bobcat Ridge property, found bright red seed garnets. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:39). There was also a granite quarry, "a great hole in the side of Green Ridge that was left from the late 1800s when they quarried granite building stone for the construction of the U.S. Mint Building in Denver." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:49). Some of the early owners were drawn to these lands by prospecting, including John H. Spence and Edward Smith. John H. Spence tried prospecting when he arrived in the Buckhorn Valle y from Denver in the 1890s. He was looking for galena, a lead ore, and dug a "prospect hole" that "pinched" or vanished. That was the last of his prospecting. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:75).

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figures 11 and 12. John H. Spence's prospecting spoon held by Dwain Thompson (current owner of the John H. Spence historic 1896 farm house adjoining the Bobcat Ridge property).

CHAPTER 3.

EARLY INHABITANTS

Native American Indians

The Native American Indians that roamed Colorado were primarily the Utes and Arapahos. The Utes made their homes in the larger parks and valleys of the Rocky Mountains. They were probably originally from the south and west as they were allied with the Apaches of Arizona and New Mexico for several generations. American Indians are classified into families by their dialect, and the Utes spoke the Shoshone or Snake language. Before the Indian Treaty of 1863, they claimed all of the Colorado Rocky Mountains except a narrow strip on the north and west. The Arapahos were of the Algonkian family and claimed the Colorado plains east of the mountains. The foothills area surrounding Bobcat Ridge Natural Area was in between these Indian groups and claimed by both. (F. Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*:59).

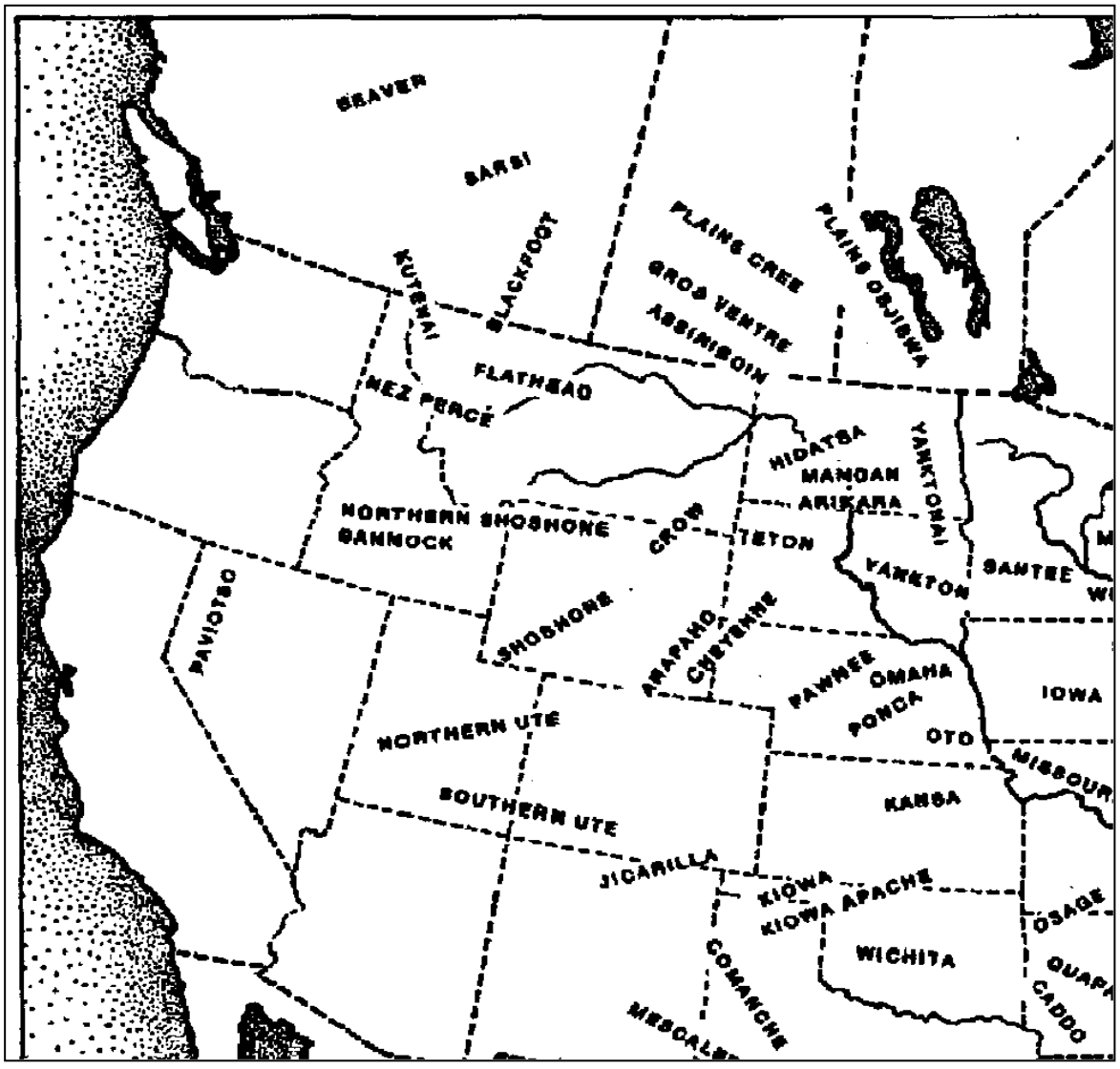
Plains Indians, a mix of thirty different peoples, were large-game hunters. They were dependent for a considerable part of their diet on bison, and used bison hides and deerskins for clothing and receptacles. They lived in conical skin-covered tents called tipis. (R. Lowie, *Indians of the Plains*:5). The Plains Indians lived along the waterways using the trees for shelter, fuel and water. (W. Wood, *Archaeology on the Great Plains*:10). The horse was introduced in the 16th century to Mexico (New Spain) by the Spaniards, and by 1700 the use of horses had spread to northern Colorado. (A. Morris, *The History of Larimer County, Colorado*:6). The horse changed the life of the Indian by altering his hunting and transport methods and turning him into an equestrian nomad. (R. Lowie, *Indians of the Plains*:5).

First observations of the Arapahos were reported by Jean-Baptiste Truteau in 1794. These Central Plains Indians were recorded as living in southeastern Wyoming. They drifted south and split into northern and southern groups. (W. Wood, *Archaeology on the Great Plains*:10). The name for the sub-tribe of these Indians means "rock men," referring to stone chipping or working of flint. (A. Kroeber, *The Arapaho*:8). They had no permanent settlements or fixed dwellings, but lived exclusively in tents made of bison skins.

Agriculture was not practiced by these Indians. When in the eastern Rocky Mountain foothills, they used snowshoes for hunting bison in winter. Bison struggling in deep snow were an easy target. The Arapaho would pack the meat into the bison's hide and drag it back to camp over the snow (A. Kroeber, *The Arapaho*:23). "The tribe against which the Arapaho fought most was the Utes, the bravest, after themselves." (A. Kroeber, *The Arapaho*:8).

The Utes were High Plains Indians. They had earliest contact with the Spaniards in the late seventeenth century and the introduction of the horse greatly expanded their movement from the mountains they inhabited in the direction of the Plains. Ute core territory remained in the Colorado Rockies and foothills near the headwaters of the Arkansas River as they also split into northern and southern groups. Most Ute sites are found in western Colorado. They contain

known Ute markers such as Uncompahgre Brownware pottery, specialized desert side-notched and cottonwood triangular points. They lived in "wickiups", a Ute house type that looked like an oval shaped hut frame covered with grass, brush, etc. (W. Wood, *Archaeology on the Great Plains*:471). The Utes sent raiding parties eastward through the mountain passes and over the Old Ute Trail following part of today's Trail Ridge Road through Rocky Mountain National Park. (M. Yelm, *Archaeological Survey of Rocky Mountain National Park—Eastern Foothill Districts*:32). The goal of these raiding parties was to kill the enemy or steal horses. The Big Thompson River Valley was a major route that gave the Utes back and forth access to the eastern foothills populated by pioneer settlers and Arapaho Indians.



Courtesy of Robert H. Lowie. *Indians of the Plains*

Figure 13. Map of Indian tribe locations.

Settlers' Experiences with Native American Indians

Gold fever struck in the mountains west of present-day Denver in 1858. A rush of settlers and gold miners infiltrated the area. Many were disappointed but stayed to homestead and start a new life. Some of the early settlers near Masonville, like Milner and Spence, migrated to northern Colorado. The southern Arapaho were friendly and there are many incidences of visitation and trading recorded around Denver and Fort Collins in the 1860s. (W. Wood, *Archaeology on the Great Plains*:460-461). Indians soon saw their lands taken and their bison livelihood destroyed, and they attacked isolated settlers and wagon trains. The white man retaliated with revengeful incidents such as the Sand Creek Massacre. It was a dark period in our history.

In the book *Pioneer Epic* (taken from diaries by early settler Sarah Milner Smith and written by her son Eugene Smith), Sarah relates that on her 1866 journey west by wagon train from Rockford, Illinois to Colorado, there were several "fearful Indian sightings." Before they reached Nebraska, "there were ugly rumors from returning teamsters of Indian depredations and killings. Small parties had been attacked along the road and murdered. Large bands of Indians were congregating in western Nebraska, apparently bent on mischief." Sarah's party waited in an army post in central Nebraska and again in Julesburg, Colorado, for more pioneer wagons to arrive, in order to form a larger wagon train which was less likely to be attacked. Sarah had been allowed to ride on a burro, a small Spanish donkey, alongside the wagon train. She relates her experiences:

> "We soon began to see small bands of Indians at a distance, and Father demanded that I ride close to the wagons…then one day we encountered a band of several hundred savages all in war paint and with no women or children—a bad sign, so we were informed. The savages followed the wagon train too close for comfort, halting and dismounting from their ponies at noon and coming boldly into camp where they impudently put their hands into the men's pockets in search of tobacco and pocket knives; or taking the bacon out of the frying pans to eat as soon as cooked. So the white men merely gritted their teeth and endured the indignity with the best grace they could. One day in particular, as we neared Julesburg, the savages seemed especially bold, riding closely along side of the train…that day an old chief persisted in riding close to us, also. I was staying as near my father as possible. Finally the chief rode so near me as almost to crowd my burro against the wheels. Then leaning over, he thrust a finger into one of the long curls which my mother still arranged my hair each morning, and lifting the curl on his dirty finger and breathing against my neck as he did so, called the attention of the nearest braves to it. I was terribly frightened, as was also my father, who leaped down and helped me up hastily to a seat beside him, an act that seemed to amuse the chief greatly. In my dreams I can still feel the Indian's hot breath on my neck, and I wake with a shudder." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:18-19).

Even with big wagon trains for protection, the white settlers feared that the Indians would swoop in at night and stampede their horses and oxen away from the small force watching them. This would leave the wagon train stranded and helpless. The travelers learned of a lone trader up ahead who had lived among the Indians for years, but was found dead and scalped, and his store

looted. They travelled across the country in the midst of the Indian Wars, and after hearing many stories on the trail, they were constantly afraid of encountering Indians. But in spite of this, along with bad weather and rocky trails, Sarah's family made it safely to the Central City area. Later, living in Buckhorn Valley, Sarah speaks of "constantly roving bands of Indians not always to be trusted when they saw they had the advantage of the whites." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:39).

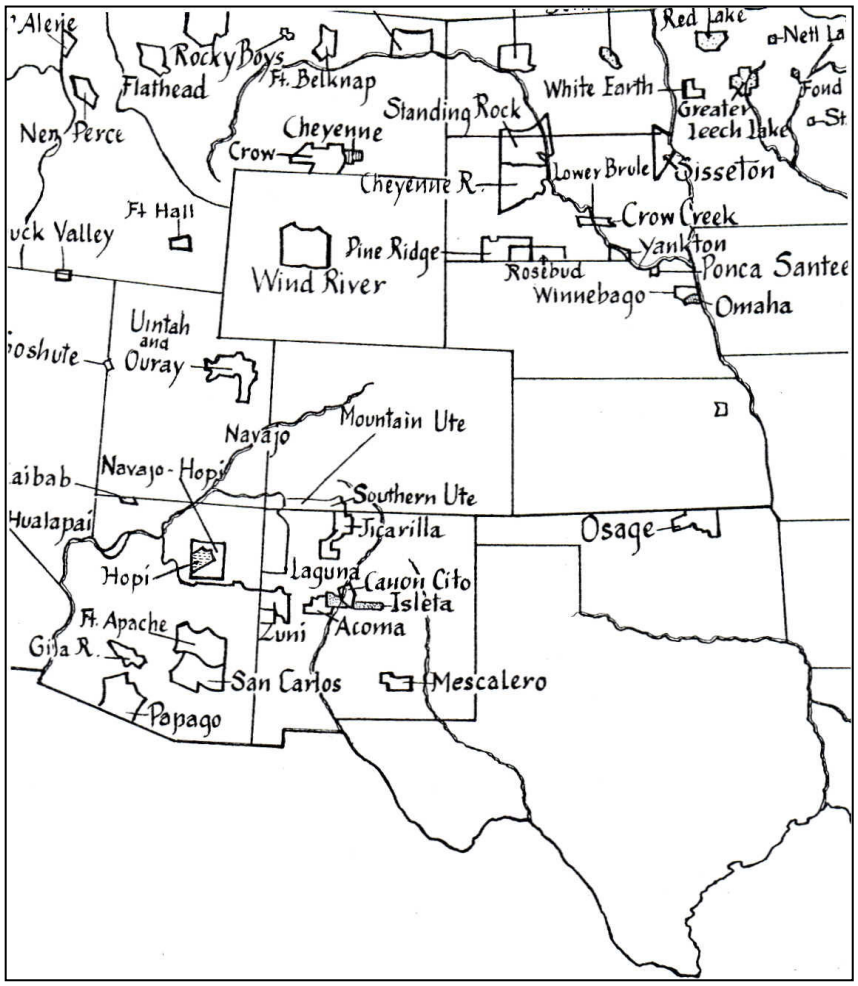
Within a short time, the Milner family moved to the Burlington settlement on St. Vrain creek (Big Thompson Valley) and Sarah provided this description of Indians in Colorado: "There was never any actual difficulty with the Indians by persons of our settlement, although further down the stream one of the Brush brothers was killed almost in sight of their ranch buildings by a wandering band; and up west at Namaqua a Mexican employed by Mariana Modena was slain while at work on a road a mile or so from the fort [Namaqua]. The bands of Arapaho Indians that continually roved the plains of what is now Larimer County, Colorado, for the most part were peaceable toward the whites; but, being savages with a grudge toward all white men for destroying the buffalo, couldn't entirely be trusted when a clear advantage lay their way."

Sarah spoke of a small island in the Big Thompson River that was covered with boxelder trees which had survived grass fires common in the area. "The island was a favorite camping ground for the roving bands as it afforded fuel for their fires. But they seldom remained there overnight as the Indians were extremely wary of cloudbursts on all western streams. The Utes from the Western Slope appeared to be our main danger. Even as late as 1880, the Utes were making annual forays every fall over onto the Eastern Slope to hunt and steal. In the early days both the whites and the Arapahos were made their victims. Once quite a battle was fought on the plains near the Poudre River between the Arapahos and the invaders of their hunting grounds. Several times on rumors that the Utes were coming, the settlers of the Big Thompson 'forted up' for a night, all gathering at a single home for protection in numbers… The Indian's favorite hour for surprise attacks was three o'clock in the morning." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:42-43).

Sarah's father and brothers had a cattle ranch on Redstone Creek at the western base of Milner Mountain, located near Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. Sarah writes that in the late 1860s "the isolated ranch was somewhat exposed to attacks by the Utes who sometimes came down the Buckhorn Valley in the fall. While no encounters with the raiders are recorded in the Milner annals, my son, Eugene [Smith], many years later received a letter from David Hershman, then living in California, in which he recounts an experience with a band of Utes along Buckhorn Creek at the mouth of the Redstone. Camped for the night on Green Ridge west of the creek, he was awakened in the night by an Indian dog licking his face. Arising at dawn he harnessed his team and started hurriedly for home. In the timber along the creek he met a Ute, which he pretended not to see. The Indian was equally blind. Neither man knew how many friends the other might have nearby. Hence the feigned indifference of both parties for the moment of meeting. But on getting out of sight of the Ute, Hershman lost no time in putting distance between himself and a probable band of Utes foraging in enemy territory and therefore dangerous to a lone white man or Arapaho Indian. Evidently the Ute wasted no time after Hershman was out of sight in joining what proved to be a considerable band of his tribesmen and informing them of the fact of their being discovered. On reaching the settlement on the Big Thompson, Hershman quickly raised a posse and returned to the Buckhorn to find the Indians

gone. However, the remains of several campfires and the remains of a settler's cow butchered for meat marked the site of a considerable camp on the bluff now occupied by the Masonville store and post office. Following the well-marked trail of numerous ponies up the creek, the posse came onto another fresh campsite. Having thus learned that the Utes were apparently hurrying back towards their own country on the western slope, the posse gave up the chase and returned home." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:46). The bluff she speaks of would be the hogback that Buffum Canyon slices through. Two Native American Indian burials were found in 1964 in this area. See the section on Indian Burials under Archaeological Resources, page 25.

Sarah Milner Smith relates that her husband Edward had joined Colonel Chivington's Second Colorado cavalry troop to help protect women and children in the west from Indian depredation. He was "an unwilling spectator of the massacre of the Indian women and children at the terrible Sand Creek battle and he never fully recovered from the effects of it in his mind." The shock resulted in his broken health and spiritual restlessness the rest of his short life. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:44-47). These incidents of avenge and revenge finally ceased, the Indian Wars were over, and the Indians were forced to settle on reservations. The Arapahos were settled in Wyoming and Oklahoma and the Mountain and Southern Utes were settled in southern Colorado.



Courtesy of Paul H. Carlson, *The Plains Indians*

Figure 14. Map of Native American Indian reservations.

Early History

The first recorded evidence of humans in northeastern Colorado is found at the Lindenmeier site in Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, owned by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program. Radiocarbon dating of this site indicates the presence of man at 11,000 years ago. These pre-historic, ice age people were nomadic tribes of the plains who subsisted on hunting big game such as the bison. (E. Morris et al, *Current Perspectives on Stone Ring Structures in Northeastern Colorado*:45-58). Archaeological finds included large stone spear points two and a half inches long and nearly one inch wide. (B. Lambdin, *First Man in North Colorado*:7). These peoples lived so far back that they cannot be traced to the ancestors of the Indians that roamed Bobcat Ridge area, but they were probably of the same race.

Archaeological Survey in Rocky Mountain National Park

For her Master's degree from the University of Denver in 1935, Mary Elizabeth Yelm conducted a study of archaeological finds in Rocky Mountain National Park, the Big Thompson Canyon, and the south end of Green Ridge near Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. The campsites had artifacts and arrow point chips scattered over an area averaging four to six acres. If partly obliterated by plowing or due to visitors picking up material they might only have scattered finds. "In the mountains these scattered finds sites were probably due to the fact that the material was imported, so could not exist in large quantities." Lookouts are sites on a high hill or bluff that allowed the Indian camper to survey the countryside or main route of travel. Tipi rings are stone circles marking the bases of skin tents. Other finds include fireplaces for cooking and heating, pottery fragments or shards, manos which were "river pebbles used as hand-stones for grinding, pounding, crushing, breaking or dressing skins," and metates, "large flat stones on which grinding or pounding was done, usually with an oval trough." If several of these are found together it could be considered a large camp. Rock shelters may show evidence of occupation by early man if they are found with fireplaces, pottery shards, manos or arrow point chips. (M. Yelm, *Archeological Survey of Rocky Mountain National Park—Eastern Foothill Districts*:15-19). Figure 15 shows the distribution of her finds from the eastern foothills west up to Rocky Mountain National Park.

LOCATION	SF	CS	LO	RS	Total
Lower Big Thompson (E. Foothill)					
Fossil Creek		1			1
*Buckhorn Creek		2	3		5
Dry Creek		6	1		7
*Big Thompson (Green Ridge)		6	5	1	12
Upper Big Thompson (Mountain)					
Black Canyon Creek	2				2
Fall River	1	2	1		4
Big Thompson (west end)	5	3	3		11
Mill Creek	2				2
Glacier Creek	2	1	1		4
Cache la Poudre	3	1			4
Colorado (Grand) River	2				2
Totals	17	22	14	1	54

*Locations near Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.
SF=scattered finds, CS=campsite, LO=lookouts, RS=rock shelters

Courtesy of Yelm:15-16

Figure 15. Distribution of archaeological finds.

As can be seen, most of the campsites and lookouts were in the foothills, while the scattered finds were all in RMNP district. The following is a description of what was found in the starred districts above.

Lower Big Thompson or Eastern Foothills "In the north there are six sites in the vicinity of Masonville, five on Buckhorn Creek and one on Fossil Creek, nine are west of Loveland following the Big Thompson River and two are located on Dry Creek, a tributary to the Big Thompson." (M. Yelm, *Archaeological Survey of Rocky Mountain National Park—Eastern Foothill Districts*:17-18). A small campsite of scattered flakes and scrapers was discovered east of Stout (an historic town existing before Horsetooth Reservoir was built) in Spring Canyon and 2.1 miles above Masonville. Another site in Spring Canyon had finds of a great variety of flakes and scrapers as well as several Yuma fragments. This was a lookout site on top of a fairly high hill near edges of cliffs facing west which would be a hogback. Both of these sites were located east of Buckhorn Creek. Yelm found a lookout site on top of high red cliffs, one mile southeast of Masonville. It had three tipi rings and few scattered finds. To the north, but still on Buckhorn Creek, was a campsite located on the eastern slope of the hills. It had abundant archaeological evidence including blue glass beads and pieces of soapstone pot. Finally, Yelm found another "lookout of abundant finds well grouped…on the top of the slope a half mile away. It yielded a graver, two drills, obsidian flakes and a Yuma base fragment." (M. Yelm, *Archaeological Survey of Rocky Mountain National Park—Eastern Foothill Districts*:18-19).

The Buckhorn Creek campsite is possibly the location of the temporary Ute camp referred to in David Hershman's letter to Eugene Smith, referenced on page 16. Obsidian flakes are glass-like volcanic material found in volcanic mountain building of the Rocky Mountains.

Big Thompson "Four miles west of Loveland on Mariana's Butte…on the eastern and southern slopes…were found manos and metates as well as several Yuma fragments." The large site with three tipi rings indicated a large or continuous population. Other sites in the area west of Loveland yielded campsites with scattered finds, a tipi ring, rather rare finds of tipi rings with fireplaces, a lookout with scattered finds, and an eastern view. Of particular note, "north of the Big Thompson River at the Old Dam Store, a campsite is situated on an eastern hillside of Green Ridge. On these lower slopes manos and sandstone pieces may be found, and as one proceeds along the ridge almost due west, small [arrow point] chips may be picked. A lookout on the top…is about 200 feet above the riverbed. Its view is broad and far-reaching to the south and east over the hogback and gentle slopes. About a half-mile further west on the Ridge, there is a rock shelter…nearly 100 feet down from the ridge top and about 100 feet from the valley floor. It measured length 25 ½ feet in length, 14 ½ feet wide, and at overhang its height was 12 feet." (M. Yelm, *Archaeological Survey of Rocky Mountain National Park—Eastern Foothill Districts*:20-22). A test pit yielded a fireplace with pottery, charred bones, charcoal, manos, and chip artifacts.

In summary, there is abundant evidence of Indian activity throughout the Big Thompson and Masonville areas, much of it scattered or as single tipi rings. The Indians valued this area for the wide glades, foothills timber for fuel, wild animals for food, and the rivers and creeks for water and fishing, just as the white settlers did centuries later.

Current Perspectives on Stone Ring Structures

In 1974 and 1983, the *Plains Anthropologist* Journal published reports concerning stone ring structure surveys in northeastern Colorado. The T-W-Diamond study site (Roberts Ranch in Livermore, Smithsonian #5LR200) relates to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. Stone rings are an architectural remnant in the South Platte drainage of northeastern Colorado. They are perceived as tipi rings. "Probably as recently as 1830 or 1840 the people used large stones to hold down the edges of the lodge covering. This was done in winter, when they could not drive pins into the frozen ground. This practice explains the stone circles often seen on the prairie. Wherever these circles of stones were found, we may feel sure that there was a winter camp, and frozen ground." (Grinnell, George B., *The Cheyenne Indians, Their History and Ways of Life*:51, and cited in E. Morris et al, *Current Perspectives on Stone Ring Structures in Northeastern Colorado*:45). The cultures have been categorized as follows:

Paleo Indian period: at least 9500 B.C.- ca. 6000 B.C. [Lindenmeier site]
Archaic or Pre-Ceramic period: 6000 B.C.- ca A.D. 1
Ceramic period: A.D. 1-A.D. 1600
Historic Indian period: A.D. 1600 - A.D. 1875
(E. Morris et al, *Current Perspectives on Stone Ring Structures in Northeastern Colorado*:46 and 51).

Datable Indian sites in northeastern Colorado include the Ceramic and Historic Indian periods. The sites studied are associated with hunting-and-gathering nomads who hunted bison, deer and antelope. They show 11,000 years of prehistoric occupation in the area. Nine sites are known from the Livermore-Boxelder Creek area, twnety-five miles north of Fort Collins in Larimer

County, Colorado. Elevations of 5000-6000 feet include the western edge of the shortgrass prairie and the lower border of the pinion pine-juniper forest in the canyons and hogbacks of the foothills. (E. A. Morris et al, *Current Perspectives on Stone Ring Structures in Northeastern Colorado*:47). The sites of Livermore yielded radiocarbon dates of A.D. 1020 ± 230 and A.D. 1170±270 with side-notched projectile points and plain ceramics. Tipi rings in the Livermore area range from 4.5 to 6.4 meters in diameter, and it has been hypothesized that larger rings may reflect horse transport mechanisms of the 1600s when the horse was introduced by the Spaniards. There is also controversy that stone rings may have been ceremonial sites instead, but fireplaces, domestic artifacts and size indicate their use to hold down tipi sides. Stones may be from fist size to 20-30 pounds each aligned in a more or less ring shape. Sometimes larger rocks are found on the northwest side indicating prevailing winds. Seven out of five rings showed evidence of fire-cracked center rocks. (E. Morris et al, *Current Perspectives on Stone Ring Structures in Northeastern Colorado*:48-53). Therefore, contemporary convention is to call these circular cultural artifacts "stone circles."

These studies shed more light on the single tipi ring found in Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, but there may be potential archaeological resources that should be researched further for survey and identification. University archaeological field class studies would be an important resource and grant funding for this recognized important cultural resource could be pursued.

More than a century later, in 1987, Gerald Spence (Sarah Milner Smith's grandson) wrote his memories of Indian habits in *The Hunter*. Gerald was born and raised on his parent's (John H. and Alice Smith Spence) farm located where Buffum Canyon gives out onto West Glade. He spoke of flint chippings in the hogback area cut by Buffum Canyon. "Flint chippings were interesting. There were no flint or agate deposits in our particular area so we knew that this material denoted an ancient Indian encampment. To us kids, anything even remotely connected with outlaws or Indians was really attractive, so on warm spring days… several of us hunters would walk and crawl back and forth across this barren field hunting for flint chips. We found them in all sort of colors, shapes and sizes ranging from small chippings to broken arrow points, and perhaps once a year someone would find a perfect or nearly perfect arrow point." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:66). Tying in with this, the Arapaho name was known as "stone-chippers." Dwain Thompson, current owner of the J. H. Spence farmhouse (just west of Hyatt ranch house) said that he found a large flint-napping site on the hogback. This is the hogback bisected by Buffum Canyon. (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview, May 25, 2007:13).

Archaeological Resources

Evidence of early Native American use of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area is recorded in the number of artifacts found in and around Bobcat Ridge including the possible tipi ring east of the Power Line Road. Archaeological reconnaissance of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area was limited. It took place about 1½ miles west of Masonville, near the center of Section 16. The following information comes from the Historical/Archaeological Planning Report prepared in September 2004 by Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc. and recorded in the City's *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan*, 2005.

The area of this study is a small saddle on a low ridge at the eastern base of a series of foothill slopes which rise westerly towards Green Ridge. This saddle is about 150 feet north of a small east-flowing stream. At least one stone circle was found at this location.

Courtesy of *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan*, 2005

Figure 16. Rocks in a circle formation on Bobcat Ridge.

Surface investigation of this area was conducted to ascertain the possible presence of significant archaeological remains such as stone circles, campfires, and man-made stone alignments or configurations. It was also inspected for artifacts such as arrow points and grinding/milling stones. No ground was broken and only superficial evidence was noted.

Pedestrian transects were used for this investigation. This method is sufficient to detect the presence of any prominent archaeological remains. Approximately two acres around the circle was investigated.

A. Stone Circle Area: A single stone circle or tipi ring, approximately fourteen feet in diameter, is in this area. It is comprised of a single course of approximately seventy-five to one-hundred stones, mostly in the range of about two to five pounds each. These stones are mostly granitic and are native to the area. They are well embedded into the soil to an average depth of five to eight inches (*Bobcat Ridge Management Plan*, City of Fort Collins, 2005).

Stone alignments of this type are most frequently interpreted as tipi rings, presumably used to anchor the edges of hide-covered tipis. However, other interpretations are possible. For example, contemporary Native Americans have suggested that features of this type may also have been made for traditional spiritual/ceremonial uses such as prayer circles.

Stone circles are a common and widespread prehistoric site type throughout the entire Rocky Mountains/Central Plains region, undoubtedly numbering in the multi-thousands and likely into the hundreds of thousands. Stone ring sites typically retain very few or no associated artifacts or

datable materials, such as charcoal on the surface (although such materials are sometimes recovered through archaeological excavation). Thus, while accurate dating of these sites is generally difficult to impossible based on surface observations alone, excavations at some sites in this region have produced tipi ring dates as old as 4,000 years.

Since the Ute and Arapaho, being the most recent local tribes, were removed from this portion of Colorado to reservations during the 1870s and 1880s, the stone circle could reasonably be assumed to have a minimum age of 130 years. Considering the embedded depth of the individual stones, it could also be several hundred years old. It is not possible to identify with certainty the specific tribal affiliation of this stone circle. Records of the Colorado State Historical Society's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation do contain documentation of at least three additional stone circle sites, some containing multiple rings, within a three-mile radius of this feature at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.

Several other smaller, partially ring-like stone configurations were observed in the vicinity of the complete ring. Small features of this type have been interpreted as the possible remains of conical structures such as sweat lodges. However in this case, these partial rings lack sufficient definition to be positively identified as cultural (i.e. man-made) features. At this time, they can only be identified as *possible* cultural features.

The ground surface in the area around the stone circle is generally rocky, and includes some fairly large boulders. A few of these boulders appear to possibly form one or two roughly circular enclosures, although the individual boulders are mostly too large to have been easily moved by hand. These are consequently interpreted as natural, random configurations, although some contemporary Native Americans have suggested that such naturally occurring enclosures were occasionally used as prayer circles. At this time, it appears that with the exception of the single tipi ring described above, none of the stone configurations in the surrounding area can be conclusively interpreted as man-made.

B. Spence Family and Thompson Family Artifact Collections: Bruce Spence grew up on both the Hamilton Hyatt and John Spence adjoining ranches and lived in both houses. He has a small collection of artifacts, known as "bird points," presumably used for hunting smaller animals like birds.

Another small collection consists of stone projectile points and blades found in the Green Ridge/Buckhorn Valley area by the Phyllis and Dwain Thompson family. Three of these artifacts appear to be arrow points, one of which was collected on Green Ridge itself. The fourth artifact is a somewhat larger stone blade which appears to have been used as a drill or perforator. Among other uses, such perforators may have been used to cut holes in various materials including hides and leather. The basal portion of this artifact has been broken off, thus it may actually have been remade from a formerly larger blade tool of some type. The three arrow points are all small, triangular, corner-notched types, generally within the size range of about one-half inch x one inch. All the artifacts are made of chert and other flint-like stone which occurs in natural outcrops along the Front Range foothills. Arrow points of this type are not uncommon in this area. These appear to be most likely associated with the Late Prehistoric

Stage and possibly the subsequent Protohistoric Stage. The Late Prehistoric Stage is dated between about 150 and 1500 A.D., while the Protohistoric Stage dates from around 1550 - 1850 A.D. It is not possible to associate these artifacts with a specific commonly known tribe in this area, such as the Ute or Arapaho.

Figure 17. Bruce Spence's "bird points."

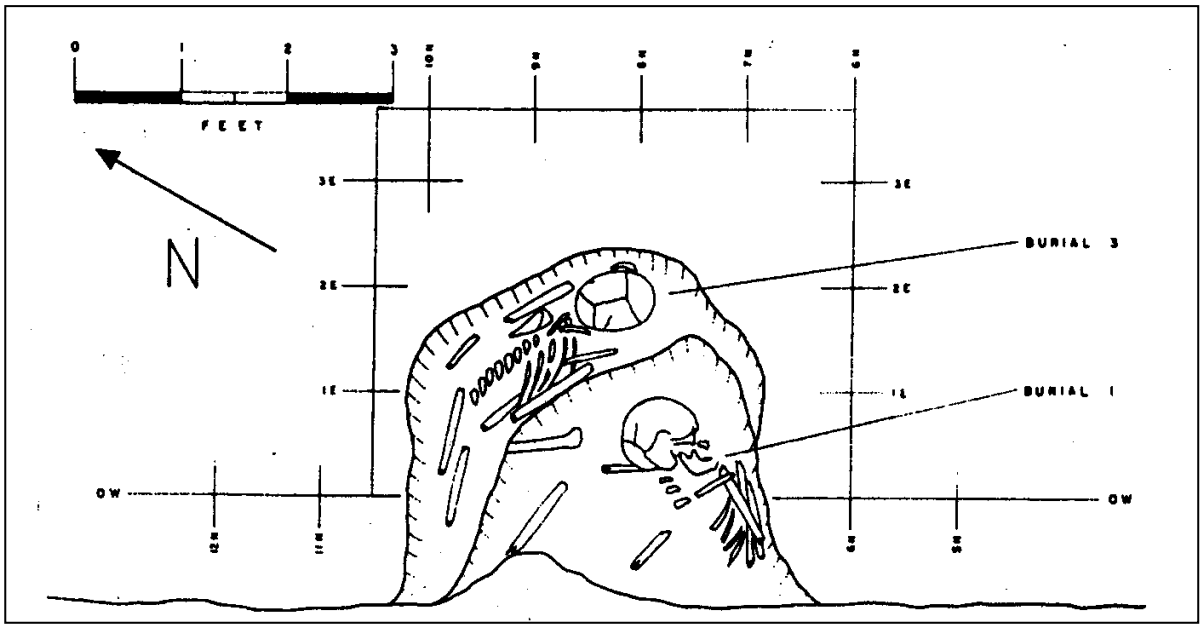
Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 18. Thompson family Native American Indian artifact collection.

C. Reported Indian Burial Sites: There are two secondhand reports of Indian burial sites in Mahoney Park. Carl Soderberg and his brothers, John and Harry, once leased the Bobcat Ridge land from D.R. Pulliam. According to Dwain Thompson (who now owns the John and Alice Spence house in Buffum Canyon), Carl Soderberg once took professional archeologists to Mahoney Park. They located two burial sites in Mahoney Park, reportedly near or on a small, level, projecting area known by the locals as "Flat Top". (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner:13).

The Colorado Historical Society's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation has recorded an Indian burial site northwest of Masonville on what was J. R. Mason's land. The burial was of two skulls and bones buried only one to three feet deep. They were unearthed during trenching in 1964, so the damage from the machines left the burials as more of a salvage operation than an archaeological recovery. Attempts at dating yielded two possibilities: A.D. 1700 and A.D. 145 (+ or – 105 years). The researchers decided the latter date was more likely correct.



Courtesy of Wade, *Southwestern Lore* 31(4):74-80

Figure 19. View of burial pits northwest of Masonville showing position and orientation of burials.

CHAPTER 4.

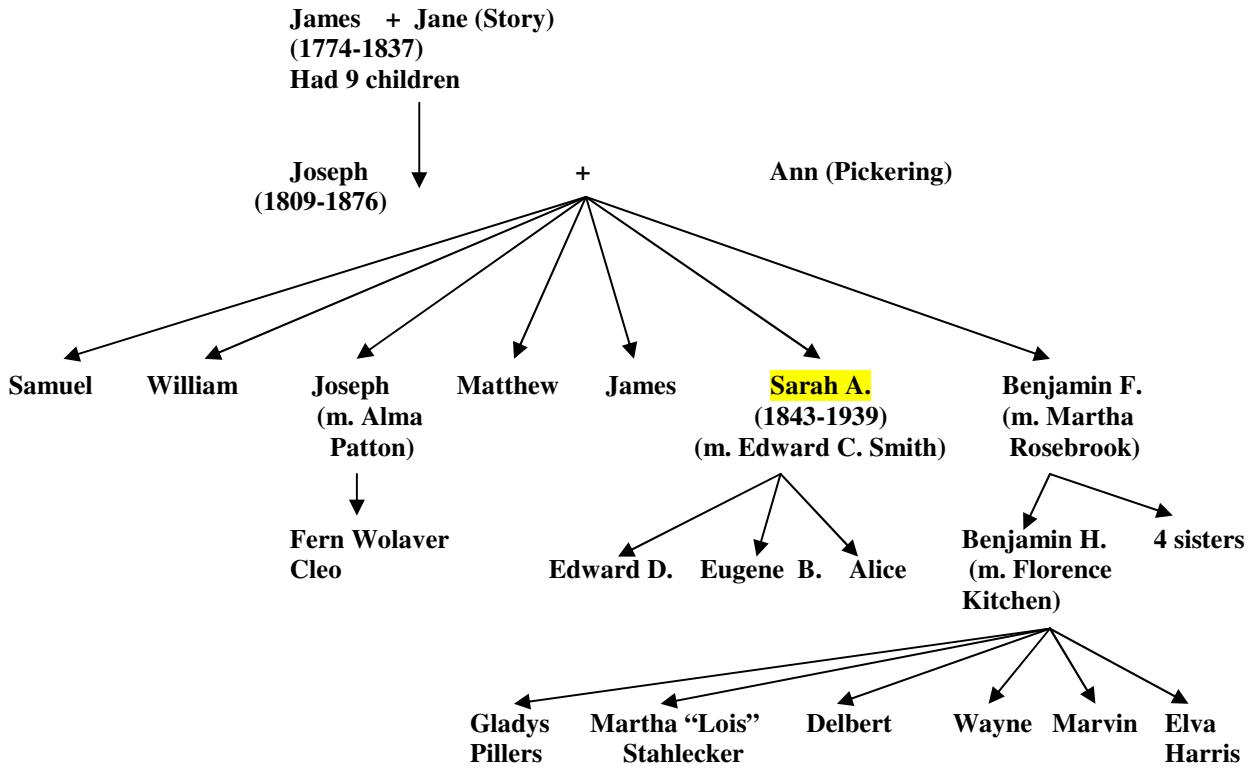
HISTORIC SETTLEMENT

Geneology of Settlers

There were a number of key families who owned and occupied portions of Bobcat Ridge from pioneer times to when the City of Fort Collins purchased the property in 2003-2007. Pioneers from the 1860s included the Joseph Milner family and the Edward C. Smith family. The 1870s brought George W. Buffum. Hamilton Franklin Hyatt first appears in the mid 1880s. John Spence arrived in the early 1890s, and the John T. Kitchen and Lewis C. Roseberry families arrived in the early 1900s. The Pulliam family settled in Loveland in 1890.

Note: The family trees are not intended to show all branches and descendents in the families; they include only what is available and the individuals who impacted this story. People in the family trees that owned and/or lived on any portion of Bobcat Ridge are highlighted in yellow

MILNER FAMILY



The Joseph Milner family figured prominently in the history of the area. Joseph and Ann Milner came from England with their children to Quebec, Canada, in 1830. They moved to Kingston, Ontario where their only daughter Sarah was born in 1843. Joseph was a successful construction contractor and the family lived a social and luxurious life. Always searching for opportunity, Joseph moved the family to Chicago and then Rockford, Illinois. Civil War construction materials shortages caused Joseph's business to fail. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:9-16).

Gold had been discovered in 1858 in the Rocky Mountains. In 1864, Joseph moved his family west by wagon train to Nevadaville above Central City. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:16-25). Shortly thereafter they moved to Burlington, Colorado (1864-c.1869). Then Joseph bought a ranch with some of his sons on Redstone Creek northeast of what is now Masonville. Milner Mountain and Milner (East) Glade are named for this family. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:45).

Daughter Sarah Milner (1843-1939) was one of the significant pioneer settlers in the Buckhorn Valley. She was reportedly a "slip of a thing" and sickly as a child; still she learned to hold her own with six brothers. An educated woman in the Wild West, she became the first school teacher in a public school in Larimer County. She taught in the Big Thompson school district. She married Edward C. Smith and produced two sons, Edward D. and Eugene, and a daughter, Alice. Later, she and her sons owned portions of property in West Glade.

16 LOVELAND DAILY REPORTER-HERALD WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13, 1978

Plaque presented

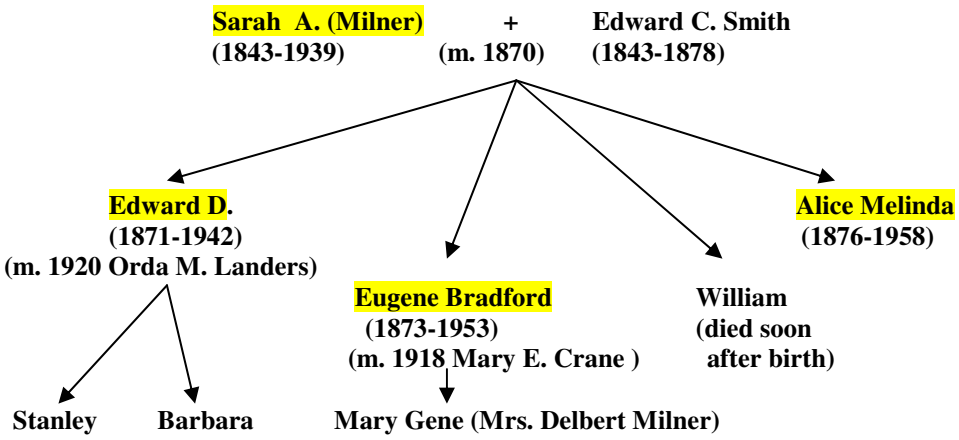
A commemorative plaque with a portrait of the pioneer teacher Sarah Milner was presented to school officials by members of Milner's family during the dedication of the Sarah Milner Elementary School Tuesday. Pictured here (from left) are Hunter Spence, grandson of Sarah Milner Smith who presented the plaque; C.E. Stansberry, superintendent; Robert Lebsack, president of the board of education; and Dale Osborn, principal at Sarah Milner Elementary School. A second plaque and a flag was also given at the dedication by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in memory of Sarah Milner Smith, a former DAR member. The dedication of the new school was given by speakers Lebsack, Stansberry and Osborn. Also on hand at the ceremony were members of the Sarah Milner Smith family including John Spence, a great-grandson, and Mrs. Orda Smith, her daughter-in-law. The dedication ceremonies were followed by the traditional back-to-school night activities for parents and students.

Photo by Karen Schulenburg

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 20. In honor of naming Sarah Milner Elementary School in 1978. Hunter Spence is holding a plaque with a picture of his grandmother, Sarah.

SMITH FAMILY



Members of the Smith family became major landholders in Bobcat Ridge. As a young man, Edward C. Smith was a teacher in a privately financed school on the Big Thompson River. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:32). He was elected Clerk and Recorder of Larimer County, Colorado Territory, serving from 1866 to 1868. (Note: Eugene Smith in *Pioneer Epic*, page 34, lists him as first elected Clerk and Recorder, but Watrous in *History of Larimer County*, 1911, page 124, lists him as the second). Smith had come to Colorado to improve his health, after contracting tuberculosis while attending Ann Arbor University in Michigan.

Sarah Milner married Edward C. Smith on September 8, 1870. Edward sold his homestead and built a "cozy little home" on a farm on the Big Thompson River where their first son, Edward D., was born in 1871. This life on the Big Thompson River was short-lived. "Any place Edward settled down to engage in the indoor occupation for which his education had fitted him, his health gave way, causing him to want new scenes and out-of-doors life." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:44). They embarked on a five-six-year journey homesteading in southern Colorado on the Arkansas and Purgatory River valleys near Pueblo and La Junta. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:48). In these places, son Eugene was born in 1873 and son William in 1875. William died shortly after birth in 1875 because Sarah was too sick to nurse and there was no milk for the baby. This tragedy, along with a bad financial deal and the arrival of the railroad which was forced through their land, made these times ones of great hardship for the Smiths. In 1876, Alice Melinda Smith was born. She grew up and married John Spence and started a family that would later figure significantly in the story of Bobcat Ridge. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:48-76).

Abandoning their cattle ranching affairs in La Junta, Sarah and Edward Smith limped back to Loveland to be near family and security. Edward built a house in the worst winter that had ever been known. He became sick and died suddenly of pneumonia in 1878, leaving Sarah a 34 year-old widow with three children and a large debt. She took in boarders, served meals, sewed, and sold eggs and butter to support her family and pay off the debts. Eventually, Sarah decided to leave Loveland and buy "squatter's rights" to 40 acres near her brother, Ben Milner's homestead on Buckhorn Creek near Buffum Canyon. She placed a government filing on the land and received a patent on June 17, 1887. (Bureau Land Management, Government Land Office, Tract

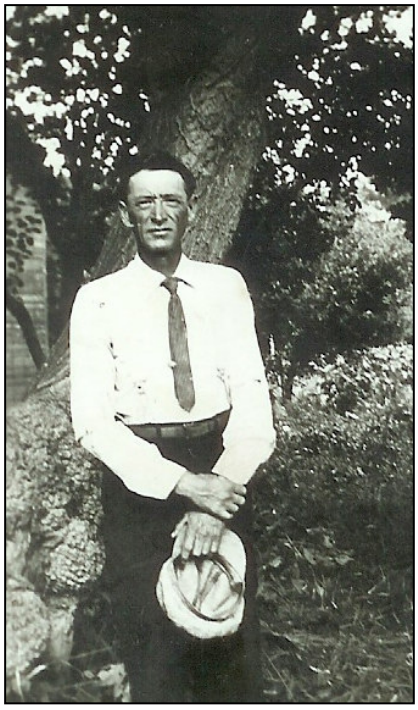
Book:56). She settled into an old cabin built by Englishman George Rawlinson, who had abandoned it and moved to Australia. As they grew older, her sons Edward D. and Eugene fenced in the land. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:86). As Edward D. came of age, he began filing on homesteads and buying land, including land in West Glade. The Smith Brothers cattle ranching business was born from these beginnings.

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 21. Sarah Milner Smith.

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 22. Edward D. Smith.

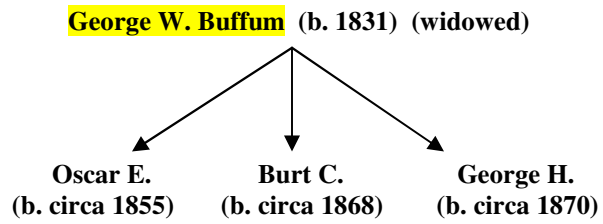


Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 23. Eugene Bradford Smith.

(Identified by Hunter Spence as his uncles Ed and "Gene" Smith).

BUFFUM FAMILY



George W. Buffum was a pioneer settler born in New York in October, 1831. (Census - Larimer County 1900). He homesteaded in the Buckhorn Valley in the 1870s primarily raising sheep. His land included part of the hogback cut by Buffum Canyon, but the bulk of his usable land was in the Buckhorn Valley along the creek south of Masonville today. "George W. Buffum is thought to have lived on the east side of the hogback somewhere near the entrance to the canyon named in his honor." (Aller-Lingle, Tatanka Historical Associates, *Historic Structure Assessment*:5). He does not appear in the 1870 Larimer County Census, but is listed in the 1880 census as being forty-seven years old, widowed, and having three sons living with him, Oscar E. (25 years), Burt C. (12 years) and George H. (10 years) Oscar, also born in New York, is listed as a harness maker. The two younger sons were born in Indiana.

In 1875, he was the newly formed District 16 School Board President. In 1879, District 16 became District 18, and Buffum served as a member of the school board. For many years Buffum took an active part in school affairs and even had a home school for his own and neighboring children. (Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of 1887 Masonville School*:6). The first school in the Buckhorn Valley (named after George Buffum) was "a crude unplastered, rough lumber school building…draughty…as good as most of the homes from which the children came." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:97). The second school for the area was built in 1887 on a donated piece of Buffum's homestead located in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 15, Township 6, North of Range 70W, just outside Buffum Canyon. Buffum had sold the land in 1886 (the year before Sarah Milner Smith's arrival) to H. C. Brumit who deeded the land to the school district. "On deeding his land to the new owner, Mr. Buffum had executed a written agreement with him (Brumit) [providing] that if and when the citizens of the valley were prepared to construct a permanent schoolhouse on the site, it should be deeded to the local school district, to remain district property so long as a school should be maintained on the site." The second school was built "a short distance to the south of the first school." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:99).

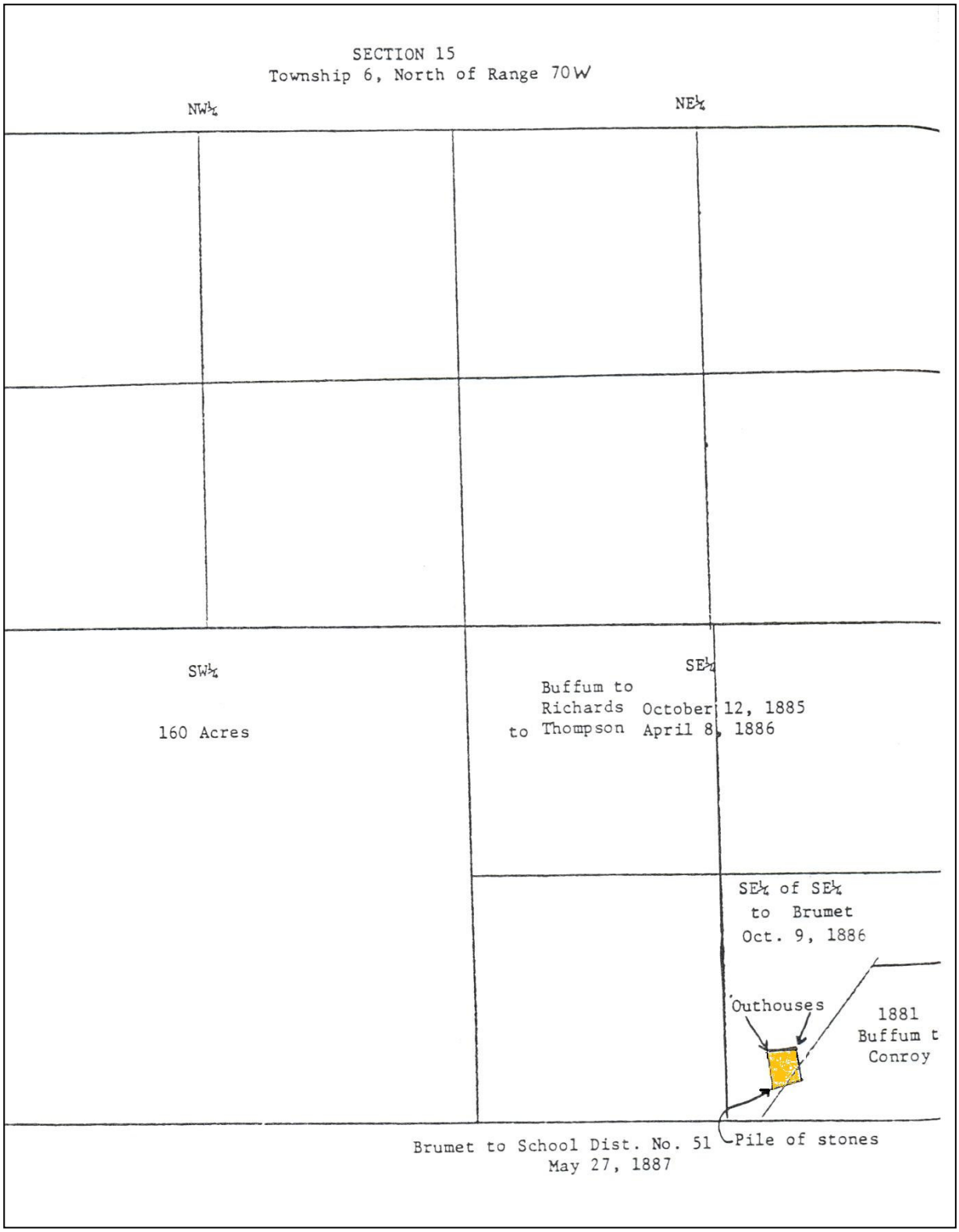
A mountain election precinct was also created and named the Buffum precinct. On June 28, 1879, the Buffum Ditch was constructed from the Buckhorn Creek just west of what is now Masonville. It watered Buffum's property in the southeast quarter of Section 15. Years later it was known as the Buffum-Hyatt Ditch and now is called the Buffum Union Ditch. (Watrous, *History of Larimer County, 1911*:132 and 193). "After coming out of Buckhorn Creek, it crosses a bridge over the Buckhorn, then flows down to the left of the Gary Warner place today, along the east side of the unnamed hogback west of Buckhorn Valley and through the quarries." (Wolaver Interview by Carol Tunner, July 17, 2007). From there it used to flow overhead in an

approximate three-foot diameter open flume that was later changed to a closed siphon pipeline through Buffum Canyon and the next canyon to the south, Brooks Canyon in Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. The City of Fort Collins has reworked the Buffum Canyon Road (West County Road 32C), to improve public access, and undergrounded the pipeline.

George W. Buffum eventually moved to Fort Collins where he appeared in the first city directory in 1902, working in real estate and loans. He had a residence at 130 South Mason Street.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

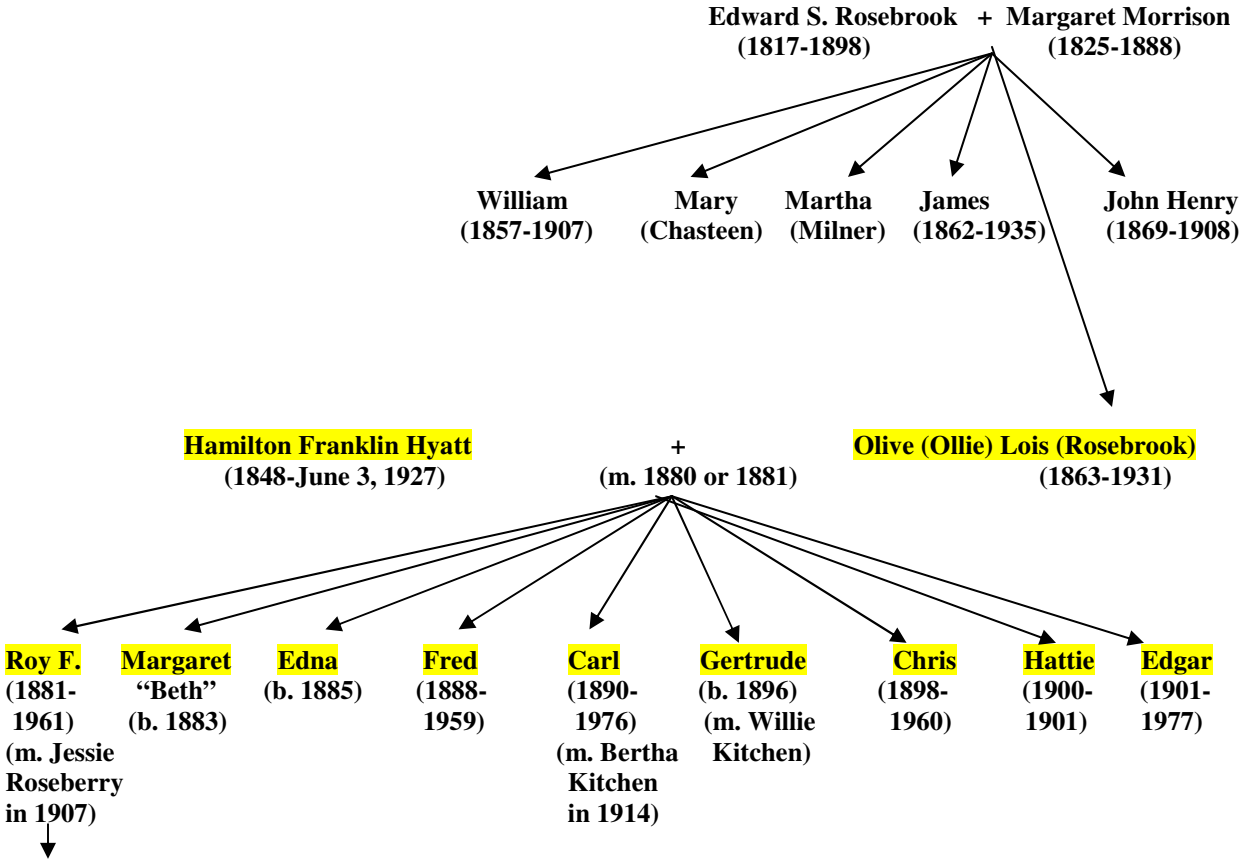
Figure 24. Existing Buffum-Hyatt Ditch closed-siphon pipeline over Brooks Canyon.



Courtesy of Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of 1887 Masonville School*

Figure 25. Diagram of the land donated for a school by Buffum/Brumit in Section 15. This land was just east of Buffum Canyon. The school land is highlighted.

HYATT FAMILY



Hamilton Franklin Hyatt (known as "Ham" to neighbors and as "Frank" to his family) was the first owner of the West Glade ranchstead and house at 8281 West County Road 32C. He received homestead patents from the U. S. government on the ranchstead in 1890 and 1902. The 1902 patent includes the land where the house is located (southeast quarter, of the southwest quarter, of Section 15). Larimer County Assessor's records list the house as having been built in 1896, but old records may not be accurate. Hyatt's son Roy, told Hunter Spence that the little barn and fencing across West County Road 32C to the north of the ranch house was built in 1888, so the ranch house might also be at least that old. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:21).

Mable Sayre relates her grandfather's roots: "Frank Hyatt, 1848-1927, was of Irish descent and spent his boyhood at Rocky Comfort, Missouri, near Joplin. His parents came from North Carolina by ox team at an earlier date. Frank left Missouri in his teen years. He became a teamster [hauling wagons with a horse team] and made a trip or two to California hauling freight. He then settled in Colorado in 1872 and was teaming out of Blackhawk, [Colorado] for a time. Later he worked for Frank Gard as a cowpuncher for four years. During roundups, he rode as far east as the Platte and Pawnee Buttes. He farmed one of Gard's places for a time then went to Cedar Park. There, he married Olive "Ollie" Rosebrook." Their first child, Roy, was born in 1881 in a log house east of the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch, which is west of Loveland on U.S. Highway 34. (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:4-5 and 67).

Olive Rosebrook (later Hyatt) was born in Missouri in 1863. Ollie Hyatt's father, "Edward Solon Rosebrook, of Holland Dutch descent, was born in Gardinea, New York, February 9, 1818. During the California gold rush of 1849, Edward was a wagon-train guide between Illinois and California. On his third trip of 1852, he with his train struck the hills at Missouri Canyon [below Brooks Canyon and south of Bobcat Ridge area] and at that time gold was [being] panned out right there. After camping there three months they returned to the plains and went north to Fort Laramie to cross the divide. On the next trip from Illinois, be brought his family and located on the Redstone [Creek]. His wife's maiden name was Margaret Morrison. The Rosebrook children were Ollie [Hyatt], Billy, James, twins Martha [Milner] and Mary [Chasteen], and John Henry." (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:5).

"Ham" (as he was called by the neighboring Spences) Hyatt is known in the West Glade area as early as August 24, 1885, when he made a homestead application to purchase eighty acres via a Timber Certificate. All of the Hyatt children were born in Colorado. In the 1900 and 1910 Larimer County Census Data, Hyatt's occupation is listed as farming and stock raising, and he owned his farm free of a mortgage. (Loveland Lakeside Cemetery Records and Larimer County Census Data 1900 and 1910).

Some of what is known about Ham Hyatt comes from interviews with Hunter Spence and books written by Gerald Spence. The Spences grew up on the neighboring John Spence farm at 8364 West County Road 32C. Hunter Spence relates that his father was assembling West Glade parcels, and wanted to buy some land that Ham Hyatt had for sale, but "Hyatt wouldn't dicker with Dad. [My] Uncles Ed and Gene [Smith] owned land adjoining on the south of Hyatt. They contacted Hyatt and bought the land for $500 in gold, then sold it to Dad. I don't know for sure how many acres there were on that. Maybe only eighty. Incidentally, back in those days, any sizable transaction [that] Hyatt took part in, he always demanded his pay in gold. That led to the belief or hunch, or what-have-you, that Hyatt had gold buried on his place, but if he did, no one has ever found it and he died hard up." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:1).

Hunter Spence has another memory of Hyatt: "really about the only farmland he had was a few acres facing west on the west side of that hogback out south of his house and year after year, he planted corn in that. He had a team of mules and a walking corn lister [plow with seed planter], and he would go out there every year and plant that and get practically nothing. Everything was leached out of the soil it seemed, and he always joked about it. He said, 'I practiced rotation farming.' He had heard about that, and he explained to me how he worked for rotation. When

he would go out to list that, he would go just exactly half way between last year's rows and go up and down that way." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:9).

In the 1900 census, Ham and Ollie Hyatt were together with their children, but the 1910 census just shows Ollie as head of household with Carl, Gertrude, Chris and Edgar. By the 1920 census, Ollie is the head of household living in Buckhorn Valley with son Edgar. (Larimer County Census Data 1900, 1910, and 1920).

Gerald Spence relates, "The Hyatt place was adjacent to ours, down the road about a quarter mile. Our barns were visible from their side yard. Old Ham Hyatt and his son Fred batched there. Ham was past his working days, so in the winter time Fred spent considerable time at his dad's place, working with his brother Roy who lived a few miles away [west up on Green Ridge], cutting timber, hauling logs and running a small sawmill." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:90-81).

The story of what happened to the Hyatt's marriage comes from Gerald Spence: "Hyatt's kids had all flown the coop by this time, and this couple was having domestic difficulties so they had temporarily 'split blankets.' No one was living in the half-finished house. Old Hamilton Hyatt was too old to work, so the only livestock that he and Ollie, his wife, had were a cow, some chickens and old Daisy, Ham's flea-bitten grey riding horse." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:194) This explains why Ham and Ollie are listed in the census data of 1910 and 1920 as living apart. The "half-finished house" Spence refers to is the one-story addition on the back of the house, which remained unfinished on the inside. Ham Hyatt sold the ranch house in 1918 to Lewis and Nancy Roseberry. Their daughter Jessie married the Hyatt's oldest son, Roy. Ham Hyatt died in the Loveland hospital in 1927 after living with Jessie and Roy through his last illness. Ollie and her son Edgar lived in the area until her death four years after Hamilton's. (Aller-Lingle, Tatanka Historical Associates, *Historic Structure Assessment*:5).

Lewis Roseberry homesteaded on Green Ridge and eventually bought the Hyatt ranchstead (see page 59 for Roseberry family history. He and Ham Hyatt were boyhood friends in Missouri. As adults, both men had lived all over the country before settling in Colorado and becoming neighbors once again in the Bobcat Ridge area. "Little did they realize that they would meet again and eventually their children would meet and marry." (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:4).

Roy Hyatt and Jessie Roseberry started their marriage in 1907, and, like many young couples at that time, lived with their parents, Ham and Ollie Hyatt, in their house at 8281 West County Road 32C (currently used as a residence for the Bobcat Natural Area ranger). Their second child, Mabel, was born in this house. (Their seventh child was born in 1920, but didn't survive and is buried on the hill behind the farm buildings. One of Carl Hyatt's infant sons is also buried there.) Roy and his growing family moved around a lot: Walden, Cedar Park west of Green Ridge, Rand in Jackson County, and several other places -- wherever there was ranch or timber work. They "lived and moved in rather primitive conditions. They took a sewing machine, a trunk, a mattress, wash tubs, dish pans, clothing, and non-perishables, usually fried food like fried pork, fried potatoes, fried eggs, and fried apples." (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:24).

Finally, Roy and Jessie returned in 1915 to a little house they acquired northeast of Masonville in a rocky area. They called it the "Poor Farm." Mabel Hyatt Sayre wrote a description of life there that could be a blueprint for pioneer history of the entire area:

THE POOR FARM

"My name is a jesting reference to 320 acres of land that lie in a dry land glade in north central Colorado. To the east lie the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains and on the west the first timbered slopes [Green Ridge].

"On all sides and over steep hogbacks lie fertile, verdant valleys, tilled and irrigated from the Buckhorn [Creek] by pioneer farmers.

"But here I lie high and dry. Once Indian tribes trekked south or north in their search for food knowing that at the end of a hunting trip there would be water for man and beast.

"As time went on and the white man advanced to the west, my acreage was homesteaded and claimed by the white man. Let him try! Plowing and planting both fall and spring will produce a small amount of anything compared to the lush valleys on every side.

"In the summer their livestock wander over the slopes and grow fat on mountain mahogany brush. In the winter the fields are fallow and livestock can be allowed to graze and burrow into a straw stack made by a threshing machine. Were it not for these the cattle and horses would have to find shelter from winter storms in ravines and gulches. But often these gulches are filled with dried Russian thistles and there is no room for animals.

"The family who lived on my soil for many years came there in 1915 with four little girls [Bonnie, Mabel, Vhoris, and Ruth]. Their only transportation was, at first, a lumber wagon and teams of work horses, but now and then a spring wagon and a team of smaller horses or mules would be traded for and a ten mile trip could be made in three or four hours. A faster trip could be made on horseback.

"My father [Roy Hyatt] was a traditional horse trader and the family really never knew when he came home whether or not he would have the same team.

"After nearly seventy years a water project has been pushed through, the acres have been sold and subdivided, and now several beautiful homes have been built. The story has been told that the owners often find rattlesnakes sunning on their patios." (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:21-22).

Although Hamilton and Ollie Hyatt did not embrace religion, Roy and Jessie Hyatt did. Roy Hyatt donated a wagon load of lumber for the Buckhorn Presbyterian Church which was built in 1911. This was a sizable donation. The lumber had to be harvested, processed and transported

by wagon and horse team. When Jessie Roseberry died in 1976, the memorial donations were given to the church to buy the silver plated collection plates which still carry her name. (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:24 and 145).

Helen Hyatt DeKorp, a granddaughter, describes Hamilton: "He was a teamster, cowboy, and rancher in Colorado. Grandpa had a full head of pretty white hair and a full white beard. I always considered him handsome. He and Grandma Hyatt were separated before my first memories of them. He seemed to have no definite home in the years that I knew him." Her mother Jessie Hyatt took him in during his illness before his death in 1927, and his passing was a difficult time for all of them." (DeKorp, *Memoir: The Early Years*, no page).

Courtesy of Jim Sayre

Figure 26. Olive "Ollie" and son Edgar Hyatt, circa 1908.

Courtesy of Jane Verderosa

Figure 27. The Olive and Hamilton Hyatt children: front row: Edna, Carl, Fred; back row, Beth (believed to be Margaret) and Roy; circa late 1800s.

Courtesy of Jim Sayre

Figure 28. Bonnie, Vhoris, Mabel, and mother, Jessie Hyatt, circa 1908-1909.

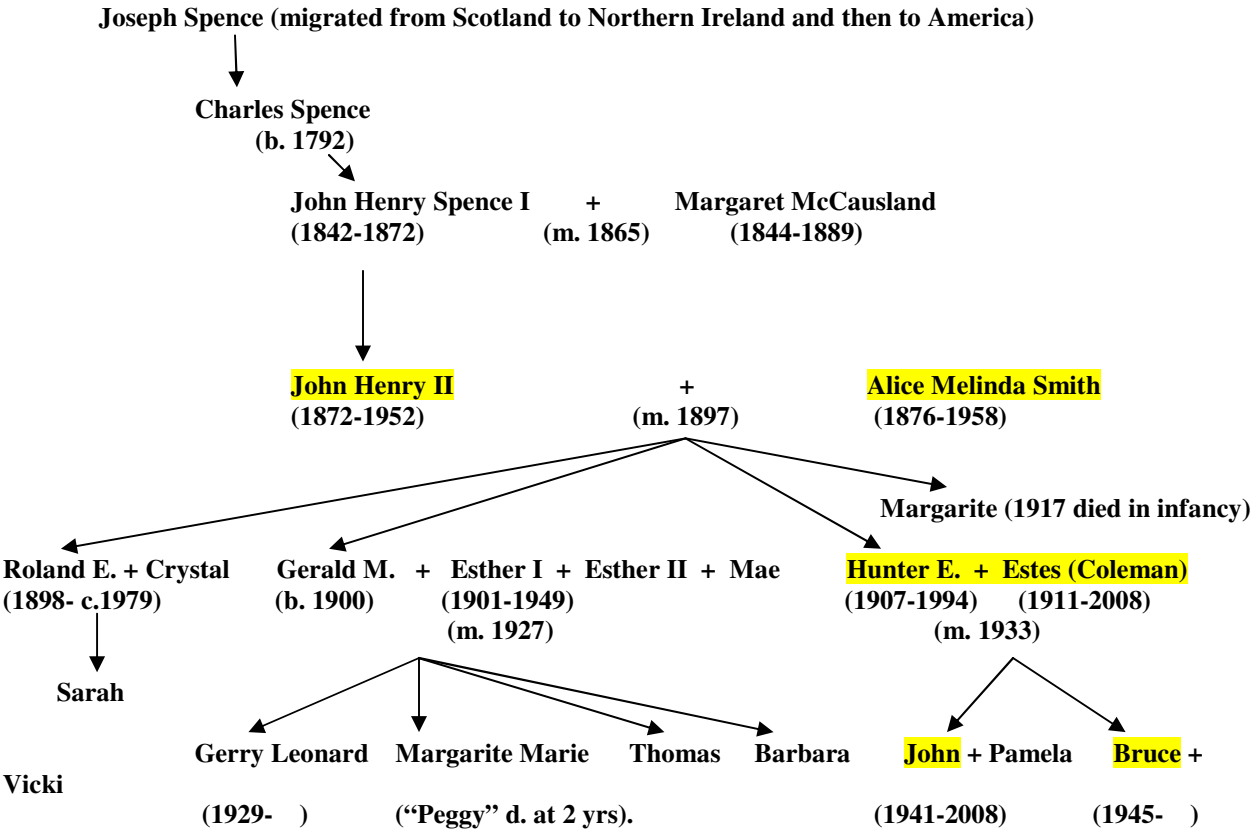
Courtesy of Jane Verderosa

Figure 29. Roy Hyatt, granddaughter Jane Verderosa, and Jessie Hyatt in 1949.

Courtesy of Jim Sayre

Figure 30. Roy Hyatt in 1953 at 73 years of age.

SPENCE FAMILY



John Henry Spence II assembled most of the smaller parcels that make up Bobcat Ridge Natural Area today. His ancestors came to America from Northern Ireland. John Henry II was born in 1872 in Carroll County, Ohio. His father died of tuberculosis two weeks before he was born. His mother, Margaret, passed away in 1889 from tuberculosis and he was brought up by his uncle, David McCausland.

John Henry Spence II received his School Teacher's Certificates in Carroll County, Ohio, and taught from 1890 through 1893. Spence was a bicycle racer when he went to Denver, and traveled up to the Buckhorn Valley area. He met Alice Smith, daughter of Edward C. and Sarah Milner Smith, and became interested in her. According to the family history, Sarah told John Spence that unless he got an honest job, he couldn't court her daughter. Bicycle racing was considered scandalous at that time, so he got his Colorado teaching certificate in 1893. (Bruce Spence Interview May 25, 2007). He taught three years in School District 51 at Buffum School in the Buckhorn Valley from the fall of 1894 to May of 1897. (Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of 1887 Masonville School*:13). This was enough to satisfy Sarah Milner Smith, so he was allowed to court Alice and they were married in 1897. As a wedding present and dowry, they were given 240 acres of land at the head of Buffum Canyon in West Glade. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:10). John Spence also taught from 1910-1913. (G. Spence, 1989:51).

Figure 31. John Henry Spence.

Figure 32. John and Alice Spence, 1939.

Figures 31-33 courtesy of Bruce Spence.

Figure 33. John H. and Alice M. Spence at their golden wedding anniversary, holding grandsons Bruce and John in August 1947.

Before the wedding, John Spence built a small farm house on the property at 8364 West County Road 32C (now owned by Phyllis and Dwain Thompson). It was just up the road from where Hamilton Hyatt was also building his ranch house in 1896. (Larimer County Assessor's Office). John and Alice had three sons: Roland Edward, born in 1898, Gerald Milne,r born in 1900 and Hunter Eugene, born in 1907. Margarite was born in 1917 but died in her sleep when only a couple of months old. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:38, 64). As the children started coming, John added a south wing to the house in 1903. Hunter later moved into the property and added another south wing in 1957. (Dwain Thompson Interview, July 17, 2007). See Figures 112-115, page 142.

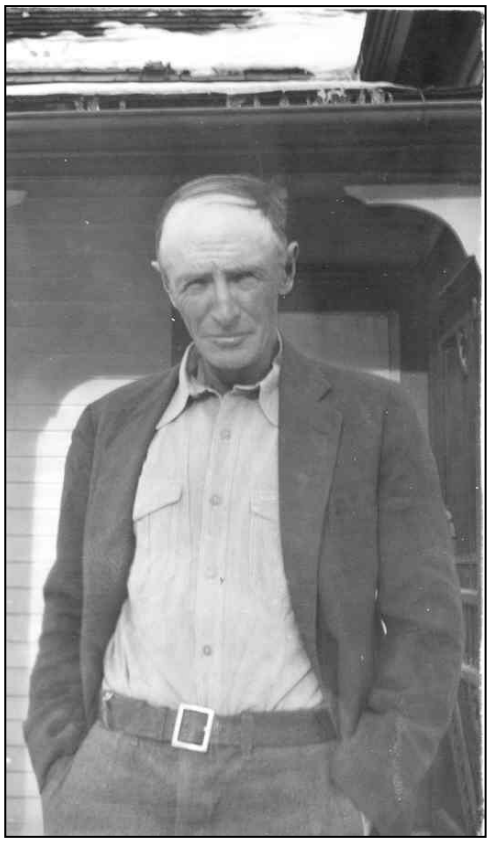


Figure 34. Roland Spence.

Figures 35-36. Gerald Spence as child and as an adult.

Figure 37. Hunter Spence in his 20s.

Figures 34-37 courtesy of Bruce Spence.

Figure 38. Hunter and Estes Spence in 1992.

Figure 39. Estes and Hunter in December 1963, in front of John Spence farm house, looking northeast.

Figures 38-41 courtesy of Bruce Spence.

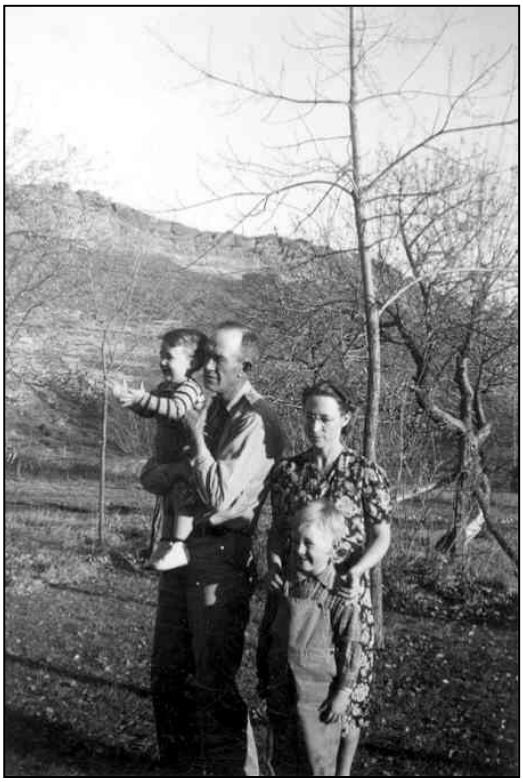


Figure 40. Bruce, Hunter, John, Estes, at the Spence Farm, looking due east, 1946.

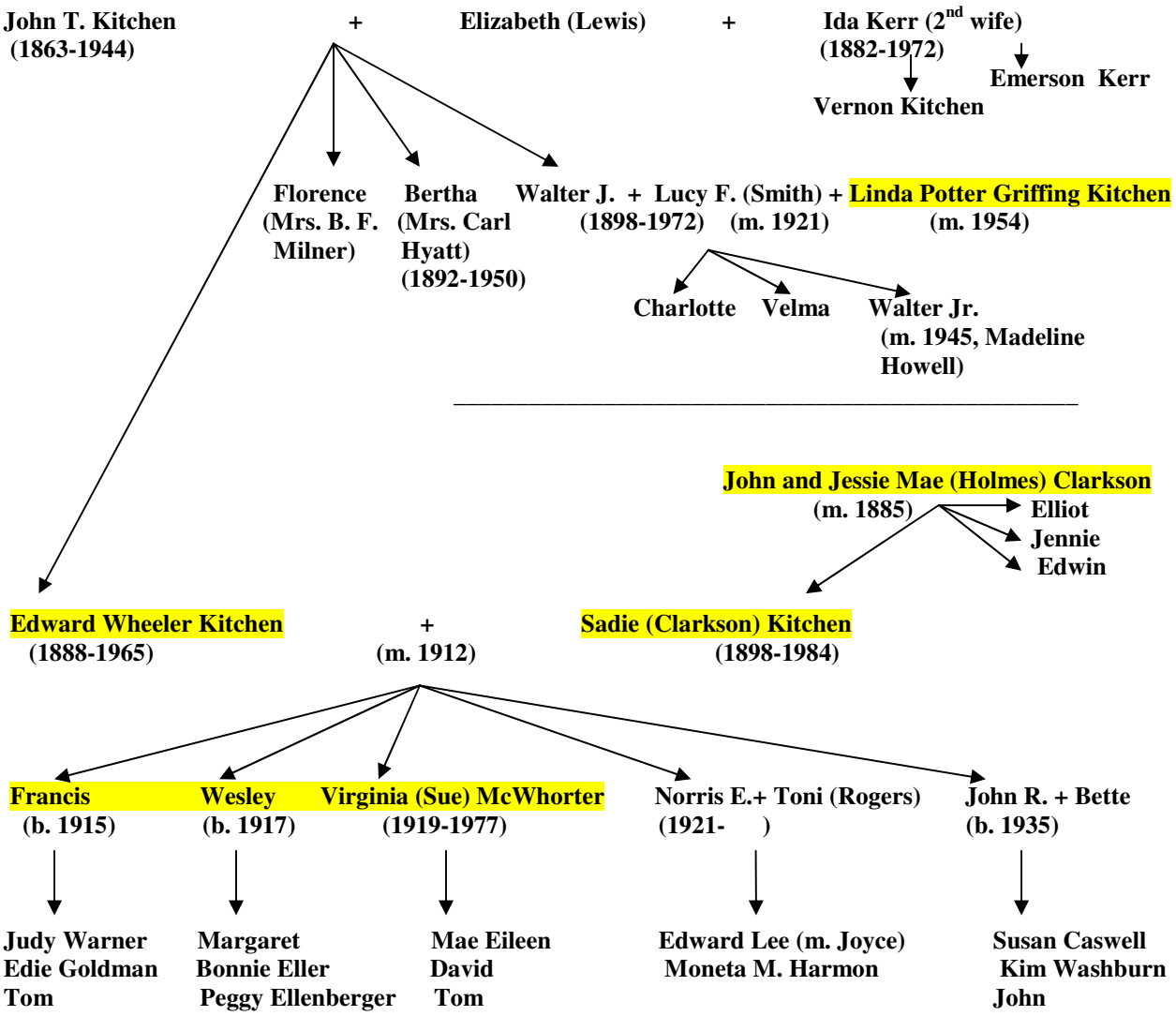
Figure 41. Bruce, John, Estes, Hunter at Hyatt/Spence ranch house.

Gerald Spence, second child of John and Alice Spence, had four children: Gerry, Margarite, Thomas and Barbara. Gerry became a nationally renowned trial lawyer and has written many books. He is well known for having won several high-profile celebrity legal cases. As he was growing up, he spent some summers at the John Spence home on West County Road 32C. His descendents and other people in the Masonville area are proud of him and in awe of his success from such humble beginnings.

Courtesy of Phyllis and Dwain Thompson

Figure 42. Gerry Spence on steps of the John Spence farmhouse at 8364 West CountyRoad 32C.

KITCHEN FAMILY



Edward Wheeler Kitchen helped build the log cabin in West Glade at Bobcat Ridge. This cabin is still in existence. A grandson, Norris Kitchen, relates that "his grandfather, John T. Kitchen, family and brothers came from Sparta, Illinois in 1904, and settled on Crystal Mountain west of Green Ridge." They all took homesteads; the family controlled about 1,600 acres of land. The Kitchen clan eventually moved down to Masonville and Loveland because the "winters were too rough" high up on Crystal Mountain. John T's son, Edward Wheeler, stayed on at Crystal Mountain for a while with an uncle to take care of the cattle and property. His uncle was a great musician and taught Ed to play many kinds of instruments.

In 1912, Ed married Sadie Clarkson, daughter of John and Jessie Clarkson who lived in the next homestead two miles south. Sadie was fourteen years old. About 1911, the Crystal Mountain land was sold to Edward and Eugene Smith, sons of Sarah Milner Smith (see Smith Family, page 28). Ed and Sadie moved to Cheyenne where Ed worked for the railroad. They returned in 1913

to be closer to family. (Norris and Toni Kitchen Interview by Carol Tunner, May 18, 2007). A 1913 newspaper clipping said, "Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kitchen came from Cheyenne last week to make their house in Masonville. They are cozily settled in C. C. Stobbe's house. Mrs. Kitchen formerly was Miss Sadie Clarkson." The Stobbe Ranch was twenty miles up Buckhorn Creek (from a clipping in the Norris and Toni Kitchen family scrapbook with no newspaper identification).

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

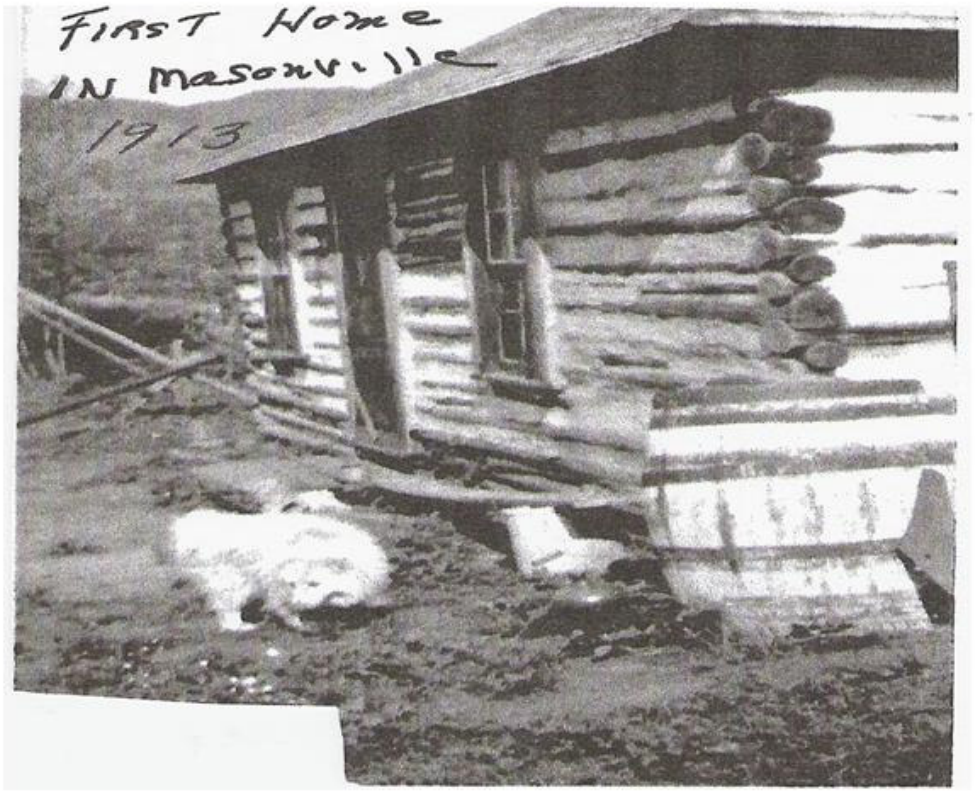
Figure 43. Norris "Red" and Toni Kitchen at their home in Estes Park, June 30, 2007. Norris is the last surviving child of Ed and Sadie Kitchen.

Ed Kitchen negotiated with the Smith brothers (Edward and Eugene) to sharecrop their land in the north end of West Glade. He needed a place to set up house for his growing young family, and Hunter Spence described how the cabin came to be built: "None of that was broken up, up there, and Ed [Kitchen] and my uncles [Edward and Eugene Smith] made a deal. They'd build a house up there if Ed would get the timber. Now there'd been a forest fire on Spruce Mountain, which is the next one west over there, and scads of dead timber still standing, and they made a deal with Ed if he would haul the logs down, they'd help him build it. Ed Kitchen and my Uncle Ed Smith built that house up there and they also built a log barn (which is gone) and then Ed was to break up the land up there." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:1). *Note: to "break up" land is to get it ready for agriculture by removing rocks and turning over the soil.*

Courtesy of Pennie Stutzman?

Figure 44. Barn at the Kitchen/Smith cabin in West Glade. This structure no longer exits. Photo c. 1921-1922 according to Pennie Stutzman, granddaughter of Edward D. Smith.

Ed and Sadie sharecropped the land, giving a portion of the profits from dry land wheat, to the owners, the Smith brothers. One year the prices were not good, so Ed and the Smith brothers discussed when to sell. Ed Kitchen chose to sell right away for he needed the money, but the Smith brothers hung on to their share in hopes the price would go up. It didn't and they lost everything on the crop. Norris chuckles that "Ed Kitchen was the smart one to have sold." (Norris and Toni Kitchen Interview by Carol Tunner, May 18, 2007).



Courtesy of David McWhorter

Figure 45. Kitchen/Smith cabin in West Glade. The date on photo is believed to be mislabeled. The cabin was most likely built in 1917.

Figures 45 and 46 show the Kitchen/Smith brothers cabin in West Glade. Both are mislabled as to the dates. Norris Kitchen says his wife, Toni, added those dates when placing the pictures in a family scrapbook. Figure 46 includes the youngest child, Virginia (Sue), who is perhaps a year old and barely standing. She was born in 1919, so the picture was most likely taken in 1920. The Kitchens moved out of the cabin in 1921 and bought the Masonville Store in the Buckhorn Valley. Francis, born 1915, and Wesley, born 1917, were born in the Buckhorn Valley. Virginia (Sue) was born in the log cabin in West Glade.

Courtesy of David McWhorter

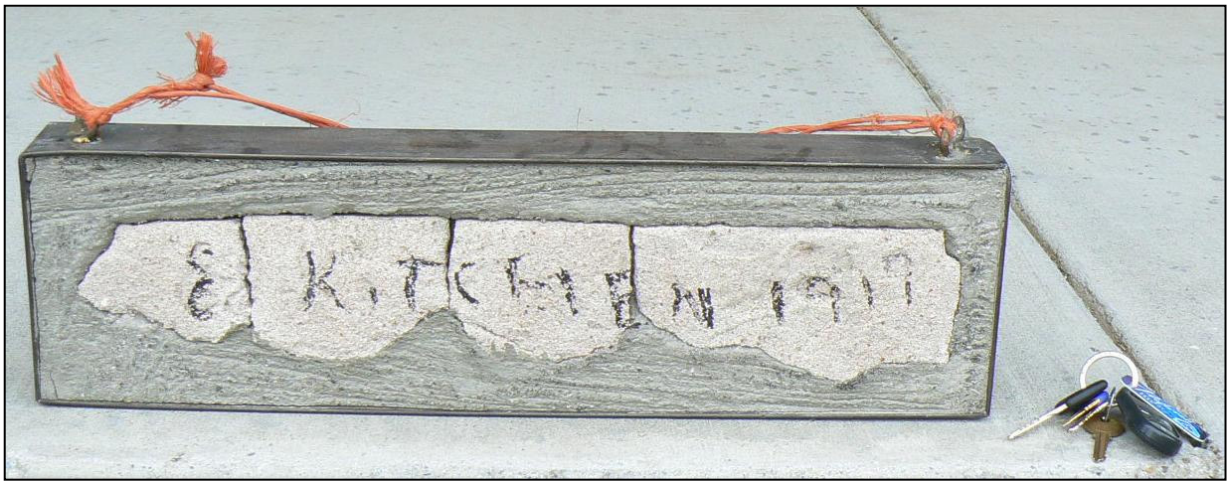
Figure 46. Sadie and Ed Kitchen with children by cabin. This date is mislabeled as 1918. The baby "Sue", standing in front, was born in 1919.

Hunter Spence talks of Virginia's (Sue's) birth. "Sue was born up there in that log house. And I can remember very shortly after she was born, my mother decided it was the thing to do to go up and visit in her horse and buggy and I went along as a little guy to open the gates and what have you…and I can remember going in there and Mrs. Clarkson, that would be Sadie's mother…was sitting in a big rocker. She was a big sparky woman, I loved that gal, and I always did. Anyhow, she sat down in the big rockin' chair, she had the baby on her lap, in her arms. And I can remember mother asked what's her name? 'Well', Mrs. Clarkson says, 'She was named Virginia. As far as I'm concerned she's "Sue"'." (Hunter Spence, Interview by Loveland Museum:1).

Sue married Leslie McWhorter, son of Charles McWhorter, a nearby pioneer farmer, orchard grower and proprietor of a stone quarry. Leslie was 32 and Sue was 16. They had three children: Mae Eileen, David, and Tom. Hunter Spence tells of Sue's early death: "Leslie said when she was so sick, 'You know, I married you, Sue, because I thought I'd have somebody to

take care of me in my old age.' Then she died. How he could still have his sense of humor... She had something similar to multiple sclerosis, only it was a lot worse." (Hunter Spence Interview by Phyllis and Dwain Thompson:2).

There was once chinking inside the cabin in West Glade inscribed "Ed Kitchen 1917". That probably was the date the cabin was built. It was removed by Norris and Toni's daughter, Moneta (Mrs. Clyde) Harmon, who still lives in the Masonville area. Grandson Travis Kitchen framed it in steel casing and it is in Norris and Toni Kitchen's home in Estes Park. (Norris and Toni Kitchen Interview by Carol Tunner, May 18, 2007).

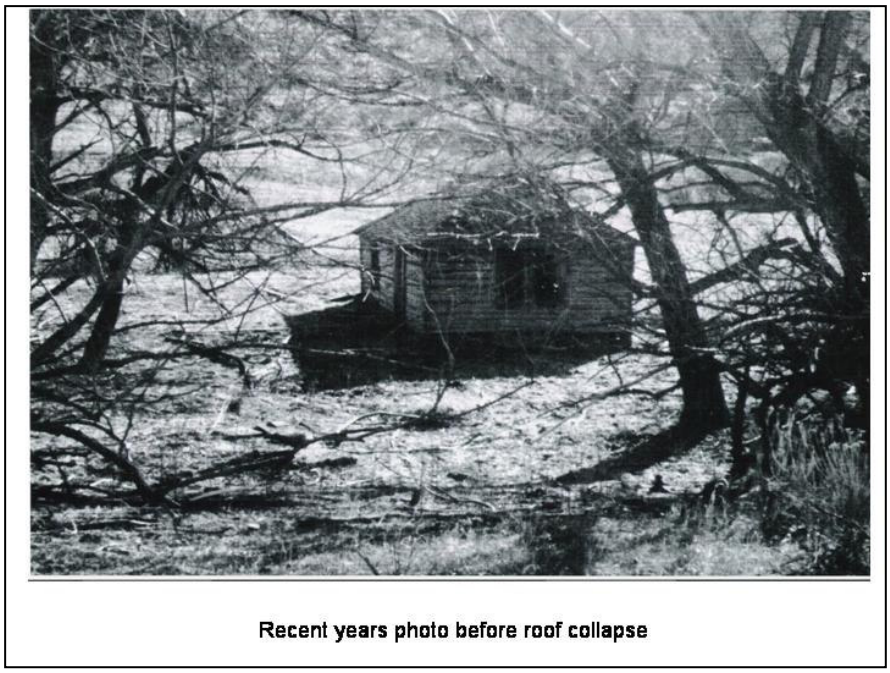


Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 47. Chinking from Kitchen/Smith cabin. Photo taken June 30, 2007.

Census data from 1920 shows that Francis was around three years old, Wesley was two and Sue was about four months old. In 1921, Ed and Sadie had enough money to move and buy the Masonville Store. Ed moved the store from its original location on the west side of the road, to the east across the intersection, where it is today. Norris Kitchen was born at the store in 1921 and fifteen years later his brother John was also born there. Sadie Kitchen served as secretary for School District 51 from 1943-1950. (Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of 1887 Masonville School Book*:183).

Norris Kitchen recalls that when Ed and Sadie moved out of the Kitchen/Smith cabin in 1921, Sadie's parents, the Clarksons moved into it. Also a family named Branstner lived there (see Griffing and Branstner family sections, page 51 and 58).



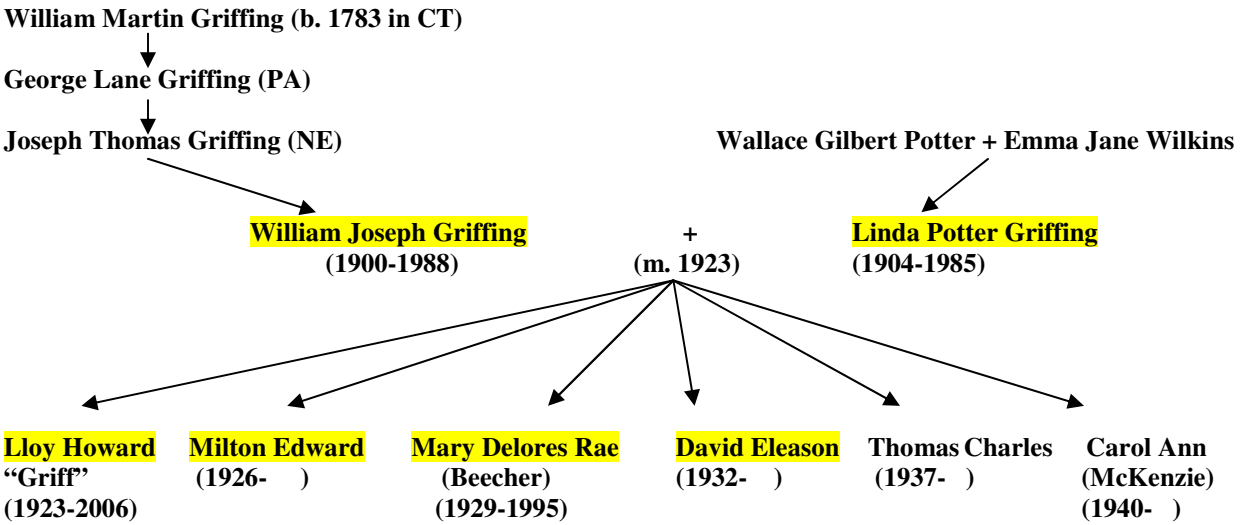
Courtesy of David McWhorter

Figure 48. Kitchen/Smith cabin looking at the west elevation.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 49. Kitchen/Smith Bros. cabin looking West at black ash tree. Notation on back of the photograph reads: "Original cabin where Bill Griffing lived. His daughter (Mary Del) was born there." Date unknown.

GRIFFING FAMILY



The Griffing family lived in the Kitchen/Smith cabin in West Glade at two different times and sharecropped the land. The patriarch, known as "Bill" Griffing, worked for thirty-five years for D.R. Pulliam, the owner of the property from 1961-2003. The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Linda and Bill Griffing wrote a book entitled *Linda's Family Stories 1904-2004*. The stories were compiled by their youngest daughter, Carol Griffing McKenzie. The book is a moving tribute to Linda Griffing's strength and perseverance in raising six children mostly alone during the Depression and World War II.

Bill Griffing was born to a farm family on October 10, 1900 in Pawnee County, Nebraska, the youngest of three children. In 1906, his father, Joseph, brought the family to Colorado. Grandson Dennis Griffing says, "Bill walked all the way to Loveland as a young child." (Dennis Griffing Interview October 15, 2007). Reflecting on the development of Bill's character, family members imply that he was brought up in the late nineteenth century mentality that the "man ruled the house." That's how society was and it was the way he was raised in a family that for generations observed a "strict religiosity." Bill was a horseman; he trained, broke and developed horses all his life, and by all recounts, he was good at it. (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories 1904-2004*).

Linda Potter was born May 26, 1904 in Boulder, Colorado, the youngest of seven, six girls and one boy. "She grew up at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain west of Boulder. Her father was a constable and road overseer." Her mother and sister died in the 1918 Great Influenza pandemic. Linda got sick too, but recovered. At fourteen years of age, she was the last of the sisters at home and her dad was not in a position to care properly for her. She lived with different sisters for a while, one of whom moved to Masonville. Linda dated the son of John Spence, Gerald, when she wassixteen or seventeen. Linda moved to Steamboat Springs where she met Bill

Griffing and married him on January 2, 1923. Their first child Lloy ("Griff") was born in Steamboat Springs that October. They tried to homestead there, but lack of money and equipment, and losses to cattle rustlers caused them to fail at this endeavor and they moved to a farm near Fort Morgan. Bill worked very hard to make a go of it, but an eight-ten-inch hailstorm the night before the harvest ruined their pinto bean crop. Next, they moved to a little house on the Buckhorn Creek in Masonville that was owned by Edward D. Smith. Bill worked for the Smith brothers. The Griffing's second child, Milton, was born there in 1926. Milton Griffing recalls that, "in the fall of 1929, before snowfall, we moved down to the log house [Kitchen/Smith cabin] on the school section in the West Glade of Masonville. I was afraid my cat, Old Tiger, was lost in the move but he showed up later and lived several years longer." (C. McKenzie*, Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:19). Bill Griffing also sharecropped the land, "which wasn't much, just hay and a few grains. The Smith brothers retained the grazing rights and ran their cattle there." This was the first of two times that the family occupied the cabin. Their closest neighbors were John and Alice Spence.

Milton Griffing tells of their life there. "In the West Glade we had a big garden, chickens, pigs and milk cows. Mother canned vegetables and fruit and we dried fruit from Frank Gardner [Linda Griffings's brother-in-law] and Gene Smith's orchards. In those years we had no money, but we ate well. Mary Delores [Del] was born in the Glade on August 26, 1929. Dr. Bill Stuart came out from Loveland and Doris [Linda's niece] came from Wheatland, Wyoming to help with the birth and infant care. I can remember a May Day when [cousins and other kids] brought us May Baskets. In the Glen [Buffum Canyon] we had to be careful where we walked because there were lots of rattlesnakes. Mother sometimes found them in the laundry basket in the house. The West Glade is one of three canyons that come together to form the Buckhorn. Redstone River came down the East Glade and into the Buckhorn River. Eagle Canyon defines the upper end of the West Glade. Green Ridge defines the west flank of the West Glade. The rock uplift that runs from Eagle Canyon and comes all the way along down…to the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon defines the east flank of the West Glade. It was marginal cropland, marginal stock land. The lower end had more water but the upper end didn't have enough water to be really good irrigation. Poor crops and low prices drove us out that fall." (C. McKenzie*, Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:20).

In late 1930, they rented a house in the Buckhorn Valley northwest of Masonville. Chris Hyatt, one of Ham and Ollie Hyatt's sons, lived across the street. He trapped skunks and kept one as a pet. In early 1931, Bill Griffing moved his family to Loveland where he worked for Harris Cattle Company on land near the Great Western Sugar Beet Factory. They fed beet tops and wet beet pulp to the cattle at the Harris beef feeding lot.

Milton Griffing says that his father's jobs in Loveland "played out" so the family moved back to the Kitchen/Smith cabin in the fall of 1931. David Eleason Griffing was born on April 30, 1932. They lived there the second time until the fall of 1932. Milton claims it was really a two-story house not a cabin, because it had a lean-to containing a bedroom and kitchen, and had a "loft" or partial story in the high ceiling where Lloy and Milton slept. The children reached it from a vertical ladder on the wall. Both Milton and his brother Lloy called it a "cabin-house". There also was a barn there that was about three times the size of the cabin. The outhouse was aboutfifty feet northeast of the cabin, and the chicken house was about fifty feet to the northwest

of it. Immediately northwest of the cabin was a well and beyond that was the garden. The chicken house and outhouse probably polluted the well. Milton says, "Living there in West Glade was like living in rattlesnake heaven." One time there was a snake den at the edge of their garden and they killed ten snakes in a row." (Milton Griffing Interview by Carol Tunner, October 16, 2007).

Lloy "Griff" Griffing, the oldest son, relates that "the West Glade school section was where cattle grazed in the off-season. They had from 900 to 1,000 cattle in a kind of feed lot arrangement." His younger brother, Milton, adds, "Cattle were being grazed on the school section range on a pay-per-day basis called 'day herd pasture.' At first, they were watered at the farmstead water tanks. As the drought deepened, the well started to dry up and the cattle had to be herded down the county road past Spence's place to be watered in Buffum Canyon. Water for our few cows and horses and potable water for the cabin-house had to be hauled daily in several large barrels in the farm wagon. Lloy and I helped bail the water from Spence's spring into the barrels. Dad drove the team and helped fill the barrels and empty them at the farmstead.

"As for Mother's taking part in much of any activity at school, it was always really difficult to go to any of the programs for parents. She did drop, or hurry up, with evening chores of milking and feeding in order to go to Christmas programs, especially for the younger kids. I always felt she was there for me in the country school setting even though it meant [her] walking a total of five miles over the hogback trail to and from. [The Masonville School was just outside the east entrance to Buffum Canyon]. We didn't have a car that would run, or gas to run it, more likely." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:14).

The youngest child, Carol Griffing (McKenzie), relates one of her mother's favorite stories about their time living in the remote cabin in West Glade when the two older boys were toddlers. "Dad was away and she heard a woman screaming off in the distance. She decided she had to help the woman if she could. Saddling the horse, with Griff (Lloy) on behind and holding Scottie [Milton] in front, the three of them rode out in the dusk to follow the screams. She never did find the woman, but when a neighbor came by the next day and heard her story, he went looking along the trail she'd taken. There, just where she'd passed on the horse with two babies, were fresh mountain lion tracks and evidence that the lion had followed them as they searched. The screams she'd heard were the cries [of a lion] that are often described as human-like. The horse never spooked and threw them, and the lion never pounced." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:58).

Milton Griffing recalls, "During our stay in West Glade, Aunt Bep, who was Dad's older sister, visited us and then later sent [people] from her church family in Denver to help us out. They brought cured hams, bacon, canned goods and some toys and took measurements for shoes and clothes that were sent later. It was the depth of the depression and we were lucky to have what they sent." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:21).

"Up through this time we had no refrigeration to keep meat or milk fresh. We didn't have an icebox until years later. We kept milk fresh by lowering a closed pail of milk down into the well water to about two-thirds submersion. That served spring, summer and fall, and a screened

window box on the shaded side of the cabin house served during winter." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:23).

Milton Griffing returned for a family reunion in 1980 and visited the site. The barn and the lean-to on the house were gone. There may have been a fire. Milton said several families lived there over the years for free rent in exchange for labor during the Depression. The log cabin never was a viable farm, but the fields to the north had some irrigation rights out of Buckhorn Creek. (Milton Griffing Interview by Carol Tunner, October 16, 2007). In the fall of 1932, the well went "clear dry" so they moved out of West Glade to the John Kitchen house above Masonville on Buckhorn Creek. Thus ended the family's residency in West Glade.

Branstner occupation of the Kitchen/Smith cabin — summer of 1928 to summer of 1929
First Griffing occupation of Kitchen/Smith cabin — fall of 1929 to fall of 1930
Second Griffing occupation of Kitchen/Smith cabin — fall of 1931 to fall of 1932

In the spring of 1933, the Griffing family crossed the property one more time. Bill Griffing had gotten a job "skidding [moving] logs" for a "tie camp" [railroad ties] on Dry Creek, a tributary of Cedar Creek, which flows into the Big Thompson River near Cedar Cove. Their route was through West Glade. The family loaded all their possessions and furniture on a big farm wagon and, with a horse and a few cows, paraded one more time through Buffum Canyon, past Spence's house, through West Glade, up through Mahoney Park, over the top of Green Ridge Mountain, and down into Dry Creek Glade. It was a bittersweet trip filled with memories of their rustic life in West Glade. Those memories included "hardships of weather and starving cattle, of elk and deer that were chased away from the feed pens because there wouldn't be enough hay to last the long winter." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:23).

Milton Griffing also remembers a family (unknown name) living in the Kitchen/Smith cabin after the Griffings moved out the second time, who had a litter of German shepherd puppies. Milton brought one of the puppies to their home on Buckhorn Creek and his mother let him keep it. Evidently the log cabin continued to be lived in by families needing shelter and work during hard times. The other important Griffing connection to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area is that Bill Griffing worked for thirty-five years for D.R. and D.T. Pulliam breaking and training their horses, and any other odd jobs that were needed. Lloy "Griff" Griffing remembers his father leaving occasionally for a, "horse breakin' spree or to go with a cattle rancher who was moving cattle between ranches". Griffing would "wind up in southern Montana or central Wyoming or northern Montana or maybe clear down by Trinidad or Raton pass or clear on down as far as Deming. He was more or less a herdsman or record keeper as far as involving the status of the cattle." (Milton Griffing Interview by Carol Tunner, October 16, 2007).

Lloy also talks about his father's skills as a horseman. "I don't know what a horse whisperer is, but Dad could talk to horses, and they would respond to him. He wasn't mean to horses, but if you watched him, you'd think he was, the way he would halter them. Horses are like an impudent little kid. You just gotta take them and show them who is boss. There were times when he was really cruel, but he had to be or the horse could take his head off. He was into logging, hay, feeding cattle, working cattle or breaking horses—cowboy chores." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:9-10).

Milton Griffing also speaks of his father's skills, "His best work was ranching — whatever you do on a ranch — makin' hay, wranglin' cattle, breaking horses. He was real rough on horses for so many years and then he kind of settled down to be more like a horse whisperer. He could get them down to where they were quite good. One of our favorite tales was of his winning the cutting horse contest at the Western Stock Show in Denver. After he did the competition thing of cutting four cattle out and putting them away properly, he said, 'turn them out again.' He reached over and took the bridle off the horse and put it over the saddle horn and then he and old Friday [the horse], him steering with his knees, did it all again. Friday was smart, but he'd also done the thing so many times at the fair and all, he knew what to do. But, that brought the house down." (C. McKenzie*, Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:19).

Bill and Linda divorced in 1941. Linda remarried in 1954 joining families with the widowed Walter Kitchen, brother of Ed Kitchen. Bill Griffing remarried in 1952 and he and his wife Bea bought the old stone slab store in Cedar Cove near D.R. and Ginny Pulliam's home. Bea died in 1974. The Pulliams and Bill Griffing were caught in the Big Thompson flood of 1976. When the Pulliams were being rescued by helicopter, D.R. turned back and said they should check on Bill. They found him standing inside his house in mud and water in his long underwear with his black cowboy hat still on, and when they assured him they would have him out in no time, he replied, "just throw me a shovel and I'll dig myself out." (Ginny Pulliam and Sandy Olson Interview by Carol Tunner, September 21, 2007).

BILL & LINDA 1980

Courtesy of Carol Griffing McKenzie*, Linda's Family Stories*

Figure 50. Bill Griffing and Linda (Griffing) Kitchen meet again in 1980 at family reunion reception in the Pulliam Community Building in Loveland.

Courtesy of Carol Griffing McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories*

Figure 51. The Bill Griffing family after leaving West Glade: Lloy, Milton, Mary Del, David, father Bill and mother Linda.

Courtesy of Carol Griffing McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories*

Figure 52. Tom, Mary Del, Carol, Mother Linda, Lloy, Milton, and David Griffing in 1943 after the divorce.

Courtesy of Carol Griffing McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories*

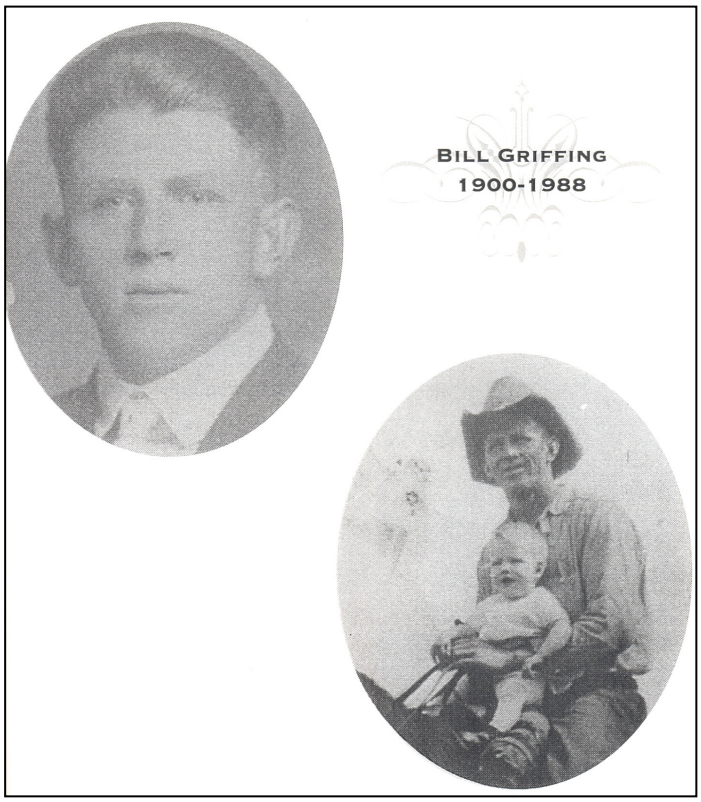
Figure 53. Linda Griffing's wedding.

Courtesy of Carol Griffing McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories*

Figure 54. Linda (Griffing) Kitchen, age 54.

Courtesy of Ginny Pulliam

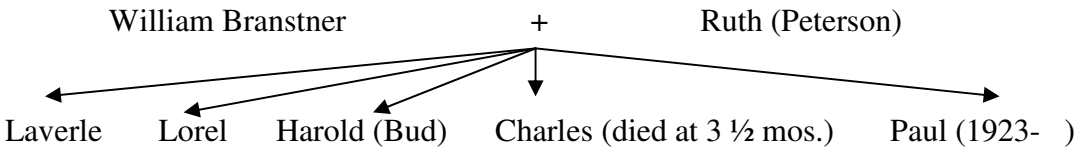
Figure 55. Linda (Griffing) Kitchen and Mary Del in the fall of 1929 at log cabin in West Glade.



Courtesy of Carol Griffing McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories*

Figure 56. Bill Griffing as a young man and with his son (probably Lloy).

BRANSTNER FAMILY



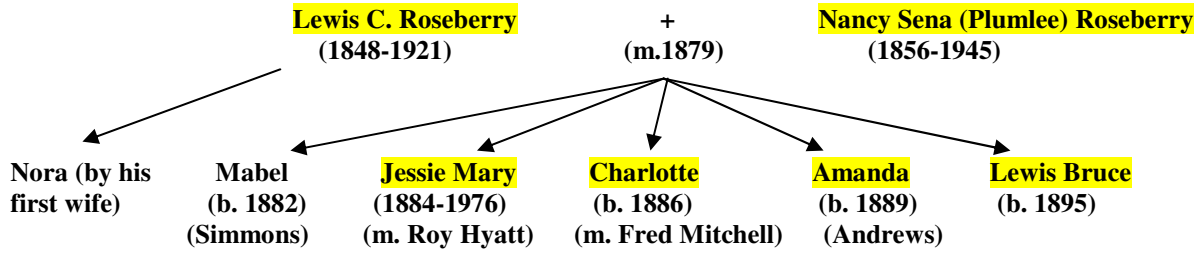
The Branstner family lived in the Kitchen/Smith cabin between the summer of 1928 and spring 1929. The Branstners were farmers who came from Dayton, Iowa looking for a dryer climate to ease Mrs. Ruth Branstner's tuberculosis. Colorado was known as the "Lunger State" because of the many tuberculosis sanitariums located here. The move this better climate didn't help and Mrs. Branstner died after they had moved to Loveland in 1930. She left four children. Linda Griffing took in the youngest child, Paul, to live with them for short periods of time. When Paul was sixteen he went into the Civilian Conservation Corps and later worked as an electrician at a sugar beet factory.

Courtesy of Paul Branstner

Figure 57. The Branstners - Paul, Lorel, their mother Ruth, Laverle, Harold (Bud) and Dog, Speed, in front of the Kitchen/Smith cabin c. 1928-1929.

Paul remembers living in the Kitchen/Smith cabin: "Nobody had any money then, but everybody was happy. My Dad used to say it would be nice if we could have more, but we were satisfied." Paul said there used to be a ten- or twelve-foot shed on the rear of the cabin that they partitioned into three bedrooms, each with a double bed. He and his brother slept in one, his two sisters in another, and the parents in the third bedroom. The front door of the cabin was on the south side. On one side there was a living room with a couch, rocking chairs, and a pot-bellied stove, and a kitchen with round table, chairs and cook stove in the other half. Paul's father, William, farmed for the Smith brothers. Paul started first grade at the Masonville School. The children walked home from school up Buffum Canyon because their folks were afraid they'd get lost up on the ridge in a storm. Paul said a Mr. Fraser lived up on the hill in a cabin and would come down to dinner on Sundays. He would bring meat and Mrs. Branstner would give him home-baked bread to take home. (Paul Branstner Interview by Carol Tunner, October 7, 2008).

ROSEBERRY FAMILY



The story of the Roseberrys, who homesteaded on Green Ridge and purchased Ham Hyatt's ranchstead in 1918, comes from the Hyatt/Roseberry/Rosebrook family history book *Rocky Mountain Low,* by Mabel Hyatt Sayre. These three families were related by marriage. In addition to the children listed above, three babies died in infancy: Claude (1880-1881), Guy (1881-1882) and Ruth (1891-1892?).

"Lewis Case Roseberry was born in southwest Missouri in 1848, the fifth of twelve children. The story goes that he had several brothers in the Union Army but he was not old enough [14] to volunteer so he drove a supply wagon for them. His first wife Adeline Wood died twelve days after their daughter was born. Later he married Nancy Sena Plumlee. L.C. is described as a man who looked for a better life just over every horizon. According to his wanderlust whim he hitched a team to a covered wagon and after loading Nancy and [their children] and a few non-descript tools and furniture in, away they went…first to North Dakota to work in the wheat harvest. Then back to Missouri, to Arkansas, to Texas, to Oklahoma and finally Colorado. There they settled down and worked for farmers." At first they lived in a yellow house in the Fossil Creek area southeast of Fort Collins, Colorado. (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:8-9 and 24).

Larimer County census data from 1910 show that living at home were children, Lottie (probably a nickname for Charlotte) born in Oregon, and Lewis, born in Missouri in 1895. So the Roseberrys must have come to Colorado after 1895. In 1907, daughter Jessie married the

Hyatts' oldest son, Roy, and lived in the area, and daughters Mabel and Charlotte were grown and living in Missouri at that time. Daughter Amanda's whereabouts were not listed.

The Roseberrys, as described by Gerald Spence, "were a nice, friendly couple who had originated in the Missouri Ozarks. They had lived in several neighborhoods in Colorado but longed for the seclusion they had enjoyed in the Missouri hills. I have no idea who put the idea in their 'think pots' but they wanted to homestead up on the mountain [Green Ridge] above Dad's [John H. Spence] property, above the area he had secured in his last government purchase." Lewis Roseberry knew he would have to cross Spence's property to access the proposed homestead, so one Sunday at the Masonville Church he told Spence of his plans "to build a cabin up there in the pine trees on what we called the old 'County Road Ridge.' The county road terminated near the base of this ridge." They made a handshake agreement to allow the access providing that John Spence could buy it for $1.50 an acre when the Roseberrys no longer lived there. The Roseberrys would be homesteading 320 acres of good timbered land. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:3).

The Roseberrys built a comfortable cabin, but two years later (circa 1917 or 1918) "old Mr. Roseberry had a heart attack" while isolated up there. He "took to bed" for two weeks, and then, when well enough to travel, Mrs. Roseberry rode a horse down to the John Spence farm for help. Word went out to the Masonville Store "which was the center of our tiny universe" and help came from all around, including son-in-law Roy Hyatt who was living twenty miles away east of Fort Collins. John Spence padded a buckboard wagon and they took it up the steep rocky hill of Green Ridge. They got Mr. Roseberry out along the road to his cabin and on to the ridge. Then the men "unfastened the team and the fellows hung on to the tongue and eased the thing down" the rocky road to Ham Hyatt's ranch house.

Gerald Spence relates, "Dad Roseberry recovered to a great extent but knew that his days were numbered and it was a certainty that he would never go back up to their little utopia on the mountainside. That meant that he would lose all the work, sweat and improvements he had put in on his homestead. He asked Dad to buy the relinquishment. In those days it was legal to sell a relinquishment. The purchaser could go ahead and finish the homesteading requirements and get a clear title to the property." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:194-195; Hunter Spence, Interview by Thompsons:3). But Spence didn't want to live up on the mountain to finish the homesteading residency requirement. According to Gerald Spence, Lewis Roseberry made a deal with Hamilton and Ollie Hyatt to live in the Hyatt ranch house "as long as they lived" in exchange for the relinquishment of the Roseberry property on Green Ridge. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:195). Ham and Ollie Hyatt had split up at this point and were living elsewhere. Evidently they decided to buy the ranch outright, because a chain of ownership search showed Lewis Roseberry bought the Hyatt place in 1918.

Hunter Spence recalls another interesting story about Mr. Roseberry. "Mr. Roseberry had a team of young mares, pretty good, sassy, up-and-coming, small size work horses…he pulled across the gulch where a garage is now and unhitched the horses. But he made a mistake…he unhitched the horses but he forgot to loosen one horse's tug which was still fastened on to the light wagon. There was one big 'whoppin' cottonwood tree growing right out of the middle of things there…he took the bridle off of them all and told them to go down and get a drink of water

at the gulch. And boy, that mare just ruined that wagon, she just wrapped that around that big cottonwood tree. She was a pretty scart gal I'll tell you." (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:4; Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:5).

The Roseberrys lived in the Hyatt ranch house for three years when Mr. Roseberry died of bronchitis or pneumonia in 1921. Alice Spence helped Nancy Roseberry with the arrangements, and Mr. Roseberry's funeral was in the unfinished back addition of the ranch house. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:195).

Hunter Spence recalled fondly, "Mrs. Roseberry continued to live there and I can remember when I was coming home from the school down the canyon…at the mouth of the canyon…a couple of different times, Mrs. Roseberry would see me coming and she'd come out on the road and flag me down with two great big beautiful, still warm, sugar cookies." (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:4).

Courtesy of Jim Sayre

Figure 58. The Roseberrys:
Front row: baby Lewis B., father Lewis C., mother Nancy S., Amanda (standing)
Back row: Mabel, Jessie, and Charlotte; circa 1896.

Courtesy of Jane Verderosa

Figure 59. The Lewis and Nancy Roseberry children:
Front row: Amanda, Jessie Mary
Back row: Charlotte, Lewis B., and Mabel; circa 1902-1903.

CLINE FAMILY

There was once a log cabin in Mahoney Park. Hunter Spence said he "thought there was a Mahoney living up there somewhere," that the area was named after, but he really didn't know why it was called it Mahoney Park. He said he thought a fellow named George Cline lived there. The cabin was built in two parts, one log and one board. The board part "blew out" according to Hunter, and eventually that part of the cabin collapsed and was gone. "George Cline was blind, practically couldn't see daylight from dark, but he and his wife built that cabin." Sheet metal was eventually put on top of the roof, but "underneath that is what nowadays we call shakes. They cut logs…into chunks about this long and then split them." They had two boys who walked all the way down from Mahoney Park to the school at the opening of Buffum Canyon every day. They joined up with Hunter's two older brothers. (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:5; Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:7-8).

The City of Fort Collins Bobcat Ridge title commitment yields a Homestead Patent issued to George G. Cline in June, 1904, for 160 acres in the east half of the southwest quarter and the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 17, and the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 20, in Township 6, north of Range 70. In March, 1906, Edward C. Cline was also issued a Homestead Patent for 160 acres in the west half of the northwest quarter and the west half of the southwest quarter of Section 17, in Township 6 north of Range 70. They were signed under the term of President Theodore Roosevelt. (County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Book 238, pages 47-48). Hunter Spence, who was born in 1907, did not mention Edward C. Cline.

NICODEMUS FAMILY

Gerald Spence recalls that Frank Nicodemus homesteaded 320 acres on the edge of Green Ridge in the south of West Glade, adjoining John Spence's property. "He fenced forty acres of it and did a little farming on a half-level spot or two. He dug a well, fixed up a dugout cellar and planted a few apple trees along the margin of a gulch in back of his house." There was a garden on the hillside. Nicodemus probably didn't plan to stay, but to "prove-up" the property (live on it to prove ownership), gain title, and then sell it for a profit. "He was a ranch worker and could work on the nearby ranches and ultimately sell out and be a little ahead. He had a wife and three or four kids, so this tar-papered shack there at the foot of Green Ridge would work out pretty well." (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:2).

Hunter Spence remembers their children Clay, Fern, and Lester who was his own age. Clay Nicodemus walked to school every day and met the two older Spence brothers, Roland and Gerald, to go down through Buffum Canyon. In very cold or snowy weather, Gerald recalls that Mr. Nicodemus "would be waiting at our house for Clay. Then they would ride on to the homestead together—Clay squeezed into the saddle in front of his father and bundled inside his dad's overcoat. Riding a horse in sub-zero weather is not a pleasant pastime." (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:2).

John Spence eventually bought Nicodemus' land for a dollar an acre ($320) which was "probably the most money that Nicodemus had ever had in his possession at one time." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:190-191). After Frank Nicodemus sold his property to John Spence, he decided to leave the country. There are two Nicodemuses buried in the Loveland Lakeside Cemetery: one the infant son of F.C. and E.C, born in July and died in August, 1903, and the other an individual named Ralph also died in 1903.

Hunter Spence remembered that Frank Nicodemus was the mailman. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:40). When Hunter Spence owned and occupied the Hyatt ranch house between 1943 and 1957, he dismantled most of what was left of the Nicodemus place leaving only the well, the apple tree, and the remains of the cellar. He took the cellar rock and used it to build a wall down into the cellar at the Hyatt house when he finished the back additions. The roof of the Nicodemus house was covered with big square stones like shakes or shingles, and Hunter used them at the Hyatt ranch house and John Spence farm house.

The Nicodemus' water well wasn't reliable. It had been dug in wet weather and turned dry later. So after the Nicodemus family was gone, John Spence covered it with a large rock. When animals tried to dig into it, Hunter covered it with enough rocks so that as he said, "no one would ever get into it." (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:2).

TIGGES FAMILY

In the late 1950s, Ronald and Velma Tigges moved from Iowa to Colorado. In 1957, they bought the Hyatt ranch house that Hunter and Estes Spence had lived in since 1943. Norris "Red" Kitchen, second son of Ed and Sadie Kitchen, helped move them in. There was water in the kitchen but no bathroom. The bedrooms were upstairs. Norris commented that Velma Tigges did something very unusual—when they were working in the fields in the mornings, she would bring out snacks for them to munch on, and then she'd bring a beautiful lunch in the afternoon. The men were very surprised and appreciative of her kind gesture as this wasn't what they were used to on a ranch. (Norris and Toni Kitchen Interview, May 18, 2007:13). The Tigges' evidently were not very well-suited to farming according to Hunter Spence (as related to son Bruce Spence and also expressed by Estes Spence). The Tigges family would go on vacation when their allotted time came to water from the canal. Therefore their crops never did well. After four years of owning the property, the Tigges family transferred their ownership to D.R. Pulliam in 1961 and moved away.

THOMPSON FAMILY

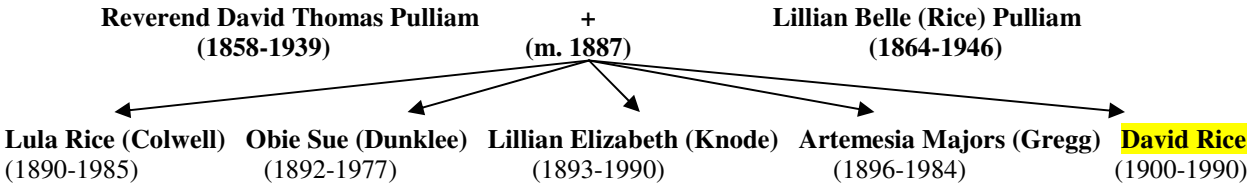
In 1967 Dwain Thompson was working at the Lego Toy Factory in Loveland when he saw a newspaper advertisement to rent the Hyatt ranch house in Masonville. He had wanted a place in the country to raise his family, consisting of wife Phyllis and four children. Their landlords were the three Soderberg brothers: Carl, Harry and John, who were leasing the ranch from D.R.

Pulliam. Pulliam had bought the property in 1961. Dwain and Phyllis Thompson helped with the irrigation of the fields in return for a discount on the rent, hunting privileges, and access to fire wood. They also repaired pumps and helped brand the cattle.

The front (east) door of the ranch house was a non-functional door so they always came in through the north by a screened-in porch and through the kitchen. The original one-and-a-half-story house had two rooms on the first floor. The Thompsons used them as the children's bedrooms, one for girls and one for boys. The heart of the house was the one-story rear addition which served as family living room and kitchen. The parents slept upstairs. The children who lived in the house from 1967 to 1973 were twins Vicky and Valerie, Rebecca, Warren, and Jim. Their fifth child, Jim, was born in the Hyatt ranch house. The school bus wouldn't come up the narrow one-lane road, so the children had to walk a half mile to the Buckhorn Valley Road (County Road 27) every day, and be bused down to the Big Thompson School on Highway 34. The children were taught to walk down Buffum Canyon in the center of the road to avoid rattlesnakes.

The Thompsons recall that the front porch on the house was added after they moved out in 1973. At that time they bought the John Spence farm house just up the road at 8364 West County Road 32C. (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:1-3). Phyllis Thompson takes a keen interest in the history of the pioneers and of the Masonville area, and was instrumental in providing a circa 1987 interview tape of Hunter Spence that was very informative regarding the various cabins and their locations. Hunter died in 1994 at age 87.

PULLIAM FAMILY



David Rice Pulliam purchased the ranch in 1961. He held it until his death in 1990. In 2003 it was sold by the D.R. and Virginia D. Pulliam Charitable Trust to the City of Fort Collins at a discounted price in honor of D. R. The Pulliam ownership of the ranch was the longest in its history.

The pioneer Pulliam family moved to Loveland in 1890 and built a thriving farming, real estate, and banking business. The family patriarch, the Reverend David Thomas (D.T.) Pulliam, was one of the founders of Colorado Women's College in 1889, and was instrumental in the Big Horn irrigation project in Wyoming. He was also one of the founders of Worland, Wyoming. D.T. and Lillian Belle Rice Pulliam also donated the land and $20,000 for the Loveland community building. They felt the town needed a focal point. The building was constructed

between 1937 and 1939. This building served as the Loveland city hall and auditorium. Today it is called the Pulliam Community Building, and it still serves as meeting space for community groups. ("Built to Last: Pulliam Community Building Endures," *Loveland Reporter-Herald*, December 7/8, 1996:1).

David Rice Pulliam (D.R.) was born in Loveland on September 18, 1900, the youngest of five children and the only boy. He graduated from Loveland High School and attended William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, where he was honored in 1935 with the William Jewell Citation for Achievement for his accomplishments in the fields of agriculture, business, banking, land development, ranching, and irrigation. He graduated in 1922 from Colorado A&M, now Colorado State University.

D.R. served his community in many ways: director of the First National Bank, the National Beet Growers Association, the Home Supply Ditch and Reservoir Co, and Long's Peak Council of Boy Scouts of America; 34-year member of the National Western Stock Show; chairman of the Loveland Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee and Jones Costigan Sugar Act. He was a member of the Loveland Masons and the Denver El Jebel Shrine. D.R. Pulliam was a instrumental in securing the original building for the Loveland Chamber of Commerce's Information and Visitor's Center. He was the first Loveland Rotarian to be a Paul Harris Fellow and was awarded the Community Service Award in 1987. He started the Pulliam Student of the Month program honoring outstanding local high school students. The Boys and Girls Club in Loveland was renamed the Pulliam Youth Center.

D.R. continually supported and promoted water issues in the region and helped with the development of several irrigation projects including the Big Thompson water project. (Obituaries: *Rocky Mountain News*, May 24, 1990; *The Denver Post*, May 24, 1990; *Loveland Reporter-Herald*, May 21, 1990; *The Coloradoan*, May 22, 1990).

On September 16, 1967 he married Ethel Virginia Dynes (Ginny) at Montview Presbyterian Church in Denver. Ginny had a daughter from a previous marriage, Sandy S. Olson, who became D.R.'s stepdaughter. He cared for her as if she had been his own child. She visited the Bobcat Ridge area often and has many happy memories of it. The bond of affection between D.R. and Ginny was evident to all. Sandy Olson describes her memories of her stepfather, "D.R. had a soft voice, he was a gentle gentleman. He never raised his voice." When he married Ginny, Sandy says, "He was thrilled to have a ready-made family in myself and our two daughters, Jenny and Julie, and we were blessed to have a wonderful father and grandfather. He understood water rights backwards and forwards. He had such an outlook on the future and a zillion ideas for the ranch, even including a reservoir. One of D.R.'s most wonderful traits was his foresight and vision for the future."

D.R and Ginny lived in Cedar Cove, east of Drake, in the Big Thompson Canyon, and owned property north of there. In 1961, he had purchased the adjoining property which later would become Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. The Pulliams never lived on the Bobcat Ridge property, but the Hyatt house was always rented. The Pulliams lived in Cedar Cove until their home was destroyed by the Big Thompson Flood in 1976. They then moved to a home on Lake Loveland.

D.R. Pulliam loved working and horseback riding on his ranch which he named the *U Lazy U* which was their cattle brand. Ginny Pulliam says he could be seen almost every day driving his jeep around the ranch fields and roads. "A canal ran through the side of the ranch. One time D.R. and a man tried to rescue a fawn from the canal. They had to rope it because the water was so swift." (Ginny Pulliam and Sandy Olson Interview by Carol Tunner, September 21, 2007).

D.R. owned a number of horses. He always had Ginny ride the "grandmother of them all — the sweetest thing called 'Waletta'," according to Sandy Olson. One year, as a birthday surprise, Ginny had a narrow dirt road built to Mahoney Park — one of the couple's favorite spots. D.R. was so pleased he immediately named the new route for his wife. Today, visitors enjoy the reconstructed Ginny and D.R. trails, which connect in Mahoney Park.

D.R. brought friends, business associates and his extended family of nieces and nephews to visit the ranch for hunting parties. The guests would also go fishing and caught their own trout which they would fix for their dinner. On these hunting trips to Green Ridge, they would stay in a hunting lodge in Cedar Park. The hunting lodge was rustic and "the bed posts were in tin cans to keep mice from climbing up the bed." (Ginny Pulliam and Sandy Olson Interview by Carol Tunner, September 21, 2007). The hunting lodge was later sold to Sylvan Dale Ranch.

The Pulliams also had Christmas tree cutting parties on Green Ridge. Ginny particularly liked the juniper branches for Christmas decorations. Jenny Olson, her granddaughter, called them "Charlie Brown trees" because they were so scrawny. Granddaughter Julie was also always along on these yearly December trips. Sandy says, "Ginny would fix special lunches. We would come before sunrise so we could sit out on a hill and watch as a herd of elk came down to the hay pile to feed every morning. Ginny would pick wild asparagus, wild plums, and watercress which she made into soup." (Ginny Pulliam and Sandy Olson Interview by Carol Tunner, September 21, 2007).

Sandy relates, "Some of the movie *Centennial* was filmed on the ranch. Ginny and D.R. went to Florida every winter, and while they were gone, someone gave permission to film for the movie on Green Ridge. The film footage ended up in the movie as the scene where the Arapaho Indians come up over the bluffs." (Ginny Pulliam and Sandy Olson Interview by Carol Tunner, September 21, 2007).

D.R. leased the ranch to caretakers who irrigated and managed the cattle ranching. Rick Ochsner, manager of the ranch for 12 years, recalled, "We produced hundreds of tons of hay and upwards of 100-150 head of cattle. But as you look at it today, you can see that it really wasn't hugely disturbed. The two tipi rings are left 100 percent intact. I wish they could be fenced and made quite visible."

Ochsner relates other memories of D.R. and the ranch history:

> "We were working the upper meadow, tiling a spring for a water tank. And we stopped for lunch; me and D.R., and Bob Beatty. We were sitting on this little rock and D.R. was digging around these rocks. He picked up an arrowhead, and we were looking at it and we were kind of talking about why this person would have been sitting here, and you could see the advantage he might have had when

hunting. But when we left, D.R. put the arrowhead back down and he made the comment that, 'You know, this doesn't belong to me.'

"The *U Lazy U*, was the cattle brand and the name of the ranch. We also called it the Buckhorn Ranch. When D.R. passed away, the family asked me to be the ranch manager, and I did that from 1990 to 2002. My father, grandfather, and other family members all worked for D.R. as seasonal help, working the agricultural part and the cattle ranching. My cousin Ken was ranch manager for three or four years in the 1970s. Our family was associated with the Pulliam family for four generations.

"D.R. owned land all the way from Cedar Park to West Glade on the east. The hunting lodge where D.R. and Ginny took their hunting parties was in Cedar Park. It was called Cedar Lodge. Their hunting parties would hunt all the way from Cedar Park to Green Ridge. Cedar Creek was where Cal Camp was. Cal Camp was a cowboy camp where Bill Griffing worked. It had a barn and a house in the bottom of Cedar Creek on the west side of the south end of Green Ridge. Cedar Cove is on the Big Thompson. Bill Griffing owned and lived in a stone house there, and D.R. and Ginny had a house there also. I lived across the river from them. We were all flooded out in 1976.

"D.R. was very driven. He had a vision of how to put things together. For instance, look at the ranch. D.R. pieced it together from smaller parcels, accumulating and connecting parcels, with a goal of creating a working, large, sustainable, agricultural property. He was instrumental in collecting water rights. He was more the business side of agriculture, because in the early days of his life he had hands-on experience — but later after he had accomplished the empire he had created from farms and ranches, he hired knowledgeable people who understood livestock to run the operation, like my cousin Ken Ochsner who was ranch manager in the 1970s when D.R. started with Limousin cattle. D.R. was good at putting talent together. He had a good business head wrapped around agriculture. He was good at it. He was the landowner and he had working tenants that sharecropped for him." (Rick Ochsner Telephone Interview by Carol Tunner, November 8, 2007).

D.R. Pulliam had an admirable sensitivity to the stewardship of the land he owned. Rick Ochsner believed that "it was the agricultural ranchers, the people who labored there, who took care of it, worked the property, sweated over it, moved rocks, irrigation pipe — those were the people who really made Bobcat Ridge what it is today. There were changes to make it a working ranch, but they didn't disturb things that didn't need to be disturbed." (Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Grand Opening Interview, September 30, 2006:1-2).

Bill Griffing worked for the Pulliams for thrity-five years. Ginny Pulliam remembers Bill had lived in the Kitchen/Smith cabin in the early years. He stayed on when D.R. bought the ranch. He trained and took care of all the horses, and worked at any ranch chores that D.R. needed.

In 1983, Ginny Pulliam prepared a genealogical history of the family called "*The Love of a Family*." In the dedication, she said, "This roster is affectionately dedicated to our beloved D. R., a trusted, respected leader of the Pulliam family, after the death of his father. Calm, compassionate, caring, deeply knowledgeable—not only for his family, but for the interests of the community and its youth. Endeared by us all, but most of all, by Ginny, whose life he saved, hand in hand, on their 'Unscheduled Cruise' down the Big Thompson River July 31, 1976."

Figure 60. Rev. David Thomas Pulliam and Lillian Belle Rice Pulliam, married July 13, 1887.

Figures 60-62 courtesy of Ginny Pulliam.

Figure 61. The D.T. Pulliam Family. Front row: David Thomas, David Rice, Lillian Belle. Second row: Artemesia Majors, Lula Rice, Lillian Elizabeth, and Obie Sue. Photo taken 1913.

Figure 62. David Rice Pulliam and Virginia Dynes Pulliam, married Sept. 16, 1967.

D.R. Pulliam died of a heart condition at age 89 on May 19, 1990. After his passing, Rick Ochsner was hired by the family as ranch manager, and they sold the registered herd of Limousin cattle. In 2003, the property was sold to the City of Fort Collins as a natural area. Sandy believes that D.R. would have approved of its conservation, and the gift of recreation and education for all visitors, especially youth.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 63. D.R. Pulliam on his horse, Joker, riding the ranch.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 64. D.R. and Virginia (Ginny) Pulliam.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 65. D.R. Pulliam at Mahoney Park cabin in 1987.

CHAPTER 5.

HISTORY OF LAND ACQUISITION

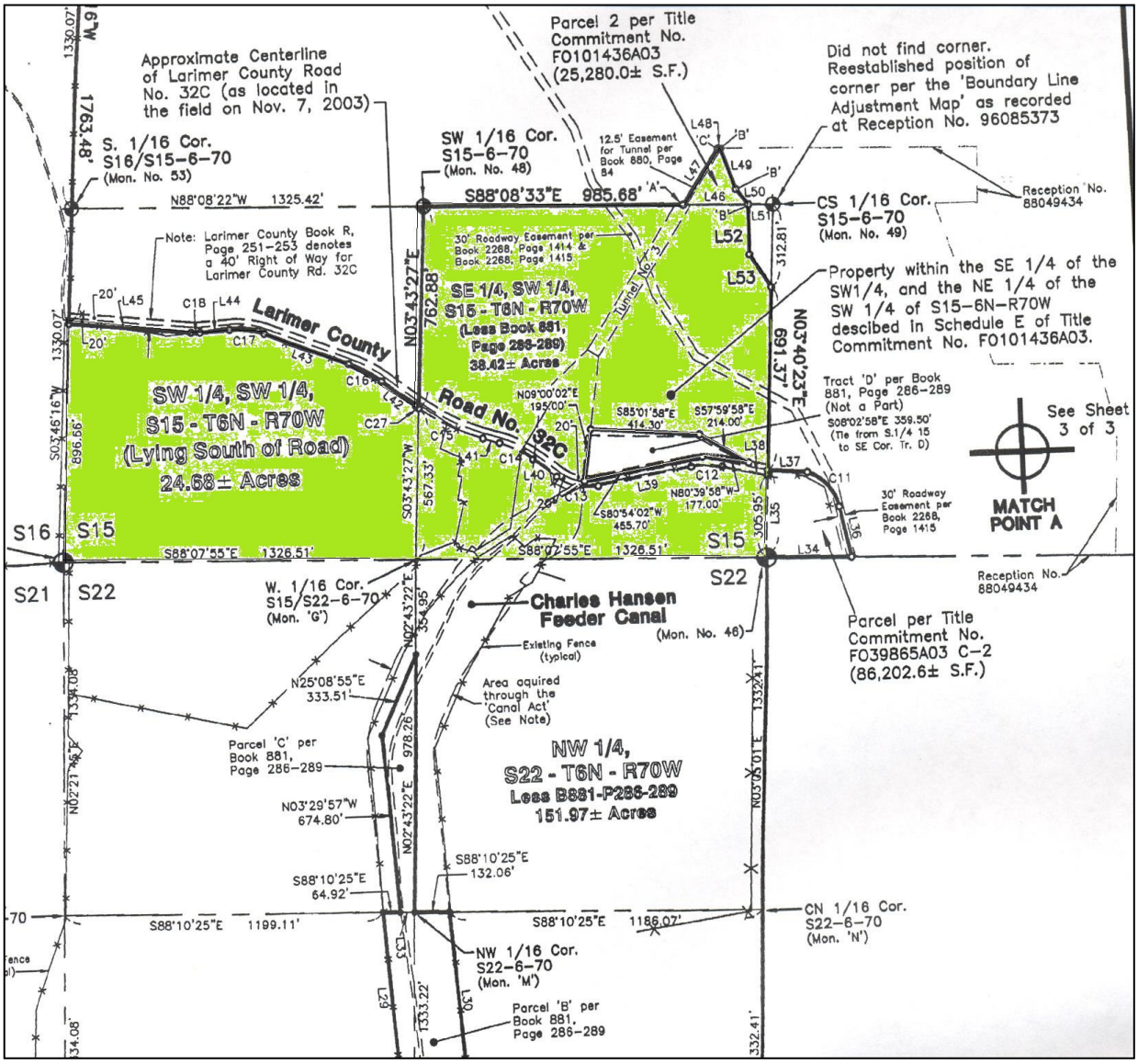
Chain of Ownership

Portions of the following information are taken from the Historic Structure Assessment produced in May 2005 by Aller-Lingle Architects and Tatanka Research Associates. The information has been edited by further research.

The **Hyatt Ranch House** is located where County Road 32C exits to the west from County Road 27C below Masonville. County Road 32C goes west through Buffum Canyon and enters the east-central edge of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area property. The address is 8281 West County Road 32C and the house and calving barn, hay shed, and corrals are located south of the road in a portion of the southwest quarter of Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 70 W. (Parcel #06150-00-903).

Legal Description:
A POR OF SW^4 OF 15-6-70; COM AT S^4 COR OF SD SEC 15 AND POB; TH WRLY ALG S LN OF SD SW^4 TO SW COR SEC 15; TH NRLY ALG W LN OF SW^4 OF SW^4 TO CNTY RD; TH ERLY WITH SD RD TO PT ON W LN OF SE^4 OF SW^4; TH DEPART FROM SD CNTY RD NRLY ALG SD W LN TO NW COR OF SD SE^4 OF SW^4; TH ALG N LN OF SE^4 OF SW^4, N 88 23'04" E 985.86 FT M/L TO PT ON CEN LN OF ESMNT; TH N 30 37'29" E 250.50 FT TO NW COR OF A TR DESC @ 88049434; TH N 88 23'04" E 10 FT; TH S 21 30'01" E 163.30 FT; TH S 40 30'59" E 74.93 FT M/L TO PT ON N LN OF SE^4 OF SW^4 OF SEC 15 FROM WHENCE TH NE COR OF SE^4 OF SW^4 BEARS N 88 23'O4" E 93.10 FT; TH S 01 59'43" E 188.87 FT; TH S 35 12' 21" E 170.81 FT M/L TO PT ON E LN OF SE^4 OF SW^4 FROM WHENCE SD NE COR BEARS N 00 12'07" E 330.96 FT; TH S 00 12'07" W 999.46 FT M/L TO POB; LESS AND EXCEPT THAT POR DESC AS TR D IN BK 881, PG 286.

The land that is exempted at the end of the legal description is the land taken by the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District for the Charles N. Hansen Feeder Canal which carries water north through Bobcat Ridge to Horsetooth Reservoir. Together, the property consists of a collection of historic buildings, structures and related features, all of them associated with the operation of a cattle ranch in the area between the late 1800s until 2005, when the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program removed the cattle. The land that was historically used for cattle grazing and hay cultivation is located to the west of the Hyatt ranchstead. The buildings and structures present on the site date predominantly from the late 1880s through the 1940s.



Courtesy of Intermill Land Surveying, Inc., Loveland

Figure 66. Land Survey Plat for legal description of 8281 West County Road 32C.

The Homestead Act was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. This enabled the U.S. government to get the vast western lands it had acquired into private ownership. Review of the chain of ownership for this property reveals that it was owned by the federal government. The procedure for homesteading was to make application, sign an affidavit testifying to certain questions, pay half ($5.00) of the filing fee, and after five years of residency on the property, pay the last half of the filing fee to receive a homestead patent of ownership. The required time was less to receive a Timber Certificate.

Government Land Office records show that Hamilton Franklin Hyatt began applying for patents in 1885, and received them for portions of sections 15, 21, and 22 in 1890, 1899, 1902 and 1906. The following describes the patents that Hyatt received from the United States government. The ranchstead, including the house, is in Section 15 (highlighted text).

Patents:

Issue Date	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Acres	Location:T6N-R70W
12/31/1890 Application: 03/30/1887	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Patent-Cert.#6728 p.55	160	W^2SW^4 Sec15 NE^4NE^4 Sec21+ NW^4NW^4 Sec22
07/15/1899 Application: 08/24/1885	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Timber-Culture Certificate #518 p. 388 Application #3033	80	S^2NW^4 Sec22
06/02/1902	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Patent-Cert.#16922 p.449	40	SE^4SW^4 Sec15
03/16/1906 Application: 02/26/1901	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Patent-Cert.#16923 p.435	40	NE^4NW^4 Sec22

Courtesy of Bureau of Land Management Homestead Patent Records and General Land Office Tract Book

Figure 67. Hamilton Hyatt's United States government patents.

In 1901, Hyatt filed the Timber Culture Certificate with Larimer County. In 1918, he also filed his other three patents dated 1890, 1902 and 1906 with Larimer County. Hyatt probably didn't realize when he first received his patents that he had to record them in the county where the land was situated for the patents to be publicly recorded knowledge. People learned this when they tried to sell or borrow on their land. This was before the days of title companies, and the method of property transfer was to have a lawyer check public records to ensure that the seller was selling what he does indeed own. The following lists Hyatt's patent filings with Larimer County:

Larimer County Filings of Patents:

Issue Date	Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Acres	Location: all T6N-R70W
01/12/1918	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Patent- Cert.#6728 b.264 p.464	160	W^2SW^4Sec15 NE^4NE^4Sec21+ NW^4NW^4Sec22
01/19/1901	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Timber-Culture Certificate #518 Application #3033 b. 143 p. 465	80	S^2NW^4Sec22
04/12/1918	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Patent-Cert.#16922 b.264 p.238	40	SE^4SW^4Sec15
04/12/1918	U.S.A.	Hamilton F. Hyatt	Patent-Cert.#16923 b.264 p. 240	40	NE^4NW^4Sec22

Courtesy of Larimer County Clerk & Recorder's Office Records

Figure 68. Larimer County filing of Hamilton Hyatt's original patents.

Within months after filing his patents in Larimer County in 1918, Hyatt sold the property to Lewis C. Roseberry. Roseberry died June 22, 1921. The warranty deed selling the property to him was filed in Larimer County in September 1923 by Hyatt just before Roseberry's estate was to be settled in October.

On October 5, 1923, the property was transferred by Roseberry's estate to his wife Nancy and their children (including their married daughter Charlotte who was Mrs. Fred Mitchell) and grandchildren, eleven heirs in all. Six years later, in 1929, Nancy Roseberry sold the property to Charlotte Mitchell from Missouri. Then in 1938, Mitchell, sold the property to Hunter Spence, who added his wife Estes to the title in joint tenancy in 1941. Hunter Spence had taken a teaching job as a vocational agriculture teacher in Gering, Nebraska. While he and Estes were living there, they bought the Hyatt ranchstead and house because he had always wanted to move back to the ranch to raise cattle. (Estes Spence Interview by Carol Tunner, July 17, 2007).

In the late 1940s, the Big Thompson Project was constructed to bring water to the northeastern foothills. The pipeline route went right through the Spence land with the justification that it was for a higher purpose. The Spences contested the route in court saying that the proposed compensation was not adequate for the inconvenience and added expense of dividing their land and making it useful again. They won an increased compensation in court.

In 1957, Hunter and Estes Spence sold the property to Ronald and Velma Tigges who were from Iowa. After a few years, they sold to D.R. Pulliam in 1961. Pulliam died May 19, 1990 and the property went into his estate.

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program purchased the property from the D.R. and Virginia D. Pulliam Charitable Trust in five phases from December 2003 to December 2007. Through a public process, the area was renamed "Bobcat Ridge Natural Area." Nearby Bobcat Gulch extends above Drake from the State Fish Hatchery to the Hyatt Mine. (It is unknown if this was named after any of the Buffum Canyon Hyatts, but Hamilton Hyatt's son Fred did ranch in Cedar Park where he raised bison). In 2000, a campfire in Bobcat Gulch started a conflagration that burned 10,600 acres including 1,000 acres of forest land on what is now Bobcat Ridge Natural Area.

CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP FOR THE HYATT RANCH HOUSE

	DATE	INSTRUMENT	BOOK	PAGE
Federal Government				
	12/31/1890	**Patent**		
	01/12/1918	Patent filed	264	464
	06/02/1902	**Patent**		
	04/12/1918	Patent filed	264	238
To Hamilton Hyatt (ranchstead+N&W land)				
	07/27/1918	**Warranty Deed made and signed**		
To Lewis C. Roseberry				
	06/22/1921	Lewis Roseberry dies		
	09/06/1923	Warranty Deed filed with Larimer County	462	433
To Lewis C. Roseberry Estate – Nancy S. Roseberry et al Roseberry (11 children and grandchildren).				
	09/24/1923	Decree of final Settlement and Determination of Heirship signed		
	10/05/1923	Filed	459	230-232
Nancy Roseberry (Estate Administrator)				
	05/24/1929	**Warranty Deed signed**		
	10/26/1929	Filed	599	44
To (Mrs. Fred) Charlotte Roseberry Mitchell (daughter)				
	06/14/1938	**Warranty Deed signed**		
	04/06/1939	Filed	682	287
To Hunter Spence				
	06/10/1941	**Warranty Deed in Joint Tenancy**	727	281
Adds Estes Spence (wife)				

	DATE	INSTRUMENT	BOOK	PAGE
Hunter & Estes Spence				
	09/01/1950	**Warranty Deed** to N. CO. Water Conservancy District for Hansen Feeder Canal through the property		
	12/28/1950	Recorded	905	479
	04/12/1957	**Sale-Purchase Contract**		
	05/08/1957	Recorded	1043	415-416
To Ronald and Velma Tigges				
	01/31/1961	**Assignment**	1136	678
	03/03/1961	Recorded		
To D.R. Pulliam				
		D.R. Pulliam dies May 19, 1990		
D.R. and Virginia D. Pulliam Charitable Trust				
	12/2003			
	12/2007			
To City of Fort Collins				

Historic References to Land Acquisition in Bobcat Ridge

In various family records and books, there are occasional references as to how the land in Bobcat Ridge Natural Area was assembled. These references are delineated here so that they may be of use in the future as more historical information is uncovered or required. Specific references to the Bobcat Ridge property are set apart in bold type.

- Sarah Milner Smith purchased forty acres on the Buckhorn Creek in Buckhorn Canyon adjoining her brother Ben's homestead. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:86). Eighty acres of land adjoining one corner of her land on Buckhorn Creek later came on the market through foreclosure. Only about fifteen acres of the piece was farmable land; most of the rest was steep, rough hogback, once valuable as stone quarry, but the advent of concrete had closed the market for stone and it was used only as rough pasture land at the time Smith purchased it. The farmable land was watered by the Union ditch and it doubled the acreage that could be farmed. This land was on the east side of the unnamed hogback cut by Buffum and Brooks Canyons, right outside Bobcat Ridge today. There was an existing house on this property. **Her purchase included a quarter section of less choice land watered by another ditch in the West Glade**. This appears to have occurred when

Sarah's son Edward had just come of legal age, which would have been about 1892. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:101).

- Sarah Milner Smith and her son Edward D. Smith gave 120 acres to Sarah's daughter Alice and her husband John Spence upon their marriage in 1897. This is the land on which John Spence built the first section of the farm house at 8364 West County Road 32C in 1896. (The house's built date was acquired from the Larimer County Assessor's Office, but this may or may not be accurate.)

- In *Pioneer Epic* by Eugene Smith, he relates his mother's, Sarah Milner Smith, memoirs: "All the nearby rangeland still owned by the national government over which the free ranging of stock had been permitted, was now included in a national forest [Roosevelt]. Permits must now be obtained to run stock on the forest, and payment made therefore. Blundering and inefficiency in administering forest affairs, generally by local officials, soon made forest grazing rights practically worthless and necessitated acquirement [sic] of considerable acreages of deeded land on which to run our now considerably increased herds. To meet the emergency, 'Smith Brothers' as the firm was now styled, purchased a block of deeded homesteads in the Crystal Mountain region on which to range several hundred head of Angus cattle we now owned, in the summer season, and a **like amount in the foothills for winter pasturing**." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:104-105). Sarah implies that this occurred right after they helped build the Masonville Presbyterian Church in 1911.

- Hunter Spence related that Hamilton Hyatt had about **eighty acres** of land to sell. His neighbor, John Spence, wanted it because he was trying to amass his holdings in the area. But Hyatt didn't get along with Spence so he wouldn't "dicker" with him. The Smith brothers owned land to the south of the Hyatt parcel. They bought the land instead, and turned around and sold it to their brother-in-law John Spence. (Hunter Spence, Interview by Loveland Museum:1).

- Edward D. and Eugene Smith owned **Section 16 (640 acres)**, the "school section" meaning a portion of this section had to be reserved for a school or the proceeds of sale for same be donated to the school district. (Hunter Spence, Interview by Loveland Museum:4). Edward D. Smith was issued "Patent No. 4318 For School Lands," State of Colorado, Book 506, page 286 as recorded in the Larimer County Clerk and Recorder's Office on January 24, 1925. The patent acknowledged that he had made full payment of $9,240 for **Section 16**. The land had been purchased January 2, 1918 by Certificate of Purchase #4524, Book 14.

- John Spence spent decades trying to amass parcels of the land that now make up Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. By the time Roland and Gerald Spence were teenagers (around 1913), their father John Spence had consolidated his holdings by purchasing "**several hundred acres of mountain land from Uncle Sam and from a couple of homesteaders.** In those days, a rancher could buy unallocated federal land that adjoined his property. These purchases were made possible by two acts of Congress which were called the Timber and Stone Act and the Isolated Land Act." John Spence bought out

Frank Nicodemus' 320 acres adjoining his property at the foot of Green Ridge for a dollar an acre. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:189-190). After this, Spence decided to try and protect his property from further homesteaders by making application to the government to buy **160 acres further up the slope of Green Ridge** above Nicodemus' claim.

> "The land was advertised by the government and put up for auction bidding at the land office in Denver. 'Uncle Sam' wouldn't take a check so Dad had to take cash money with him. He was prepared to pay up to two dollars an acre for it, so he took $320, mostly in gold. That was more cash than Dad had ever carried on his person and he knew that Denver, the "Queen City of the West" as it was then called, was not lily-white. He had lived in Denver some years before and knew there were some pretty rough customers and some pretty slick slickers standing around the depot just waiting for some country person with a few dollars. As an evasive action, Dad dug around in some of his belongings and found his old gold coin pouch. These pouches were made from a tanned bull or stallion testicle bag. These pouches were seamless so you could safely carry gold nuggets, coins or even dust in them with no danger of losing anything through a seam. Mother then made a sturdy cloth bag and the whole thing was suspended around Dad's neck under his shirt, vest and coat. He carried a few dollars of silver money in his regular purse. We didn't use paper money much in those days. Dad rode the C&S [Colorado and Southern] passenger train from Loveland to Denver and stayed that night…in a hotel. The next morning at the capitol building, he got a real surprise. There was no one there to bid against him. Dad got that **160 acres for 25 cents an acre**.
>
> "Dad wanted to completely seal off his land from the open federally-owned land so that anyone going to the government land to cut timber or to put livestock out on free government range would be trespassing if they didn't get permission to cross his property. He would then pretty well control the east slope of Green Ridge from the Chambers' place on the south to the School Section on the north. (Larimer County Clerk and Recorder's Office Patent to David A. Chambers, portion of Section 27, recorded August 17th 1895, b. 113, p. 2). Both of these pieces of land were under long-time control of the Smith brothers, my uncles.
>
> "Dad made application to buy another **160 acres under the Timber and Stone Act**. He had bought the first **160 acres under the Isolated Land Act**. That was all he could buy under that legislation. He wasn't too happy with what he had heard about parties bidding up the price at 'Timber and Stone' auctions but he went through the required procedures. At this auction, a minimum per acre price had been set so Dad had to pay 50 cents an acre. Now Dad and Uncles Ed and Gene had over **6,000 acres of land under their control**, not all deeded but pretty well sewed up as private pasture land." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:191-192).

CHAPTER 6.

PIONEER LIFE

The stories of Bobcat Ridge and Masonville are richly recorded in the books and memoirs of the families living there in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Sarah Milner Smith, her husband Edward Smith, her son Eugene Smith, her daughter Alice, and Alice's husband John Spence were all school teachers and fairly well-educated for that time. Teachers are storytellers, and Eugene wrote *Pioneer Epic* using his mother, Sarah's, diaries. Of Alice and John Spence's three sons, Gerald preserved the history of the area in *The Hunter* and *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*. He had a gift for dry country humor in the everyday situations and he was the most adventurous of the three boys growing up on the John Spence farm west of Buffum Canyon. Hunter Spence outlived his brothers and bought the Hyatt ranch house and ranchstead. Fortunately, he was encouraged by D.R. Pulliam to preserve his many memories of Bobcat Ridge in taped interviews. The following are the real-life stories as told by the people who lived them.

Life in the Region

Cultural Make-Up of the Community

In June of 1887, Sarah A. Milner Smith bought forty acres on Buckhorn Creek south of what would later become Masonville (established in 1896). (Bureau Land Management, Government Land Office, Tract Book:56). It was known as Buckhorn Valley. Her father and brothers had previously settled further northeast in Redstone Valley where Redstone Creek flows west of Milner Mountain. Buckhorn and Redstone Creeks meet below Masonville and flow south. Settlers were drawn here because of available water. In her diaries, Sarah Milner Smith described the area in the late 1880s:

> "The Buckhorn and Redstone valleys at that time were in an extremely backward condition, with only a few small ditches and little land under cultivation. The whole region had been used in the past mainly as cattle and sheep range by about a half dozen owners. The main population was a very backward class of people from still backward pioneer regions in the middle East and South. All of these people were making a very precarious living hauling out pole timber from a large area of fire-killed lodgepole pine timber, or freighting green lumber from the several sawmills then operating in the mountains to the west of Buckhorn Creek. The area of 'pole timber' on public lands was also some ten miles to the west of the creek and generally referred to as the 'pole patch.' No attempt was being made at the time to regulate timber cutting on public lands in the region, nor to collect payment for the timber harvested from them. There were no roads into the timbered country excepting such rude trails up the steep and rugged slopes as the timber cutters themselves were able to gouge out of the hillsides. Timber was very low in price. A large load requiring a camping trip of several days to obtain,

brought only ten or fifteen dollars in the outside valleys. Wear and tear on wagons and harness was great, and ice and snow added greatly to teamsters' difficulties. Rubber footwear was an almost unknown luxury, the teamsters resorted to such expedients as wiring feed sacks about their feet in snowy weather.

"The homes of the teamster population were either 'dug-outs'—single-room cabins dug partly underground for warmth—or rough lumber structures of poor construction protected from wind and weather only by a single layer of tarred paper for roofing, and thin building paper for walls. The dug-outs usually had a fireplace at the back, but the frame structures often had only a kitchen range for cooking and heating purposes. The best of them usually had a 'box-stove' for heating with wood." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:89-90).

Gerald Spence was Sarah's grandson by her daughter Alice. He was born in 1900, so his description of the area comes from his experiences two generations later, as well as from stories he had been told.

"The community there on Buckhorn Creek consisted of all sorts of folks, mostly people who had left the South and East after the Civil War, people who had lost everything because of the war. Some were illiterate, while others were relatively well-educated; most of them had sharp minds.

"Missouri was the great donor of people to our community. When the men came back home from the war, they found things very different. There was so much antagonism because some had fought for the South and others for the North. The war was over and what they wanted more than anything else was peace, an opportunity to start life over again and forget the past. So these people loaded everything they had on their wagons and hit the trail West, trailing their livestock along with them. They made it to Denver, but many of them saw nothing there they wanted. They were mostly country folks and the hustle and bustle of a boom town had no appeal. Many of them were quite religious and they could see sin everywhere, so they spread out and moved north and south through the foothills of the Rockies. Nature was there, clean and pure." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:23-24).

Missouri immigrants included pioneer families such as Rosebrooks, Roseberrys and Carters. Gerald Spence said that Hamilton Hyatt came to Colorado from Texas, but census data shows he was born in Missouri. So many of them settled in one area on Buckhorn Creek, that one of the hogback canyons south of Bobcat Ridge was named Missouri Canyon. J.R. Mason for whom Masonville is named came from Texas. Buffum and McWhorter came from New York. The Milners and the Kitchens came from Illinois.

Israel "Iz" Brooks lived in the tarred paper shack type of home on Buckhorn Creek. He applied for a homestead patent for eighty acres in November, 1880. Alvina Brooks applied for a homestead patent on forty acres on the same date. Presumably they were husband and wife. His

was relinquished in 1883 and hers in 1885. Brooks then sold the land to Sarah Milner Smith's brother Benjimin F. Milner around the early to mid 1880s. (Bureau Land Management, Government Land Office, Tract Book:56).

Milestones of Progress

"Around the year 1900, due to the build-up of economic and political pressure, a road up through the Big Thompson River Canyon was started and several years later was completed. It was a one-track road with turnouts for passing. The road was 'rutty and chucky', but it served its purpose; it got people in and out of Estes Park in much less time, and the canyon itself was a great scenic attraction." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:41).

The first automobile in the valley was a Stanley Steamer bought by Edward and Eugene Smith sometime around 1907. Gerald Spence relates, "Uncles Ed and Gene had several other firsts in our community…they installed a grist mill for grinding grain for horse, cow and pig feed. This mill was connected to a gear train that was powered by a team of horses going round and round. A few years later it was powered by a gasoline engine—another first for my uncles." The Smith brothers continued to buy up land for their agricultural operations. They bought a new "large, cumbersome, gasoline-powered tractor which could pull four to six plows behind it. It would not only prepare soil for planting, it would also run the threshing machine and power the feed mill, as their grist mill was usually called." It "gulped" gasoline, which cost eight cents a gallon, so John Spence read how the engine could run on kerosene at half the cost and the knocking could be controlled by "permitting a small amount of water to be drawn into the carburetor's air intake." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:42-43). He passed that on to his brothers-in-law, Ed and Eugene Smith, who were mechanically minded, and they adapted their tractor for greater economy.

When John Spence bought his first car, a 1916 Studebaker, four-cylinder, seven-passenger touring car, it was big deal in the community. The automobile dealer delivered it and stayed three days to teach Spence how to use and maintain it. Gas stations hadn't been invented yet.

The telephone came up the Buckhorn Valley from Loveland in 1900. It went to the Masonville store and a couple of miles northwest up along the Buckhorn Creek to the J. R. Mason ranch. "After this two wire trunk line was installed, other hook-ups were made quite rapidly." In 1907, the telephone line was finally extended up Buffum Canyon, but John Spence had to supply 18-20 poles for the wires to be strung. He drove a team of horses and wagon way up Buckhorn Creek to get the poles from an old forest burn. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:36-38).

The "Good Old Days"

West County Road 32C down Buffum Canyon described by Gerald Spence as "rutted and chucky, a mile down a canyon with brook crossings, icy and dangerous in winter." That was home and life to the Spences and Hyatts who lived just where the canyon opened out. Hamilton Hyatt had built his home and homesteaded in the late 1800s; John Spence built his house in 1896 a quarter of a mile further up the canyon. Outside of the canyon was civilization for them

with the country school, post office, Masonville community center and church. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:38).

"The stream bed in the [Buffum] canyon zigzagged through the narrow, flat canyon bottom. In the lower half-mile, the stream bed carried a nice cool, spring-fed brook. There were small pools and marshy spots inhabited by minnows and frogs. In the muddy places there were raccoon tracks, and in other places, we could see where muskrats had been eating grass and watercress." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:20). "In the winter, families cut ice on the creek and stored it in an icehouse…a frame building studded with 2 x 8 timbers, covered on the outside with rough pine boards and well battened. The inside was finished in the same manner. This gave hollow walls that were then filled with dry sawdust, an excellent insulator. In the dead of winter, ice was cut on the creek and packed in sawdust in the icehouse, where it would keep for a year. The supply was replenished every winter." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:8). Ice kept their butter and meat from spoiling.

In the first years after Alice and John Spence married and moved into their new home on West County Road 32C, they "were barely eking out a living, selling butter, eggs and, in the fall, a few head of cattle at five cents a pound and a few hundred bushels of wheat at fifty cents a bushel." Gerald Spence calls those "the good old days we hear so much about." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:16).

Heating their houses was an activity that took a lot of physical effort and time. Wood-burning cooking and heating stoves were their only source of heat. These required a lot of wood cutting on Green Ridge and on federal forest lands to the west. Ancient and recent forest fires provided lots of dead wood to harvest. "John Spence would cut his winter wood in the spring. He would fell the trees and not trim them out. Sometime the following winter he would go back to the woods, trim them out and haul the logs home. By that time they had lost nearly half of their original weight and so were much easier to handle." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*: 11-12). Hunter Spence also talked about his father gathering wood. "Dad would be on the mountain gathering firewood for the winter for us, and if he didn't get home by dark, Mother turned on her worrying machine, and it was a good one, and she would send me out on the road right west of the home place there to listen to see if I could hear the wagon coming home. I stayed out there till I could hear the metal tires crunching over stone, and then I would come in and report that Dad was coming and she could quit worrying, and she stopped." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:7).

Getting into a cold bed at night was dreaded, but Gerald Spence's grandmother Sarah Milner Smith followed an old custom of wrapping a hot brick in flannel and placing it under a wool-filled comforter at the foot of the bed. In the mornings someone had to clean out the stove ashes and start a new fire in the kitchen range for the day's cooking and heating. A hand-cranked coffee mill attached to a window sill ground out their morning coffee. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:42). Breakfast was biscuits, cornbread, muffins and pancakes. "Twice a week Mother [Alice Spence] made bread and I had to turn the bread mixer round and round while Mother slowly added flour until the dough looked and felt right." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:32-44).

In the summers, the children swam in a "sucker hole" (a sucker is a type of fish) on the Buckhorn River or at the old granite quarry. "This was a great hole in the side of Green Ridge that was left from the late 1800s when they quarried granite building stone for the construction of the U.S. Mint Building in Denver. The water from the spring that had been opened up during the quarrying operation had gradually filled the hole." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:48-49).

Gerald Spence, born in 1900, recalled growing up in a farm and ranching family:

> "When the first child in a family is a boy, the second one is supposed to be a girl. Being a second child, I ended up having to stand in as the girl since mother needed help in the house. I did a lot of housework—mainly cooking, dishwashing and laundry. I used to have to stand on a specially made stool to operate the old hand-operated washing machine. I would stand there pumping the lever back and forth for ten or fifteen minutes, depending on the dirtiness of that particular batch of clothes. We had a large oval-ended container (a wash boiler) which we set on the kitchen stove and filled with water from the barrels out back. Laundry soap, sometimes homemade, was cut into thin slices and dissolved in this heating water. When hot, this soapy water was bailed into the washing machine. And then I went to work pumping that machine. Three to four batches of clothes went through that one boiler full of water. The emptied wash boiler was then filled about half full and the white clothes returned to it and boiled for a few minutes to enhance their whiteness. We had no household bleaches then. In those days extremely white, white clothes were a trademark of a good homemaker. A small amount of blue dye was added to the last rinse water to counteract any yellowish cast. The used wash water was carried outside by hand and, in the spring, summer and fall, was used to irrigate trees, shrubs, flower beds or perhaps a row of potatoes in a little garden by the house…doing a washing, hanging it out on the line, bringing it in again, moistening it by sprinkling and rolling it up, then finally ironing the various items with an old sad-iron heated on the kitchen stove—all this was just about a day's work for anyone."
>
> "We had no running water of any sort in the house, and our well was about two hundred yards away. Father carried our drinking water from the well, a large bucketful every day, but water for other purposes was hauled to the back door in two fifty-gallon oaken whiskey barrels. The kitchen stove had a built-in water heating reservoir which furnished enough hot water for baths (an inch or so deep in a foot tub) and for dishes, but not enough for laundry…We had no sewer service—no one did—so all household residue had to be gotten rid of manually. A swill bucket in the kitchen received all the dishwater and any solid food refuse that the dog and cats would not eat. Almost daily, this was carried to the pigs down by the barn. Personal refuse was deposited in the privy which was cleaned twice a year. Our privy was operated in as near a non-polluting manner as was possible. Toilet paper of whatever source, whether a Sears catalog or other, was placed in a wire basket and was burned frequently. There was a bucket of wood

ashes or lime sitting in the privy and when a deposit was made, a cupful of ashes or lime was dumped in on top of the deposit. This helped cut down on fly incubation and odor." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:31-32).

Health

Health care in the late 1800s was undependable. Country doctors were not always available. By 1900 the first small hospital was built at 301 E. Magnolia in Fort Collins. Most illnesses were treated with home remedies and tender loving care. General health problems were pneumonia, "summer sickness" from tainted food, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid fever and the great leveler, the Spanish influenza attack of 1917. Childbirth took its toll. There were no reliable birth control methods so families were typically very large, and most of the birthing took place at home.

Pneumonia took the life of Edward C. Smith in 1879. He had struggled with tuberculosis previously, so when he caught a cold in the snowiest and coldest of winters, it quickly went to pneumonia and he died. The doctor could do nothing. Gerald Spence as a young boy also had pneumonia. He recovered, but as was the custom in pioneer home remedies, he had to wear a chamois skin vest for a year.

Gerald Spence also had infantile paralysis come upon him one morning when he was young. It is known today as polio. The doctor said all they could do was keep him warm and quiet and place heated bags of sand at the base of his skull. He recovered somehow but not without some deformity in his neck and upper spine, causing him to wear a steel brace for years. Gerald says, "It is a wonder there were not more cases of polio because those were the days of horses. There were no tractors then, and as a result, there were manure piles by every barn which incubated billions of flies. I can still remember seeing clusters of flies up to a half-inch thick at the upper part of our screened doors and windows, clustered there in the evening, absorbing the heat from the kitchen or other rooms of the house. We had no insect sprays or repellants other than a bit of kerosene which would kill flies on contact. But with the millions of flies hatching, kerosene had little effect. We were lucky that there were only three or four cases of polio in our community." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:13-14).

The Spanish influenza was a terrible scourge that swept the country in 1917, and hung on for a few years until it had run its course. Roland and Gerald Spence stayed out of college to avoid crowds. They also avoided going to town. Gerald contracted the flu in his last year of preparatory school (high school) in Fort Collins. This was around 1920-1921. He was living in a rooming house in Fort Collins because of the distance of the school from his home in Buffum Canyon. He chose to not tell his parents of his illness. He was contagious and did not want to expose them. He "slept it off for days," and recovered with the help of his landlady's "good beef stew." After he was mostly recovered, his parents discovered that he had been ill. They were upset and took him home to nurse him back to health. While at home he may have given it to his older brother, Roland. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:65).

Roland's bout with the Spanish flu affected him like Gerald's did, with a bout of sleeping sickness. The night he came down with it, Mom and Dad Spence had gone to the National

Western Stock Show in Denver leaving Roland to care for the farm. Roland didn't want them to cancel their trip or get the flu which is harder on older people, so being the "tough independent fellow" he was, he didn't tell them he felt sick. That night as he was brushing the cows before milking them, he keeled over in the hay and passed out with the lights on in the barn. Gerald Spence continues the story: "The Hyatt place was adjacent to ours, down the road about a quarter mile. Our barns were visible from their side yard. Hamilton Hyatt (Ham) and his son Fred batched [sic] there. [Mrs. Hyatt had moved out]. Ham was past his working days, so in the wintertime Fred spent considerable time at his dad's place, working with his brother Roy who lived a few miles away, cutting timber [on Green Ridge], hauling logs and running a small sawmill. About two o'clock in the morning Mother Nature kicked old Ham out of bed and he started for the outhouse. As he went out, he could see the light in the cow barn window. He knew Roland was there alone so he guessed something might be wrong. When he had satisfied Mother Nature, he went back to the house, woke up Fred [his son], and finished dressing. With a kerosene lantern, they picked their way up the snowy, rutted road to our barnyard and went straight to the cow barn.

"By this time it was between two and three a.m. The cows were all lying down and there was Roland, lying snuggly on the straw between two warm-bodied cows. He was in that half-stupor sleep that so many Spanish flu victims experienced."

Ham and Fred got him up to the house and to bed. Ham made a fire in the stove and stayed all night smoking cigars and sleeping in the old leather upholstered sofa. In the morning he called Roland's grandmother, Sarah Milner Smith, and she sent her son Eugene up to the farm to tackle the chores. "Uncle Gene was a nervous sort of fellow, a workaholic, so after getting a bit of food down Roland's hatch and milking the cows, separating the milk, and feeding the calves, he brought in a team of work horses, fed them some oats, and harnessed them to haul a big load of hay out to the stock cattle. Uncle Gene didn't know which horse went with which harness but he did know which two were a team, so being an experienced ranch hand, he let them go in two by two and they sidled right up to their own stall and rig. They had done this hundreds of times and didn't need any guidance from a mere human…if he had switched sides with them when he hitched them to the wagon, he would have known something was wrong because horses are animals of habit. They would have stumbled awkwardly when crossing the wagon tongue while getting into position to be hitched up…they would have been terrified. Everything would have been topsy-turvy to them. Try eating with the hand you are not accustomed to using, or shooting left-handed if you are a right-handed shooter."

When Alice and John Spence came home they saw Roland sleeping in bed and the house reeked with Ham's smoke. "Mother was nearly in tears. To think that her eldest son, the one she hoped would really be a pillar in the community, perhaps a minister, would stoop so low as to knock himself out smoking that vile weed." They were just deciding what to do about this when Uncle Gene came in and enlightened them as to Roland's attack of the Spanish flu and Ham's smoking cigars in their house through the night. This was a relief to them, and a family joke in the future. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:80-82).

Hunter Spence believes he contracted typhoid fever at a spring on the property. There was a big fire on Spruce Mountain, the next one west of Green Ridge. The county was desperate for

fire-fighters, so they "peeled fellows off all of the trains that came through, the fellows off the freight trains are bums… they put them in these National Park busses and brought them in from Fort Collins…Our place was as close as they could get up there." There was a spring and they all drank from a communal cup, an old tomato can, each of the fire-fighting crews as they relieved each other. Among those "dozens and dozens of guys there must have been a carrier." The spring water tested fine. The Spence family used it for their drinking water. Gerald, his Dad John Spence, and Hunter drank from the tomato-can cup and contracted typhoid. "Typhoid was a killer then, killing a big percentage of the people who got it up until the time they developed antibiotics…nobody ever dreamed that all three Spences would live through that." (Hunter Spence Interview by Thompsons:11). In those days, it took luck and strength to survive diseases that are routinely treated today.

School Days, School Days, Good Old Golden Rule Days

In the 1870s, the Buckhorn Valley and East (Milner) Glade were populated by a few hardy pioneer souls. The children of these settlers attended a little one-room schoolhouse which, for most of the year, served as the focal point of their day. The earliest school records show that on November 22, 1875, sheep rancher G. W. Buffum was president of the school board for the newly formed School District 16. By 1879, the Buckhorn Valley School District had changed from School District #16 to District #18 and Buffum was a member of the school board. In 1887, School District #51 was formed from a portion of School Districts 18 and 8 at the request of petitioners, including E. S. Rosebrook, the father of Olive Hyatt.

The old one-room Buffum schoolhouse was in bad repair, and in 1887, a new school was built on the land that Buffum had set aside (but was actually deeded to the school district by H. C. Brumit, the man Buffum sold the land to; see page 30). The school was immediately north of the entrance to Buffum Canyon on County Road 27. The old school was an unplastered rough pine cabin. The new school had rough pine siding, but the inside had plastered walls with matching pine floors, and also had an outhouse. All janitorial work, including care and fueling of the stove, was expected to be done by the teacher, unless she was able to induce some of the older pupils to assist her. Sarah Milner Smith taught school here from 1886 to 1889. George Buffum built the one long desk in the school, at which writing classes took turns (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:97). The school became known as the Masonville School in 1896 when Masonville was incorporated.

Courtesy of Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of 1887 Masonville School.*

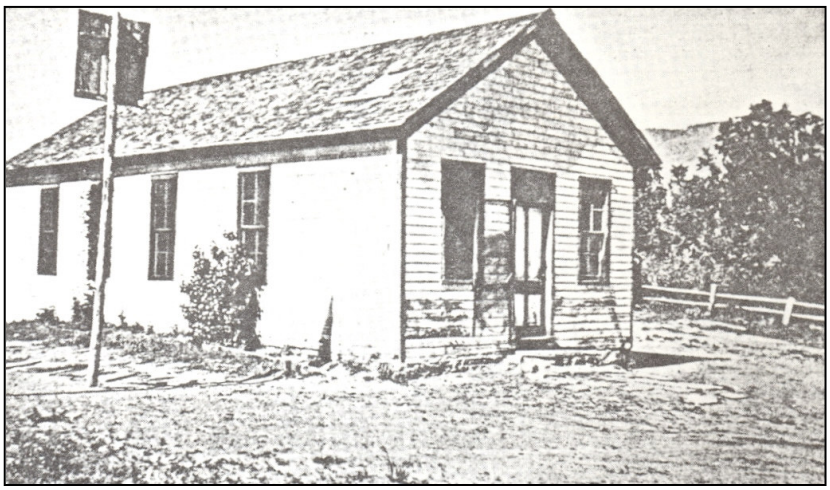
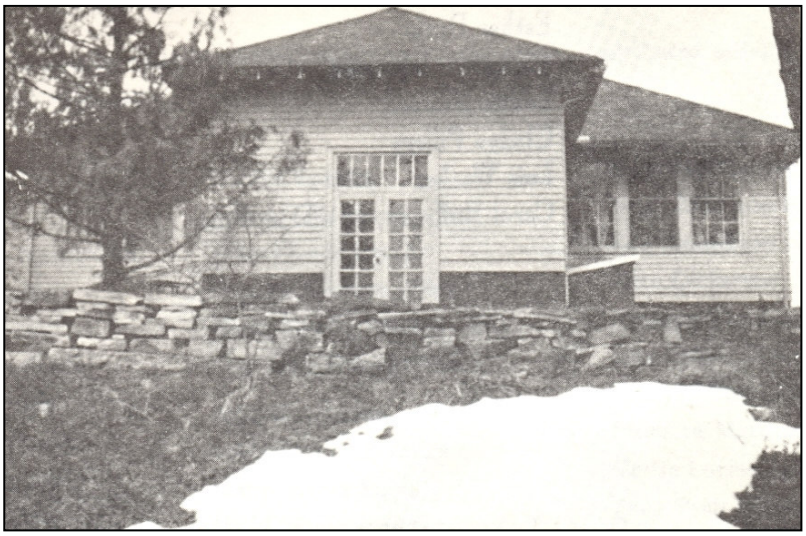


Figure 69. Masonville (formerly Buffum) School built circa 1887.

By late 1926, the local population had increased and a more modern schoolhouse was built. "The new school building was much larger and would seat thirty or so students. It had a raised platform as a stage for actors during special performances put on by the school or the lyceum." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:26).

In 1951, District 51 was merged with District 2 and students attended the Big Thompson School in Loveland, on U.S. Highway 34. Classes at the Masonville School ended in May, 1952. The building still exists and is a private residence. (Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of the 1887 Masonville School*:6-14).



Courtesy of Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of the 1887 Masonville School.*

Figure 70. Masonville School built circa 1926. It still exists as a private residence today.

The children living in Buffum Canyon had to walk down a narrow one-lane dirt road to get to school. During certain times of the year, it was a challenge to avoid rattlesnakes. Dwain Thompson, current owner of the John Spence farmhouse, says that in the late 1960s and early 70s he taught his children to walk to school in the center of the road. "If you walk next to the grass and there's a rattler there, and you startle it, you might get bit, so walk in the middle…if you hear a car coming, get over to the side and watch where you're walking, and after that car goes by, get back in the middle of the road. We always said if our kids lived in town they'd get run over because we taught them to walk in the middle of the road because of rattlesnakes." (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:3).

In the late 1800s, church and school were held in the same building. The Presbyterian Church located between Masonville and the school house, wasn't built until 1911. Children attended grammar school for eight years in a county schoolhouse, and also learned from family and associates. If they were fortunate, they then went on to prep school (high school) in Fort Collins, and if they were capable and could afford it, to the Agricultural College in Fort Collins. In the "eight years of grade school, children learned the three 'Rs' as well as grammar, geography, history and spelling. When it was all over, we had learned nearly as much outside the schoolhouse as in it." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:55).

Discipline at school was usually strict and swift. Inexperienced teachers had discipline problems and didn't last long. Experienced teachers ruled with an iron hand. John Spence went back to teaching from 1910-1913. He kept discipline by lashings in front of the class with a tough, half-dry switch from an apple tree. He also kept a record of students who had to be spoken to during the day and they were assigned to work improving the school grounds. "With several kids working quite frequently the grounds got to looking quite respectable." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:52-53).

Just like at home, the children had to help bring in wood for heating and carry water in buckets for drinking. The more athletic children played baseball for recreation. The "culprits of misconduct" were put to work installing croquet courts for the girls and small children.

Community events such as box and pie socials were organized around the schoolhouse. After a program at the school, the edibles were auctioned off. "Sometimes the bidding was quite brisk, especially when two young men got started bidding on a pretty girl's offering. The bid might go as high as a dollar and that was a high-priced meal. You could buy a T-bone steak dinner at any restaurant in town for fifty to seventy-five cents. The proceeds from these socials went for some community project." Teacher John Spence once organized a box social. People brought box lunches which were auctioned off and the funds were used to buy croquet sets. For Arbor Day, John Spence organized an expedition with sixth, seventh and eighth graders to neighboring homes to dig, ball and burlap young cottonwood, boxelder, and locust trees. Then the whole class planted them around the school in the afternoon. Some of those trees still stand at the entrance to Buffum Canyon. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:53-54).

Hunter Spence tells a story about flooding in Buffum Canyon. It occurred when his older brothers, Roland and Gerald, were young boys.

> "Our home was in a valley called the West Glade. It was over a hogback west from the main Buckhorn Valley where the schoolhouse was located. A hard rain on the Green Ridge mountain west of us caused a moderate gully washer to come by, not far from our house. As the time for school to be dismissed approached, the water going down Buffum Canyon through the hogback was still far too deep for anyone to cross, let alone two small boys. Dad saddled a horse and followed the road down the canyon. Once, the horse blundered into a deep hole in a narrow place in the canyon and was forced to swim for a brief distance.
>
> "School had just let out as Dad arrived. The stream from Buffum Canyon flowed between the school house and the county road and it was far too deep and rapid for anyone to wade across. Dad took the children across one at a time on the horse with him. The children enjoyed the novelty of the ride. When all the children were across, Dad returned for the teacher [but] she would have no part of anything so unladylike. Dad tried to reason with her, telling her that she could not stay there all night. Finally, she agreed to go if Dad would wait until all of the children were out of sight. So, that was the way it was. She climbed onto the two-pole fence that surrounded the school yard. Dad rode close to her, removed his foot from a stirrup, had her put one foot in, then she leaned against him, he put

his arm around her, and across they went." (Tapscott and Phillips, *A History of the 1887 Masonville* School:41-42).

Mabel Hyatt Sayre (granddaughter of Ham and Ollie Hyatt) wrote that little girls wore a complicated outfit of long white underwear or black tights held up by supporters fastened to a pantywaist. These went under petticoats topped by gingham dresses. "If we changed our dress when we got home, we could wear one dress a week. Black sateen bloomers buttoning the pantywaist were added to cover our dropped seat drawers." The early bloomers were made flour sacks with 'Gooches Best' stamped across the back. The cold climate required high-topped buckled overshoes which wore out or were outgrown in one season. (M. Sayre:*Rocky Mountain Low*:44).

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 71. Buckhorn Church Sunday School Picnic on Buckhorn Creek between 1938 and 1941 (possibly on the Sarah Milner Smith farm, according to Bruce Spence).

Gerald Spence went on to prep school (high school) in Fort Collins where he lived in a boarding house. He graduated in the mid 1920s from Colorado A and M (now Colorado State University). His parents were proud and happy at his commencement, and Gerald describes the occasion, "I was the first person from our community on the Buckhorn to graduate from college with a bachelor's degree." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:110).

Living Off the Land

Families in the community lived off the land as much as possible in pioneer days because of financial necessity and also because stores were few and far away. They worked hard at farming and ranching which provided most of their food and some cash. Cash was necessary for basic kitchen supplies such as flour, meal, salt, sugar and spices. Cash also bought clothing like jeans that the mothers could not make on their Singer sewing machines. Alice Spence was a faithful seamstress who made shirts for the men as well as her own clothes and pajamas for the entire family. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:33,86).

The Spences had a hundred head of beef cows which were Angus and Herefords, and a half-dozen milk cows which were Shorthorns and Jerseys. "After we finished milking a cow, the milk was strained through a muslin cloth into a five-gallon milk can which was carried to the house…then it was processed through our Little Marvel cream separator. After churning the cream, the butter had to be printed or pressed, into standard sized blocks of one pound each, which were then wrapped in parchment paper, or butter paper. This paper was pre-cut to size so it fit standard butter prints exactly as it should. The butter was then ready for sale." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:33-34). This was one source of cash.

Sarah Milner Smith kept her family going in the 1880s and 90s by selling milk in Boulder for the miners, but after the silver market crash, she shifted to selling to the quarrymen down south in the Buckhorn Creek valley around the quarries of Arkins Park. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:96-98). When the quarry business collapsed, she went into stock-raising and grain-growing. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:101). When Sarah's son Edward grew up, he attended college taking mechanical engineering. He had a big barrel butter churn powered by a waterwheel. This wouldn't work in the winter when the creek was frozen, so he "devised a treadmill to be powered by a good, heavy dog—he used his huge old Mastiff that loafed around the barnyard all day…So, once a week, this 125-pound dog would be boxed in on the treadmill and made to walk for an hour or so getting nowhere, but the butter would be churned. This lovable old dog resisted getting on the treadmill. He just didn't like it. This big fellow that seemed too stupid or lazy to work cattle finally got his brain cells to working. He disappeared every churning day. Switching churning days apparently got the old fellow so confused he quit hiding out and earned his keep all winter long, until water was flowing in the canal again." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:5-6).

"Another source of cash income was from the chicken house. Along about 1908 or 1909, Dad and Mother got several settings of Rhode Island Red eggs. They were a beautiful breed of chicken; good heavy-bodied birds, excellent for eating and fairly good layers. After a couple of years we had a flock of one hundred or more Rhode Island Red hens and were producing eggs by the crate-full. At first, our chicks were hatched under sitting hens, but later an incubator was put to use and in three weeks we would have a couple hundred baby chicks in the brooder house. Of course, about only half the chicks were females—pullets—so with the other half being roosters, we had plenty of fried chicken for ourselves and to sell. For the eggs we sold to the stores, we got only credit. But we also had a few egg customers who paid cash. The price of eggs at the stores ranged from fifteen to thirty-five cents a dozen, depending on the time of the year." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:34). In 1945, Hunter and his father, John Spence, built a predator-proof, concrete chicken house (this structure still exists but in very dilapidated condition). Hunter and Estes went into the commercial poultry business, too.

An important part of the pioneers' lives was a big vegetable garden. The Spences grew lettuce, radishes, spinach, sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers and squash. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:48). At more than 5,000 feet in elevation, they had to protect warm-weather crops like tomatoes, corn, and melons from the cold. Gerald Spence built a hothouse after reading instructions in his dad's *Farm and Fireside* magazine. It worked well. "There were no wholesale or retail producers of such plants in our trading area in those days. However, from my hot bed, I sold quite a few plants to the area folks, and got a dime a dozen for them." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:35).

They also canned green beans "by the cold pack method—a method not now recommended, but we did it and lived through it (we kept the jars at boiling temperature for six hours). No botulism ever showed up. These canned beans and other vegetables took a lot of time to preserve, but we enjoyed them and they certainly helped keep us healthy." But there was "summer sickness" that children got from eating tainted food. With no refrigeration, food would keep only twenty-four hours in the summer. Children would eat tainted food, get upset stomachs and diarrhea, but recover and "become somewhat immune." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:35).

"We always had a big vegetable garden in which vegetables, weeds and I competed. The vegetables and I won out for a while, but by fall it looked as if no one had ever killed a single weed. This was because later in the summer there were other jobs I had to do, like cultivating the field crops, irrigating, helping make hay or helping with the grain harvest." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:45).

"On Sundays, we almost always had Sunday dinner at either grandmother's [Sarah Milner Smith] place or at our house. We celebrated Sunday almost as much as we did Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. The best food available was served: meat (beef, pork, chicken or game), potatoes and gravy, a vegetable or two when in season, and always, both cake and pie. Sometimes there was also plum pudding with whipped cream." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:86). During spring and early summer there was no refrigeration, so Sunday meals consisted primarily of "fried home-cured ham, potatoes and gravy, good home-made bread and tasty country butter, along with dried corn or dry beans" and dessert. By the first of May, Gerald would gather a "mess of greens from several edible native plants that made quite good eating when picked young, cooked, chopped and seasoned with salt, pepper and smoky bacon drippings. We had nothing green all winter long so everyone relished them." Gerald scoured the fields, roads and ditches for "dandelion leaves, young sour dock leaves, newly sprouted nettle tips, lamb's quarter and woolen britches." He also found morels, sponge, and meadow mushrooms. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:47-48).

In the late 1880s, when wagon-freighted sugar was very expensive, Sarah Milner Smith used wild honey or boiled melon juice to make a sweet syrup to preserve the many berries and fruits in the area. (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:42). Huckleberries, plums, chokecherries, black and yellow currants, gooseberries, and service berries grew wild and were picked.

Honey hunting figured prominently in stories told by both Gerald and his younger brother Hunter Spence. Gerald said that as a child of about eight or nine, he and older brother Roland received *Youth Companion*, a weekly magazine. Their parents encouraged reading stories out loud to the family. This was very educational for the children. Gerald read a bee story and subsequently went down to sit "beside a pool of water during the hot midday…watching the bees coming in for a drink." He noted where the bees came from and where they went. "The first time I did this I was lucky and back-tracked these bees to their home in a large and very old hollow, yellow pine tree on a ridge about a half mile from our house. I told Father of my finding and he was pleased. He said that when it got freezing cold, we would rob the bee tree. I asked, 'Why wait—why not do it now?' His reason for waiting was that, if we robbed it now we would cause the bees to suffer from slow starvation. But by cutting the tree and robbing the bees in cold, freezing weather, the bees would die painlessly. From that time on, for many years, we had plenty of honey. Either Roland or I would locate at least one bee tree every summer. Sometimes we would get a hundred pounds of honey from a single tree. Mother became skillful at straining the honey free from wood particles and bee-bread. Bee-bread is a pollen concoction stored away by the bees and is used to feed the young, developing insects. She put it into glass jars and we had pounds of that delicious, amber-colored, wild honey." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:19-20).

Another source of food was wild game. They hunted coyotes, rabbits, grouse and duck. Gerald says, "There was an abundance of cottontail rabbits. We all liked rabbit, but Mother was especially fond of it fried. So every week or so in the fall, usually a Sunday evening, Dad would take the .22 and, accompanied by Roland and me, would stroll up to the rabbit patch, as we ultimately got to calling it. In the evenings the rabbits would be out feeding along the edge of the meadow. It was unusual if Dad had to use more than two shots to get two rabbits. Two was all we needed, so we took no more." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:17-18).

The pioneers of Buffum Canyon worked hard but enjoyed some leisure time. The only vacation mentioned in Spence family memoirs or books was a fishing vacation. "When I was a child of six or seven years old, Dad and Mother took a few days vacation at the Stobbe Ranch up Buckhorn Creek about twenty miles. [This was where Sadie and Ed Kitchen first lived after moving back to town from Cheyenne in 1913]. One morning Mr. Stobbe hitched up his team and drove the four of us up the creek several miles and we all went fishing. Dad fixed both Roland and me with a chokecherry pole and a short line to which was tied a Royal Coachman fly. Dad, a sportsman, was a fly fisherman, and he expected us to follow in his footsteps…Dad and Mr. Stobbe returned to where we were, and between them they had a slew of fish. There must have been thirty or forty of them, beautiful cutthroat trout, eight to twelve inches long. Seeing my disappointment at catching no fish, Dad took my chokecherry pole and we walked to a nearby bridge. He showed me how to place the fly at the upper end of the pool and let it float down. Then he gave it to me. About the second or third time I let it float down, a cutthroat took it and headed south. With one good pull, I had that trout flopping and gasping on the bridge beside me. The trout was hooked and I certainly was, too." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:27-28).

Farming

Here Sooey, Sooey

Pigs were an important source of food and cash. Ham was smoked and preserved, an important factor in the days when the only refrigeration was from blocks of ice cut in the winter. The pigs ate house scraps that the dogs and cats wouldn't eat.

Gerald Spence was the most adventurous of the Spence boys and had many close calls. He wrote interesting stories about his escapades. One of the traumas of Gerald Spence's young life involved the pig pen. "Father and a hired man were loading a wagon with pigs to take to market. These porkers were in a pen that had a loading chute at one end. I had been enticing pigs down into the funnel end of the chute with a bucket of whole grain corn. I was climbing over the fence and as I jumped down with the corn bucket in my hands, a post that protruded above the fence level slipped up inside my denim jacket and I was left hanging in mid-air. At this same instant, the hired man grabbed the last remaining porker by the ears and started dragging him toward the chute entrance. Of course the pig squealed so you could hear it for half a mile. The old sows grazing up in the hog pasture heard the shrieking of this shoat and came roaring to help it, chomping their jaws and frothing at the mouth. I, hanging there on the fence, was their only visible enemy so they headed straight for me. Fortunately, the squealing stopped before they got to me and they stopped their charge. They stood there in a quandary and I dumped some corn down in front of them and they went to eating. I unbuttoned my jacket, slipped out of it, and escaped." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:15).

Raising Chickens

The children on the John Spence farm were expected to help take care of the chickens. Gerald describes this chore: "Eggs had to be gathered every evening and that was a chore which I enjoyed. We called it 'picking eggs.' When I was a small boy, it was something of a challenge. During July and August, there would be broody hens that wanted to hatch some chicks sitting on the nests and these old biddies were ready to fight to protect their eggs. They would sit tight over their eggs and peck at any moving object that came within reach. We always wore hats or caps, so I would shove my hat or cap over the hen's forepart and get the eggs from under her.

"Broody hens don't lay eggs for very long so they need to be 'broken up,' as we called it, to cure this broodiness. Mother's method was to tie a colored rag to the hen's tail feathers. This colored rag would frighten them and they would flush in all directions, squawking in terror. After a while, the hen seemed to accept this tailing adversary and go on about her business of eating and doing whatever secret things hens do to condition themselves to lay eggs again." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:45-46).

Magpies—"beautiful white and greenish-black birds"—were a scourge to farms with poultry operations. Magpies were predators and robbed other birds' nests, including chickens, so "country people didn't like them." Gerald Spence describes collecting magpie eggs:

"One spring Lewis and Leslie McWhorter, my brother Roland, and I started robbing magpie nests. Along the creeks and gulches was an abundance of plum and chokecherry trees, ideal nesting spots for the magpies. They were high enough off the ground so the coyotes couldn't reach them. These spots were ideal for us kids too; we could climb these low trees easily. Our parents and local ranchers were heartily in favor of what we were doing. They had fewer poultry problems and fewer problems with freshly branded calves. Magpies would pick the fresh brands of calves so sometimes they would not heal for months.

"Ultimately, Dad, uncles [Edward and Eugene Smith], and the McWhorter boys' father agreed to pay us a penny apiece for magpie eggs brought home. So we went to work in earnest. We padded a small bucket to which we attached a long string so as to let the eggs down from the trees without breaking them. Brother Roland and I went even further with this enterprise. There were two Hyatt boys in the neighborhood who roamed the hills and swales too, so we offered them a nickel a dozen for magpie eggs. We then collected twelve cents a dozen from Dad, an excellent margin of profit. At that time grown men were working for $1. to $1.50 a day, so if we could get ten to twenty-five cents for an afternoon of fun, we felt pretty rich." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:17).

Field Crops at Bobcat Ridge

Wheat and other grains were important crops to the farmers of Bobcat Ridge. Around 1914 "most grain crops were harvested with grain binders. Grain harvesting combines had not been developed at that time. Grain binders cut the grain when it was sufficiently ripened and tied it into bundles. These bundles were ultimately hauled to a central location and fed into stationary threshing machines." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:95).

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 72. The haystacker, looking west towards Green Ridge.

Growing corn or beans in West Glade meant cultivating "with a one-row, horse-drawn cultivator…a tiresome job. The sun was hot and the horses moved slowly. When I was twelve or thirteen years old doing this work, I would lie down on the ground in mid-afternoon and take a sleep in the cool shadow cast by the horses. On awakening from a short nap I was refreshed and continued with the cultivating. Helping make hay was sort of fun, and the things we kids did helped expedite the operation considerably. Hay was stacked with a rig called a 'Mormon stacker'. It was a movable mast and boom outfit that would lift a half-ton of hay at a time and place it on the stack in a gob. The stack man would then spread it by hand." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:45).

Farm implements displayed at the Kitchen/Smith cabin in West Glade

Figure 73. Press wheel drill for planting grain seeds like alfalfa, oats, or wheat.

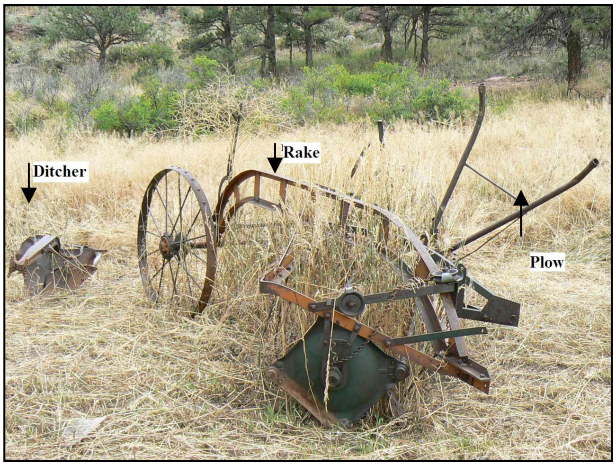


Figure 74. Three farm implements: hay and rake to put mowed hay into rows for bailing or picking up; a breaking or walking plow; and a horse-drawn walk-behind ditcher for making or clearing ditches.

Figures 73-75 courtesy of Carol Tunner, taken fall 2007.

Figure 75. Corn planter used until the late 1980s.

Orchard Growing

John Spence planted an apple and cherry orchard near his farm house. His son Gerald was expected to prune and spray the trees. Gerald relates: "Adam and Eve probably had trouble with apple worms and we did too. So we sprayed. Mr. McWhorter had purchased a power spray outfit that could be pulled through the orchard by a team of horses. The power used to operate this power sprayer was produced by the muscles of a strong man. But after a few years Mr. McWhorter installed a small gasoline engine to do the pumping. Cherry harvesting gave Roland, me, and other youngsters a chance to earn a little money. The pay was one and a half to two cents per pound for picking. Good adult pickers could pick a hundred to a hundred and fifty pounds a day and that was good money compared to hay and harvest hands that worked hard and sweated a lot for $1 to $1.50 a day. We ten to fourteen-year-old kids [1910-1914 time-frame] used to make up to seventy-five cents a day, which meant that we could have unpatched shirts and Levis when school started a month or so later on. Blue chambray shirts cost twenty-five cents and Levis cost seventy-five cents." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:47).

There are still apple trees all around the Hyatt ranch house in Bobcat Ridge. Hunter Spence said that you could always tell where a farm house was built and gone whenever you saw a lonely stand of fruit trees. He said, "Man was the Johnny Appleseed. Dad bought out Frank Nicodemus' place—forty acres, I think. About all that was left there finally were apple trees, one of which is still alive. That was a Whitney Crab. One time Phillip Boothroyd called me and asked if I could contribute some apples to the Farmer's Union display at the County Fair. Well, I told him that I just didn't have a thing, that my orchard was all dried out and dead. That was before Grand Lake water was available, and I couldn't do anything about it. A day or two later I was riding, looking after cattle out on the Green Ridge near the south end of our property. As I came home in the evening, there was that apple tree over there, the one live one. I could see red on it, there were apples on it. I rode over there. Well, of course the cattle had kept the tree limbs pruned up as far as they could reach, but this tree was much larger than that and it was loaded with apples. I made a sack out of my jacket and rode around the tree and picked a couple or three pounds of those beautiful apples and brought them home. That night I called Phillip and told him I had some apples, some Whitney Crabs, and they were nice and I could get them to him…and I did. And, believe it or not, they won first prize at the County Fair. They were the largest and reddest Whitney Crab apples I ever saw. Of course, they had moisture. The trees grew close to the gulch and they had plenty of sunshine to get the color." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:2).

Cattle Ranching

Hardships

Sarah Milner Smith and her sons Edward and Eugene, cattle-ranched the Buckhorn Valley outside Buffum Canyon starting in the late 1880s. They purchased "several fresh cows and ranged them on the open range during the day." Their experiences are typical of the Hyatts and

Spences who also raised cattle in West Glade in the next century. Sarah describes her experiences:

> "Open glades [West and East Glades] and unfenced ridges [hogbacks] were on either side of our forty. Like the timber, there was no restriction on the grass on public lands. But out on the range our cows were in competition with a large herd of sheep on the old Milner ranch on nearby Redstone Creek owned by Trowbridge and McWhorter, also with wandering bands of range cattle. Yet all through the fore part of the summer our cows came in with full udders, sometimes with such full paunches of the rich range grasses as to be unable to lie down without smothering until cuds had been chewed for a while to distribute the load to other stomachs.
>
> "To prevent caked bags and loss of flow, or perhaps ruination of udders, it was imperative that the cows be hunted up, and brought in each night without fail, regardless of wind, weather or darkness. With miles of open range over which to wander, the cows often were miles from home by four o'clock when our cowboy, usually Eugene [Sarah's son], started out to look for them. A large cowbell was strapped to the neck of one of them. Yet even with this aid it was often impossible to determine in which direction the cows had wandered after reaching the open glade in the morning out of sight and sound from the house. If a wrong guess were made at the start of the hunt it might be long after dark when boy and herd reached the milking corral. Then it was up to everyone to get busy at the milking…even the weary cowboy.
>
> "Sometimes heavy thunderstorms or hailstorms were in progress or gathering when 'cow time' arrived in the afternoon. But there was no such thing as postponing the start after the cows, and I often worried considerably about my boy's absence in the storm. Several times cloud bursts had filled the creek channel … with a raging torrent of water while the boy was gone, and the herd must be held on the further bank, sometimes for hours, until the flash flood had passed."

But Sarah had to hide her fears and persevere "as pioneers everywhere have had to do." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:91-92).

Cattle Ranching Chores

"There was no end of work to do on the ranch—some interesting, some easy, some hard and some quite boring." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:189). "Ranch hands worked hard. They were up at four to five in the morning, wrangling the horses in from the night pasture, feeding, and getting them ready to get on with the day's work. Then they had breakfast at six. These fellows put in long hours, worked hard and sweat a lot. Those were the good old days?" (G. Spence, *Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:20).

Gerald Spence describes his older brother Roland "as a cowboy and I was a trapper, hunter and pseudo-mountain man." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:20). Consequently Roland's chores were to take care of the cattle while Gerald, as the second child, was expected to help around the house. Gerald relates, "In his younger years when my brother Roland worked cattle, his mouth worked just as hard as his horse, his body, or his dog. This kind of behavior resulted in a (cattle-herding) dog that was just as mouthy as brother was. Having been domineered by an older brother, I was sort of a quiet person. I didn't do a lot of whooping and hollering when driving cattle, and I directed my dog by arm signals as well as by voice." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:8).

Border collie-type dogs or mixed breed with some collie in them were good herders. Gus, a mixed breed that belonged to John Spence, was a good example of how dogs worked on a ranch. "Although not a fast runner, [Gus] could outsmart a coyote or maybe insult him and get him to stop and fight. When this happened, it was usually 'taps' for the coyote. When Gus got a piece of coyote well embedded in his powerful bulldog-like jaws, it was too bad. Super smart, Gus would follow a freshly made scent of a bobcat or bear just as accurately as a bloodhound. He treed a number of bear, raccoon and bobcat. Gus was also an excellent 'cow dog.' A silent worker, he seldom barked except when we used him to help separate fighting bulls. When two bulls get to fighting, they are pretty oblivious to anything going on around them but they really couldn't ignore Gus when he was snapping at their heels and tearing at their flanks." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:6-7).

Sam, a collie pup, was Gerald's own dog. He responded to visual instructions, and Gerald said that, "if he got into chaparral so thick that he couldn't see…he would search around for an open spot from which he could see and stand there waiting for instructions. He saved many a hard climb in and out of gulches. I could send him across a gulch to where some cattle were and then by hand signals, tell him where to bring the cattle. Sometimes a couple of bulls will get to fighting and never seem to get their disagreement settled. These fights may last for a day or two especially between two muley [hornless] bulls. We had Angus bulls, which were, of course, muleys. If these bull fights were near corrals, fences or water tanks, something is likely to get destroyed. Both old Gus and my dog, Sam, were invaluable in breaking these fights up. You could ride into them horseback and separate them momentarily but these hardheaded old bats would be at it again moments later. There was one thing the bulls couldn't stand and that was a dog biting their heels. The dogs loved to do it and I enjoyed watching them. With a bit of whooping, whipping and dogs a-biting, you could make those bulls take off. That treatment seemed to cool their tempers and even though they had been enemies, they would get along peacefully for quite a while." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:178).

Courtesy of Phyllis Thompson

Figure 76. Hunter Spence throwing a calf in the Spence corrals in the summer of 1984 when he was 77 years old.

Gerald Spence also described branding. "In May and October we did the branding. Those days we kept bulls with the cows throughout the year. No effort was made to regulate the time cows would calve, so we branded both spring and fall. My job was twofold. I kept the branding fire burning so that the irons would be nearly red hot. A hot iron made a clean narrow burn which healed quickly. The second part of my branding job was to keep the cowhands watered and nourished. I kept a jug of cool water handy. I don't know how old I was, but I can still remember I had to stop and rest frequently when carrying a gallon crockery jug of water from the spring down by our garden to the branding area. The second part, keeping the cowhands nourished, meant that I was also responsible for preparing and cooking mountain oysters, fresh from the bull calves' scrotums. It was a dish the cowhands relished. As the bulls were cut or neutered, the testes were tossed in a bucket of water. After they were cooled somewhat, I trimmed off the superfluous tissue, salted and peppered them, and fried them in bacon grease there over the branding fire." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:46).

Winter Ranching and Other Trials

In the winter, snow covered the ground, so ranchers hauled hay out to their stock. The worst year in memory was the "big snow" in 1913. According to Hunter Spence, "Smith [Brothers] cattle on the east face of Green Ridge were trapped in bunches under trees south of ledges and what-have-you. There was around five or six feet of snow that fell in that storm. My uncles had

a few head of black heifers in Mahoney Park and as soon as my Uncle Ed could make it up there…he worked up on the east face of Green Ridge, the park at that time had some bare spots because of the wind, and he found them and they were in pretty good shape. They had found a slope where the ground was bare and they were surviving on that grass." Ed Smith went over to the Mahoney Park cabin and marked the snow level on the door frame as almost six feet tall. John Spence and his sons had to open trails to the hay piles so the cattle could get to it. It was hard work every morning, and blowing winds at night would close the paths, so it had to be repeated the next morning. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:2-3).

Hunter Spence also tells about a lost cow along the West County Road 32C in West Glade where a bridge crossed the stream. It was located "a quarter of a mile or more… a little southwest of where the home place was." Every time Hunter's brother, Roland rode over that bridge, the horse shied and spooked. Hunter said, "Finally he got curious. He noticed at the stream's east edge and northeast corner a little hole in the snow…maybe a foot across, or less, and he got off and went over to that to listen, and while he wasn't listening he was smelling…He smelled cow manure just like he was around a place where cattle had been shut in a tight barn. He dug out some more and found two of Smith's cows and two calves under that bridge. They'd been there about a week by that time and of course he got them out. That horse as he went across that bridge knew something wasn't right because he shied. That's how Roland figured out what it was." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:3-4).

Cattle diseases were also a scourge. Blackleg is a highly fatal disease of young cattle caused by the spore-forming, rod-shaped, gas-producing bacteria *Clostridium chauvoei*. Hunter describes the worst of them: "The Smith brothers ran their cattle on a piece they owned that was Section 16 or the 'School Section'. Blackleg broke out there and one way or the other they had not protected some of their cattle." Hunter's brothers worked for the Smiths. "They would get a lot of dry timber and they would build a fire over the carcass of one of these…generally yearlings…that seemed to be susceptible and weren't vaccinated…and destroy those carcasses by burning as much as possible and then digging a fair-size pit where the fire had been and burying the carcasses in that. This scourge was a pretty expensive proposition." Before they had serum to vaccinate for Black Leg, farmers gave the young cows a pill about as "big across as the lead of a lead pencil." It was administered during branding. Hunter remembers one time, "Uncle Ed stumbled or got knocked around by a calf or something, and jagged that needle into his hand. The pill came right on out under the hide of Uncle Ed's hand. He took a knife and it went in rather flat into the hide…and he dug the thing out and went on with his work with no repercussions, except a slightly sore place on this hand." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:4-5).

Another danger to raising cattle is larkspur, a native plant that can be poisonous to cattle. There was quite a bit of it in Section 16, and Hunter remembers seeing dead cattle all over in the field. Cattle also make a pretty big target in a lightning storm, and Dwain Thompson recalled Hunter Spence telling a story of a time when "about five head of cattle were huddled up under a tree and lightning struck and killed them." (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:12). Hunter Spence always walked his land with an axe and a can of weed-killer. He poured the weed-killer on Canada thistle and cut sagebrush as these were detrimental to farming and ranching. (Scott Smith Interview by Carol Tunner, August 31, 2007).

On a cattle ranch, horses were very important, too. Horse rustling was a serious offence equal to murder. Hunter Spence remembered a story he was told that happened before the 1890s. "There was a man, probably out in the flat country somewhere, who seemed to be sticky-fingered as far as borrowing horses were concerned, and finally a posse was formed to take care of the man. They came at night and they got him, dragged him out, put him on a horse, and tied his feet down to the stirrups so he couldn't get out into the hills. Well, they stopped in one of these sandstone canyons like the one I've always traveled through. He knew he was going to be hung and that's all there was to it. They took him up on the hill a little way; they got him down from the horse and let him down over a ledge. It was rather sharp there…he was blindfolded, of course, and they let him down over it and they told him it was about a 150 foot drop to the bottom of that ledge and they'd leave him hanging there. They told him they wouldn't kill him—they'd let him kill himself, and so they went off and left him. Of course, we only know what had to have happened…he hung on until his fingers went numb and he fell. That 150 feet that they had talked about him falling, turned out to be about three feet above the ground, and he lit there, of course. The odd thing is that's the end of the story. No one ever saw the man in this country again. I felt it was certainly [Buffum] Canyon or the next one south [Brooks Canyon]. I have often looked and wondered where. That was in the early days, and was before any of my folks were here." (Hunter Spence, Interview by Loveland Museum:12-13).

Round-Up

Eventually the cattle went to market. Gerald Spence recalls this vividly: "When I was fourteen years old [in 1914], I helped drive cattle to the loading yards in Loveland. This was always exciting because we were busy helping get the cattle loaded into the railroad stock cars destined for Denver or St. Joseph, Missouri. After the loading was finished, we would put our horses up at the livery stable, have a big late supper, and go to bed in a fifty-cent room up over the drug store. The next day we would loaf around for an hour or so and ride home. The shipper paid all the bills: fifty cents for supper, fifty cents for our room, fifty cents for our horses, and a couple of dollars for us. Not much money, but he received only five to eight cents a pound for his cattle. It was good diversion from routine ranch work and we had a couple of dollars in our pockets. You see, we worked hard, we played, and we really enjoyed life." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:49-50).

A second cattle drive incident occurred about three years later in 1917 when Gerald was a young man of seventeen:

> "A cattle buyer came by and Dad sold him a carload of steers. That was about 11:00 a.m. and the steers had to be in the Loveland stockyards by six that evening so they could be loaded out. The buyer had bought them by the head (on delivery) so he didn't worry about a lot of shrinkage that would be caused by a fast drive. My dog Sam and I were on our way with these steers before noon. Range steers are spooky and you need to be careful about startling them the first hour or so of a drive or they are liable to stampede, so I took it easy.

"I was riding a fairly green horse, one that had spent most of his life back in the hills and had not become accustomed to automobiles. These steers were not accustomed to motor vehicles either and I prayed that we wouldn't meet one until these animals had quieted down. It was early winter and there was but little traffic on those county roads [County Road 27]. The first hour was uneventful but just as we were about to join on with the main road, one maintained by the state, not the county [U. S. Highway 34], I saw a car coming. It was a little Model T delivery truck. It was the forerunner of our present day pickups. The roadway lane wasn't very wide between fences and I had to keep these spooky steers from stampeding back up the road, and I had to do it while on a horse that might explode at any minute and toss me sky high. I was never a bronc rider. The steers were getting tired and crowded over on one side of the lane to let the vehicle pass, but my horse had other ideas. He wanted to leave the country. We didn't have a car at that time and I doubt if he had ever seen one.

"The driver was on his way north to Masonville and on up the Buckhorn road to Pingree Park to take Dr. McFadden to a sick patient." Unfortunately, as the car went by the driver was inattentive and pulled the steering wheel. The car ran into the dirt bank and crushed Gerald's beloved dog, Sam. The car's owner took the poor dead dog's body on up the road, and laid him on a snow bank at the entrance to Buffum Canyon. He then called John Spence from Masonville to come get him. Gerald continues his story, "I got the steers to Loveland on time. Some of them had their tongues hanging out and were panting and salivating but they were there in time to be loaded out. It was a sad trip for me." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:183-184).

Ranching During the D.R. Pulliam Years

When D.R. Pulliam bought the Hyatt/Spence ranchstead in 1961, Hunter Spence and his son Bruce lived nearby on the John Spence farm on West County Road 32C. They helped D.R. with the cattle and irrigation for a number of years. D.R. named the ranch the *ULazyU*, which was their cattle brand. The Soderberg brothers, Carl, John and Harry leased the ranch in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Pulliam then hired Ken Ochsner as caretaker on the ranch for three or four years. The McConnells had it for one year. Bill Smith and his sons, Scott and Russell, sharecropped and helped with the cattle from 1980 to the mid-1990s. The Mining family (Don, Scott and Rob) from Berthoud pastured their livestock on the property and took care of the hay crop from the mid-1990s to 2005. (Bruce Spence Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:6; Scott Smith Telephone Interview by Carol Tunner, August 31, 2007).

When Phyllis and Dwain Thompson rented the Hyatt house from 1967 to 1973, they helped with the irrigation, worked with the cattle, and did some of the fencing, also. Eventually, after D.R.'s passing in 1989, his family asked Ken's cousin, Rick Ochsner, to be the ranch manager and he did so for twelve to fifteen years. (Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Grand Opening Interview, Sept. 30, 2006:2).

Rick Ochsner tells of the irrigating chores. "The Buckhorn Highline ditch ran across the west side of the lower pasture to the south of the ranch. We would fill a pond with the water so we could use it to irrigate the 'ag' crops. There are remains of old pipes, ditches, and culverts there. Available water made it possible to 'ag' 400 to 500 acres there." (Rick Ochsner Telephone Interview by Carol Tunner, November 8, 2007).

Scott Smith, who still lives on West County Road 32C in one of the houses just outside the eastern edge of Bobcat Ridge, described his history in the area and the branding operation. "My family has lived up and down here for years. It was in '79 or '80 that we started looking after D.R.'s cows. Lot of sprinkler pipe, lot of hay bales, o money — we were on profit-sharing. It's the kind of thing you have to enjoy what you're doing. We hunted and you got your fun here. Branding is a very small part of it. Gather them in, sort them out. We run them in a little calf table we used to have, we were modern, we had a calf table. Well, you had to have something because there are so many procedures. We tagged, we tattooed, and we vaccinated them…of course, castrating. Sometimes implant the cows. You know, there's quite a little to do, so you had to have a table to hold them for that long. It was one of those things, hot, dirty and smoky. We started splitting them up. We didn't do them all in one day. Sometimes we have cattle over here, and do one pasture, and the more help you had, the longer it took. That's why we didn't tell anybody we were working cattle. We had to have the cows in the corral before…all the cowboys showed up, because the cows were used to us and it was easier for us to get them in. If you wanted to have a wreck, just have [strangers] come and watch — we'd show them how to do it wrong first." (Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Grand Opening Interview, Sept. 30, 2006:3-4).

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 77. Hunter Spence in the summer of 1984, at age 77, picking out a calf for one of his grandsons.

Under D.R. Pulliam's ownership, the ranch had a unique first. Sandy Olson, stepdaughter of D.R., tells about this. "Another interesting aspect of this ranch is that Ginny, my mother, and D.R. raised Limousin cattle. They were one of the first one hundred in the United States to buy into the Limousin semen. And when D.R. died they had purebred Limousin. Just slowly over the years this evolved." Bob Olson, Sandy Olson's husband, added, "D.R. Pulliam and his friend in Denver, Bob Magnus, owner of TCI, the TV cable company, were among the first hundred to have the semen shipped over from France." (Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Grand Opening Interview, Sept. 30, 2006:4-5). To create a pure breed, D.R. bred a Hereford cow with Limousin semen and kept breeding it back successively until a purebred Limousin was formed.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 78. D.R. Pulliam's Limousin cattle in the ranch corrals in the 1980s. Looking east at Buffum Canyon.

When the Spences ranched in West Glade they had Angus and Hereford cows which were reportedly easy to manage. Rick Ochsner, former ranch manager, said that Limousin cattle were difficult to handle. He said, "Come fall of the year we'd have a rodeo from here to Estes Park gathering the livestock." Ochsner said they "yielded a lot of high quality meat." Scott Smith, neighbor, agreed, adding, "They wouldn't graze like other cattle; they were always getting out of a fence or taking off for all parts. Most of them were up and down that fence. I'd put them in two or three times a day sometimes because they wouldn't graze like an Angus or Hereford. They couldn't take care of themselves; Limousins were a high-maintenance animal. They were a fairly tall, fairly square, and lean-built animal. The Herefords and Angus [were] shorter and wider…but they kind of bred all that out…[they were] mostly red ones, we had some blacks. The Limousin itself was a red animal…not a dark red, but a rust color." (Rick Ochsner Telephone Interview by Carol Tunner, November 8, 2007).

Limousin cattle are a historic breed. Cave drawings similar to the Limousin are found in 20,000 year-old caves in France. The cattle are golden-red and native to the south central part of France in the region of Limousin and Marche. They did well in their homeland, France, which is rocky and rugged like the Colorado Front Range foothills and with a harsh climate like Colorado in the winter. They are useful as a beast of burden and are also excellent beef cattle. (http://www.ansi.okstate,edu/breeds/cattle/limousin, Oklahoma State University Board of Regents, accessed 10/4/07).

Courtesy of Oklahoma State University Board of Regents-Cattle Breeds

Figure 79. Limousin cattle.

Wildlife

For centuries, Bobcat Ridge Natural Area was home to deer, bighorn sheep, elk, mountain lion, bobcat, bear, turkey, grouse and more.

The Bobcat

The bobcat, *Lynx rufus*, named for its abbreviated tail, is a medium-sized feline, about twice the size of a domestic cat. They are most common in the rocky, broken terrain of foothills and canyonlands, although they occupy all ecosystems in Colorado, including the eastern plains. They avoid agricultural lands and unbroken grasslands.

The bobcat's main food is cottontail rabbits, but they are opportunists and eat a wide variety of animals: birds, mice, tree and ground squirrels, chipmunks, porcupines, woodrats, amphibians and crayfish. They can climb a tree to reach a bird's nest, but they catch most of their prey on the ground. Bobcats hunt by stealth, relying on surprise rather than a long chase. They also eat domestic lambs, calves and poultry so the pioneers of Bobcat Ridge had no qualms about hunting them and selling the pelts.

Sometimes confused with the lynx *(Lynx lynx),* the bobcat is smaller with shorter ear tufts, is more spotted, and is brownish rather than gray. Both species have a black-tipped tail; however, in the bobcat the lower surface is white instead of being completely ringed with black like that of the lynx.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 80. Bobcat carved in stone by artist Robert Tully as part of the "Art in Public Places" program at the Bobcat Ridge trailhead.

Hunting

Gerald Spence hunted for food, for pelts to sell, and for sport. He enjoyed exercising his skills as a tracker and outwitting the animals he hunted. In 1992, he wrote *The Hunter* that describes details of his hunting experiences. He has chapters on coyote, bobcat, bear and mule deer hunting on Green Ridge and Milner Mountain, and bear, elk, and antelope hunting in Roosevelt National Forest west of Bobcat Ridge. He also wrote of fishing and duck hunting expeditions along Buckhorn Creek. One time Gerald was looking for ducks north of Masonville:

> "Everything was frozen up so I crossed the Buckhorn Creek on the ice at the Victory Ditch diversion dam and went down on the east side of the creek…an inch or so of fluffy snow had fallen during the night and as I neared the frozen-over creek, I came on a set of bobcat tracks in the freshly-fallen snow. My ears pricked up. I wanted to know what this individual was doing and where he was going. So I followed his tracks down along the shelf at the base of Redrock Cliff to where they entered a clump of chokecherry bushes near the creek's margin. That old fellow was heading straight for the ice-free pool where I knew my ducks were resting. The tracks led from the chokecherry brush into some snowberry bushes that margined the creek…I followed the cat's tracks to the water's edge. This smart old cat had gone right down to the water's edge and jumped out into the water. His deformed tracks showed that he had put a lot of pressure on his hind feet. I crossed over on the ice above the pool and picked up the cat's tracks on the far side and followed them a short distance. There was a pile of duck

> feathers, the pinion tips of the wings, and the duck's feet. That old cat had a belly full and had headed off to the hills to the west where he likely had a den somewhere in the surrounding cliffs. I didn't get any ducks but I did confirm the stories I had read that a bobcat would take to water if hungry enough." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:98-99).

Another story describes a bobcat's ability to take to the trees if forced to do so. As a young man, Gerald was sent out by his dad to check on where some stray cows were getting in through their fence. He rode with a secondhand .22 single-shot pistol strapped on the horse, and took their farm dog, Gus, with him.

> "We were pretty well up Lawrence Neville Gulch [of the pioneer Neville family who settled south of Bobcat Ridge] when I noticed Gus was gone. I stopped and started whistling him in. Then I heard him bark "treed." He was back down the trail a few hundred yards and up a side gulch. I hurried back and rode as close to him as possible and then climbed up the steep, rocky hill on foot. When I finally got there, Gus was looking up a tall fir tree. There in the tip-top of this hundred-foot tree was a lynx cat [Gerald refers to a bobcat as a lynx]. He was a huge fellow and had on his summertime grayish-yellow coat. The tip of the tree was swaying with the wind so I had a moving target to shoot at and to top that off, I was still breathing heavily from the climb up the steep slope. I aimed as carefully as I could at his head but I missed him every time…I took a shot at his shoulder. That…hit him and down the tree he came. I had just nicked him but he wanted no more of that. Gus was right there waiting for him when he hit the ground. They clinched and started rolling down the steep hillside. Fur was flying from Gus as the cat with those long curved claws was combing all the snarls from Gus' long white hair. I hurt all over. I knew Gus was being ripped to pieces but in the heat of battle, he seemed to sense no pain and refused to quit. Finally the cat broke loose and up a scrubby little pine tree he went. At this close range, I dispatched him. He was one of the largest cats I ever killed. Gus didn't have a scratch but his hair was well combed. His long, dense coat of hair had protected him." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:182-183).

Gerald Spence tells about the time he trapped a bobcat. "When I was in sixth or seventh grade I was running a trapline down the [Buffum] canyon between home and the school house. I made set for a gray fox that had been seen several times in the area and baited it with a freshly killed rabbit." He was using an otter and beaver trap. "How it came to be mixed into my collection of traps I have no idea, because there were no otters and only an occasional beaver foraging along the brook running down our canyon. The trap was equipped with a six- foot, flat-link chain, so when an otter or beaver was caught and dived to the deep water for protection from such a ghastly enemy, he would drown. Were he to struggle in shallow water or on the stream bank, he could easily damage his beautiful pelt. Or, he might even bite off his foot and escape."

Gerald set the trap after school on a Friday, and on Saturday he went to get the mail and to check his trap. "When I came within sight of my fox set, I could see nothing, but the rabbit bait that I had stapled to the tree was gone. I started to go up close to see what had happened and

while I was still several yards away, I saw that the trap was gone and the long chain was pulled around behind the tree. There behind the tree was a huge, tawny-gray lynx cat. He was a big fellow and laid there on his belly, ears laid back, teeth bared and ready to spring at me. I had no gun, but I did have a long homemade hunting knife on my belt. Using it, I cut off a young cottonwood sapling about two inches in diameter and fashioned a club out of it, about the size of a kid's baseball bat…He sprang at me. Luckily for me, the six foot chain had become entangled in some dead limbs so he didn't have too much freedom of movement. The cat and I sparred for a moment. I would make a false move toward him and he would spring at me and I would step back out of his reach. Finally as he sprang forward, I swung the club with all my kid strength. The cat was dead. When I was certain his spirit had gone to a happy rabbit patch over the eternal horizon somewhere, I started to remove his hind foot from those steel jaws that were holding him. I almost fainted—he was caught and held by only one toe. If at the end of a lunge his toe had slipped from the trap's jaw, I would likely have had my shirt torn to ribbons and received some severe scratches and bites. Luck was again with me and again I had a lesson—temper courage with caution. He was an extra large fellow. His pelt was prime. On the market today he would bring $150 or more. Those days, five dollars was a top price. No wonder lynx cats are now on the endangered species list." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:57-59).

Dwain Thompson, current owner of the John Spence farm, relates a rather humorous mountain lion story that he had heard from Hunter Spence. "Charley McWhorter lived out in the valley, and he used to bring sheep up here and graze his sheep [in West Glade]...He had a big umbrella, and he'd bring a book with him, and while the sheep were grazing, he'd stick that umbrella in the ground and lay under it and either read or go to sleep or whatever. And then in the evening, he'd gather his sheep up and gradually move them down this old road back home. And he was going home one time, and right beside of the castle [castle house recently built in Buffum Canyon] is a pretty steep little hill that we call Red Hill. It used to be real narrow, and he looked up over the ledge to the left, and there is a mountain lion laying up there, looking at his sheep, switching his tail, trying to figure out which one he wanted for lunch. And old Charley, all he had was an umbrella. So he took off running, opening and closing that umbrella, and he ran that mountain lion off." (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:8).

Bison Stories

Gerald Spence also describes an old bison lick on their property: "Our house was built on a knoll and the soil around it was a heavy clay. A little way to the south of the front door was an extinct buffalo [bison] lick—a place where, in earlier times, the buffalo and elk would lick the alkali that worked to the surface of the clay. I used to dig zigzagging roads up the three-foot face of this clay bank." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:16).

Fred Hyatt, son of Hamilton and Olive Hyatt, homesteaded in Cedar Park west of Green Ridge and north of Cedar Cove on the Big Thompson River. Fred raised bison Dwain Thompson heard that bison would get loose from Fred Hyatt's place. One time a big old bull bison came "down into this country. They tried for days, maybe weeks to round him up, and they couldn't, and they finally shot him." Dwain recalls that when he was renting the Hyatt ranch house (1967-1973), his children found a buried bison skull while playing in the nearby creek and digging in

the bank. There were three big roots that had grown around it since it had been buried. (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:18).

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 81. Bison skull found by the Thompson children.

History of Deer and Elk Population on Green Ridge

Gerald Spence recalls that when he was growing up in the early part of the twentieth century, deer were scarce. "The meat hunters [in the late nineteenth century] had nearly exterminated the deer. The antelope on the plains east of Denver hung on by a thread. It took many years for both the deer and antelope to come back after meat hunting was stopped. The elk on the east face of the Colorado Rockies became completely extinct. In the hogbacks east of our old ranch house there were still fragments of huge elk antlers, all but the heaviest beams were completely decomposed. We kids knew that elk had once wintered there and dropped their horns [antlers] by the water holes in the late winter. On the tenth of October ,1916 or 1917, deer season [opened] after many years of complete closure. Deer were still fairly scarce all along the front range of the Rockies, and the area back of our ranch was no exception. When a cowpuncher or a logger saw a deer it was always something to talk about. But over on Milner Mountain there were deer, big broad-beamed bucks." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:68). "So many years of closed seasons repopulated the deer herds so that there were quite a few deer in the mountains west of the John Spence ranch. But the Game and Fish Department had made it into a huge game preserve so they couldn't hunt there." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:77).

"Somewhere between 1915 and 1920, the Colorado Game and Fish Department [Colorado Department of Wildlife] transplanted some elk out of Yellowstone National Park into the area just north of Rocky Mountain National Park. A few years later, they transplanted another group from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. During the ten years that followed, these elk multiplied until there were several hundred head. On account of the deeper snows in the national park area, many of them had migrated to the lower mountains just back of Green Ridge." In 1930, Gerald Spence returned from Wyoming where he and his family lived, to hunt on Bobcat Ridge. He had heard that the "elk were coming down from Spruce Mountain onto Green Ridge and then at night were foraging on the meadows and wheat fields in the [West Glade] valley below." On

that trip, he hunted on Spruce Mountain and Mitchell Peak on the old logging road and shot a huge mule deer buck. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:118).

Gerald considered himself a sportsman first but acknowledged that he "put a lot of meat on the table." He was a keen observer of animals and describes the habits of deer. He went up on Green Ridge but found nothing. He relates, "I headed for Rutherford Gulch, which sourced on the north side of Mahoney Peak. There were always deer in there and at sundown, they…start moving around. I scoured the whole basin there at the head of the gulch and finally spooked several deer out of a clump of willows." The three-point buck took off alone to escape him, but left plain tracks to follow. The deer moved to the south rim of Rutherford Gulch and turned down the mountain.

"Deer in those semi-arid mountains seldom go down the mountain when spooked because the lower portions of those mountains are relatively barren, giving them very little cover in which to hide. Deer are not long distance runners and if a fellow gets on their tracks, he can walk them down in an hour or so. One reason why they tire so easily is that they keep you located primarily by sound. The huge ears of a mule deer are extremely sensitive and can pick up the slightest sound, but they are like humans when they listen, they stop breathing momentarily. I have watched a tired deer. It will raise its head and listen for several seconds and then lower its head so it can breathe more easily, he will then pant for several seconds, then raise its head again and listen. If he hears something, he will take off again and run a few hundred yards and repeat his breathing-listening operation again. This is a tiresome sequence and the tracker gradually gets closer and closer until he finally gets a shot. Mule deer used to range way out on the Great Plains and it is said that two Indians working together could walk a deer down in one day, down so they could get close enough to kill him with their Stone Age weapons. I have made a number of kills shooting my quarry while he was standing, listening and panting." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:90-94).

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 82. Mule deer on County Road 27.

Through conservation measures of closed or limited hunting seasons, the deer and elk finally returned in large numbers. Rick Ochsner, former Pulliam Ranch manager, recalls, "Elk obviously are the most populous. Thirty, forty years ago, there were really huge deer herds up here. I think that switched now in the last fifteen or twenty years. You [could] set here in the evening in these alfalfa fields and we had head counts of 250 or 300 deer. And in later years those switched to head counts of 200 or 300 elk…The elk have a different grazing habit than deer, deer will browse and weren't big…they didn't do a lot of damage…when the elk moved in they did a lot of damage. A lot of times the elk would go through fences instead of over them. And you'd call the Division of Wildlife and say you had fifty head of elk down, and we'd have some that would fall into the [Hansen Feeder] canal down here. If you look at the canal, they've built runways up the canal because we had cattle get in there. I've even had calls from the park rangers up at Horsetooth, who would find our branded cattle in Horsetooth Reservoir." (Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Grand Opening Interview, September 30, 2006:11).

Elk were a real problem for the ranchers. They foraged the stacked hay and fields in West Glade. The Colorado Division of Wildlife gave the ranch manager some panels to build "stack yards" to store their hay out of the reach of elk. These have since been removed.

Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 83. Looking east toward hogback at elk grazing in West Glade.

Dwain Thompson tells a story of an animal that had fallen into the Charles Hansen Feeder Canal. It involved Benjiman H. Milner around 1968 when he was seventy-nine or eighty years old and lived on Buckhorn Creek. Ben would "putz along in his car at twenty miles an hour, patrolling his property from poaching hunters along County Road 27." Once, shortly after Phyllis and Dwain Thompson moved into the Hyatt ranch house, Ben came to their door. Dwain says, "He talked real slow, but he said, there's a little buck in the canal, and I was wonderin' if you could come and help me get it out. Well, the animal wasn't little - it was a humongous big four-point buck. There was only six inches of water in the canal because it was fall and water had been drained for work on the cement sides." Thompsons told Ben that they would help and The huge animal "was like a fighting bull, he was throwing his head and snortin' and he was mad." He couldn't get out because the sides were steep. There was a game crossing bridge a couple hundred yards down the canal, so Dwain went down to lie on the bridge with his lariat noose tied back to a post, and told his wife Phyllis and Ben to herd the deer down so he could drop a noose on him and bring him back up. Dwain continues, "Well, they brought the buck up to the bridge and he sensed that I was laying there, maybe he could smell me, maybe he knew, but he turned and snorted and threw his head and took off down the other way. So they'd go down and gather him up and bring him back. He did that three times, and the third time he got enough of a run that he 'diagonalled', he went up that cement wall and got up out of there by himself! I was never so happy to see a deer go on his way out of that. Somebody would have gotten killed if we had gotten hold of him. We watched him after he got out. He went up on the hogback and then turned around and looked back like, 'what's goin' on?'" (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:11-12).

Other Wildlife

Gerald Spence was a fearless hunter. He recalls that when he was young adult his dog, Gus, got attacked the backside of a bear. The bear swung around but couldn't reach the dog. The bear was so preoccupied with the dog that Gerald got close with an ax and dispatched him. Gerald and his brother Roland dressed out the bear, but the flesh was so bad from having absorbed smell from rotting flesh that it had eaten, that the bear meat was inedible. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:174).

In another incident, Gerald was on his horse near Mud Spring on Green Ridge when he and his dog came over a ridge and suddenly they were face-to-face with a large female bear. Gus took off after her and "heeled her until the bear batted him ten feet away." They chased the bear and Gus "treed" her on the other side of Alexander Mountain, west of Green Ridge. Gerald called his dog back and decided to let this one go. He had observed her well-developed mammary glands which told him she had cubs. He prided himself at understanding animals. He observed the habits of bears: "It seems that bears are up and about at all times of the day. In bear county, you are liable to encounter them at any daylight hour or to hear them rummaging through the contents of your garbage can any time of night. In the neighborhood of humans, they are pretty much nocturnal. They have learned that man, their greatest enemy, sleeps at night. However, in the 'way back country,' where man seldom interferes, bears may forage day and night." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:175-176).

Coyotes also inhabited the area. They could be damaging to poultry and smaller farm animals and they were hunted and trapped, and their pelts sold. Gerald Spence describes an incident where a coyote got away from him in such a manner that showed animal reasoning. While a sophomore in college in the early 1920s, Gerald was home and out riding his horse in the gullies and gulches "to see what nature was hiding." Up ahead he saw an old coyote "trying to catch a mouse in the deep, trashy grass." He ran down the coyote, but instead of going toward the base of Green Ridge, the coyote ran to a barbed wire fence and ducked under it. Gerald describes the chase and his interpretation of the animal's reasoning.

> "He knew the fence was a barrier the horse couldn't cross. How did he know this? Dumb animals are not supposed to be able to think. How did I know that he thought he was safe? He didn't thumb his nose at me or laugh. No, he didn't do any of these things, but he did stop running and just stood there and watched my horse Jeff and me bearing down on him in a dead run. He knew he was safe and there was no sense exerting himself. A few rods to the right of where Mister Coyote had dodged under the fence, a wire gate stood open. Mister coyote didn't see it but I did and headed Jeff for it. We sailed on through it almost on top of the coyote. Jeff and I were right on him and to save himself from being trampled, he dodged sideways. Jeff and I turned him twice more before he escaped into some deep weeds along an irrigation canal. It was a fun episode but it once again impressed on me the fact that our so-called dumb animals can reason. As far as coyotes are concerned, their reasoning ability makes them extremely adaptable. They live in and around some of our largest cities. The best efforts of sheep ranchers of the West to exterminate them met with failure. When I was trapping for some spending money as a kid, they outsmarted me most of the time. However, I did catch three or four." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:186-187).

"Growing up as a 'hillbilly kid', learning to shoot and 'gig and snare fish,'" Gerald Spence learned about nature by observing it. For instance, there were a lot of "dogberry" [dogwood] shrubs along the streams and canals in the valley floor of West Glade, and he notes that coyotes, raccoons and deer were fond of eating the waxy yellow fruit. "They are about the size of a pea and when animals encounter them they will spend hours nibbling away, stripping the bushes clean." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:180). As a young child, he hunted Buffum Canyon for muskrats and even for skunks which "advertised their presence by their 'skunk perfume.'" He says, "these very obvious signs told me that there were valuable pelts roaming up and down that canyon and all I had to do was to trap the animals that carried them. The value of pelts those days was rather small compared to those of today. A muskrat was worth ten to fifteen cents, a raccoon $1 to $1.50, a coyote $1.50 to $2.50, a lynx cat $1 to $2, a skunk seventy-five cents to $1. All of these animals roamed the canyon that I walked through every day going to school, so I decided to become a trapper." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:21).

He acquired some traps and caught several raccoon, muskrats, and accidentally, a couple of mink. He sold them for enough money to buy his "Stevens Favorite .22 rifle." Once, he found s a skunk in his trap. He couldn't get close to the trap so he shot it. After skinning it, he smelled terrible and upon returning home he got "rubbed, scrubbed and dunked but I still smelled, especially my hands. I quit trapping for skunk—it was just not the social thing to do." He became a skilled shot and killed bobcats, deer, and coyote.

Gerald observes, "When at school, at church, or among friends, I was a normal civilized being. But when out in the hills alone, I was a wild mountain man. My most valued possessions were my gun, my dog, my horse, and my camera. I loved to be alone in the mountains with any one or all of them." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:21).

Mabel Hyatt Sayre (daughter of Roy and Jessie Hyatt) describes a toad invasion on their farm northeast of Masonville. The year of the incident is undetermined, but Mabel, born in 1907, was a child.

> "We lived on dry land on our 'Poor Farm' and the fauna there was composed of coyotes, prairie dogs, lizards, snakes and toads, not frogs. These had a habit of jumping out at the most unexpected times. Their color was very protective so it was easy to startle us.
>
> "One spring when there had been more moisture than usual it seemed all of the toads from the entire east [Milner] glade came to our gulches and low lying areas to mate and lay their eggs. There were long ribbons of eggs in the little stagnant streams and a terrific croaking at night.
>
> "We watched as we walked to and from school or going on horseback after the milk cows each evening. Gradually the eggs became tiny pollywogs or tadpoles, then in a few days they had tiny back legs, then front ones, and eventually became recognizable toads. They left their watery birthplace and began migrating into the pastures and hills. If we walked we had to avoid slipping on them, and if we rode

the saddle ponies there was no way for the little ones to not get stepped on and crushed under their feet. This was the only time I remember the thousands and thousands of them on our dry land. It remains a mystery to me that in many years there was only one such over population.

"One other time we were cleaning out the potato bin in our cellar, and I encountered the toughest potato I had ever gotten hold of, but when I finally pulled it out it was a huge old toad who had chosen a very safe place to spend the winter. He sat there blinking and wondering while I felt as if I were going to faint. I had to get up and out of the cellar for a while before I could resume sorting potatoes. The big old fellow was carried out into the sunshine and he finally hopped away. (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:64-65).

Fishing

The creeks of the Masonville area held fish in abundance and this was an important food source for the early settlers. Sheep Creek, Buckhorn Creek and Redstone Creek supplied game fish depending on how man managed the water resources through the years. Gerald Spence was an excellent fisherman and describes, "Buckhorn Creek's cutthroat trout are native fish—beautiful, black-spotted babies with red splashed gills that were really bright red during spawning season." They had "four primary enemies—cloudbursts, occasional drought, mink and raccoon. Man, at that time, was not an important direct enemy." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:28). In two of his books, Gerald describes the history of fish in the streams around Masonville.

"The watershed on the east slope of the Rockies, especially the lower front range mountains were, in the summertime, struck by torrential rains (cloudbursts). The Buckhorn trout could withstand a cloudburst over a portion of the watershed but when a storm drifted across the stream's whole drainage area, then this docile little Buckhorn became a raging torrent of silt-filled water carrying away every loose thing in its path, including most of the fish. After a cloudburst, it took several years for wildlife, especially fish, to re-establish themselves. Another problem—during prolonged droughts some of the main tributaries to the Buckhorn, especially Fish Creek and Sheep Creek [up higher in the mountains], dried up in their lower portions near their confluence with the Buckhorn. This prevented both the fry and the spawners from returning to the mother stream and many of those that didn't die from lack of water in the late summer and fall would likely die during the winter when the stream froze dry in many places. Mink and raccoon took their toll of fish but a livable balance was formed between the fish and these two predators. They had existed together since the Ice Age. Then when man entered the picture, another problem arose. In the fall, these returning cutthroats would be diverted into irrigation ditches. Ranchers started diverting water from the creek for irrigation purposes and those returning cutthroats sometimes entered these diversion canals and died on some meadow or lawn that was being irrigated in the late fall. In some cases, this water was channeled to a reservoir where it was being stored for the next summer's use. In either case, they never spawned again." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:105-106).

"The cutthroat population in this little Buckhorn Creek had to struggle to exist as they did in many other streams in the area, and then 'man' stuck his finger in the pie again in the form of the Fish and Game Commission. And that gave these beautiful cutthroats the *coup de grace*. The Fish and Game in the early 1900's, stocked those streams with eastern brook and rainbow trout. The 'brookies' reproduced like magic and ate most of the available food leaving the cutthroats but little to eat. Then the rainbow trout started crossing racial boundaries and producing sterile hybrids. It took a number of years for the rainbows to take over and completely populate the stream. Now, in the upper reaches of these streams where water is cool, the 'brookies' thrive and eat most of the natural food, including some of the eggs spawned by the rainbows. A silent tug-of-war goes on there year after year.

"Rainbows have a tendency to do some migrating up and down stream. When they are physically carried away from their normal habitat by floods and are deposited in the warm sluggish pools of the flatter lands, their instincts tell them to go upstream to the cooler waters. Man again created obstacles in the form of diversion dams too high for trout to jump. The dam that diverted water into the historic Buckhorn Highline Ditch [which once served Bobcat Ridge north to south] was located about a quarter mile up in the narrow slit of a canyon that the Buckhorn tumbles through for about three miles as it circumvents Fletcher Hill [just above Masonville]. This was a low dam creating a drop of no more than three feet. The early-day ranchers had built it out of a cedar log and cedar planking so it stayed intact for thirty or more years, until a 'super dreadnought' of a flood gushed down through the canyon. By this time, Portland cement had become available, manufactured in a plant south of Denver. The Buckhorn Highline Ditch ranchers decided to build a concrete dam some distance below where the old one was. This dam was about ten feet high and the overflow from it landed on a sloping rock slab from which the water cataracted down three or four feet into the big deep pool below. This dam was a complete barrier. Trout couldn't get past it…They couldn't get upstream to the cooler water." (G. Spence, T*he Hunter*:107-108).

"Then, somewhere around thirty-five years ago, man entered the scene again and altered the lower end of the Buckhorn Creek. They diverted water from the headwaters of the Colorado River and created Carter and Horsetooth Reservoirs from which the water was delivered to various farm communities. Some ranchers in the Buckhorn Valley bought into this irrigation project, in order to get additional water to their existing farmable land. The water for some of them was dumped into the Buckhorn Creek and then taken out again through the existing diversion dams and canals. This diverted water greatly increased the summer flow of water in the creek and it also, inadvertently, restocked the lower Buckhorn with rainbow trout from Carter Lake so that there should be good trout fishing in there again." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:111).

Buckhorn Creek in the valley below Masonville had only trout, chubs and suckers. Gerald Spence relates, "During summertime when the water was low and clear, there were only suckers available—-the trout had mostly migrated upstream to the fast, cool water, away from the valley floor, to spawn [before the concrete Fletcher Hill dam]. Occasionally, an old, overgrown, overfed…adult would not get spawning fever and remain behind the general migration and would feast on grasshoppers and other insects and sucker fry. These old boys would eat and grow to a huge size, up to twenty inches long. A twenty-inch cutthroat in our small stream was huge compared to the average eight- to twelve-inch fish we usually caught in the summer, up in the fast water of the Buckhorn Canyon, using worms, grasshoppers and artificial lures. In the winter the cutthroat trout migrate down to the deep pools on the valley floor. The suckers are not particularly migratory." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:29).

Fishing was such an important source of food that learning to fish started early. When they were young children, Edward D. Smith would take his nephews, Roland, Gerald and Hunter Spence, to teach them fishing. The boys would stay overnight at Grandmother Sarah Milner Smith's house where her sons Ed and Eugene lived with her. In the early morning, Gerald says his Uncle Ed would "dump the kids out of bed and take them off into the cold and dark morning." Spring was a good time to teach the children how to fish because the snow melt in the mountains would turn the creek into a river. They went upstream to Redrock, "where the creek butted, at nearly a right angle, into a high, red sandstone cliff. There was always a deep pool there and a perpetual spring at the upper end kept the water below for some distance from freezing dry in the wintertime. Each of us had willow switches about six feet long cut from the Russian willows that grew along a small irrigation canal near the ranch house. Each pole was equipped with a six or seven foot long linen line, a ringed hook with no gut leader, and a lead sinker that Uncle Ed had fashioned from a .30 caliber lead bullet. There was quite a swirl in the pool and a sinker was a must when fishing almost anywhere in those turbid waters during the spring runoff." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:104). This equipment was all they needed, plus a lot of patience.

"In those early days when we had no 'freezers' and but few people even had refrigerators of any sort, a mess of fresh fish was a treat, so as a kid growing up along the fish-infested Buckhorn Creek, I used every conceivable method to get enough fish for a meal. I caught them on hook and line, I snared them, I gigged them, I clubbed them and occasionally I 'tickled' them. It was fun and in the summer when we country people had been living on salt pork as our principal meat dish for the last several months, a mess of fresh fish was really welcome." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:45).

Gerald's father, John Spence, learned fly fishing in Estes Park when he first came to Colorado after 1893. He considered it sport fishing. Gerald was taught by a friend to "snare" fish which he describes: "We used a fine copper wire attached to the tip of a chokecherry or willow switch pole. It would be attached so we could easily control its movement. And to snare a fish, you had to be able to see them and they had to be within reach of your snare. When snaring a fish, you kept yourself as inconspicuous as possible and all movements were made very slowly. As the fish lay there, the loop of the snare would be slowly—without touching the fish's back or sides—moved around the fish to the appropriate position and then with a quick jerk, the loop would tighten and the lariated fish was pulled from the water." John Spence didn't consider it sporting

until Gerald got him to try it and his dad realized that it took so much skill that he finally admitted that it really was a sport. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:28-30). Gerald also describes another method of catching fish, "the old Indian method of muddying the water [in a pool] and then clubbing the fish when they surface to get a breath of silt-free water. Trout can't tolerate highly turbid water." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:110).

Ducks on the Buckhorn Creek

Duck hunting for food and sport occurred in the fall. When the weather turned cold, the lakes at the base of the foothills froze over and the ducks would head for open water on the streams such as Buckhorn Creek. Gerald Spence frequently wrote about ducks in his book, *The Hunter*.

> "In places the creeks were kept warm by underground springs so that there was open water. Although cold, that open water was a better resting place than a sheet of ice covering a frozen lake." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:41). But when the winter freeze would set in from a cold front, the temperature would drop below zero and hover there for most of that winter. The locals called these cold fronts, "cold waves."
>
> "The area from the Wyoming line on south to near Denver is irrigated from the Cache la Poudre River on the north to the South Platte River on the south and produces enormous yields of farm produce, especially wheat and other grains. Around 1914 most farmers harvested with grain binders. Grain harvesting combines had not been developed at that time. Grain binders cut the grain when it was sufficiently ripened and tied it into bundles. These bundles were ultimately hauled to a central location and fed into stationary threshing machines. With all the handling and re-handling of the unthrashed grain, there was considerable waste and this waste provided winter feed for great flocks of mallard ducks. Even though the lakes froze over, the mallards were reluctant to leave such an abundant food supply.
>
> "After the lakes had frozen over, hundreds of them would spend the nights sitting way out in the center of the lake squatting on the ice. You would think that at thirty degrees below zero, they would freeze to ice and so they occasionally did, but these crafty old mallards knew how to handle this situation. Several times during the night, some leader would give the signal and the whole flock would simultaneously rise up on their feet, waddle several feet to one side and, in so doing, loosen their feet from the ice. With several hundred ducks huddling close together, those in the center were somewhat protected but those on the perimeter, especially on the windward side, would get quite cold. If left there all night, they might possibly freeze to death, so those on the fringe of the huddle would keep moving into the center to warm up and let some other individuals take the brunt of the icy breeze that continuously drifted across the frozen lake.
>
> "Some duck flocks, while searching for a place to spend the night, would look down and see open spots of water on the small creeks back in the foothills at the base of the Rockies. The Buckhorn Creek always had open areas and the deep

hole at the base of Redrock Cliff never froze over. A sizeable spring bubbling out on the bank at the upper end of the pond kept it from freezing. And a couple of hundred yards just below Redrock was another spring-fed pool that stayed open all winter. Here and there on downstream for several miles, there were pools that were always free of ice. The ones not too close to human habitation were frequented by these "winter mallards." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:95-96).

Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes were feared. Their habitat is the rocky ledges of the hogbacks, including old quarries. They were found in West Glade, on the hogback, and in Buffum Canyon. Settlers destroyed rattlesnakes whenever they could. Sarah Milner Smith describes them: "Rattlesnakes were plentiful and constituted a real danger. Warned by their sharp buzzing, humans usually escaped, though not always. We had several very narrow escapes when the snakes struck without being heard. Several of our cows came home with heads badly swollen and eyes nearly closed. Their great bodies usually absorbed the poison before it proved fatal. But our little shepherd dog, Chris, [my son] Eugene's almost constant companion, succumbed, leaving the three youngsters disconsolate. Eugene missed his help sadly when rounding up our twenty cows off the steep hillside. Probably the little dog would have survived the encounter with the snake had it not been that he was miles from water when bitten. For all domestic animals, both large and small, seem instinctively to seek for water holes, where they lie in the mud on the bottom, the water cooling their fever, and the mud seeming to draw the poison out." (E. Smith, *Pioneer Epic*:93, 96).

Two generations (later probably around 1910) Gerald Spence describes his experience with rattlesnakes that taught him caution and courage. At about ten years of age, one day he went to the family mailbox located just outside Buffum Canyon. He followed the dry creek bed rather than the road.

> "I almost stepped on a large rattler. His color blended so well with the dry sand and gravel that I was almost on him before my immature mind realized that there was an enemy. I stopped short of stepping on him and surveyed my options. There were only two—I could run or I could fight. I had seen Dad kill rattlesnakes a number of times. I had seen them strike, throwing their heads back and then whipping the head forward with mouth wide open and fangs raised. A rattler's fangs are movable. They are attached to a system of muscles so that when the snake drops his lower jaw to its fullest extent the fangs are pulled up from their non-aggressive position to the upright fighting position. When he whips his head forward on striking, the fangs are actually driven into his prey or adversary. He then forcibly closes his lower jaw which, along with head and neck motion, forces the fangs deep into his victim; deep enough so that pressure is put on the venom sacks at the base of the fangs and the poison is forced down the grooves of the fangs into the victim's tissue. Father had shown me how the fangs were movable, using the head of a freshly killed snake to demonstrate. He also showed me that at the base of each working fang there were several very small

undeveloped ones. Should, by some accident, one of the mature working fangs be lost, one of the latent fangs would then mature into a working fang.

"That was all well and good. As a six or seven-year-old kid, I knew quite a little about rattlesnakes—thanks to a wonderful father—but was I to run or fight? I looked around and saw a small stick or two and a number of cobblestone-sized rocks, so I decided to fight. If I didn't kill him, he might bite and possibly kill a horse or cow, or someone's dog—perhaps ours. The rattler was lying quiet, no movement, no rattling. He was hoping I had not seen him and would pass on and not molest him. A rattler is a non-aggressive animal and fights only in self-defense, to protect its young and, of course, to eat…I grabbed one of the nearby small sticks and whopped at the snake's head. I missed the head and broke the stick. So I went after him with a stone, but was just as inaccurate as I had been with a stick. He rattled, squirmed and coiled. When a rock struck him or fell near him, he struck. Finally, after considerable pelting, he seemed to be incapacitated, so I picked up a large stone with both hands, stepped up close and was ready to drop in on his head and crush it when he gave one last strike. His head, with his mouth wide open and fangs positioned for a kill, just grazed my trouser leg. He missed, but I was a bit shook up. After some more pelting with rocks, that poor old rattler was truly dead. I removed his rattles as was customary and went on down the canyon, staying in the middle of the road and watching on all sides as I went along." (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:55-57).

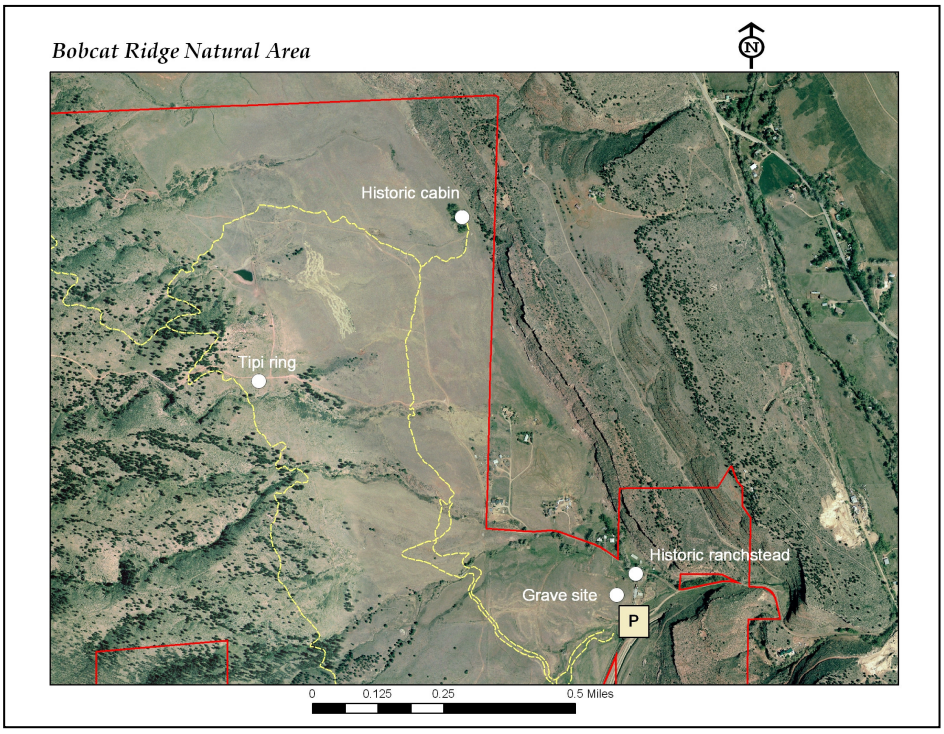
CHAPTER 7.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

In early August 2004, Tatanka Historical Associates, a Fort Collins historic documentation consulting firm, was contracted to conduct preliminary research and analysis of the history and archaeological resources at Bobcat Ridge. They produced the *Historical/Archaeological Planning Report,* September 9, 2004. This research was incorporated into the May 2005 *Historic Structure Assessment* completed by Aller-Lingle Architects and Tatanka Historical Associates. Their findings were then incorporated into the *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan*, May 2005. This material has been updated here after extensive historic research conducted in the summer of 2007.

Bobcat Ridge Natural Area contains a variety of historical buildings, structures, objects and sites which are representative of this settlement era in Larimer County. This should be evaluated for potential as a National Register District.

The property has been a working farm or ranch since it was first homesteaded in the late 1800s. Numerous buildings associated with the property's homestead farming and ranching history still exist on the site including the ranchstead with its associated buildings located at the head of Buffum Canyon. Most of the information on the cultural resources, buildings and structures, comes from two undated interviews with Hunter Spence, both done late in his life. One is a fifty-page memoir commissioned by D.R. Pulliam, with the Loveland Museum as the interviewer, and the other is an interview recorded about 1987 by Phyllis and Dwain Thompson in their home just west of Buffum Canyon. This is the home built by John Spence and where Hunter grew up.



Courtesy of *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan*, 2005.

Figure 84. Cultural resources
P = parking lot
Red line = property boundary
Yellow line = trails

1. Historic Kitchen/Smith Cabin – This log cabin *(Figure 85)* is located in the northeast quarter of Section 16 (the "school section) and is hidden behind a low hill to the west that obscures it from view from the south. Rising above the cabin to the east is the steep north-south hogback ridge. The building is surrounded by large trees to the northwest, west and southwest that were probably planted over a century ago to serve as a wind and snow break. To the north and south the open ground is covered with a mix of native and non-native grasses.

Courtesy of Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc. Historical/Archaeological Planning Report

Figure 85. Historic Kitchen/Smith cabin, 2004.

The cabin likely dates from 1917. "Ed Kitchen 1917" were written in in the chinking over the inside of the doorway. The cabin was built by Ed Kitchen with the help of the Smith brothers, Edward and Eugene. See the Kitchen family genealogy for a picture of the signed chinking and explanation of the cabin's construction date, Figure 47, page 49).

The cabin rests upon a stone foundation and is constructed of hewn logs with concrete chinking and saddle-notched corners. Saddle-notch construction was easy to make but was not very weather-tight. The logs meet only at one edge of their circumference. The spaces between the logs were filled with chinking and daubing to make the drafty cabin more snug. Usually the spaces between the logs were filled with a chinking material such as small stones or sticks. Then a daubing material of mud or clay mixed with filler, such as straw, sand, pebbles or animal hair was cemented over the chinking. This type of construction worked well with round logs but because of its permeability it was mostly used for temporary shelters, barns and outbuildings. (Cotton, *Old House Journal*:38).

The original walls remain and the building appears to have been constructed all at one time. The roof, door, and window frames appear to have been reconstructed or repaired as evidenced by the presence of modern-sized lumber. All of the windows and doors themselves are missing. The hipped roof is finished with wood shingles and tin segmental ridge caps, all features that are consistent with a 1917 construction date. Incised into the concrete chinking on the east exterior of the house are the words "Smith Bros. 1924". The Smiths owned the land and building. The Ed and Sadie Kitchen family had moved out in 1921 to buy the Masonville Store. With the vacating of the building, the Smith brothers probably fixed it up and re-chinked it for another sharecropper's use. Norris Kitchen, son of Ed and Sadie Kitchen, remembers that Sadie Kitchen's parents, John and Jessie Clarkson, moved in for a while, and later the Branstner family

lived there. (Norris and Toni Kitchen Interview by Carol Tunner, May 18, 2007). The Bill Griffing family lived in the cabin twice in the late 1920s and early 1930s and the Branstners lived in the cabin in between those two periods.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 86. Smith Bros. 1924 signature in chinking on cabin. Picture taken August, 2007.

Inside the cabin are remnants of some of its original or early finishes, all of which appear to date from the 1920s and 1930s. Scraps of the floor indicated that it was finished with pine boards and covered with linoleum, blue on one side and red which was likely the underside. The ceiling was finished with tongue-and-groove beadboard. It is completely missing now. In the northwest corner was an old cast-iron kitchen stove with a plate stating: "Hot Closet, No. 20, Pat. Dec. 14, 1886." The stove was removed during renovations by the City of Fort Collins.

Northwest of the cabin is a water well lined with stone. Six pieces of agricultural farm implements have been place in back of the cabin to the southeast. (see Figures 73-75, page 94). The implements were moved to this site from various locations around the property by the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program.

Courtesy of Sue Kenney

Figure 87. The Kitchen/Smith cabin, November, 2008.

Courtesy of Pennie Stutzman

Figure 88. Kitchen/Smith cabin. This picture was taken by Orda Landers (Mrs. Edward D.)Smith about 1921-1922 according to Pennie Stutzman, granddaughter of Edward D. Smith. The identities of the people in the picture are unknown.

2. Other Cabins

George Cline Cabin in Mahoney Park - The George Cline cabin, once located in the Mahoney Park area *(Figures 89-94)*, burned down in the 2000 Bobcat Gulch fire, but the root cellar is still visible. Two patents for this homestead were issued by the United States government, one in 1904 to George G. Cline and another in 1906 to Edward C. Cline for land in Section 17. Hunter Spence remembers George Cline as practically blind, but he describes how Cline built the cabin and hand split the wood shingles for the roof. (See Genealogy, Cline Family, page 62). Gerald Spence while hunting, refers to this cabin as follows, "I dropped down into Mahoney Park. There was a spring there and an old log cabin, a cabin with a little bit of history, as far as I'm concerned. Up back of the cabin a few yards was a nice, cool spring." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:90).

Sandy Olson, D.R. Pulliam's stepdaughter, remembers this cabin. She says, "It had an old iron pot-bellied stove with a shelf above. There was a big old coffee can — everyone who came would build a fire in the old stove to get out of the weather. They would put their name on a piece of paper in the can. But D.R. and his wife Ginny went up there one time and the coffee can was gone. It was always hoped that the can would resurface somehow." (Ginny Pulliam and Sandy Olson Interview by Carol Tunner, September 21, 2007).

Courtesy of *Bobcat Ridge Natural Area Management Plan*, 2005

Figure 89. George Cline cabin location.

Figure 90. Cline cabin root cellar.

Figure 91.

Figures 90-93 courtesy of Sandy Olson.

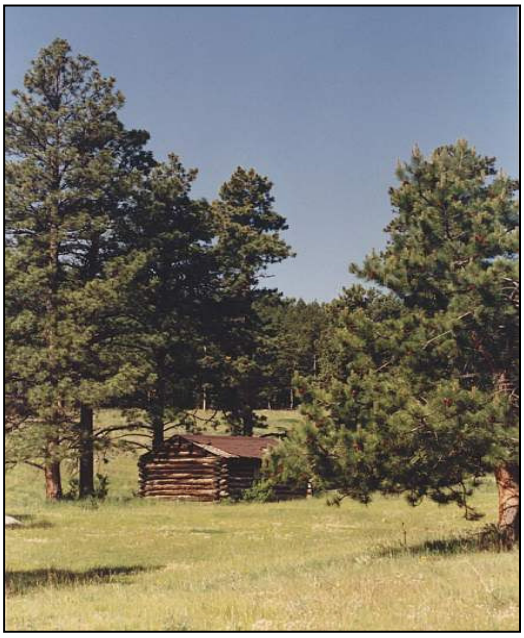


Figure 92.

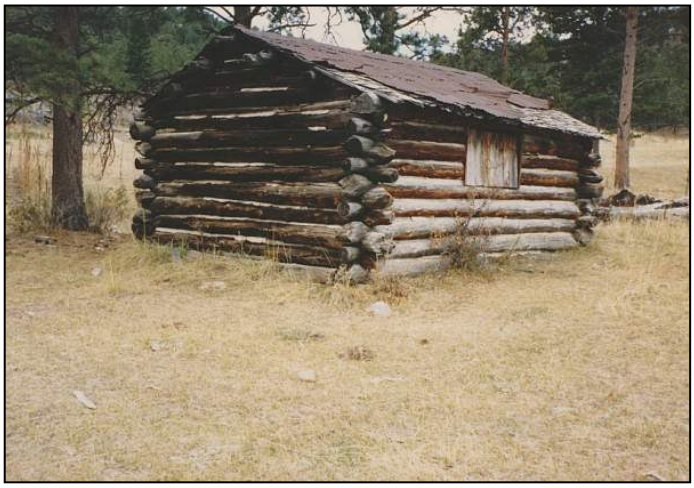
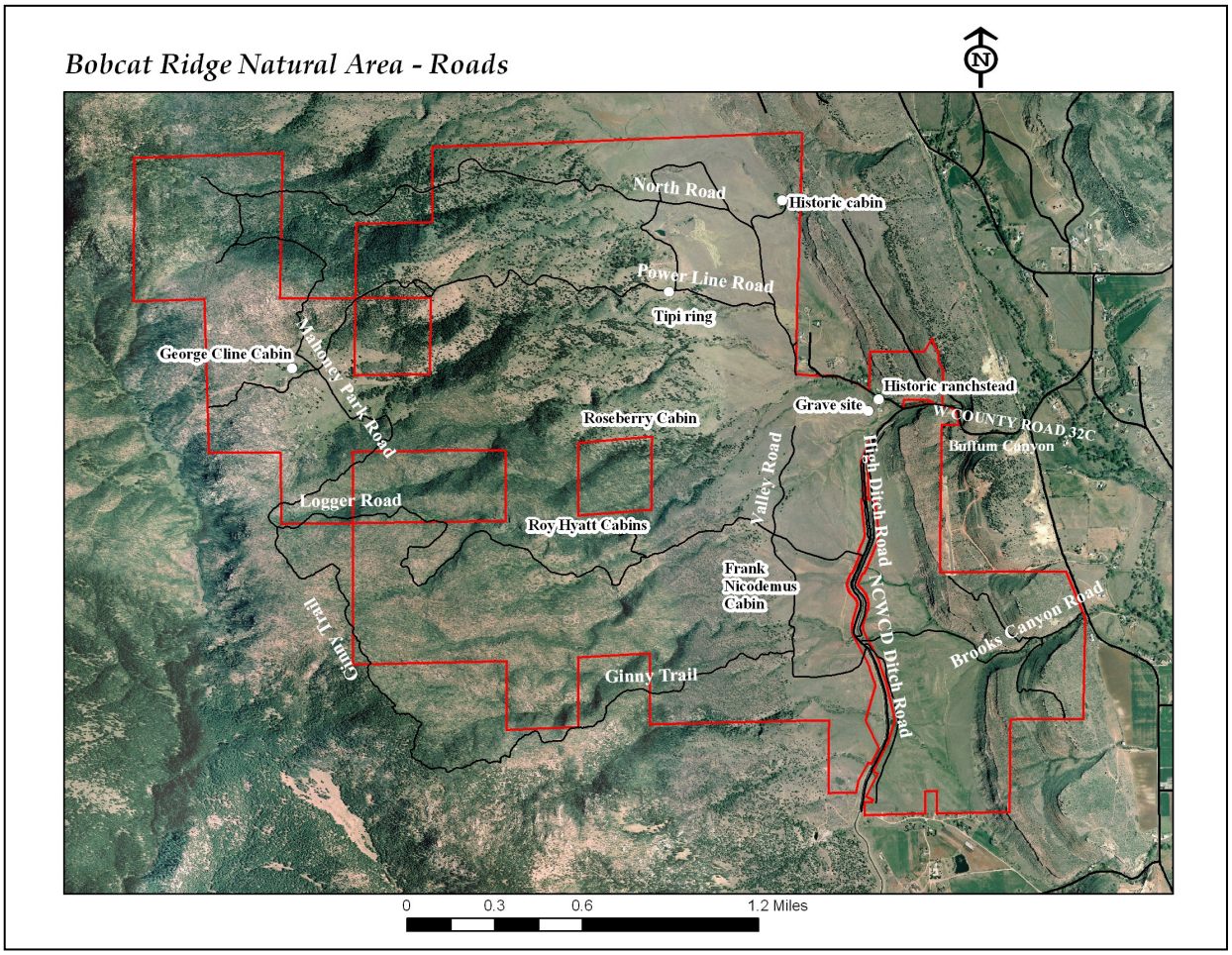


Figure 93.

Figure 94.

Figures 89-94. Views of Cline cabin in Mahoney Park, circa 1980s.



Courtesy of Natural Areas Program, City of Fort Collins

Figure 95. Approximate cabin locations and showing topographic section lines.

Roseberry Cabin – A second cabin was located approximately one-third to one-half mile up Green Ridge. The remains of the cabin were destroyed in the 2000 Bobcat Gulch Fire.

This was the location of the Lewis and Nancy Roseberry homestead cabin (see Roseberry Family history on page 59). "The Roseberrys built a nice little cabin on the south slope of a gulch just below a nice, perpetually flowing spring. Roy Hyatt, their son-in-law, helped them fix the place up with a corral, a barn and a root cellar dug out of the steep hillside. The place was fenced with three strands of barbed wire. They had a cow or two, three horses and some chickens." They were isolated and traveled in and out on horseback with an extra a horse to carry back supplies. (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:193).

Logging Camp Cabins – The next cabin site was south of the Roseberry cabin and at the west end of Lumber Camp Road. This was where Roy Hyatt lived around 1915. He didn't own the land; it was part of the Roseberry's 320-acre claim. He was the oldest son of Hamilton and Ollie Hyatt and married to Jessie Roseberry, daughter of Lewis and Nancy Roseberry. There were two identical cabin houses there, one over the hill south from the other. Roy cut timber, hauled logs out, and ran a small sawmill. The Roseberry claim had a lot of timber, and son-in-law, Roy Hyatt, took advantage of the timber bounty there. (Hunter Spence Interview by Phylis and Dwain Thompsons:4).

Mabel Sayre, daughter of Roy Hyatt describes the lumber operation. The family moved to a sawmill at or near Mud Springs, "and spent the winter falling and snaking logs to a sawmill there, with help of L.C. and L.B. Roseberry, [Roy's father- and brother-in-law]. Imagine if you can, the back-breaking, man-killing task of getting up before daylight to feed and harness horses, fall and buck logs and snake them up or down the mountain sides to the mill. When enough were stockpiled, the day began at the mill. L.C. was the engineer, keeping the steam boiler filled with slabs and edgings. Roy and L.B. ran the sawmill and did the off-bearing." (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:31). Roy's children and hired hands were put to work, and Roy's wife Jessie and their children cooked food for the workers.

During the depression of the early1930s, the county operated wood yards in Fort Collins and Loveland. There also were a lot of "unemployed hard-up people who needed to eat, and needed to have heat to warm their houses." Hunter Spence recalls, "I can remember as a boy, looking and seeing trucks coming down off of Green Ridge. Now Roy Hyatt made a deal with the county and it got its wood for its wood yards and [Roy] mostly sawed it up there into stove wood lengths and brought it down to the wood piles. There were men who earned their wood, in many cases, just splitting wood at the county wood pile. Roy Hyatt had a pretty good deal out of that. He went through and he marked every tree he didn't want cut. The other part of the deal was that they cut every other tree down except the ones he had marked, clean cut it. Then he had another good angle going. The men working for the county and the W.P.A. received $1.00 a day wages, which went quite a ways in those days, but Roy got the job of skidding [pulling the logs along the ground] the timber that the crews cut up and stacked to where they had their saws set up to saw it into stove lengths. So he got $1.00 a day working for the county and a $1.00 a day for his team. He made real money - $2.00 a day - and back in those days many people had absolutely nothing. After all the timber was cut off the Roseberry place, several springs showed up because there were no trees to use it all up." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:9-10).

3. Ranchstead – The ranchstead *(Figure 96)* is located on the east-central edge of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area where the county road enters the property. It consists of a collection of historic buildings and structures, all of them related to the operation of a cattle ranch in the area. Straddling the north and south sides of West County Road 32C, these buildings and structures appear to date from the late 1800s through the 1950s. The ranchstead evidently started in the late 1800s with the Hyatt pioneer ranch house, chicken house, and barn. Its growth and evolution continued over the following decades into the mid-1900s.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 96. Ranchstead, December 2007.

4. Hyatt Ranch House – This home must have been built by Hamilton Hyatt when he proved-up the site by living on it, several years before receiving his patent on southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 15 in 1902. It is an east-facing, side-to-side gabled, one-and-a-half-story, wood-framed home that is typical of the late nineteenth century pioneer era *(Figures 97-101)*. The Larimer County Assessor's Office records the house as being built in 1896.

Resting upon a stone foundation, the house had an early, modest, one-story expansion on the rear elevation giving it a T-shape. This first addition was evidently built by Hamilton Hyatt for his large family, and remained unfinished inside. Estes Spence says that "kids could sleep in it like camping, but it wasn't fit for year-round use." (Estes Spence Interview by Carol Tunner, July 17, 2007). In 1921, when Lewis Roseberry died, he was "laid out in the back room of the unfinished house." (G. Spence, *The Hunter*:195). During demolition of the interior of the original house and the addition, newspapers dating from 1933 were discovered in the walls. This was when Mrs. Fred (Charlotte Roseberry) Mitchell owned the house from 1929 to 1938. A second expansion of the home by Hunter Spence took place in 1948, when small shed-roof additions were made to the north and west elevations of the rear addition to provide them a bathroom, utility room and cellar. These modern improvements were important developments, since prior to that time the family was still using an outhouse and washtub.

The Hyatt ranch house derives its architectural distinction primarily from its form as a "folk house," more specifically categorized as a post-railroad period "I-house". The "I-house" originated in British folk forms that were brought to the United States during the colonial period and then were adapted by pioneers through the late 1800s as they spread westward across the country. These modest one-and-a-half-story story, side-gabled buildings were typically one room deep and two rooms wide, with expansions made to the rear as needed. They were usually built with little ornamentation. They were called "I-houses" because they proliferated in Indiana, Iowa and Illinois. Historically, the house was sided with painted, horizontal, white clapboards and the original two front windows were narrow, vertical, double-hung windows. The steeply-pitched, asphalt-shingled roof consisted of two intersecting gables with a central wall dormer on the front elevation. The original roof would have been constructed of wood shingles. A 1981 Larimer County Assessor's photograph shows the house much as it must have looked when it was built.

Courtesy of Larimer County Assessor's Office

Figure 97. Hyatt ranch house taken 1981.

Estes and Hunter Spence bought the property in 1938 and moved into it in 1943 upon their return from Nebraska where Hunter had been teaching. Hunter said, "When I bought that land, there had been a tremendous amount of people living on it, but practically no owners. They were renters. Roseberry bought it from Hyatt, and there had been lots of renters in between." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:22). The Spences' second child, Bruce, was born while they lived there in 1945.

Extensively remodeled over the years for various owners or renters, there remained some of the original materials with a number of modern finishes. Included among historic features were wood four-panel doors, multi-light (four/four panes), double-hung windows, trim work, and plaster walls hidden behind circa 1960s paneling. The house showed its 1890s construction in narrow steep stairs to the second floor and the second floor windows built low to the floor. This was a feature of earliest settlers' homes. It is not known if this was done for ventilation or some other reason. In general, the addition's interior had a mostly modern appearance. The grounds around the house were landscaped with grass, sidewalks, bushes and mature trees. Many of these features appeared quite old.

Courtesy of Sandy Olson

Figure 98. Front of the Hyatt ranch house in 1988, looking south. The fence, gate, porch and trees are of unknown age.

The main house was originally entered from the east. The north room contained a door in the northwest corner that accessed the stairway to the second floor. During the Hyatt's time, the second floor was one large room with knee-walls in the front and back because the gable roof ceiling was sloped. It must have been used as one large dormitory for the nine Hyatt children. When Hunter and Estes Spence owned the house and their second son, Bruce, was born, they added a wall upstairs to make two bedrooms for their sons. Hunter and Estes used the downstairs south room as their bedroom and added a closet. A fireplace was added in the rear addition.

Different owners or renters through the years used the original house in different ways, but the addition became the hub of the house and its north door was the main entrance. When renting the house between 1967-1973, Dwain and Phyllis Thompson used the upstairs as their bedroom. Their children slept in the two downstairs rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. (Phyllis and Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:1).

During the Pulliam ownership, the house was again used by renters and remodeled extensively. The home was finished with wide-board siding (painted brown and then red with white trim), modern, horizontal paired windows on the front façade, and window and door surrounds dating from recent decades. Projecting from the front of the home was a small raised open stoop with a shed roof supported by two square posts. It is of uncertain age. Non-historic gutters had been added.

Courtesy of Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc. *Historical/Archaeological Planning Report*

Figure 99. The Hyatt ranch house in 2004.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure100. Ranch house in August, 2007.

Courtesy of Karl Manderbach

Figure 101. Ranch house in March, 2008.

In 2007, the City of Fort Collins began remodeling the house as an office and residence for the Bobcat Ridge Natural Area ranger. The historic rear addition was removed and a contemporary two-story residence was constructed. A detached garage was built in the rear of the property. A state-of-the-art geothermal well was dug on the hill behind the house.

Windows on the historic homestead are a combination of original double-hung sashes with spring pins, original wood casements, and modern windows added through the years. The City has removed the modern slider windows on the front and replaced them with double-hung windows. The front porch roof and posts of undetermined age have been removed.

The Hyatt ranch house is significant for its architecture, its age, its association with many important pioneer families, and its role as the hub of a ranching and farming tradition that lasted over one hundred years.

The Hyatt ranch house was the home of many families—various owners and tenants and it was the site of many events. Hunter Spence told D.R. Pulliam one story that involved the Masonville community sometime during the Lewis C. and Nancy Roseberry ownership of the property after 1918.

> "Another thing that happened down there at the place in the head of the canyon. There were several daughters of Roseberry's such as Mrs. Roy Hyatt and Mrs. Fred Mitchell, but they had only one son, Lewis. He was the youngest …and he married a girl named Wilkins who lived in a farm southwest of Fort Collins. But, at this particular time, [Lewis and his wife] had moved into his parents' house. The first day they moved in, or within a day or so, here came one of those notorious Williams kids up the canyon, and told them he had heard the community was going to 'shivaree' them that night and, of course, they would do anything they could to cause trouble. They wondered what to do about that. Finally, [Lewis and his wife] locked the house up tight and just went out over in

that little draw that just goes down east from the barn and they just sat there and waited. [This would have been the 1888 pioneer barn located north of the road.]

"Pretty soon, they heard people talking and they could vaguely see there were people walking…and they were all going up to the house. All of a sudden [there was] a tremendous banging! People were beating on circular saws, cowbells and somebody started shooting a six-shooter into the sky. And they just kept after it. And [Lewis] and his wife just didn't do a thing. No light went on in the house. Finally the [folks] decided they would take one of the doors off the hinges. They were just making a move when Lewis stepped in where he could be seen, and he said, "Don't do that. I'll unlock the door!" He and his wife had come around and up behind and actually got in with the crowd at his own 'shivaree' and were having a lot of fun. But they stopped it when somebody was going to take the door off the hinges. The whole crowd went in then, and they had treats and a party and what-have-you. Lots of stories could be told about that old place." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:22-23).

5. Calving Shed – This was constructed by Hunter Spence in the mid-to late-1940s *(Figure 102)*. It is finished with board and batten walls and a shed-roof with exposed rafter ends. The east wall at the northeast and southeast corners is open to interior stalls. Hanging from the northeast opening was an old garage door (which has since been removed). A swinging board and batten door allows for access to the structure from the north. Small window openings are found along the east wall. In general, this structure is in deteriorating but restorable condition.

The calving shed was used for raising cattle. It played a strong role in contributing to the setting and context of this historic ranch. It is recommended that it be preserved and maintained for interpretation or adaptive reuse in the future.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 102. Calving shed, December, 2007.

6. Hayshed – This structure, located to the east of the calving shed, was constructed in the mid- to late-1940s by Hunter Spence *(Figure 104)*. It is a large rectangular open structure with a shed roof covered with metal. This allowed easy access to the hay while providing overhead protection from the weather. The structure is generally in good condition. It should be maintained and regularly inspected for rotting or missing wood. Pens and corral constructed in the mid- to late-1940s complete this area of the ranchstead. These consist of open dirt areas bordered by heavy wood fences and gates. Stock tanks and troughs are located in this area for the watering and feeding of the animals. A raised wooden chute is also present on the east for the loading and off-loading stock (*Figure 103).* All of the items among the pens and corral appear to be in relatively good condition yet will require the normal maintenance expected of ranch features used for the containment of large animals.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 103. Cattle chute, December, 2007.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 104. Hayshed, December, 2007.

7. Hyatt Chicken House – The Hyatt chicken house *(Figure 105)* is a small south-facing log building that has collapsed into the dirt slope that rises behind the structure. This building likely dates from 1888 as Roy Hyatt related to Hunter Spence that the fence posts and nearby barn of similar age were built then. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:21). It is clearly one of the older structures in the ranchstead complex. The structure consists of hewn squared log walls with dovetail notching at the corners. The front door is made of vertical planks and an unusually large four-space window (with no glass) is located to the right of the entrance. The front-gabled roof is finished with wood shingles and a wood plank gable wall. Chicken coops were typically built with long low windows to capture sunlight when the sun is low in the winter. (Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, July 17, 2007).

Courtesy of Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc., *Historical/Archaeological Planning Report*
Figure 105. Hyatt chicken house in 2004.

This structure helps visitors to better understand pioneer subsistence-level living. The two chicken coops on the property (Hyatt chicken house and the Spence poultry shed, Figures 105 and 109, respectively) show the different eras and different architecture. This building is in bad condition, collapsing over a period of years, especially toward the rear. The front wall has fallen back, but the structure's original features are easily distinguishable. Stabilization is possible and would allow the chicken house to stand for many decades to come. Without immediate attention, it is likely to be completely lost. The chicken house should be investigated for stabilization and eventually restored to its original external appearance.

Hunter Spence tells the history of this structure, "This small log building…across the road and just west of the old barn…people wonder that was the first house on the place and people must have lived in it, but that's not the way of it. My Dad [John Spence] would tell me what that was: Hyatt built that there for a chicken house and that's what he used it for. I can remember one morning in the spring, walking down the road to school. We had about six inches of wet snow that had fallen the night before; it was no longer snowing and there was Mr. Roseberry out there

clearing a path from the chicken house north straight down to the gulch so that the chickens could get water…This [structure] had one small window in it, and a renter somewhere along the line widened that out so they could get light in to a 'brooder' [a chicken hatching eggs] with chickens. I think Louis Hasemeyer was renting it and he did this. And that's why there is an extra-wide window in there, and Louis also lined the thing with building paper to make it warmer for his chickens." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:28).

Lloy Griffing (who lived as a child in the Kitchen/Smith cabin in West Glade) also recalls that the Hasemeyer family including daughters, Carol and Leslie, lived in the "old Roseberry place, part way between the John Spence home place and the mouth of the canyon." (C. McKenzie, *Linda's Family Stories, 1904-2004*:12). Fannie Hasemeyer was the school teacher at Masonville school in 1924-1925 so they may haverented the Hyatt ranch house then. (Tapscott and Phillips, *The History of 1887 Masonville School:*189).

8. Pioneer Barn –This structure is located adjacent to the chicken house to the southeast and reportedly dates from the late 1800s arrival of the Hyatt family in the area (*Figures 106-107*). This structure has no foundation and is constructed of wood posts and beams. It is open to the south and closed with vertical plank walls on the north, east and west. Relatively small for a barn, the side-gabled building has a dirt floor and a full-width front shed-roof projection. The main roof is finished with wood shingles and a tin ridge cap, and the projection is covered with metal. On the east and west elevations are vertical wood plank doors.

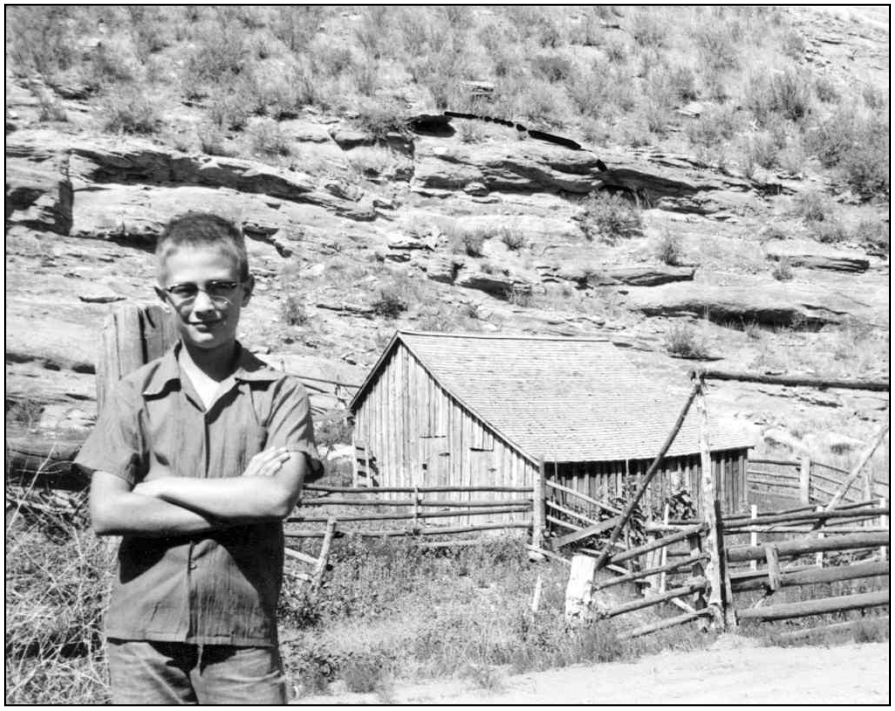
Hunter Spence refers to the barn as having no foundation, and held together by "pitch posts." He says, "Roy Hyatt told me that it was built in 1888 and those pitch posts…have been sheltered from rain, because they're inside of the building…and that's what holds that old barn up to this day." (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:21).

Once there were more corrals around the building and Hunter Spence describes what happened to them. "Another thing about Hyatt…he was an independent gentleman, as most everybody in the country was. The big snow in 1913 caught him with not a very big wood supply pile up there. But my brother Roland, as he would ride by on horseback, he kind of wondered how they were keeping the fire going in that house, and he came home one day just chuckling. He said, 'I found out Hyatt's secret. He's chopping up the poles off his corral and that's what they're using for firewood, but he's working on the side that's around behind the building'—the barn and so-on—as much as possible, so there wasn't anybody to see what he was doing to keep the house warm. About half the poles on the place were chopped up before bare ground showed up." (Hunter Spence, Interview by Loveland Museum:21).

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 106. The 1888 pioneer barn in May, 2007.

This building is an important piece of the ranchstead's history because of its age, its association with the pioneer Hyatts, and its architecture. It is in stable condition, but will require ongoing maintenance and some restoration to keep it standing.



Courtesy of Bruce Spence

Figure 107. Bruce Spence standing in front of the Hyatt pioneer barn and corrals in 1956.

9. Equipment Shed – This shed, located adjacent to the chicken house to the northwest, dates from the early 1950s *(Figure 108*). This small building is wood-framed and finished on the entire exterior with corrugated metal siding. It has a shed roof with an overhanging full-width metal hood on the south that is supported by poles. The south elevation is largely taken up by two pair of large swinging doors, in front of which is a sloped concrete apron. It reportedly was built by Hunter Spence as a garage to store equipment and a truck, and also used as his workshop area. During the Pulliam years it was used for storage. (Bruce Spence Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:13).

It is significant to the history of Bobcat Ridge because it tells a story of ranch life through its use and simple construction. It is in relatively good condition but should be monitored closely and kept repaired as needed. It could be adaptively reused for storage of natural area maintenance equipment.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 108. Equipment shed in May, 2007.

10. Poultry Shed – This shed, located northwest of to the equipment shed, was built by Hunter Spence and his father, John, in the 1940s *(Figure 109)*. His mother, Alice, in her (unpublished) diary refers to her husband, John, helping to build a concrete-floor chicken house and moving the chickens into it 1945-1946. Hunter and Estes had decided to go into the poultry business as well. This long rectangular building which faces the southwest rests upon a raised sandstone foundation and is constructed of cinder blocks. Wood plank doors are present on the east, west and south elevations, and the front of the building contains numerous screened window spaces with wood surrounds. The poultry shed is finished with a sloped shed roof covered with corrugated metal. The rear wall is collapsing and should be rebuilt immediately.

"The Spences raised chickens and sold eggs from that place." (Bruce Spence Interview by Carol Tunner, May 25, 2007:13). It was probably built of concrete block to keep out predators which were a real problem for livestock. Dwain Thompson recalls a story by Hunter Spence: On one corner of the block coop is an added-on area where they kept hens in a special place to keep them from breeding. The roof slanted down close to the ground there. At one point, a mountain lion tried to tear a hole in the roof to get the sitting chickens, which were too stupefied to move. The damage was discovered by Hunter Spence and he repaired the roof hole with tin sheet metal. (Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, July 17, 2007).

This concrete block chicken coop is significant because it can be interpreted for the change in ownership from Hyatt to Spence, for the time change from subsistence level living in the 1890s to commercial chicken production in the 1940s, and for architectural changes from log structures to concrete block. It should be restored and maintained. It has potential for adaptive reuse while serving as an interpretive tool demonstrating pioneer self-sufficiency.

Courtesy of Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc., *Historical/Archaeological Planning Report*
Figure 109. Poultry shed in 2004.

11. Grave Sites – There are at least two grave sites *(Figures 110 and 111)* known to exist on the property. They are located on a low hilltop southwest of the house and calving barn where a flat area gives a sudden rise along its western perimeter. They are marked with rocks.

In an interview, Hunter Spence recalled that he told D.R. Pulliam, "There are two infant graves on the hill just west of your present calving barn. I checked there the other day—and I remember about this when I was just a kid [Hunter was born in 1907], but one of those graves was a child of Carl Hyatt's probably born there on his father's place, and there is a second grave right beside it. It's another Hyatt, but I am not sure which Hyatt it was—but, for a long time, there was a rock—just a hunk of schist sticking up sort-of like a headboard at one of the graves, but I know it's gone, but I turned around and looked at the place very recently and there they are—the two outlines of rock around the small graves. They are only about four to six feet east of what had been the fence line between Hyatt and Spence. It's just about west of the south end of the calving barn. But those were two Hyatt children…babies…that I have known about. (Hunter Spence Interview by Loveland Museum:27-28). (Note: The second baby was Jessie and Roy Hyatt's child, named Cecil Roy Hyatt; see *A Sad Day, 1920*, p. 140. Jessie had a rock garden and added "pretty" stones to the graves. Presumably she would have put more stones around her child's grave, and there are more on the grave on the right, but it is really unknown which grave is which).

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 110. Baby grave site on the left with piece of schist (fallen over) at the top.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 111. Baby grave site on the right.

Mabel Hyatt Sayre's family history book, *Rocky Mountain Low,* gives the history of the graves. Mabel was the second child of Roy and Jessie Hyatt. One of the graves holds her brother. She tells the story as follows:

A SAD DAY 1920

"At the age of thirteen, I was old enough to 'legally' know that Mother, again, was pregnant, although that word was unknown at that time. I just knew she was having another baby—her seventh. We were old enough now [that she didn't] hide the lovely little clothes she made from almost the beginning. At seven months into her term [she developed complications] and was put to bed. After a day or two the doctor came and ordered her to the hospital. This was May 10, 1920 in Loveland, ten miles away. Unfortunately labor ensued and a tiny, darling, little boy was born. The doctor said his lungs were undeveloped and he did not live. Mother had to remain in the hospital for ten days so was not at the burial a day later. I'm sure she wept bitterly.

"Dad [Roy] brought the little body home to Granddad and Granny Roseberry's. On May 11th Granddad built a tiny coffin and Granny covered it with a black cloth and lined it with a white sort of cheese cloth. We were allowed to see him as much as we wanted and I had a hard time tearing myself away. Granny had dressed him in some of the lovingly-fashioned dresses and slips Mother had made.

"On the morning of that day we four older sisters attended school as usual and Dad picked us up at noon. Our younger sister and brother were staying with these same grandparents. Dad and Granddad Roseberry and Grandpa Hyatt had spent the morning digging the grave, and Granny covering the casket. After dinner (at noon) Dad nailed the little casket shut and took it on his shoulder to the top of a little grassy knoll where lay the body of a baby born about one year earlier to Uncle Carl and Aunt Bertha, a brother of Dad's. We girls gathered around as they lowered the tiny coffin into the grave and shoveled the soil back into it. By this time the sun was low in the west and it briefly, but dimly, shone through the cloud cover as we filed back to the house.

"In September, 1976, after we had buried Mother in Loveland, my sister Bonnee and I walked the half mile up through the beautiful red rock canyon to visit the little graves of our brother and cousin. The graves are still visible after sixty-six years and marked by the pretty rocks Mother had carried up and placed around them. There was livestock in the pasture and the graves were sunken by their footprints. We discussed moving the bodies but doubted that enough remains would be found to accomplish that. The old place had been sold several times and we had all been away too long." (M. Sayre, *Rocky Mountain Low*:35-36).

12. Cave Remnant - Gerald Spence, who grew up on the John Spence farm a quarter mile up the road from the Hyatt ranch house, said that circa 1912, his "cave dwelling instincts surfaced." He found a shattered place in the quarry rocks right at the entrance to Buffum Canyon and using a crowbar, he and a friend were able to dig a hole back into the cliff four or five feet. That friend moved away, but a few months later he and his best friend, Leslie McWhorter, tried again using quarrying tools borrowed from Leslie'sfather. They had no luck until Leslie "was roaming around on Carter Hill [Carters had a mine south in West Glade] and came across a prospector's powder cache of several sticks of dynamite, some blasting caps, and a coil of fuse." After several shots, they enlarged their cave to six feet in diameter and four to five feet high. It was almost enough to stand up in. Then they "wanted to have a fire for a bit of warmth and to toast our luncheon sandwiches, so we fashioned a fireplace." This smoked them out until they punched a hole in the roof with a bar. (G. Spence, *The Evolution of a Hillbilly Kid*:54-55).

13. John and Alice Spence Farm House - This house was built in 1896 (Larimer County Assessor's Office records) by John H. Spence for his bride Alice, whom he married in 1897. The house is at 8364 West County Road 32C, just a quarter mile up the drainage ditch from the Hyatt ranch house and north across the road from it. Their children, Roland, Gerald and Hunter grew up there. The property is not on Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, but it is very significant as John Spence was the man who assembled most of the pieces of land that later became Bobcat Ridge.

The original 1896 portion of the house is on the north side. An addition was put on the south side by John Spence in 1903, and another addition was made south of that in 1957 by Hunter Spence, when he and Estes moved in. *(Figures112-115)*. (Dwain Thompson Interview by Carol Tunner, July 17, 2007). Hunter sold it in 1973 to Dwain and Phyllis Thompson, who still reside there.

Courtesy of Carol Tunner

Figure 112. East Elevation

Figure 113. East Elevation

8364 West County Road 32C, the historic John and Alice Spence Farm House, currently owned by Dwain and Phyllis Thompson. Photos taken July 17, 2007.

Figure 114. North Elevation

Figure 115. East Elevation

CHAPTER 8.

PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Landmark Designation Information

Bobcat Ridge Natural Area and its cultural resources should be surveyed to determine eligibility for local, state and National Register designation. The area could be classified as a district. A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of buildings, structures, objects, or sites united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Some examples are farms or ranches.

Bobcat Ridge contains known historic resources categorized as two buildings (Hyatt ranch house and Kitchen/Smith Bros. cabin), eight structures (corrals/cattle chute, calving barn, hayshed, barn, chicken coop, equipment shed, Spence poultry shed, and the West Glade water well), some agricultural objects (press wheel drill, side-delivery hay rake, walking plow, horse-drawn walk-behind ditcher, corn planter, water pump), and sites (two babies' graves site, stone circle site, a potential Native American Indian grave site, and others yet undiscovered).

All of these cultural resources were present from at least the 19th century to 2006, which is the period of significance from known Native American Indian habitation through the last 125 years of farming and cattle ranching.

Bobcat Ridge clearly meets three out of four local landmark significance categories:

1. *The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history*. Ranching, farming and agricultural history of Bobcat Ridge fit this category. Significant events include that stone for the U.S. Mint in Denver was quarried there and a scene from the movie *Centennial* was reportedly filmed there.

2. *Association with a famous person.* This is questionable as meeting the requirements, but Gerry Spence is one of the most renowned trial lawyers in the United States, and he spent summers visiting his father and grandparents' home (the John Spence farmhouse). This area represents his family roots and to some degree, shaped his character today.

3. *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.* Age, architecture, and method of construction of the I-house and log cabin are distinctive; other components may lack individual distinction but comprise a significant entity when viewed as a whole and support this category.

4. *The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history*. Archaeological remnants of stone circles, arrowheads, flint-knapping chips, the potential for Native American Indian burial sites and dinosaur remains fit this category.

National and state register requirements for significance are similar. National and State Register landmark designations do not require design review of changes to the property unless federal or state funds are utilized for the work. State and national listing would identify the area's importance and may make federal and state historical fund grants possible.

Significance of the District

Bobcat Ridge represents 125 years of farming, cattle ranching, and pioneer settlement in the foothills region. It represents American Indian habitation and interaction between the Utes and the Arapahos. It tells the story of a transitional piece of land from the days of Native American tribes to the early settlement of pioneers. Pioneers lived off the land at a subsistence level. It tells the story of the role of the pioneers in the development of the nearby cities of Loveland and Fort Collins. The pioneers hauled lumber from the nearby forests to heat and build city homes, they drove their West Glade cattle to city stockyards for shipment, and they sent their children to the city for higher education. The property tells the story of farming and cattle ranching, and the historical development of Limousin cattle breeding in Colorado. The future story is about how this property became an expansive and beautiful natural area for the conservation of its natural values and for the enjoyment of citizens. Interpretation of the area's history adds another dimension to the experiences and enjoyment of visitors.

The overarching goal of these preservation recommendations is to preserve the character of Bobcat Ridge Natural Area so that visitors can understand and appreciate the important positions that this land has in broad patterns of pioneer history from the days of the very first human habitation, through pioneer days, and into the ranching history of recent times.

Integrity of the District

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. The composite of seven aspects, or qualities in various combinations define integrity: *location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling,* and *association*. All of the historic resources listed have retained their integrity, but the Kitchen/Smith cabin, Spence poultry shed, and Hyatt chicken coop are in grave danger from loss of *materials, workmanship* and *feeling* with the deterioration and collapse of the building and the structures. If any one aspect or quality is lost, the *association,* which requires the presence of physical features that convey a property's historic character, suffers. *Feeling* is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period or time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character. Thus, through association and feeling, the individual components of this farming and ranching district are seen as a part of a larger picture. These elements begin to develop a presentation of how people first settled this part of the West. Loss of any one element weakens the story of the whole.

Recommendations

Determination of the eligibility of the district and the individual cultural resources should be pursued. A long-range five-year plan would help direct the restoration and identify sources of funding. The goal, based on an inventory of historical resources on the property, would make it possible to develop a plan and timeline for stabilization and perhaps ultimately restore the individual buildings and structures using private and historic preservation grants.

Kitchen/Smith Cabin – Of the buildings on the Bobcat Ridge property, the highest priority with the most immediate and urgent need is to stabilize the Kitchen/Smith Bros. cabin. It has significance as a form of human habitation. It has high historical significance as a human shelter associated with the documented event of a child's birth, Virginia "Sue" Kitchen, and Mary Del and David Griffing.

The Kitchen/Smith cabin stabilization and adaptive reuse is planned. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program is currently replacing the roof and substructure to meet current building codes. Some structural modifications from the original are necessary for safety reasons. The historic beadboard ceiling is missing and it should be rebuilt with the same dimension material as the original to conceal the necessary structural modifications to the roof substructure. According to Milton Griffing, who lived in the cabin as a child, there was a loft above the ceiling for the young boys to sleep in, and a vertical ladder on the wall for access. But no evidence of these features remains. These may have been located in a rear addition which is no longer there.

The cabin is planned for adaptive reuse as a destination for education and interpretive tours. The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program will not replace the pine flooring, but will lay a gravel floor in the cabin. It is not planned to reproduce the windows and doors at this time, so the interior gravel flooring will allow drainage of any moisture that enters from these openings. This would not preclude the flooring, windows and doors from being restored in the future. In fact, it would be advisable to close in the windows and doors because moisture is the enemy of historic wood buildings. Rustic table and chairs will be installed inside the cabin for visitor use.

The Natural Areas Program re-chinked the cabin in 2008. The 1924 signature of the Smith brothers located will be protected and displayed. The cistern or well behind the cabin tells a story and should be visible but screened for safety. Particular attention should be paid to the continuing condition of the cabin's sill plate logs and they should be replaced as needed for construction integrity. The cabin is in a location fairly inaccessible to fire safety vehicles and it is isolated from ranger supervision. Unfortunately, these are questionable conditions for its continued existence.

Hyatt Chicken Coop – The Hyatt chicken coop is another high priority for preservation. It is a contributing structure believed built by Hamilton Hyatt. It likely dates to 1888, when Hyatt first settled and raised his large family in West Glade. He had nine known children born between 1881 and 1901, so having their own poultry production would be a necessary asset. The chicken coop should be investigated for stabilization and eventually restored to its original external appearance so that visitors will better understand pioneer subsistence level living.

Hyatt Ranch House – Hamilton Hyatt would have built his house before building other structures, in order to show he lived there and to "prove up" the property. Residence on a piece of land was necessary to get a homestead patent from the United States government. In 2008, the City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Program completed renovating the house for a ranger residence. Photos, drawings, books, artifacts, examples of genealogical data, etc. uncovered in researching the history of Bobcat Ridge could be displayed or stored in the office or garage to provide interpretive resources for visitors.

Calving Barn and Hay Shed – Although some corrals were removed for the parking lot, the remaining corrals, calving barn, cattle chute, and hay shed built by Hunter Spence should be maintained. Hunter Spence adapted the farm into a cattle ranching operation with these structures. The calving table was an important part of cattle branding, inoculating, and inseminating, and should be found or reproduced if it is gone. Its physical description could be described from local residents or family still living that helped with those chores.

Pioneer Barn – The historic pioneer barn is located across West County Road 32C from the Hyatt ranch house. It is significant as dating to the Hyatt family subsistence-level occupation and the use of horses rather than machinery. It is a companion piece to the adjacent Hyatt chicken coop. It is in relatively good condition but should be monitored closely and kept in good repair. Hamilton Hyatt and his sons were evidently not involved in cattle ranching as much as they were in timber cutting on Green Ridge. Hyatt first appears in Bureau of Land Management, Government Land Office, Tract Book records for a timber cutting patent in 1885.

Equipment Shed – The equipment shed was built by Hunter Spence in the 1940s to house his car and shop. It was later used for storage. It represents the Spence occupation of the ranch and automobile and farming equipment ownership. It is not a sophisticated structure, but it is also part of the story of the ranch. The recommendation is to leave it in place, use it for storage, and keep it standing and maintained.

Poultry Shed – The poultry shed was built by Hunter Spence and his father, John Spence. References to John Spence pouring the chicken house floor can be found in Alice Spence's 1945-1946 diary. Alice Spence was John's wife and Hunter's mother. The poultry shed is a large structure, and represents the family's foray into the commercial poultry business to supplement the ranching income. It was an attempt at building a "varmint-proof" structure in an area prone to wildlife predators. It should be preserved and maintained. It has potential for adaptive reuse while it serves as an interpretive tool.

Other Homestead Cabins – The George Cline cabin, Lewis and Nancy Roseberry cabin, Nicodemus cabin and Roy Hyatt logging camp cabins are all gone, reportedly burned in the Bobcat Gulch Fire of 2000. Their sites could be identified with the help of local long-time residents, and their contributions to the history of the area interpreted.

Grave Sites – The two Hyatt children's graves should be suitably marked and fenced. The Indian burial site should be identified so it can be preserved from future intervention, but the location should be kept unpublicized so as to protect the memorial site. Interpretation could reference it in the Mahoney Park area but not identify the location.

Archaeological Resources

There are existing and potential archaeological resources in Bobcat Ridge Natural Area that should by researched further for identification and survey. University field studies would be an important resource for this activity. If the property were designated a landmark, State Historical Fund grants could be used for preservation and restoration of the property. Colorado Historical Society Certified Local Government grants for survey and planning would be another source of funding. Preserve America grants could be sought for tourist interpretation and setting up a site historical museum in the ranch house.

CHAPTER 9.

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