

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017 VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

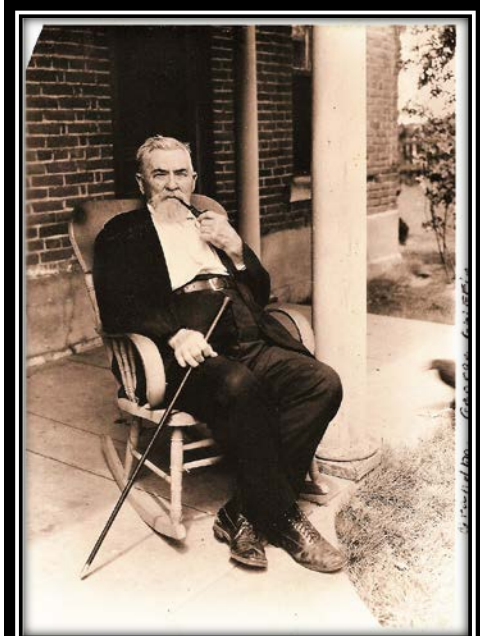
WEBSITE: www.fremontheritage.com

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK, TOO: Fremont County Historical Society - Colorado

Editor: Carol McNew, Reviewer: Margaret Storm, Mailing Director: Barbara Hobson

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PROGRAM ON SUNDAY - JANUARY 15, 2017

DIANE DUDLEY AND HISTORIC GRIFFIN RANCH
GEORGE W. GRIFFIN



GRIFFIN RANCH HISTORY PRESERVATION

Though there are some records of the family history, the FCHS is seeking to collect as much as possible before it is lost to time and development. Records, photos, recordings and artifacts will be safely stored at the Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center. Benjamin's pioneering life involved placer gold mining, building one of the first log homes in Cañon City, friendship with the Sioux and Ute, acquaintance with Father Dyer, tracking the Espinosa brothers, homesteading South Cañon City with Rudd, Catlin, Draper & Macon in 1864, establishing the first school district in the county with Rudd and Catlin, and cattle ranching, to name a few of his accomplishments. Multiple generations of Griffins and related families (Bell, Colgate, Randal, etc.) have grown from the brick home on Griffin Avenue in Cañon City, to ranches along Oak Creek Grade and beyond.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
801 Sheridan Avenue, Cañon City
2:00 p.m. - Public Welcome
Refreshments served

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PAGE 6: ADVERTISERS WHO MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE BY THEIR SUPPORT OF THE SOCIETY.



*THE GRIFFIN FAMILY MEMORIAL MARKER
GREENWOOD CEMETERY*

FREMONT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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This history was taken from a typed manuscript:

"The Reminiscences of George W. Griffin of Cañon City, Colorado" as related by George W. Griffin on February 18, 1931:

George W. Griffin was born in Van Wert County, Ohio on 2 January, 1847. His father, **Benjamin Griffin**, joined the gold rush to California in 1849 and remained in California something over a year, then returned to Ohio. In the year 1860, the Griffin family came across the plains with ox teams along with **Anson Rudd's** family. This party had heard of the rich placer mines that had been discovered the year before in Colorado. The trip across the plains was rather uneventful. They saw thousands of Indians, but they were all peaceful. No live buffalo were seen, although many dead ones that had been shot by hunters were scattered over the plains. *Continued on Page 3*

The Florence Pioneer Museum

And

Research Center

PRESENTS:

"A CHILI BOWL IN A CHILLY MUSEUM"

JANUARY 21, 2017

SATURDAY

11:00 AM-2:00PM

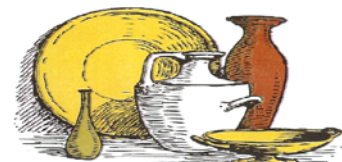
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MORE GRIFFIN RANCH HISTORY:

When winter came on in 1860, the Griffin family came to Cañon City, as it was impossible to mine during the winter months. Mrs. Griffin had known Mrs. Rudd in Kansas, and they were great friends. The Rudds were living in what is now the Penitentiary Park. Mr. Rudd was running a blacksmith shop at about Third or Fourth Street. The Griffin family set up their tent alongside the Rudd house. The two ladies wanted to have homes close to each other, so Rudd and Griffin each purchased two lots on River Street, Rudd owning where the new Municipal Building now stands, and Griffin owning the two lots directly east. The Griffin home was built first and then the Rudd home. George Griffin hauled the logs for both homes. Later the log home of the Griffins was moved to Griffin Avenue in South Cañon and is now part of the barn on the Griffin Homestead.

At this time, there was a sort of bridge over the river at about First Street, but was washed out in the high water in 1871. A foot bridge was put across the river and it was used in the winter, but when the summer rains started it would be taken down and stored until fall. Teams had to cross the river fording. There were two fords, one at First Street and the other at the back of the Municipal Building. When the waters were up in the summer, the people did not try to cross the river by fording, but used a boat on a cable, a sort of ferry. **Benjamin and Joanna Griffin**, the parents of **George Griffin**, homesteaded the land south of the river where the Diamond Ford Brick Plant is now located, and all the land lying between Fourth Street and Ninth Street and extending south to the South Cañon Ditch. They lived in North Cañon until 1864 when they moved to where George Griffin now lives at 629 Griffin Avenue, South Cañon. George W. Griffin secured a squatter's right to the ranch at the head of Oak Creek Canyon in 1870. He lived there with his wife **Ellen** for many years and it was here that all but one of his children were born. The children of George W. Griffin were: **Leota Griffin Bell, Will, Albert E., Edward, Charles, and John.**

BLM RECORDS SHOW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Patent #COCOAA 061337 is a land patent in Fremont, Colorado owned by **George W Griffin**. It is a sale - cash entry.

Meridian / Township / Range Description

Meridian	Township	Range	Section	Aliquot	Resource
Sixth Principle Meridian	<u>20S</u>	<u>71W</u>	<u>0 23</u>	X X ²	136445985
Sixth Principle Meridian	<u>20S</u>	<u>71W</u>	<u>0 25</u>	X	136445986
Sixth Principle Meridian	<u>20S</u>	<u>71W</u>	<u>0 26</u>	X	136445987

9/17/2011 File Load Date
4/10/1882 Last Action: Patent Issued

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276-5200 

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The City of Cañon City is pleased to print the Fremont County Historical Society Newsletter as a contribution to the Society. Thanks for all you do for Fremont County History!



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OPEN: MON. WED. THURS. FRI. 10 TO 1 PM

The Fremont County Historical Society is affiliated and networking with many of the other groups:

- Fremont County Heritage Commission
- Florence Historical Archives, Inc.
- Wetmore Genealogical and Historical Society
- Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center
- Royal Gorge Regional Museum and History Center
- Colorado Museum of Prisons
- Fremont County Tourism Council
- Gold Belt Byway (Cripple Creek)
- John C. Fremont Library
- History Colorado
- Colorado Preservation, Inc.
- Colorado Tourism Office
- Fremont Economic Development Corporation
- City of Cañon City
- City of Florence
- Rockvale, Coal Creek, and Williamsburg Councils
- Brookside Council
- Southern Colorado Heritage Center (Pueblo)
- Cañon City and Florence Chambers of Commerce

MEMBERSHIP IS WHAT KEEPS THE SOCIETY ACTIVE AND VITAL TO THE COMMUNITY. Join today and help us with our many projects - Prospect Heights Jail, Self-Guided Tour booklets, Cemeteries of Fremont County, and the programs that you enjoy. Send in your membership envelope today.

Fremont County Historical Society - Historian of the Year Award **THE "DOC" LITTLE AWARD**

Presented at the January Program Meeting January 15, 2017

Son of Dr. W.T. and Florence (Rockafellow) Little, Wilbur married Frieda Pruitt in 1932 and together they raised a daughter and two sons.

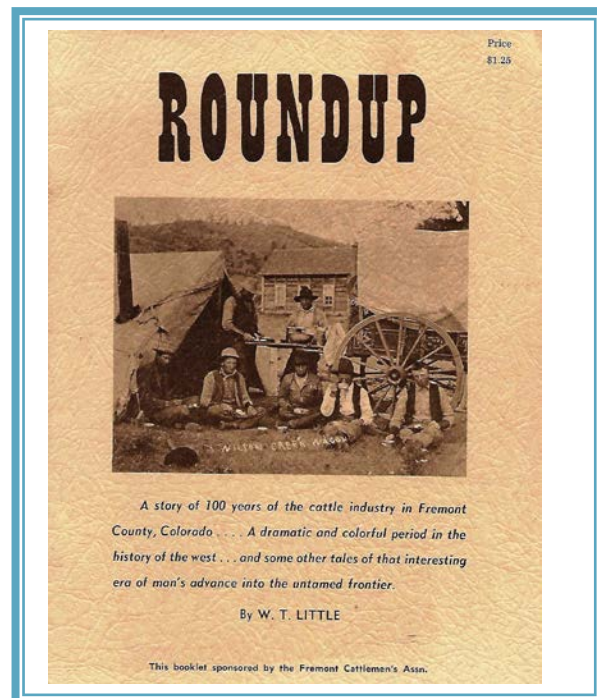
A graduate of Cañon City High School in 1927, Wilbur attended Colorado College and then joined the newspaper staff of the Cañon City Daily Record. He worked at the Record until his retirement in 1975. with the exception of a ten-year absence while he worked in Colorado Springs as editor of one newspaper and then as chief of another. He returned to Cañon City and to his position as editor of the Record in 1966.

"Doc", a nickname he picked up from his father who was a physician, continued to build his reputation as a historian and an outstanding writer. "Up and Down Main Street" and "A Look Back Into History" were two of his most popular columns.

He was active in Christ Episcopal Church and in many community organizations: University Club, Golden Age Center, Elks, and the Historical Society. He had also served as County Coroner and a member of the Cañon City Council.

Doc will long be remembered as the "Dean of history of the Cañon City region".

("A Walk Into The Past--A Tour of Greenwood Cemetery". Printed by City of Cañon City, CO. 2nd Edition 2006.)



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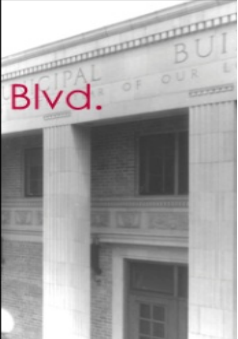
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