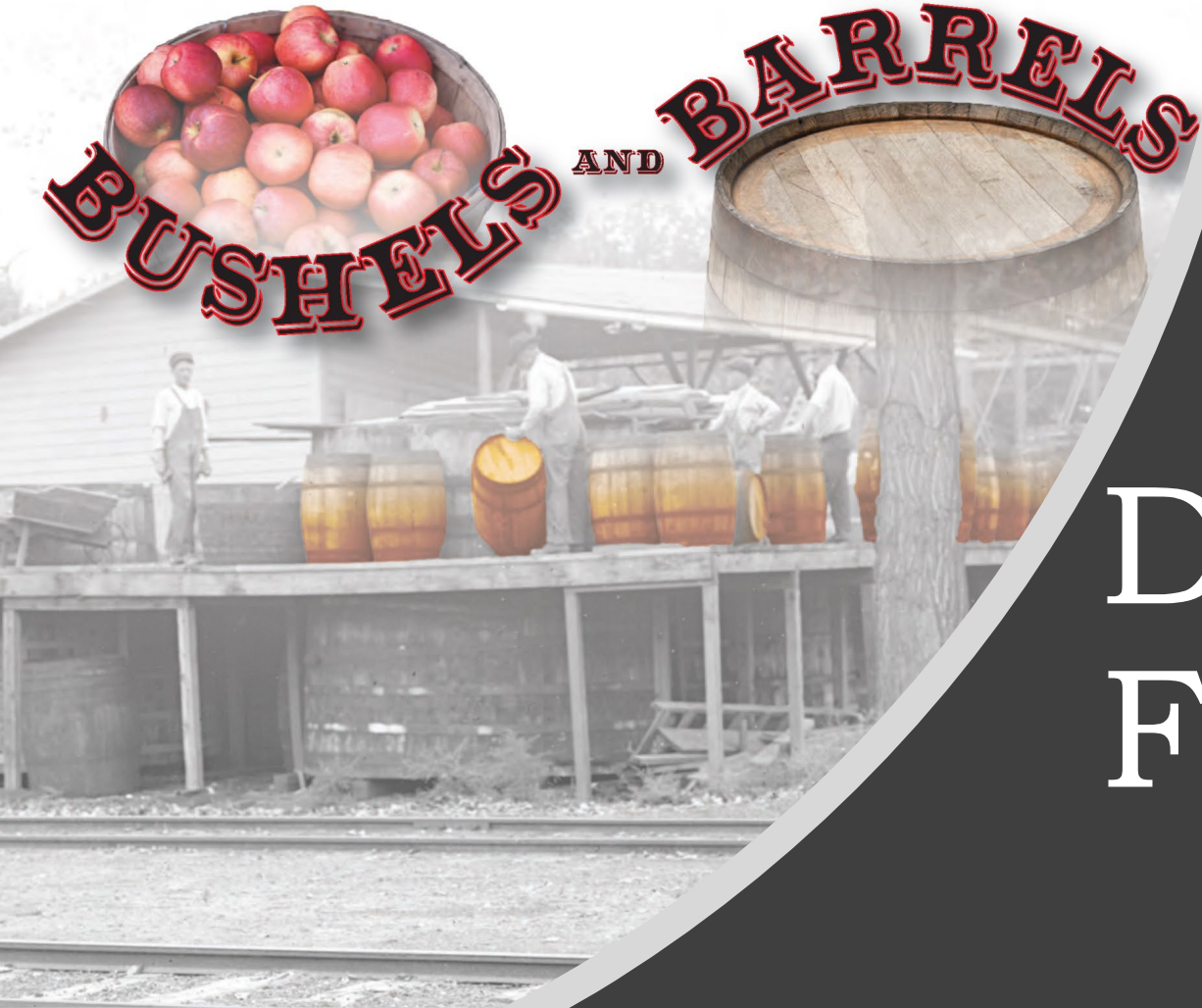


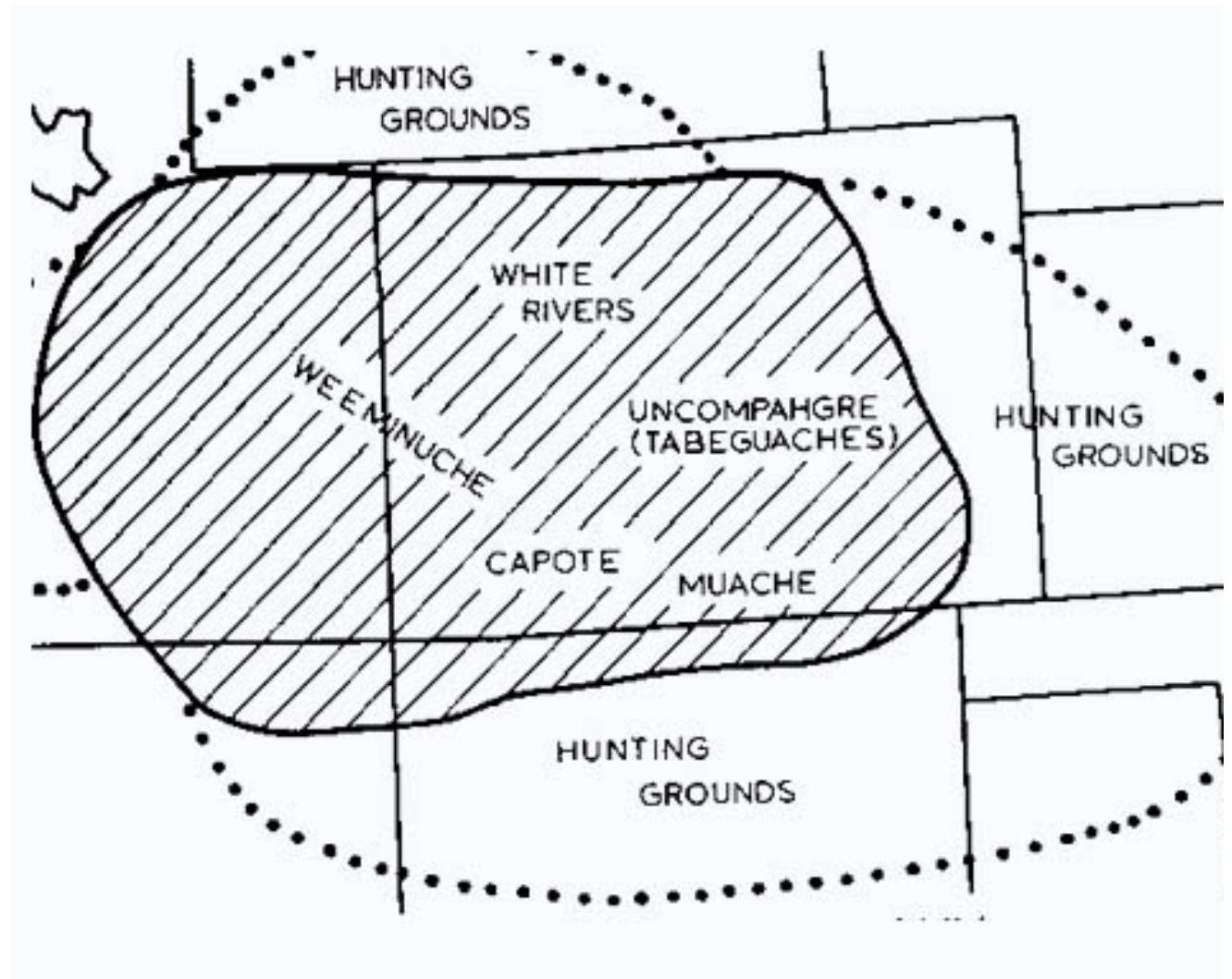
ANNUAL MEETING &  
**PROGRAM**  
SAT FEB 1<sup>ST</sup> @ 1PM

**BUSHEL** AND **BARRELS**

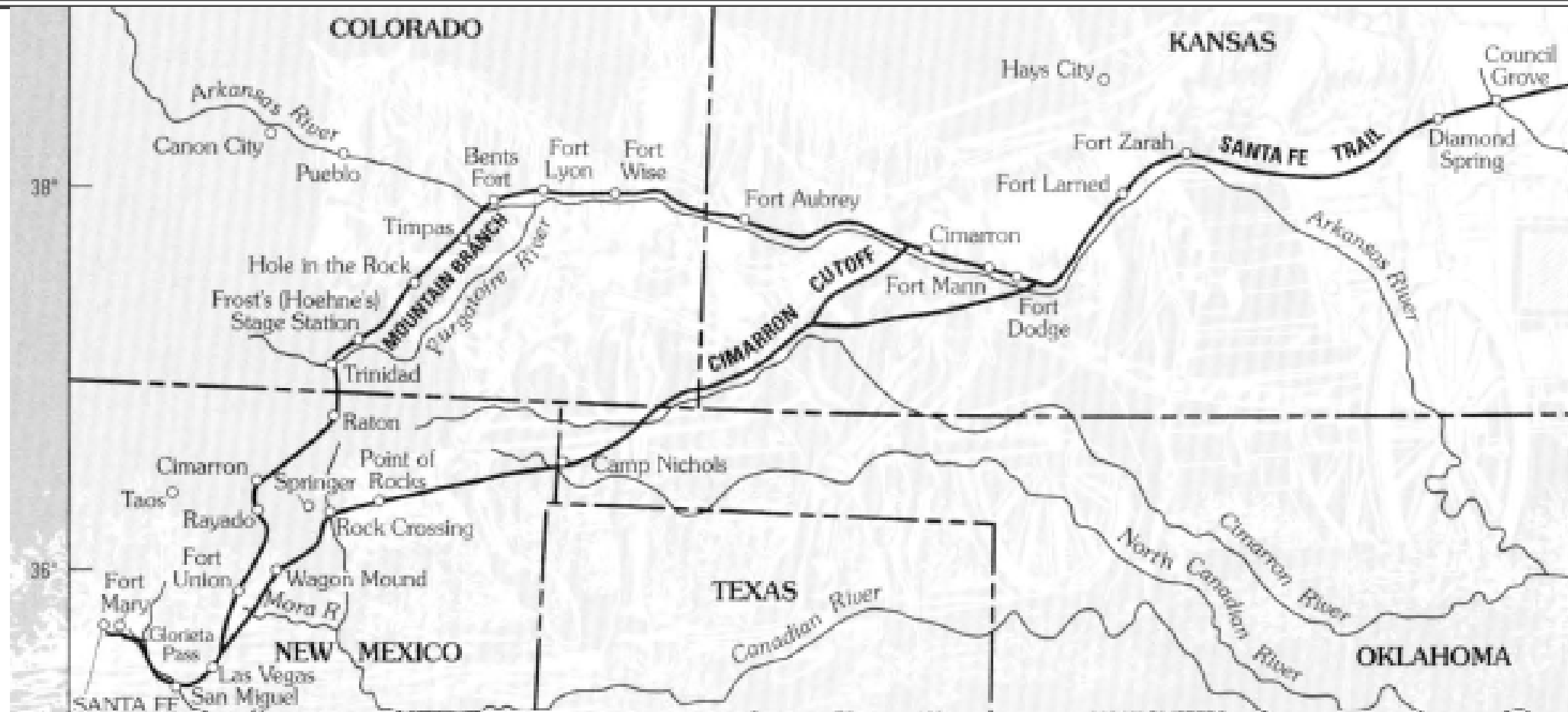


Agriculture's  
Deep Roots in  
Fremont County

- Utes and other area tribes were Hunter-Gatherers
- Visited the area seasonally to gather fruit, seeds, berries, roots
- A few may have planted crops



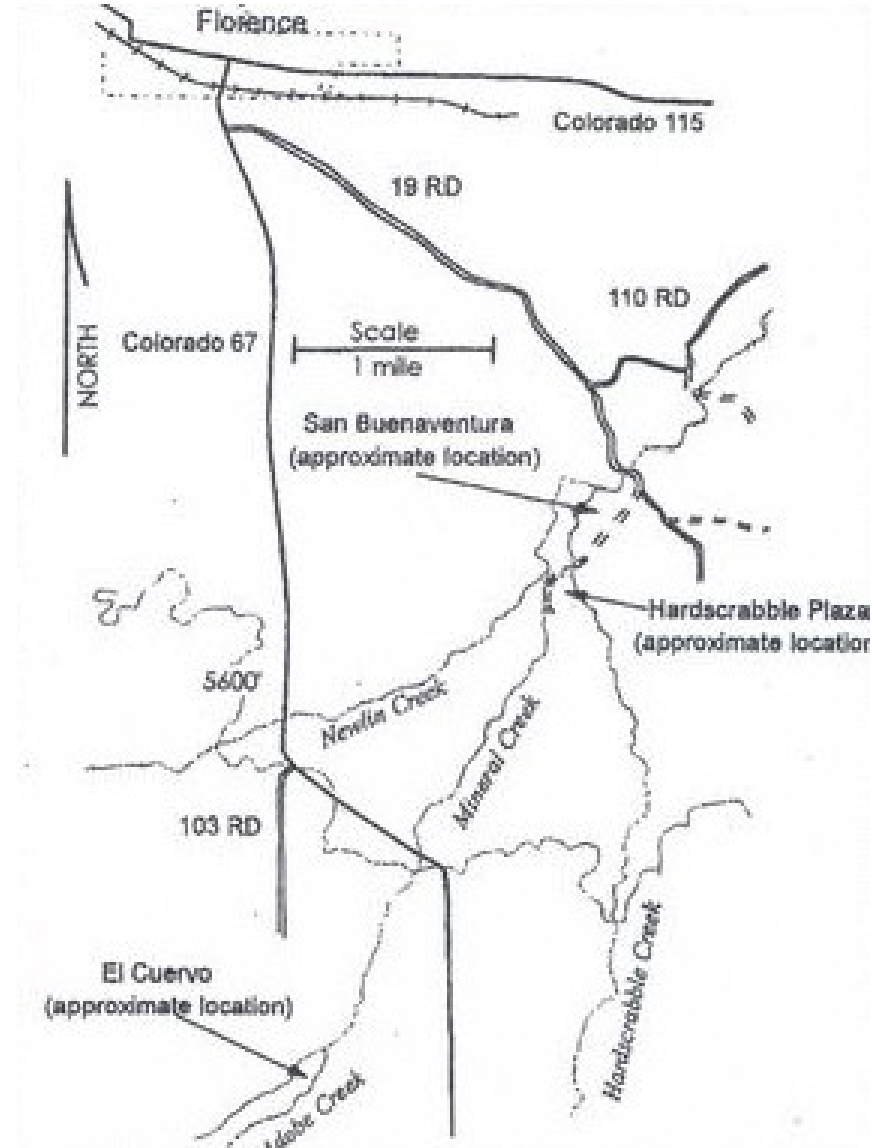
# Many Newcomers Came via the Santa Fe Trail



# Hardscrabble–Wetmore Area had first crops

## Ft. LeDuc Settled by Trappers & Traders to trade with Utes

- 1830s; Corn and other crops first planted to trade with Utes and other tribes in the area
- Area was tied to Bent's Fort, Taos & Santa Fe; *Taos Lightning* was popular, and Utes wanted corn
- “Hard scrabbling to get a crop”  
-- George Simpson, a founder
- 1846; Barclay plants trees & crops
- Activity become sporadic due to Arapaho raids and other factors
- 1884; Wetmore had a flour mill



## The First Water Right in the Arkansas River Was the Hardscrabble Ditch in 1860

No.	1—The Hardscrabble Ditch, May 1st, 1860.
No.	2—The Conley Ditch, March 30th, 1861.
No.	3—The Burdock Ditch, March 30th, 1861.
No.	4—The Green Ditch, April 1st, 1861.
No.	5—The Glendale Ditch, April 1st, 1861.
No.	6—The Stephen Frazier Ditch, April 20th, 1861.
No.	7—The Porter Ditch, May 1st, 1861.
No.	8—The Peggy Ditch, May 1st or 20th, 1861.
No.	9—The Callen Ditch, May 30th, 1861.
No.	10—The Bates Ditch, May 31st, 1861.

- Henry M. Burroughs (1835-1917) raised crops in the area for area mining camps
- The Beaver Creek area near Arkansas River had many crops
- 1860 – Lewis Conley built a Grist Mill here

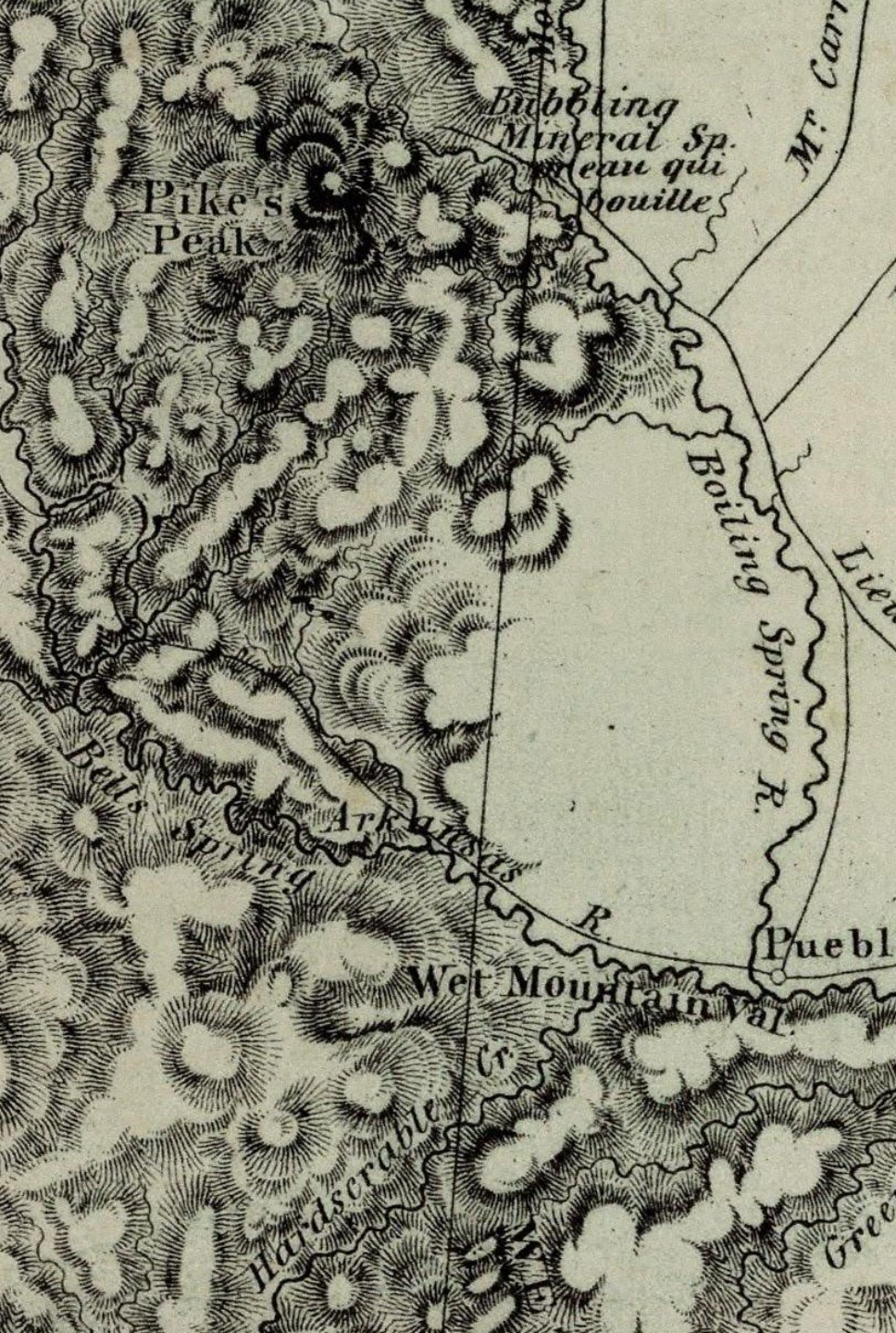


Pikes Peak or Bust!

## Colorado Gold Rush of 1858 – 1859

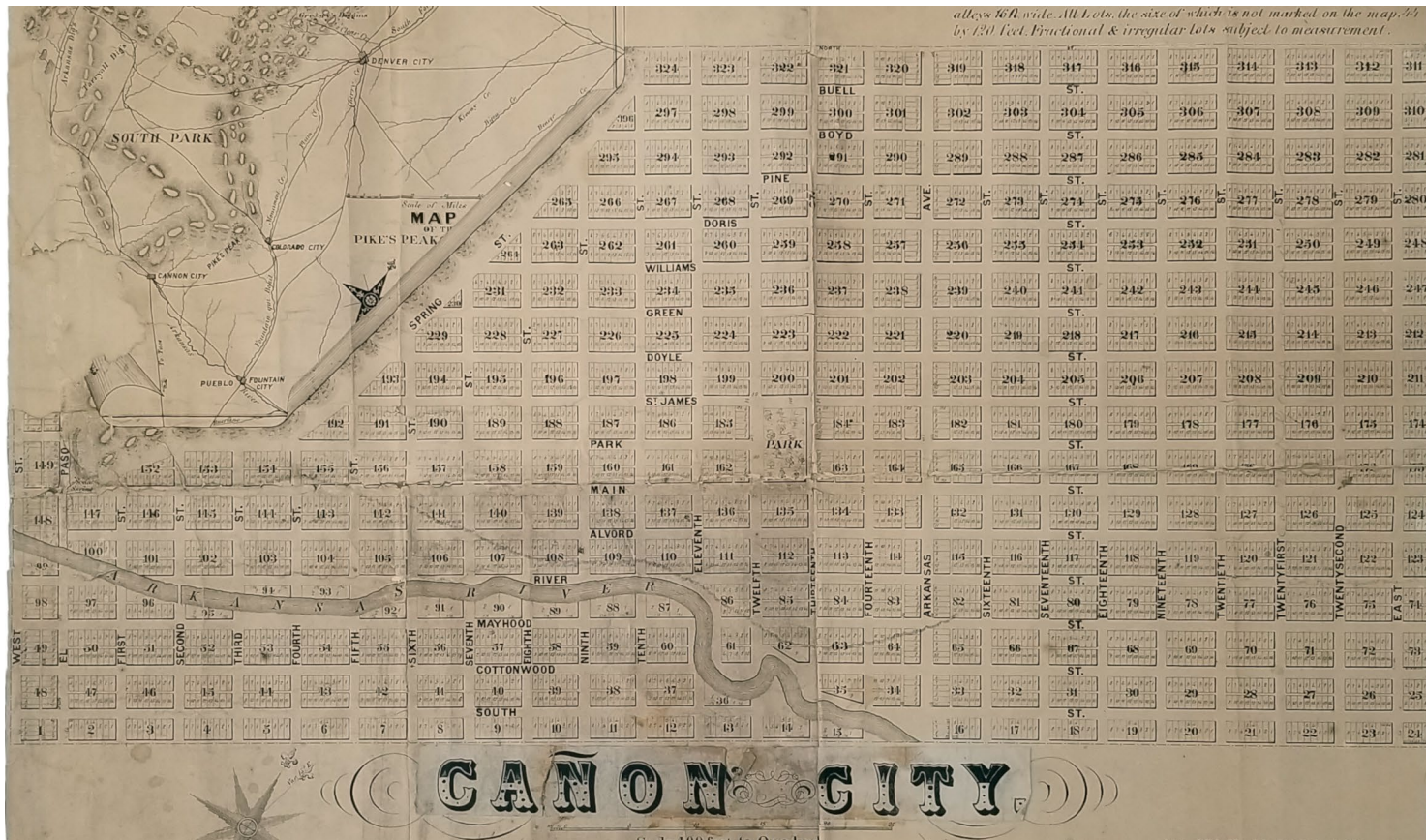
- Discovery of **GOLD** along South Platte above Cherry Creek drew 100,000 people (only about half made it)
- Promoted by eastern newspapers and fueled by poor east coast economic times
- **Pikes Peak** was visible on the western horizon and guided weary travelers

**Miners needed to be fed & Mining Camps supported**



# Cañon City Laid Out In October 1859

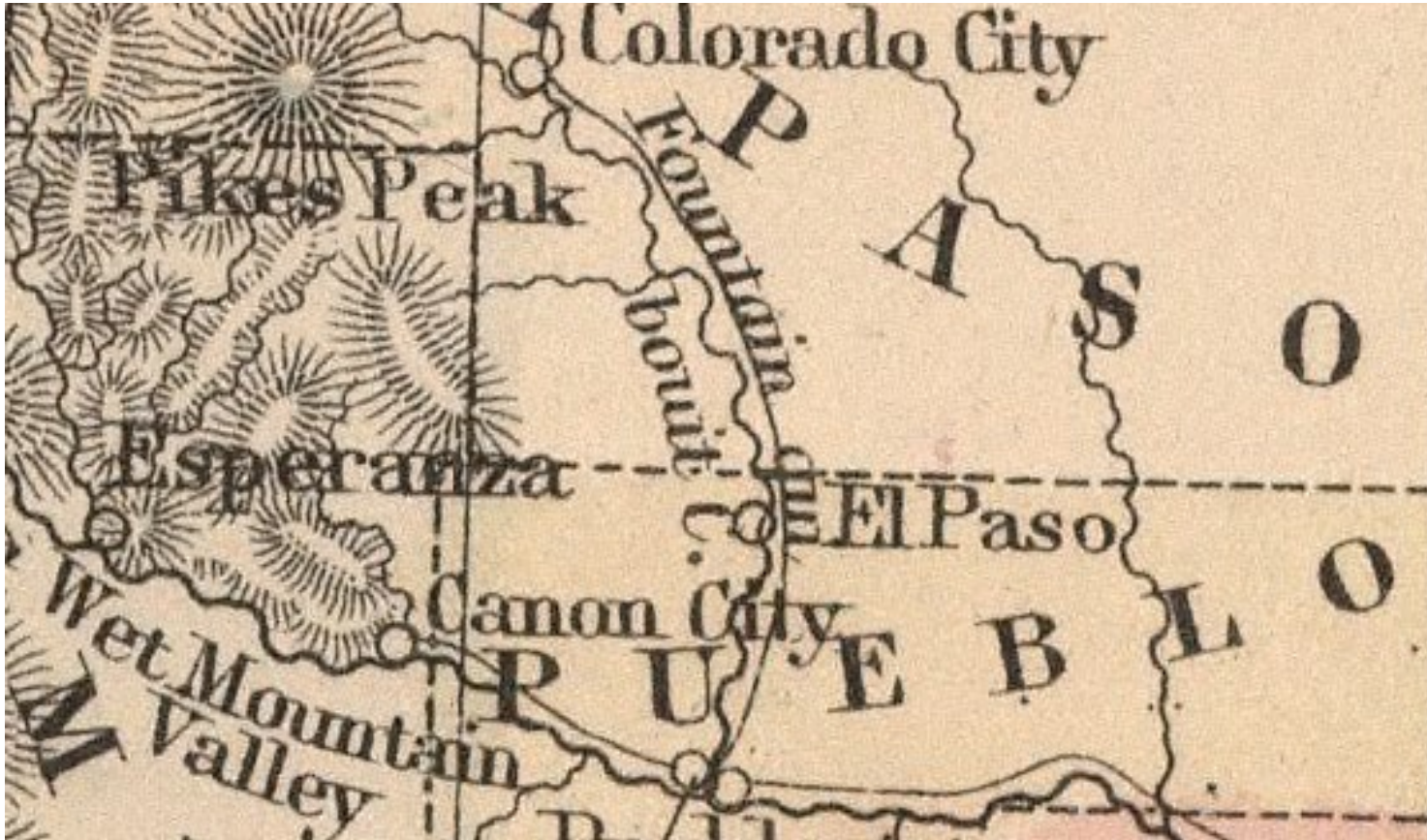
- Hearing that there were promising diggings in South Park, the group of men that laid out Pueblo in 1858 came up the Arkansas River in mid-October 1859 and established Cañon City
- They ascended the river to the mineral springs at the mouth of what became known as the Royal Gorge where Pike had camped in 1806 and was named “Bell’s Spring” when visited in 1820 by Capt. John Bell of the Long Expedition
- Wm. Kroenig, Josiah and Stephen Smith, Chas. Peck, and Robert Bercaw hoped it would be the Gateway to Gold Fields in South Park and Upper Arkansas River
- They built a cabin and an 80-mile road to the Tarryall Diggings over Currant Creek Pass



# Cañon City Claim Was Jumped in 1860

- Gold found in California Gulch on the Arkansas River headwaters in 1860 brought 10,000 men to what became Oro City
- Cañon City was an attractive supply point and a large party of men from Denver took over
- In the spring of 1860 Cañon City was enlarged to 1,280 acres and replatted by Buel & Boyd east of the hogback
- By March, a *Claim Club* was organized to record property ownership





Cañon City Was The End of the Road and getting to the Mining Camps wasn't easy

Fremont County straddles the Rocky Mountains & Great Plains

- Cañon City was the last place a wagon load of goods could reach at first
- Flat land + Irrigation from the Arkansas River = CROPS
- Most roads of the time followed rivers or creeks
- The Royal Gorge on the Arkansas River was impassable, as Pike learned to his chagrin
- Until roads were built, goods were carried by pack trains to remote Mining Camps



Pack Train in Garden Park

Packtrains Were Used to Get Goods to Mining Camps Before Wagon Roads Were Developed; Discouraged Miners **Joseph Lamb** and later **Marshall Felch** Grew Crops and Led Packtrains to Oro City and South Park

# Joseph Lamb Led Packtrains to Oro City (Leadville)

- By Summer, 1860 about 5,000 prospectors were in California Gulch and Oro City on the Arkansas River Headwaters; 10,000 by Fall
- Joseph Lamb panned for gold there for awhile, but moved on and began leading packtrains up the Arkansas River from Cañon City to supply the miners

*Betsy Denney  
Fremont County Heritage Commission &  
Western Fremont Historical Society*



Later, Civil War Veteran  
Marshall Felch grew crops in  
Garden Park and freighted  
supplies to Montezuma in  
Summit County



Civil War  
Period  
(1861-1865)  
Slow  
Growth

**Activity slowed and  
many left during the  
Civil War**

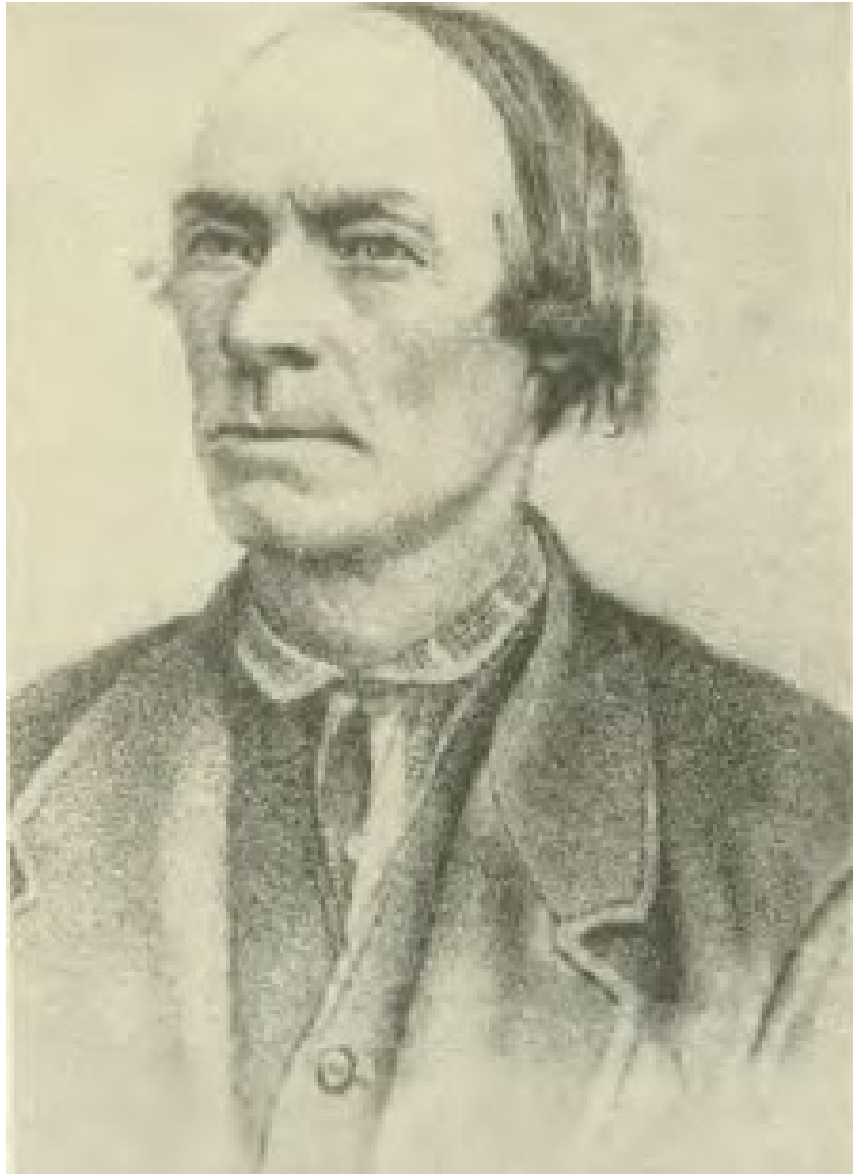
- William Lee planted the first orchard in Colorado along Spring Creek in what is now Brookside in 1862. The small orchard had to be replanted in 1863 after flooding, then damaged by frost

# 1864

**ARRIVAL Of THE  
*RESURRECTIONISTS***

- A group from Iowa that included Thomas Macon, a lawyer, and John Henry Harrison
- Harrison began farming and started the Cañon City Hydraulic & Irrigating Ditch Company
- A Flour Mill was also established on Four Mile Creek and later moved to Main St. & the Hydraulic Ditch

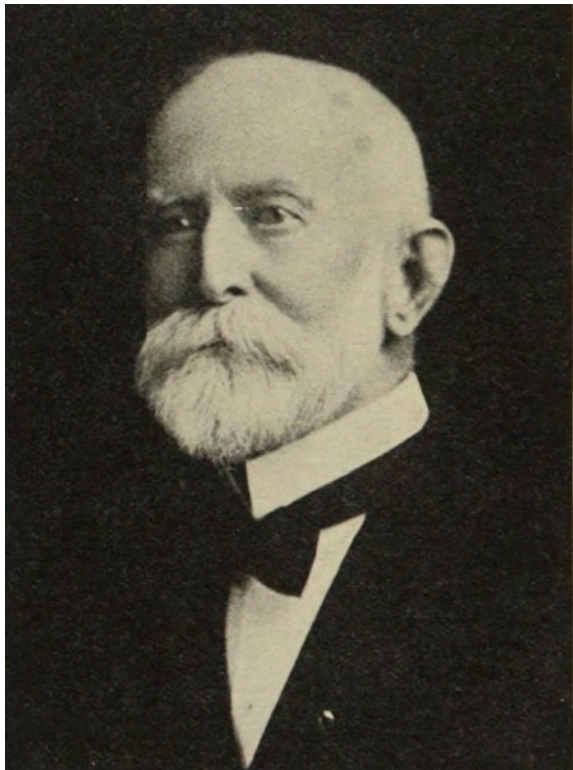
# Banner Fruit County!\*



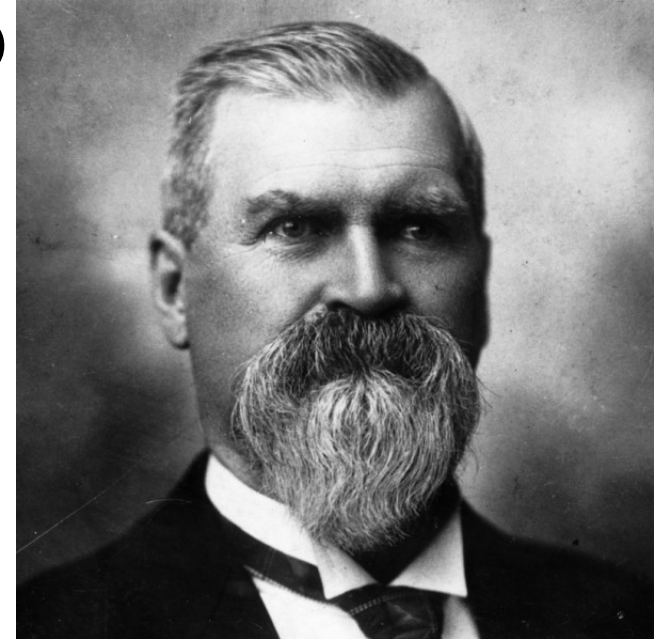
- Jesse Frazer planted a larger orchard in Florence in 1867 and started Colorado's first nursery
- He had arrived in Colorado in 1859 to seek gold on the Platte River above Denver, then came to Fremont County in 1860
- By 1888 he had the largest apple orchard in the state producing 15,000 bushels
- In 1891 Fremont County shipped 721,000 pounds of fruit including apples, pears, peaches, grapes
- \***Fruit Interests of the State**, Bulletin #17, Agricultural Experiment Station, 1891

# Others Planted Orchards, too

- **Captain B. F. Rockafellow** purchased trees from Frazer
- He began the second commercial orchard in Colorado in 1869 with 80 acres of apples



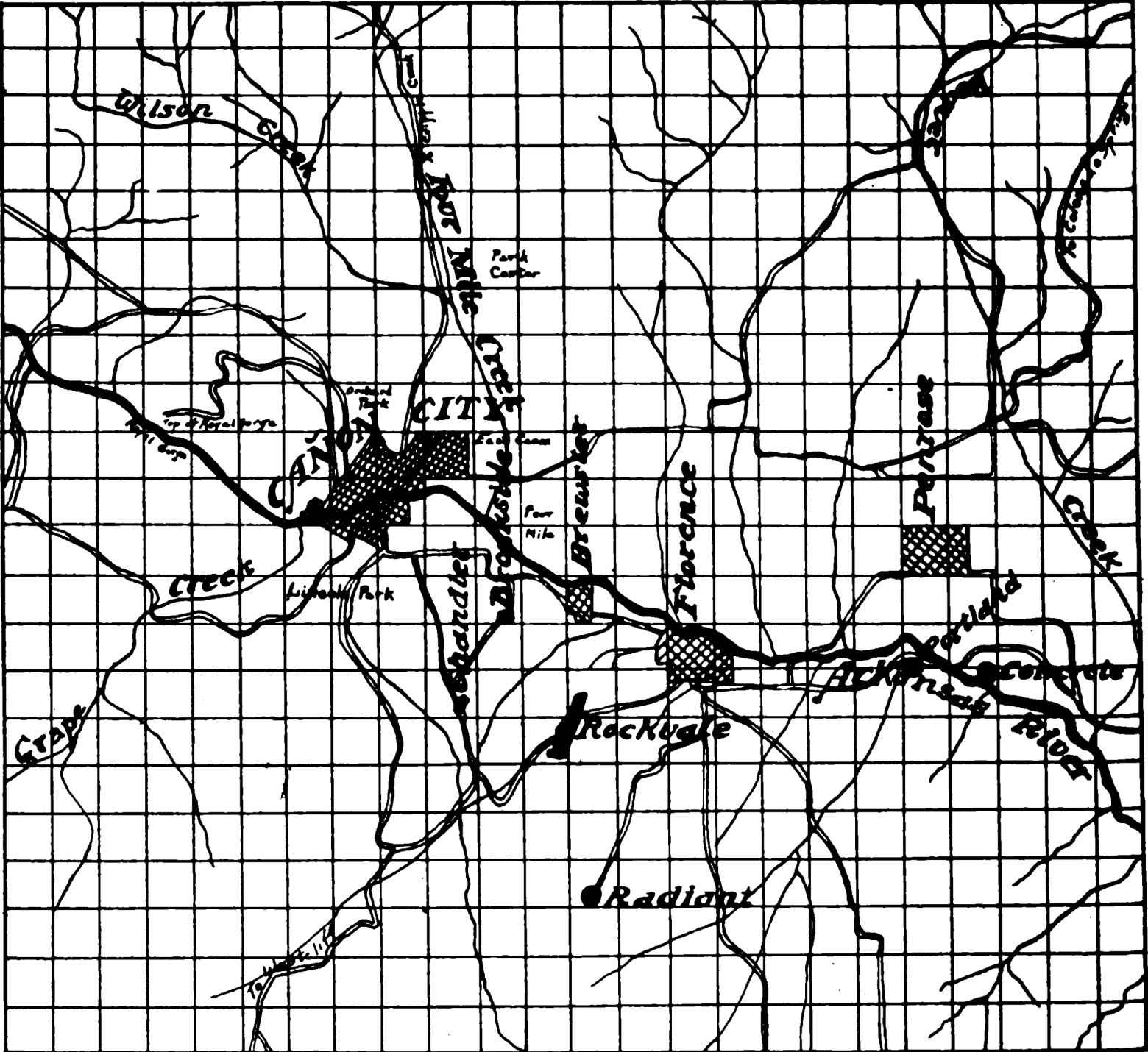
- **Willard B. Felton** had one of the best-known orchards in Colorado
- He acquired 10-acres in 1880 from Benjamin Griffin on Griffin Avenue between 5th & 4th Streets
- He was the Warden at the Prison, Postmaster and Editor of the of the *Daily Record*
- He was President of the *Colorado Horticultural Society* and the *Fremont County Horticultural Society*
- Felton had arrived in Colorado in 1862 and was involved in mining on Cache Creek near Leadville



# Early Leader in Fruit Production

## 1890 – Fremont County Rank

Crop	Rank	Bushels	Trees
Apples	#1	25,000	17,000
Cherries	#1	94	400
Plums	#1	887	3,000
Apricots	#2	40	800
Pears	#2	626	1,400
Peaches	#3	656	800





# APPLE HARVEST



FIG. 1. AN OLD APPLE ORCHARD IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.



THIS FRUIT,  
36,000 lbs  
GIVEN AWAY  
AT CANYON CITY COLLEGE  
ON APPLE DAY  
SEPT. 20, 1894.



Orchards were supported by Ice Houses and other businesses (more later)

- Ice Was Cut from Grape Creek, Sell's Lake and Hillside in winter
- Stored in Ice Houses in Cañon City, Florence and Hillside for later use
- Railroad cars were iced to keep fruit cool on the way to market

# 1910 Saw New Leaders

Crop	Rank	Bushels	Trees/Plants
Cherries	1	22,000	22,000
Grapes	1	303,000 Lbs.	133,000 Vines
Strawberries	2	327,000 Quarts	110 Acres
Apples	3	403,000	130,000
Peaches	5	2,000	3,000
ORCHARDS	3	429,000	160,000 Acres



Smith Orchard on Field Avenue

We will discuss this period in greater detail in a future presentation

# Orchards & Cider

• Paul Telck





*Heritage Apples*

Telck's Hillside Orchard

# Discussion Topics

- **Apples**

- What makes this a good place to grow apples?
- What varieties do you grow?
- AG production cycle (what happens, when, year-round), who involved?
- Value-added processing activity that diversifies market, lengthens shelf life?
- Trials/hardships (freezes, bugs, market changes, etc)?
- Other?

- **Cider**

- What is involved in production?
- What varieties do you use?
- What are the different kinds?
- What are the challenges?



# Vineyards & Wineries

**Colorado is well suited to growing grapes**

**Due east of Napa & Sonoma Valleys**



**Fremont County had many productive Vineyards**

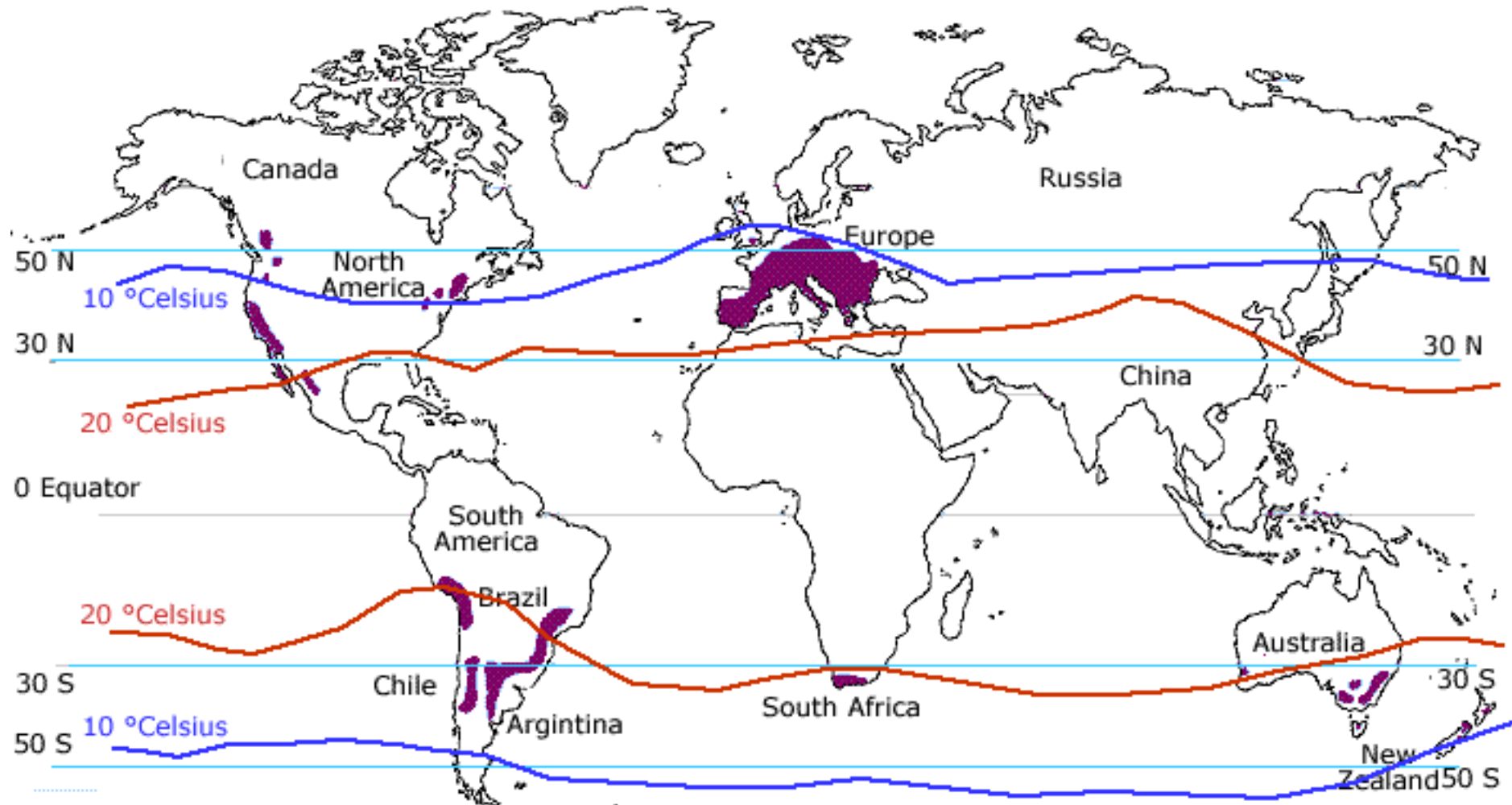
- Native Grape Vines were here
- European Grape Vines and a Winemaking tradition were brought in by Coal Miners
- By 1910 over 133,00 vines produced 303,000 pounds
- Colorado Prohibition abruptly ended this in 1916



# Fremont County Latitude, Elevation & Climate

- Our Latitude of 38.44 is like Napa & Sonoma Valleys

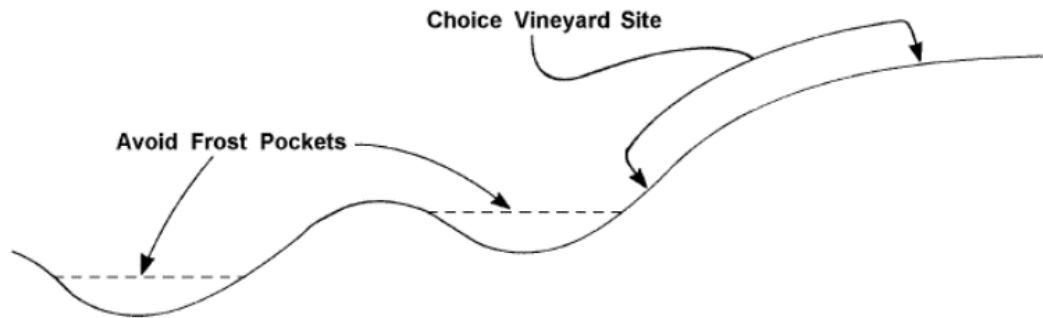
■ Wine Producing Regions of the World



# Vineyards, Winemakers & Wine

## Jeff Stultz, Winemaker at the Abbey

### VINEYARD SITE SELECTION



1. Avoid valleys and poorly drained sites.
2. Sloped, well drained sites are preferred.



# Discussion Topics

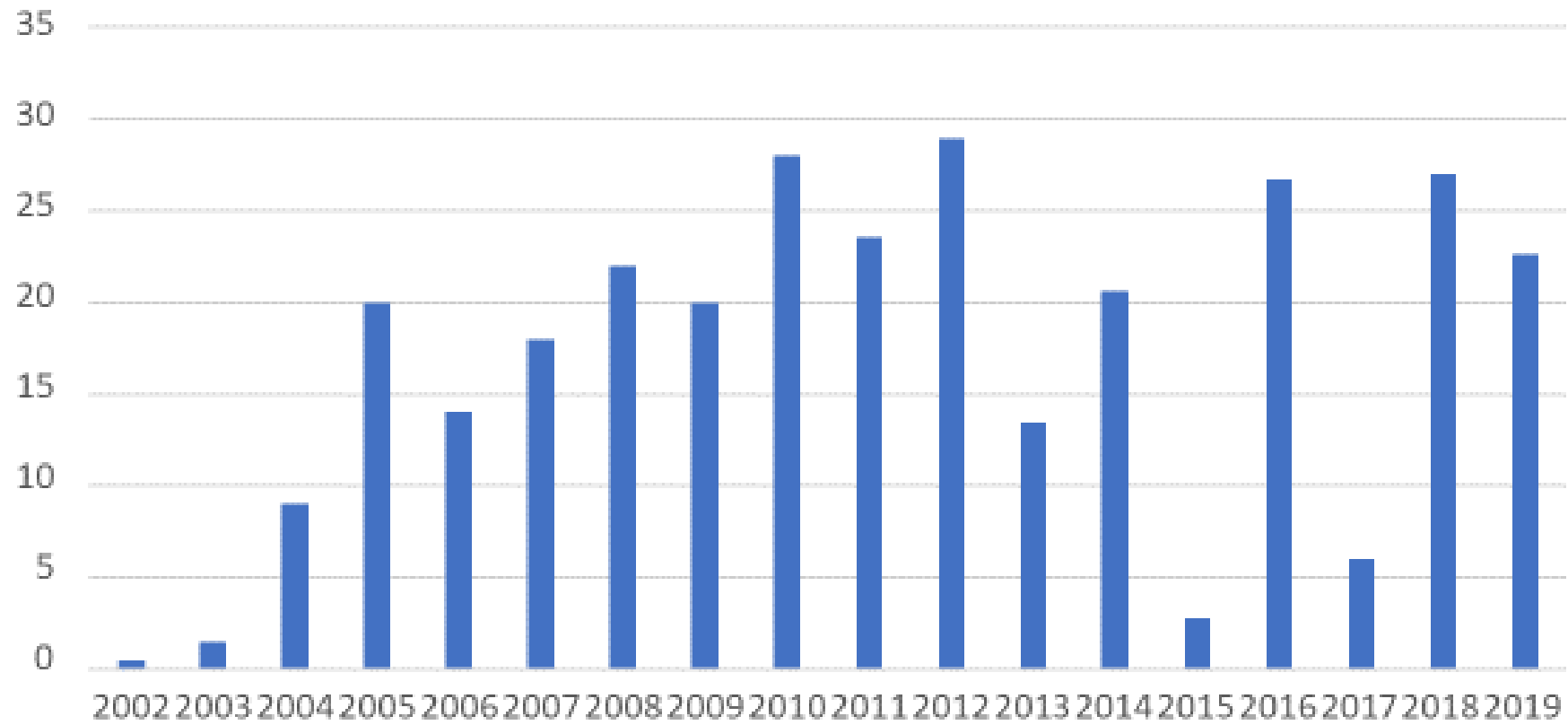
## • **Grapes**

- What makes this a good place to grow Grapes?
- What varieties grow best here?
- AG production cycle (what happens, when, year-round), who involved?
- Value-added processing activity that diversifies market, lengthens shelf life?
- Trials/hardships (freezes, bugs, market changes, etc)?
- Other?

## • **Wine**

- What is involved in production?
- What varieties do you use?
- What are different kinds of wine are best with our Grapes?
- What are the steps in production?
- What are the challenges?
- Other?

## Tons Crushed



# Possible Future Topics

- Fremont County Peak Production: Shipping, Canning, Bottling, Pickles
- The Decline & Fall of Fremont County's Fruit & Produce Industry
- Rise of Local Nurseries & Farm Stands
- Day of the Cowboy: Chuckwagons, Meat Production & Area Ranching
- A Taste of Fremont County: Local Food Production – *Visits to local Farm Stands!*

**Please let us know  
what you would like!**



# About This Presentation

- *Not all Sources Agree*, but we've tried to be accurate
- ***Additional information, photos, histories welcome!***
- This wouldn't have been possible without many people who gave information, photos & review.  
**Deep Thanks to All!**
- Friends of the Museum members; Staff of the Museum & History Center; Fremont County Historic Society Members

**Thank you** to Presenters Paul Telck, Jeff Stultz, Britt Colon; Contributors & Reviewers Lee Ann Oliver, Dale Boody, Gloria Stultz, Emily Eggleston, Rick Romano, Jean Toto, Deb Mitchell, Ann Zielinski, Terri Meeks, Carol McNew, Margaret Stiles Storm  
Sound Dan Meeks

Photos Many courtesy of the *Royal Gorge Regional Museum & History Center*