

STUDENTS DESIGN TRAIL SIGNS

by Cindy Smith

Instructor Jerry Davis' 2019 Colorado History class brings local history to the forefront of his students' consciousness. During the semester, the class focuses on the time of early regional inhabitants circa 10,000 years ago, Native Americans, trappers, settlers, miners, and on into today's world. Their final project is to design a poster about a specific time period, local historical individual, place or event. These posters now grace the People & Places Trail guiding visitors through the trail and our rich heritage.

The trail consists of stations at these time periods:

- Pre 1775
- 1775-1825
- 1825-1875
- 1875-1925
- 1925-1975
- 1975 to present

Students developed diverse, high quality signs focusing on:

- The Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776
- The First Spanish Settlement on the Arkansas River (1787)
- The Land, The Firs, The Rivers (1803 – 1825)
- Early Explorers (1776-1806)
- The Men Who Shaped Colorado (1779-1820)
- Nothing to Something (1825-1875)
- The Making of the Good Ole Days (1842-1859)
- Fremont County and Its Riches (1860s)
- Early Mining and Railroads in Fremont County (1860-1870s)
- Cañon City: A New Century (early 1900s)
- Brookside Coal Mines (1913)
- Colorado's Ape Man (early 1900s)
- When the KKK ruled Colorado (1920s)
- The Royal Gorge Bridge (1929)
- From Corrections to College (1868-today)
- ADX, the Maximum Security US Penitentiary (1994)
- Tourism in the Royal Gorge Region (present day)

This past July these young historians presented their projects to a large group of community patrons. Their excellent efforts will remain along the trail until the summer of 2020. The student who created each poster is listed at the bottom in each photograph.

The Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776

- Two Franciscan Friars traveled from Santa Fe, New Mexico through Colorado to California, searching for new routes and discovering new territories
- Dominguez & Escalante developed ties with the Ute Tribes of Colorado. Two Ute Natives acted as guides for the expedition
- The route they discovered was used as a trade route (the Old Spanish Trail) between the Spanish outposts and California



First Spanish Settlement on the Arkansas River

In 1787 Juan Bautista de Anza established the settlement of San Carlos as a mission and trade/supply outpost for future exploration of what would become Colorado.

Founded near modern Pueblo, CO, the settlement failed quickly. The Spanish never again attempted to establish a settlement anywhere along the Arkansas River

By Alex Porter



The Land, the Furs, and the Rivers

- Napoleon wanted a New France in North America
- In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson **PURCHASED** it, including part of Colorado



- Mountain Men trapped beaver in the spring and fall.
- Starting in 1825 they held a Rendezvous every July to trade their furs and have fun.



1806: General James Wilkinson sent Zebulon Pike to find the headwaters of the Arkansas River.

By Jenna Brown

Early Explorers

Two of the most prominent European Expeditions in the Colorado Territory are the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition in 1776, and the Pike Expedition in 1806

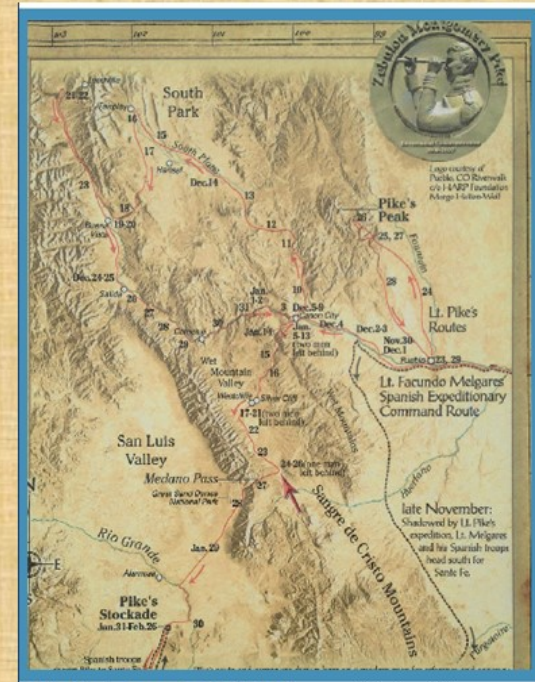


By 1200 ppi black & white scan of Bancroft's History of Utah, 1540-1886 (1889), page 10.

1776 the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition was spearheaded by two Roman Catholic priests seeking to find a safe route from Santa Fe, NM to Monterey, CA. The trek produced accurate maps and descriptions of southwestern Colorado, as well as helped relations with the Ute.

Tanner Westback

In 1806, Zebulon Pike lead an expedition to map the Louisiana purchase, and to find the headwaters of the Arkansas River. This expedition provided crucial information about the land, helped relations with natives, and produced the map that would guide many during the Colorado Gold Rush.



By Viva-Verdi - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,

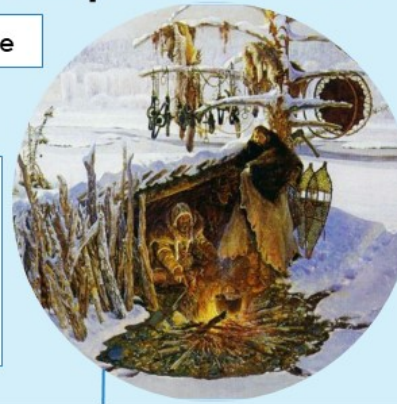
Pike Expedition

The Men Who Shaped Colorado



1803: The Louisiana Purchase

1806: Zebulon Pike became the first official American explorer of Colorado.



1820: Major Stephen H. Long leads an expedition into Colorado

1821: Mexico achieved independence from Spain

1779: Juan Bautista de Anza leads an army against Comanche Chief Cuerno Verde Aka Greenhorn.

1776: The Declaration of Independence



1807: James Purcell began trapping and trading. 1821: He brought more people to the fur trade.



Nothing to Something 1825-1875



The Ute Indians flourished in the early 1800's covering almost three fourths of Colorado. Incoming settlers pushed them west over the mountains.

Mike Erdman



John C. Fremont one of the most colorful and controversial explorers of the 1800's made five different expeditions throughout Colorado, including at least one through today's "Fremont" County.

1847 Trapper & Trader George Lewis from Hardscrabble dug and sold coal.
1860 Jesse Frazer "first discovered" coal in Fremont County.
This brought people to work and flourish making the region what it is today.



ROUTES TO THE PIKES PEAK GOLD REGIONS

The Making of the Good Ole Days



• 1842 – 1854: John C. Fremont took five trips exploring Colorado

• 1848: Treaty Of Guadalupe Hidalgo: the land south and west of the Arkansas

River and much of today's Southwest becomes part of the United States

• 1859: Pikes Peak or Bust Gold Rush: The Arkansas River is one of the major

routes for the tens of thousands of people that RUSHED to Colorado

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by Chris Cobos

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P. 5
Map Division
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FREMONT COUNTY AND ITS RICHES



Fremont County was founded in 1861. It is named for John C. Fremont who led five expeditions into Colorado. He and his wife wrote inspiring accounts making more people want to move west

By Nicole Nish



Coal Creek and Rockvale were originally coal camps in Fremont County.

Coal mines brought lots of people to this region



In 1860 Gabriel Bowen claimed an oil spring 8 miles northeast of Cañon City. Dr J.L. Dunn tried to “jump” the claim to make kerosene. He was later caught rustling cattle to pay for it.

In 1881 Alexander Cassiday discovered the Florence Oil Field
It still produces oil today

Early Mining and Railroads in Fremont County

- 1858-1861 Pikes Peak or Bust Gold Rush draws Miners to Colorado
 - Settlers, Farmers, & Ranchers along the Arkansas River became “Suppliers” to the mountain mines
 - Many Miners wintered in Cañon City
- 1860s Prospectors discovered coal here in Fremont County



- 1872 Denver & Rio Grande (D&RG) Railroad built to Coal Creek
- 1874 D&RG Railroad extended to East Cañon City

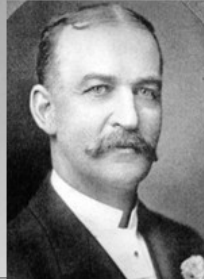
Chris Garcia

Canon City: A New Century



**Dall
DeWeese**
In 1895 Deweese
began an irrigation
ditch system to
bring water to the
nurseries, farms
and homes of
Cañon City.

By Trudi Falkenberry



**James
Peabody**
1901 to 1905
14th & 15th
Governor of
Colorado.
March 17, 1905,
one of three
governors in a
single day



**Magdelene
Raynolds**
1907
Elected President
of Fremont
National Bank.
One of the first
women bank
presidents in the
United States.



Movies
Starting in 1910
Silent movies
were filmed in
Cañon City
starring many
famous actors
including Tom
Mix.

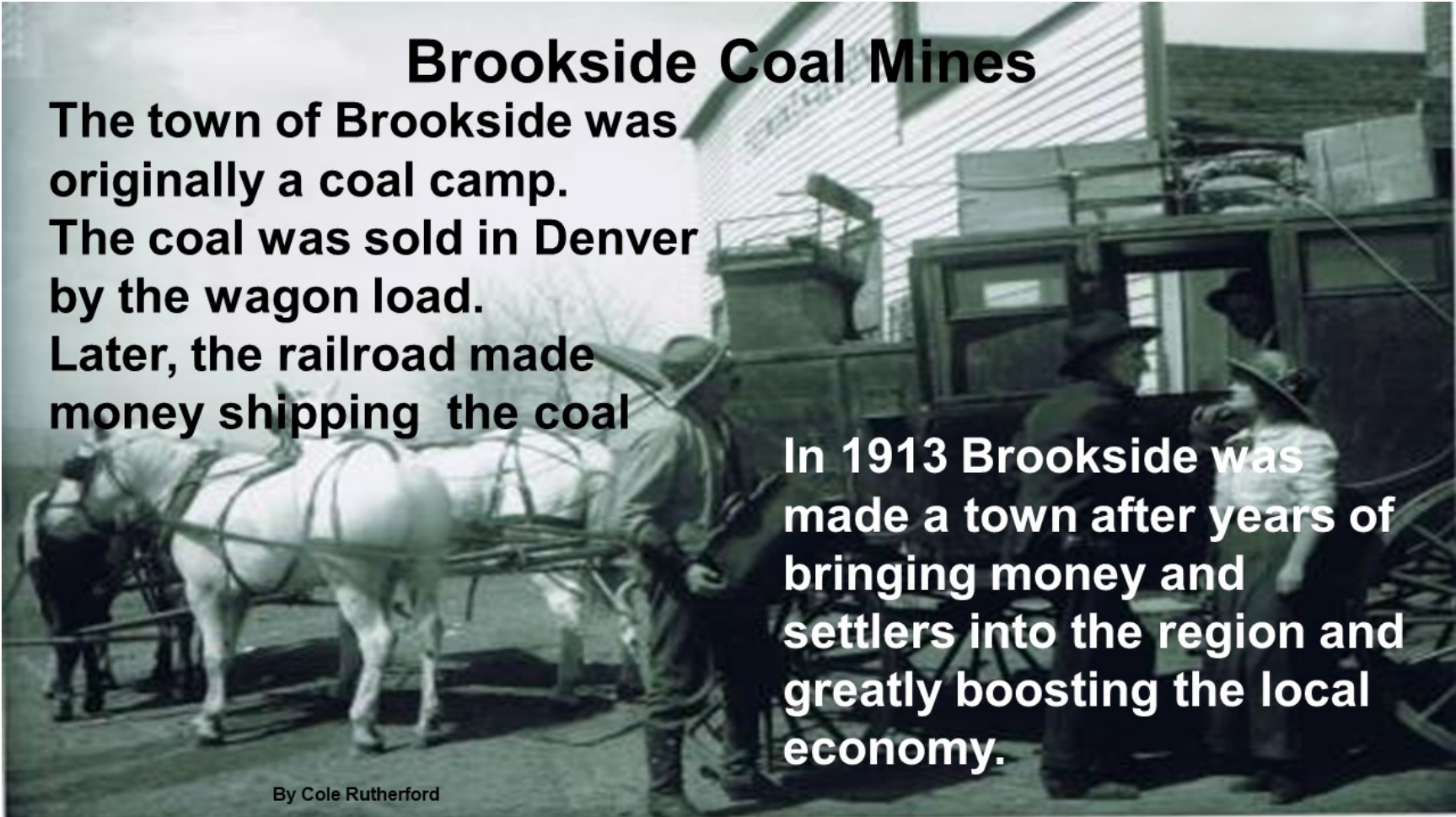
Photo By Agence de presse Maurice - Bibliothèque nationale de France, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:18576111>

Brookside Coal Mines

The town of Brookside was originally a coal camp. The coal was sold in Denver by the wagon load. Later, the railroad made money shipping the coal

In 1913 Brookside was made a town after years of bringing money and settlers into the region and greatly boosting the local economy.

By Cole Rutherford



COLORADO'S APE MAN

- **Harry Beeler, the son of Joseph Beeler, lived at the family ranch northeast of Fairplay, Colorado.**
- **A neighboring rancher accused Harry of cattle rustling. In 1913, he was arrested, went to trial and was sentenced to 3 years in Prison.**
- **After a year in Territorial he was transferred to the Colorado State Insane Asylum in Pueblo.**
- **After less that a year there he was released to his parents.**
- **Harry had gone insane.**



- **Harry spent the next 12 years chained to a cabin floor.**
- **When the Sheriff and Deputies investigated it took three of them to subdue him.**
- **They transferred him back to the Insane Asylum.**
- **Harry died in the Colorado State Hospital in 1943.**

When the KKK ruled Colorado

The Colorado KKK were part of a major outbreak of the Klan in the 1920s. They were mainly Anti-immigrant and Anti-Catholic

They came to an end due to non-klan politicians wrestling back political control, plus the deaths of the state Klan leader and his heir apparent

From roughly 1924 to 1928 the Ku Klux Klan practically controlled Colorado.

They gained influence over the political parties and most major politicians in the state.

The head of the Colorado chapter's operations lived in Cañon City

By Aaron Brown

Photo by
RolfE



The Royal Gorge Bridge



Local newspaper man Guy Hardy petitioned for Cañon City to have the Royal Gorge

June 11, 1906 Congress granted the people of Cañon City 5,120 acres of the spectacular canyon.

The act was signed by President Teddy Roosevelt



Lon Piper, from San Antonio, Texas, knew how to build the bridge Cañon City always wanted.

After the city inspected his ideas on bridging the gorge, they hired him.

Work started June 5, 1929.



Six months later they finished construction

The Grand Opening was on December 8, 1929.

90 years later, it is still open today!

Chris Kleinschmidt

From Corrections to College



- Colorado Territorial Penitentiary was erected on January 7, 1868.
- The penitentiary in Cañon City was for the protection of society against offenders of the law.
- But, what about rehabilitation?

by Jacob Lewis

- Agricultural and other physical labor by inmates has been central to prison activities and goals since the inception of Territorial facility.
- After 1911, penologist H.R. Cooley changed labor in prisons locally and nationally.
- Cooley stated that farm labor was an appropriate means of rehabilitation for inmates.



- August, 2001 Pueblo Community College, Fremont Campus was established.
- Built on grounds of the century old prison gardens.
- The Fremont Campus made a profound statement with it's erection.
- Education is the final stamp to say that people will not be defined by criminal history & prisons.

ADX



- **United States Penitentiary, Administrative Maximum Facility (USP Florence ADMAX)**
 - **Built in 1994 to House Inmates with Extremely High-Profile Cases and Those with Notably Violent Behavior**
 - **Studies show that the Violent Behavior of Maximum Security Inmates can be Predicted**
 - **ADX Connects the Colorado Prison System to the Rest of the United States by Housing our Nation's Most Notable Inmates**
 - **ADX has Changed by Becoming the Number One Housing Facility for Terrorists**

Tourism in the Royal Gorge Region

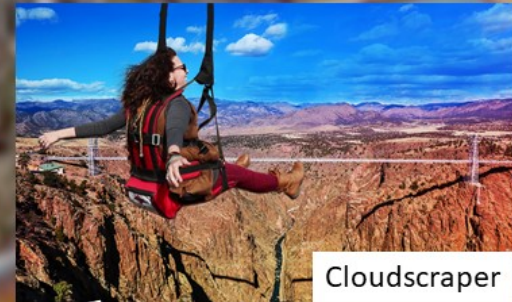


Rafting started in the 1960s The Royal Gorge is known for its world class rapids



Canon City continues to grow and comes up with new tourist attractions all the time.

At over a thousand feet above the river, the Royal Gorge Bridge is the thing to experience in this region. Plus, there are now over 50 different things to check out in this area including zip lining across the gorge.



Cloudscraeper



Zip Lining



Helicopter Rides

By Angelica Racine



Jeep Tours



Sky Diving



Colorado History students Chris Kleinschmidt and Jacob Lewis. Each designed a poster and, as Work Studies students, they also placed all the posters along the People & Places Trail.