

U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey

Historic Trail Map of the Denver 1° x 2° Quadrangle, Central Colorado

By Glenn R. Scott 1999

INTRODUCTION

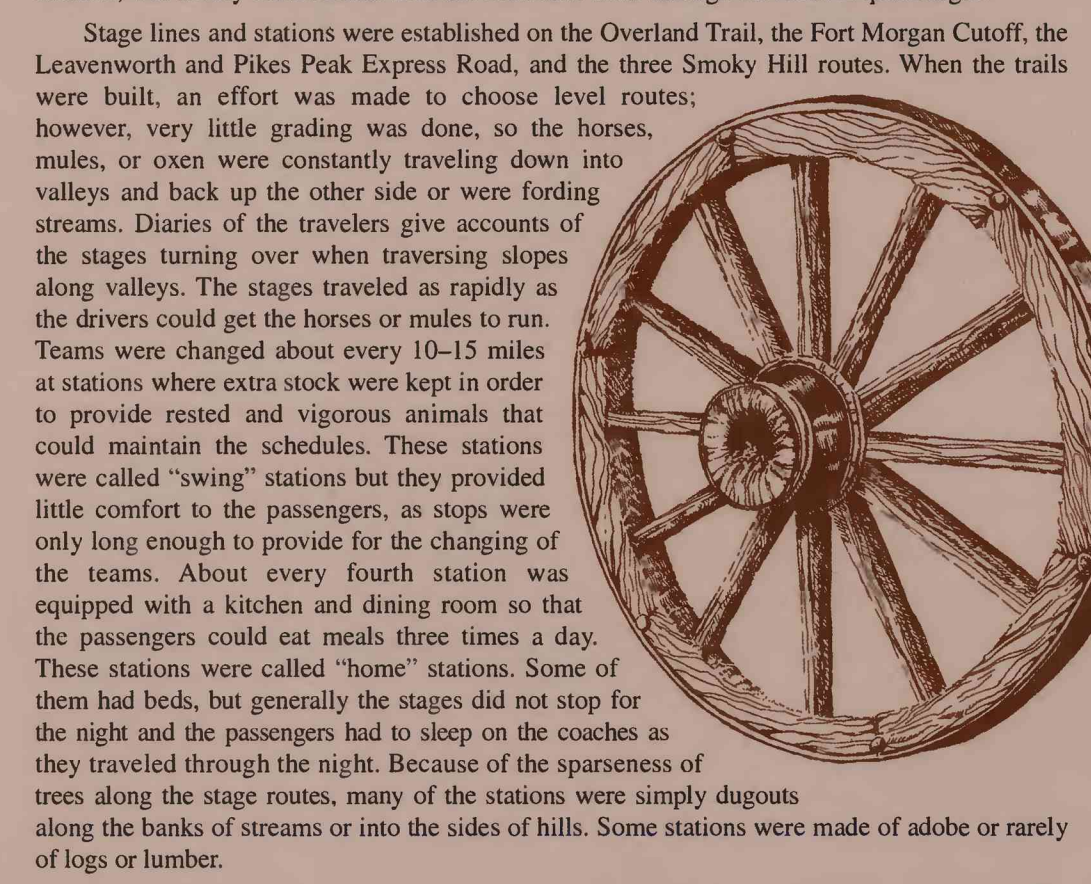
Colorado contains the equivalent of 14 areas the size of the Denver quadrangle, and each area contains about 2,200 square miles. The Denver quadrangle contains one of 14 counties, named here with their dates of founding.

Table with 2 columns: Year, County Name. Includes Adams 1902, Arapahoe 1861, Boulder 1859, Clear Creek 1859, Denver 1902, Douglas 1859, Elbert 1874, El Paso 1859, Gilpin 1861, Grant 1874, Jefferson 1861, Park 1861, Teller 1859.

The eastern part of the Denver quadrangle was originally in Arapahoe County, which was the western end of Kansas Territory. The western part of the Denver quadrangle west of the Continental Divide was in Utah Territory...

HISTORIC TRAILS AND WAGON ROADS

Many of the historic trails in the Denver quadrangle were used by Indians long before the white man reached the area. The trails recorded on this map by the white man in the Denver quadrangle were in the 1830s to 1850s for trade with the Indians...



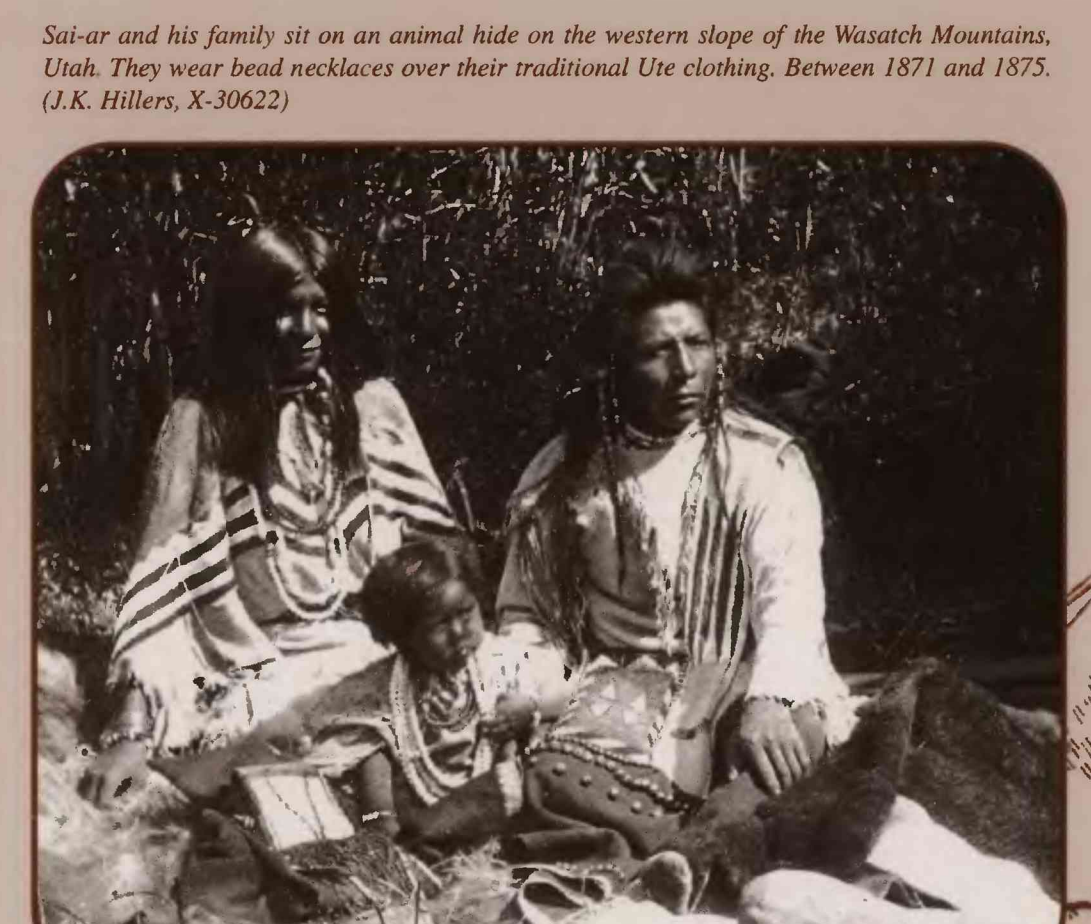
Stage lines and stations were established on the Overland Trail, the Fort Morgan Cutoff, the Leavenworth and Pikes Peak Express Road, and the three Smoky Hill routes. When the trails were built, an effort was made to choose the roughest routes...

Part of the profit for the stage companies came from the transport of mail and freight. The stage contractors had to bid for the privilege of carrying the mail, and the competition along some stage lines was very keen...

Loaded stagecoaches headed for the gold fields in 1892 or 1893. This view of Dolores, in southwestern Colorado, is typical of the mountain towns in Colorado at that time.



Loaded stagecoaches headed for the gold fields in 1892 or 1893. This view of Dolores, in southwestern Colorado, is typical of the mountain towns in Colorado at that time.



Man on horseback 1899. He holds a rifle and wears beaded moccasins, beaded and fringed leggings and skin moccasins, and a pair of moccasins with metal discs and metal hoop earrings.

FAR WEST STAGELINE NOTICE TO PASSENGERS

- 1. Abstainment from liquor is required, but if you must drink, share the bottle. Do not otherwise make you appear selfish and unneighborly. 2. If ladies are present, gentlemen are urged to forego smoking cigars and pipes at the table...

HINTS FOR PLAIN TRAVELERS

- The best seat made a stagecoach is the one next to the driver, with back to the horses, which with some people, produces, attackiness, but in a long journey this will wear off, and you will get less than half the bumps and jags on any other seat. When you sit "in the eye," who traveled thousands of miles on coaches, offers through sympathy to exchange his back or middle seat with you, don't do it.



Concord stagecoach "No. 7 US Mail" - the "Cringle Creek stage" - shown in the high country of Teller County, Colorado, between 1890 and 1910.

Example of the hazards to be met along a mountain stage road was given by Paul D. Harrison, Sr. (written communication, 1995), who described the route from Golden Gate to Blackhawk.

The post roads and toll roads listed in this pamphlet and shown on the historic trail maps were built quickly and had very rough surfaces compared to the paved and unpaved roads prepared today.

UNSOLVED PROBLEMS

Locations of many stage stations, road ranches the popular name in the 1860's, and ghost towns are also not up along some of the trails. Travelers were forced to travel in groups, and the cavalry controlled the number of wagons in each traveling group and provided escorts to assure their safety from Indian attacks.



Man on horseback 1899. He holds a rifle and wears beaded moccasins, beaded and fringed leggings and skin moccasins, and a pair of moccasins with metal discs and metal hoop earrings.



Portrait of a Ute man, his name is Negras. He wears a hair pipe moccasin and a checker moccasin, and an eagle feather in his hair.

Geologic Investigations Series L-2639 (Sheet 1 of 2) Pamphlet accompanies map

Prepared in cooperation with the Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department

PLATE HOUSE! Warnings and notices for travelers, including rules about liquor, food, and behavior on stagecoaches.

Never ride in cold weather with tight boots or shoes, nor clean-fitting gloves. Bathe your feet before starting in cold water and wear loose overboots and gloves two or three sizes too large.



Concord stagecoach "No. 7 US Mail" - the "Cringle Creek stage" - shown in the high country of Teller County, Colorado, between 1890 and 1910.

Westward movement and settlement of whites was encouraged by the Homestead Act of 1862. Many persons departed with the Civil War moved onto the newly opened land even though the Indians were still a potential threat.

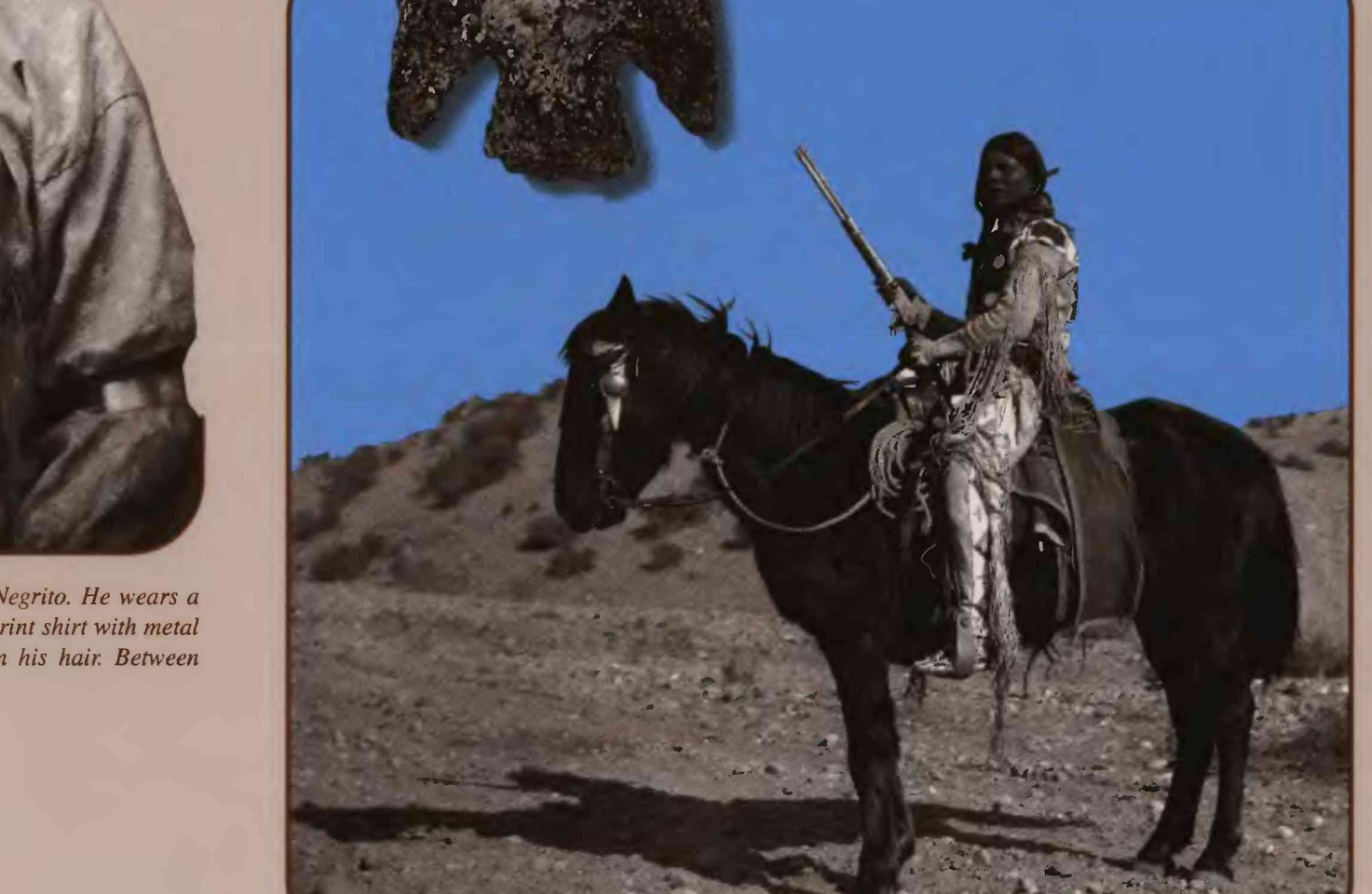
The post roads and toll roads listed in this pamphlet and shown on the historic trail maps were built quickly and had very rough surfaces compared to the paved and unpaved roads prepared today.

INDIAN TRIBES

Until about 200 years ago, Indians were the only people living on the Great Plains and in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. In central Colorado, the primary plains were occupied principally by the Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes, and the mountains were occupied by the Ute and Southern Ute tribes.



Man on horseback 1899. He holds a rifle and wears beaded moccasins, beaded and fringed leggings and skin moccasins, and a pair of moccasins with metal discs and metal hoop earrings.



Portrait of a Ute man, his name is Negras. He wears a hair pipe moccasin and a checker moccasin, and an eagle feather in his hair.



CATTLE TRAILS section containing text about cattle drives, illustrations of cowboys on horseback, and photographs of cattle drives in Wyoming.