

Gold Park Cemetery

near Red Cliff in the Homestake Valley

To request copies of obituaries or photos, ask questions concerning the history of Eagle County, Colorado, or contact the EVLD Local History Librarian, please email:

evldlochis@marmot.org. This email address is also appropriate should you have additional information to share about our photo collection or should you wish to donate materials relevant to Eagle County history.

I have visited the site of the cemetery at Gold Park. There are 10 to 12 graves some poorly marked by river rock. There are no markers with names. These people were said to have died from Bubonic Plague. The following is taken directly from *Early Days on the Eagle*, by MacDonald Knight and L.A. Hammock.

"This mining camp developed in the years from 1880 to 1883. It was located at some distance from the mines above on French Mountain and Fancy Creek. The building of the stamp mill here by the Gold Park Mining Company explains the location of the boom camp. By 1881 the camp had a population of four hundred. There was a post office, a general store, and two hotels, the Gold park and the Homestake. A daily stage traveled to Redcliff. And, of course, there were saloons - the sun-purpled heaps of bottle glass attest to that."

"The town's demise was as sudden as its birth. When the ores of French Mountain proved unprofitable, the population moved on. By the end of 1883, only Robert Williamson and his wife, caretakers of the company property, remained. (We have in our possession a volume of American History with an inscription in the Spencerian hand of Robert Bruce Williamson, dated February 11, 1887, when he was staying at the Gold Park Hotel. He related that he was sixty-four years of age and was born in the County of Dorene , Ireland, in 1821.)"

"After 1883, when there was activity in the Holy Cross District, people would pass a few days in Gold Park on their way up to the mines. The good fishing available in the streams and lakes nearby made it a favorite camping place for fishermen from far and near."