

## **DOLL FAMILY COLLECTION – 2.5 LINEAR FEET**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

The Doll family arrived in the Eagle Valley at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century from Stark County (Canton), Ohio. Sam Doll was 39 years old when he arrived in the valley in 1885, and he already had a history of his own. Sam was just a lad when his father went off to the Civil War as a veterinary surgeon. At the age of 14, Sam ran off to join the Union Army, leaving his mother and younger brother, Frank, to run the family's delivery stable and drayage business, as well as other family interests.

Upon his discharge from the Union Army at age 18, Sam set out to see the west, making a living as a professional gambler. His travels eventually led him to Leadville, with its gold and silver mining boom and its gambling halls. Sam had a touch of the wanderlust, and one day decided to take a trip down Eagle River Valley to Gypsum.

Once there, he became friendly with the renowned hunting guide, Jacob (Jake) Borah. Sam initially made his home at Dotsero. With Borah, he explored the Flat Tops country and became convinced that he had reached the place where he could settle. He invited his younger brother Franklin to come out and take a look.

Franklin (Frank) arrived with his wife, Lucy, and two children in September 1886. Franklin was about 30 years old at the time. The brothers soon began to acquire land in the Gypsum Valley and their first purchase was a parcel with a nearby stream; the only improvement to the land was a small log cabin. Even though most of the area had already been homesteaded, this parcel was available. Family legend has it that a large mound on the parcel had evidence of flint chips, where Ute Indians had shaped arrowheads and instruments—homesteaders were reluctant to acquire that parcel, given its use by the Utes. Eventually the brothers bought up the south end of the valley, from Dagget Lane to Gypsum Creek Canyon.

They began to build the property to its potential. They created irrigation ditches and used the fields to raise grain and vegetables. On the south end of the property, they commenced building a two story ranch house with the largest barn and grain mill in the valley with more amenities than many had in their homes. The grain mill would provide flour and other goods to the entire valley area. The barn would become one of the few places where a stage could trade and stable an entire team of horses.

Both brothers had a passion for horses. Sam developed a theory that the high-country ranch would be the perfect location for raising thoroughbreds. He speculated that high elevation would help the horses to develop a greater lung capacity, thereby running stronger when returned to lower elevations such as Chicago. The Dolls used their ranch to breed draft horses, which were in demand during the boom years of the Western Slope mining camps. Historical accounts indicate the Doll Ranch furnished hundreds of draft horses to freighters and ore haulers at various mining camps in the mountains.

The horses prompted the building of "The Barn". The three story structure was built into the side of the mountain, light wagons to drive between the rows of box stalls. Frank Doll recalls the lowest level was used primarily for storage of tack, feed, and supplies. The thoroughbred horses were stabled in box stalls on upper levels.

The Dolls used the nearby creek to generate water-powered electricity for lighting the barn. They also piped in water to each level so grooms could tend horses in the stalls and more easily clean the facility.

By 1912, the Doll ranch amounted to four sections totaling 12, 500 acres. At peak seasons, as many as 82 people would work on the ranch. Franklin Doll's business interests were varied. One business partner in particular, John Condon, became family and while he remained in Chicago for business dealings, Condon would also make his way to the Gypsum Valley to join the Dolls.

This collection provides more detail in the reach of the Doll brothers business, reputation, and profits. Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sam and Franklin still had many business interests in Garfield County, specifically New Castle and Glenwood Springs. They would eventually go into business together to have the "Doll, Schliff, & Co." store and stable in the town of Eagle. Men from all over the country would write the Dolls, mentioning a mutual acquaintance and asking for work out west.

If the Dolls were anything, they were savvy businessmen. News of the Doll Bros. horses, and particularly their racetrack, would reach far beyond Colorado. The racetrack would give Gypsum a reputation of its own. Stock shows and horse races around the country would feature Doll Bros. Ranch and stock as more than a name, but a high-ranking brand of animal. It is no secret that the businesses at times strained the family and pressured the dynamic between the brothers; eventually, Sam and Franklin would have an argument that would prevent the two from ever speaking again. Acquiring this much land and property came with its costs, including legal matters with neighbors, lawsuits, and trouble with ranch hand hires. Anyone who was doing business in the valley between 1886 and the 1930s would at some point do business with a Doll family member and many of them are included here, such as Jake Borah, Sam Lemon, W.M. Dickinson, and James Dilts.

Franklin Doll was one of the original Doll Brothers who settled in the Gypsum Creek Valley. His son was Hiram Frank, who also went by "Frank". Sam Doll also appears as "Samuel" and "Sammy".

This biography was completed in full using quotes and references from "A Brief History of the Doll Brothers/Albertson Ranch" by Kathy Heicher (2003), available at the Eagle Public Library.

## **SCOPE & CONTENT**

This collection covers many years of the Doll family spanning from 1896 to 1891. These dates are not meant to be inclusive. Items included in the collection are, but not limited to business agreements; land transfers; court cases; legal documents of ownership/transfer; certificates for mining and land investment shares; business correspondence; family photographs; invoices and receipts; ranching and agriculture-related booklets and pamphlets; family and personal correspondence. Most correspondence is scanned and available on Digital Archive or through a request. Some correspondence has been printed and bound for reference use in the Local History Department of the Eagle Library. Users should note that much of the correspondence is written in traditional cursive and can be very difficult to interpret.

## CONTENT LIST – 2017.012 DOLL FAMILY COLLECTION

### **BOX**   **FD**

- |   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 1  | Doll Family – Personal   |
|   | 2  | Estate of Franklin Doll, 1946.   |
|   | 3  | Estate of Lucy Doll, 1939.   |
|   | 4  | Correspondence – Undated.  |
|   | 5  | Correspondence – Incomplete (partial letters; missing pages)   |
|   | 6  | Receipts, Invoices. 1 of 3.  |
|   | 7  | Receipts, Invoices. 2 of 3.  |
|   | 8  | Receipts, Invoices. 3 of 3.  |
|   | 9  | Receipts – Bank deposits, withdrawals, ledgers. Includes slips from First National Bank in Eagle, Colorado; items dated 1899-1902.   |
|   | 10 | Township/Plat maps of Doll and neighboring properties.   |
|   | 11 | Stock brand deeds, certificates.   |
| 2 | 1  | ABSTRACT OF TITLES   |
|   |    | # 7266 – Oshier N <sup>2</sup> NW <sup>4</sup> SE <sup>4</sup> NW <sup>4</sup> and NE <sup>4</sup> SW <sup>4</sup> Sec. No 30, Township 5, S of 85 W, 6 <sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian. Begins 1888 to Oshier McDonald. Includes transfer and sales to/from Frank Doll, Sam Doll, John Condon (including lawsuit in 1910), last date recorded date of 1905 with Doll, Schliff, & Co. partnership formed.   |
|   |    | # 1257 – Phillips S <sup>2</sup> SE <sup>4</sup> and SW <sup>4</sup> of Section 17 in Township 5, S. of R. 85 W. 6 <sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian, Eagle County, Colorado. Begins in 1889 to William Phillips. Property is part of same lawsuit from #7266; also ends with Doll, Schliff partnership.  |
|   |    | No # -- E <sup>2</sup> NE <sup>4</sup> and E <sup>2</sup> SE <sup>4</sup> Section 30 and W <sup>2</sup> NW <sup>4</sup> and N <sup>2</sup> of SW <sup>4</sup> Section 29 ALSO THE S <sup>2</sup> SW <sup>4</sup> and W <sup>2</sup> of SE <sup>4</sup> Section 29 all in Township 5 S of R. 85 W 6 <sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian. Begins in 1885 to William Stratton. Includes several Doll family land transfers including Frank, Hiram Frank, Zachariah, Sam through Quit Claim Deed. Ends with Doll, Schliff, & Co. partnership ownership. |
|   |    | Grundel Miller Ditch Property and Water Rights Abstract of Title filed December 26, 1898. Transfers between A.F. Grundel, C.F. Peterson.   |
|   |    | #3982 – Lot 3, NE <sup>4</sup> SW <sup>4</sup> SE <sup>4</sup> , NW <sup>4</sup> and SW <sup>4</sup> NE <sup>4</sup> Section 30 Township 4 South in Range 86 West of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian in Eagle County, Colorado. Begins in 1889 with James Dilts. Dilts transfer to Frank and Samuel Doll, 1889; Samuel Doll John Condon to Frank and Lucy Doll (1911); Frank and Lucy Doll to Eagle Ranch Company, (1904); ends with Doll, Schliff, & Co. partnership ownership.  |
|   |    | #3982 Continuation Documents – Eagle Ranch Company, ending in 1931.  |
|   |    | #3983 – NW <sup>4</sup> SE <sup>4</sup> and Lots 6,7, 9, 10, and 13 in Section 30 Township 4 South Range 86 West of the 6 <sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian in Eagle County, Colorado. Begins with Lincoln Slusser, father of Lucy Slusser Doll, to Sam Doll in 1891. Transfers Include Sam Doll and John Condon ownership to Frank and Lucy Doll (1911). Eagle Ranch Company, Harry Robinson named. Includes parts of Deep Creek Deep Creek irrigation ditches and water rights.   |
|   | 2  | Deeds - Quit Claim, Release, and Mortgage  |
|   |    | Chattel & Real Estate Mortgage – Lester Mayer to William Mayer, 1918.  |
|   |    | Quit-Claim Deed – James Dilts to Frank Doll, 1911.   |
|   |    | Quit-Claim Deed – J.W. Stapleton to Frank Doll, 1888.  |
|   |    | Quit-Claim Deed – (Garfield County) Jacob Stein to Frank Doll, 1916.   |
|   |    | Quit-Claim Deed – Charles H. Doll & Nellie Smith to Frank Doll, 1938.  |

Deeds - Quit Claim, Release, and Mortgage (CONT.)

Release of Deed of Trust – H.K. Brooks & Jesse Sherman to Frank Doll, 1927.

Trust Deed – Franklin Doll to Logan-Turner Investment Company, Buena Vista, Colorado; 1901.

Release of Deed of Trust – Franklin Doll, 1901.

Quit-Claim Deed – Frank Doll, Charles H. Doll, and Nellie Smith, sole heirs at law of Samuel Doll (deceased) to Frank Doll, 1936.

Deed of Trust – Eagle Ranch Company to Public Trustee for the Use of Van-Kleeck-Bacon Investment Company, 1916.

Public Trustee's Deed – Eagle Ranch Company by A.F. Carlson to Frank Doll, 1919.

Deed of Trust – Eagle Ranch Company to Public Trustee for the Use of Frank Doll, 1914

Deed of Trust – Eagle Ranch Company to Public Trustee for the use of Van-Kleeck-Bacon Investment Company, 1916.

Release of Deed of Trust – A.F. Carlson for the Use of The Van-Kleeck-Bacon Investment Company to Eagle Ranch Company, 1921.

Release of Deed of Trust – A.F. Carlson to Eagle Ranch Company, 1921.

Quit-Claim Deed – James Dilts to Sam Doll, 1893. (Deep Creek)

3       Warranty Deeds

Laura J. Lemon to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1917.

Charles Harris to Frank Doll, 1896.

Lester Mayer to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1919

Samuel Lemon to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1916.

Lucy Doll to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1931.

Frank & Lucy Doll to Eagle Ranch Company, a corporation, 1914.

Hiram Frank Doll to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1931.

Ada M. Slusser to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1920.

Burr S. Fuller to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1916.

John Owen Gaumer to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1927.

John Owen Gaumer to Frank Doll (Garfield County), 1928.

4       Certificates – mining, land, etc.

Nettie Dutcher Gold Mining and Leasing Company, Cripple Creek, Colorado—5  
Certificates to Rupert Sherwood, 1000 shares each. Dated June 1896.

Titan Ore Company, Colorado. 2 certificates, 100 & 200 shares to Frank Doll. Dated  
November 23, 1918.

Rio Blanco Carbon Company, Colorado. 1 certificate, 50 shares to Frank Doll.  
Dated March 13, 1923.

The White River Oil Company, Colorado. 1 certificate, 2000 shares to Frank Doll. Dated  
September 14, 1920.

The Little Gold-Dust Mining and Milling Company, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.  
1 certificate, 50,000 shares to Lucy Doll. Dated January 12, 1897.

The Benpro Elk Association, Arizona. 1 certificate, 1 share (\$10) to Frank Doll. Dated  
April 16, 1912.

Radiant Oils Limited, Colorado. 1 certificate, 1000 shares to Peter Barthell. Dated  
May 12, 1915.

Municipal Note with Interest Coupons, First Lien Real Estate from Van-Kleeck-Bacon  
Investment Company to the State of Colorado, United States of America.  
2 certificates numbered 809 and 810, \$2,000 and \$4,000, both dated June 2,  
1916. Signed by Eagle Ranch Company, a Corporation.

5       Warranty Deeds

No. 57152 Laura J. Lemon to Frank Doll; Garfield County; May 3, 1917.

**BOX**    **FD**

- 2            5    No. 15503 Charles Harris to Frank Doll; Eagle County; April 11, 1896.  
No. 67117 Lester Mayer to Frank Doll; Garfield County; July 26, 1919.  
No. 53941 Samuel J. Lemon to Frank Doll; Garfield County; April 17, 1916.  
No. 110302 Lucy Doll to Frank Doll; Garfield County; June 18, 1931.  
No. 31874 Frank & Lucy Doll to The Eagle Ranch Company; Eagle County; April 30, 1914.  
No. 110301 Hiram Frank (H.F.) Doll to Frank Doll; Garfield County; June 18, 1931.  
No. 71270 Ada Slusser to Frank Doll; Garfield County; May 24, 1920.  
No. 54579 Burr S. Fuller to Frank Doll; Garfield County; July 10, 1916.  
Doll Brothers to Harry B. Walker and Etta M. Walker; Stark County, Ohio; August 1901.  
Signed by W.H. Lea indicating land transfer after moving to Colorado.  
No. 98996 John Owen Gaumer to Frank Doll; Garfield County; July 9, 1927.  
No. 102432 John O. Gaumer to Frank Doll; Garfield County; September 12, 1928.
- 6            Certificates – Mining Stocks  
Nettie Dutcher Gold Mining & Leasing Company No. 307-310 1000 shares each.  
to Rupert M. Sherwood, all dated June 13, 1896.  
Titan Ore Company No. 388-389 100 shares each. To Frank Doll, both dated November 23, 1918.  
Rio Blanco Carbon Company No. 391 50 shares. To Frank Doll, March 13, 1923.  
White River Oil Company No. 557 2000 shares. To Frank Doll, September 14, 1920.  
Little Gold-Dust Mining and Milling Company (Fulford, Colorado) No. 22 50, 000 Shares. To Lucy Doll, January 12, 1897.  
Benpro Elk Association (AZ) No. 61 1 share. To Frank Doll, April 16, 1912.  
Radiant Oils Limited (Canada) No. 1093 1000 shares. To Frank Doll, May 12, 1915.  
First Lien Real Estate (CO) No. 3982-3983 \$2,000.00 each. Van-Kleeck-Bacon Investment Company to Eagle Ranch Company. June 2, 1916.
- 7            Map: Midnight Mine, Aspen, Colorado. Partial letter dated 1929. Includes rudimentary measurements, depths. 2017.012.019
- 8            Titles – Motor vehicle.  
Frank Doll, Gypsum, Colorado. 1923 International Speed Truck, Eagle County. April 12, 1929. Purchased from Julia McGlochlin. Includes sales receipt, envelope.  
Frank Doll, Gypsum, Colorado. Bill of Sale and transferred title for 1923 International Speed Truck from Julia McGlochlin.
- 9            Legal – Other  
Standard Fire Insurance Policy, State of New York. No. 1174 to Frank Doll. Insured Ranch buildings, \$500 with \$5.75 premium. October 17, 1899.  
State of Colorado, Eagle County Case No. 630. “Lester Mayer, for an adjudication of his priority of right of use of water from Irrawaddy Creek through the Ridge Ditch, and from Burr Creek through Park Ditch, and from springs through the Spring Creek Ditch, in Water District No. 53. June 23, 1915.  
Lease, Eagle County. Frank Doll and W.H. Dickinson, September 1, 1921.  
State of Colorado, Eagle County. “Excerpts taken from the AMDned and Supplemental Decretal Order in regard to the Deep Creek Ditch out of Deek Creek, entered on The 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1894.” Priorities, ditch use, and flow information.  
Signed by Lydia Tague.  
Irrigation and Drainage Statement of Hiram Frank (H.F.) Doll, Gypsum, Colorado, to The Federal Land Bank of Wichita, Kansas/Land Bank Commissioner. Survey regarding abstracts, documentation, water sources, farm use. N.D.
- 10           Correspondence – 1880s.
- 3            1    Correspondence – 1890-1895.

<b><u>BOX</u></b>	<b><u>FD</u></b>	
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3	2	Correspondence – 1896-1899
	3	Correspondence – 1900
	4	Correspondence – 1901, 1 of 2.
	5	Correspondence – 1901, 2 of 2.
	6	Correspondence – 1902, 1 of 3.
	7	Correspondence – 1902, 2 of 3.
	8	Correspondence – 1902, 3 of 3.
	9	Correspondence – 1903-1907.
4	1	Correspondence – 1910.
	2	Correspondence – 1920s.
	3	Correspondence – Saratoga Hotel, 1897-1898.
	4	Correspondence – Letters with media, various dates.
	5	Correspondence – undated.
	6	Correspondence – Incomplete (missing/ripped pages)
	7	Ephemera
	8	Ephemera – Stock, Horse sales, auctions
	9	Ephemera – notebooks, booklets
10		<b>PREVIOUS ACCESSION – “FRANK DOLL COLLECTION”</b>
		Photographs donated are part of 2002.001. Location of other photographs is unknown. (April 2018). These additional materials have been added to the larger Doll Family Collection because of their direct connection in content, people, and historical dates. The following is a list of these materials in no particular order.
		16 photographs, collection 2002.001
		“Better Than a Baby-Sitter” by Michael Carlton for Southern Living; articles features Frank Doll and Storytime at Beaver Creek Resort
		“Colorado Christmas Past” feature in Eagle Valley Enterprise, December 1980.
		“Avon’s old general store finds a new home” by Cliff Thompson; Eagle Valley Enterprise.
		Frank Doll, Storyteller series.
		“The Verbal History of the Vail Valley” by Karen Emanuel, Eagle Valley Enterprise.
		“Historical Perspective: The History of Eagle”. Eagle Valley Enterprise, January 8, 1981.
		Assorted copied newsprint from Eagle Valley Enterprise dating 1917-1918.
		Local ranching cattle brands, 3 pages; handwritten.
		Letters: To Imogene, Frank Doll. February 1964.
		Mr. Horn to Mr. Doll, May 16, 1900.
		Don Simonton to Vail Town Council (Doll copy) August 12, 1981.
		Books, Pamphlets:
		“Veterinary Medicine and Surgery” by George Doll. Published 1872, original copy. [George Doll is grandfather of Frank Doll.]