An inventory of
the papers of

Town of Ashcroft

State of Colorado
County of Pitkin

I, John M. Overman, do
sincerely swear that I will support the
Constitution of the United States, the
Constitution of the State of Colorado, and
that I will faithfully perform the duties
of the office of Marshal of the Town
of Ashcroft. So help me God.

a holding of
the Library of the Colorado Historical Society
Denver, Colorado 80203
and the Aspen Historical Society
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Collection No. 18
processed by
Eric P. Plourde

December 1988

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE OF CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Guide to the Collection</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenance</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File Folders Subject Headings</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspen Historical Society Archives List on Ashcroft</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver Public Library, Western History Department</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clippings Index on Ashcroft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado State Business Directories Listings, 1882-1950 on Ashcroft</td>
<td>7-14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION

Ashcroft's early development in 1880 depended more on promotion than on a profitable mining enterprise. Townsite promoters, including T. E. Ashcraft, laid out a site on the upper reaches of Castle Creek, ten miles up the valley from the site of Ute City. The camp grew rapidly with good claims and skillful promotion.

Some historians believe that the town was named for T. E. Ashcraft (but the post office misspelled the name), but others feel that it was named for the croft of aspens growing there.

In the end, Ute City (renamed Aspen), the slowest to organize and the last to begin mineral production, won out. At eight thousand feet, it was at a lower altitude than its rivals of Ashcroft and Independence; it mined silver rather than gold; it had many entrepreneurs rather than one.

After Independence Pass opened, and after the Denver and Rio Grande pulled into Aspen, Ashcroft was doomed. A few people held on hoping that the railroad would build to Ashcroft, but it never did. Eventually, most Ashcroft residents moved to Aspen; many took their cabins with them.

Some mining continued at Ashcroft until the crash of 1893. Several buildings yet stand; the rest of the valley is used for cross country skiing.

The collection contains the personal papers of Calvin Miller, listed as both road overseer and mine supt.; mining newspapers and brochures; photographs (the Farm Security Administration photographs taken in 1941 have been transferred to the Photography Department); pamphlets and clippings; copies of the 1882 Articles of Incorporation; 1882 Oaths of Office; an 1885 Election Poll Book; post office receipt books for 1887 - 1889 and 1900 - 1910 and a scrapbook of paid bills and vouchers from May 20, 1882 through August 18, 1883.

PROVENANCE

The majority of the items in the collection were purchased by the Society from Mr. Edward J. Grover, Clifton, Colorado in 1966 and 1967. It is possible some of the items belonged to F. F. Reiner, long-time resident of Ashcroft.
CHRONOLOGY

1880 May. C.B. Culver and W.F. Coxhead prospected their way up Castle Creek. First discovery made in May.

August. Post office established with John R. Nelson as first postmaster.

1882 January 3. Town name changed to Ashcroft after having been named Castle Forks and then Chloride.

March 27. Election held on incorporation.

May 2. Davis H. Waite starts Ashcroft Journal.

State service arrives.

1883 Population was 2,000 and 20 saloons.

Fire started as miners told to cut burned timber ("pitch logs").

1890 Most of the business firms had closed.

1899 Population was 150.

1904 Population was 100.

1912 Post office discontinued November 30.

1943-45 U.S. Army Tenth Mountain Division trained in the area.

1947 Isabell and Stuart Mace established Toklat Lodge and raised Toklat Husky dogs.

1953 Ted Ryan deeded the townsite to the U.S. Forest Service.

1956-57 Several buildings used in the filming of "Sgt. Preston" TV series.

1973 Hotel collapses under winter snows.

1974 Aspen Historical Society started leasing the land.

Ashcraft, Thomas E

Ashcroft, Articles of Incorporation, 1882 (Copy)

Ashcroft, Paid Bills and Vouchers, 20 May 1882-18 August 1883

Ashcroft, Forms

Ashcroft Business Receipts

Ashcroft, Surety Bonds, 1882

Ashcroft, Mayor, Oath, 1882

Ashcroft, Marshal, Oath, 1882

Ashcroft, Trustees, Oath, 1882

Ashcroft, Poll Book, 1885 Election

Ashcroft, Post Office, Receipt book, 1887-1889

Ashcroft, Post Office, Report of Audit, 1889

Ashcroft, Post Office, Receipt book, 1900-1910

Ashcroft, Newspapers

Ashcroft, Pamphlets

Ashcroft, Photographs

Mt. Hayden, Panoramic drawing from Ashcroft Mtn. showing trails, n.d.

Ashcroft, Restoration

Ashcroft, National Register of Historic Places, 1973 nomination form

Ashcroft, National Register of Historic Places, 1974 nomination form

Ashcroft, Articles about

Miller, Calvin

Financial and Mining Record, Fall 1886 issues

American Rotary Tunnel Machine leaflets, 1907
| FF 25 | Bate, William B., Speech, 1893 |
|       | Bland, Richard P., Speech, 1893 |
|       | Bowen, Thomas M., Speech, 1893 |
|       | Bryan, William J., Speech, 1893 |
|       | Hill, N.P., Speech, 1884 |
|       | Jones, Jno. P., Speech, 1894 |
|       | Pence, Lafe, Speech, 1893 |
|       | Stewart, William M., Speech, 1893 |
|       | Symes, G.G., Speech, 1886 |
|       | Teller, Henry M., Speeches, 1892-1893 |
|       | Wolcott, Edward O., Speeches, 1892-1893 |
The following is a list of the information in the archives of the Aspen Historical Society pertaining to Ashcroft, Colorado.

Photographs:
The mining town of Ashcroft and panorama’s 1880’s.
Unidentified individuals in Ashcroft 1880’s.
The ghost town 1940’s-1970’s.
Stuart Mace and dog sled team in Ashcroft.
Ted Ryan and ski touring in Ashcroft.

Manuscripts:
Ashcroft: Its’ Natural and Human History by Robert Cornwall.
Memories Worth Saving: The Story of Ashcroft, Colorado by Charlene K Knoll.
Ashcroft, Colorado The Waning Years 1886-1974 by James S Kane.
The History of Ashcroft by Bill Steiner 1978.

Files:
Abstracts of Title for Ashcroft, CO.
Biographical information on Stuart Mace.
Biographical information on Ted Ryan.
Clippings Index

Denver Public Library-Western History Department

Discover Chloride and location, Den. Trib. Nov 9, 1881 p2 c1
Prospectors Return After Indian Outbreak, Den. Trib., N, 1881
Beginning & Location, Denver Trib., N30, 1881, p2 c1
Mining Center, RMN, Jan 5, 1882, p6 c2
Name Changed From Chloride, RMN, Jan 10, 1882, p4 c4
Townsite company mentioned, RMN, Feb 15, 1882, p8 c4
Incorporates, RMN, Apr 23, 1882, p8 c3
Ashcroft Growth, RMN, May 27, 1882, p2 c1
Growth, Republican, May 27, 1882, p2 c1
Notes on Progress, RMN, June 5, 1882, p8 c3
Telegraph, First Telegraph Connection, RMN, June 15, 1882, p3 c2
Smelter receives ore from Conundrum Gulch, RMN, Aug 5, 1882, p2 c2
Mining town, RMN, Nov 1, 1882 p3 c3
Mining Shipping Pitkin County, RMN, May 2, 1883, p2 c2
Smelter, Tam O'Shanter Group mines, RMN, Sept 12, 1883 p2 c3
Transfer, RMN, Sept 19, 1883, p3 c3
Growth started after 1878, RMN, Jan 28, 1884, p1 c6
Drug Store, Hugo Eyssel, RMN, Oct 10, 1884, p5 c1
Grocers, Rattgen & Co. move, RMN, Oct 10, 1884, p5 c1
Meat, Boesch & King move to Aspen, RMN, Oct 10, 1884, p5 c1
Hardware, O.D. Smith moves to Aspen, RMN, Oct 22, 1884, p2 c4
Repaired and proposed activities, RMN, July 3, 1885, p6 c2
Mining Activities, RMN, Nov 11, 1885, p6 c1
"Digging for Ashcroft" by Louisa Ward Arps, Trail & Timberline, July 1946, RMN, Apr 21, 1894, p2 c6
Early days and Montezuma Group, Times, Dec 31, 1898, p24 c2
Miners threatened by snowslides, Postmaster only resident, Times, Feb 28, 1899, p5 c1
Mining and Tam O'Shanter Group, Times, May 12, 1899, p9 c8
Montezuma Mine, Times, Dec 31, 1899, p21 c8
Camp est. 70's, prosperous until 1893 crash, Times, Dec 31, 1899
H.A.W. Tabor, Times, Dec 31, 1899, p21 c8
Montezuma Mine owned by H.A.W. Tabor, R.R., Mining activities, Times, Aug 26, 1901, p9 c2
Trail party leaves Ashcroft for Cathedral Lake, RMN, Apr 5, 1938
Ghost town revives, RMN, May 8, 1938, p3 sec1
Road from Aspen to Ashcroft nearly complete, Post, Oct 24, 1939
Ashcroft and Ghosts at Dan McArthur's Bar, RMN, Feb 28, 1946
Skiing for experts, Rocky Mountain Life, Feb 1947, p36
How We Built a Church at Ashcroft, Rocky Mtn Life, V2#7, 1947
Stuart Mace makes sweaters from husky dog hair, Post, Feb 18, 1951
T.V. Remakes Ashcroft, Post, Sept 29, 1955, p68
Recollection of C.M.C., Dan McArthur, long time resident of Ashcroft, Trail & Timberline, July 1958, #475 p94-95
Reminiscences of town 14 miles up Castle Creek from Aspen, early 1900s, Colo. Magazine, V37 #2, April 1980
History of Ghost Town, Post Empire, J 3, 1973, p22-23
Ski Tours, Colorful Colo., VB #4, Jan-Feb, 1975
Restoration of Ghost Town, Post, Sept 7, 1975, p3
Aspen Hist. Soc., benefit in Ashcroft, Post, July 16, 1976, p18
Plans for Ski Resort at Ashcroft, Colorado Heritage, Iss.4, 1985
Ashcroft, Colorado

1882 Population 500, Mining Camp

Boesch, Chas. E., Meat Market
Brooks, John B., U.S. Deputy Mineral Surveyor
Castle Peak Smelter
Covert House, W.H. Covert propr.
Hughes, Edward A., Saloon
Illsley & Lloyd, civil engineers and U.S. deputy mineral surveyor
Kearney, Peter, Saloon
Kilborn, G.D., assayer
Kruse, Conrad, lime kiln
Kunz, Henry, justice of the peace
McCarthy, Rev. M.M., O.S.B.
McCarthy & Flynn, gen'l mdse. and miners supplies
O'Connell & Overman, contractors and builders
O'Hare, P., notary public
Perry, Miss Emma, teacher
Perry, Richard, justice of the peace
Perry & Carbary, newspapers, stationery, etc.
River Side Hotel, Boulton Bros.
Smith, C.H., Groceries, Clothing, etc.
Sowle, B.L., Indiana assay office
Sowle Bros., livery, sale and feed stable
Teuscher Bros., livery, sale and feed stable
Teuscher, L.T., postmaster
Walters, S.R., constable
Watkins, J.P., gen'l blacksmithing

1883 Population Summer 1000, Winter Uncertain

Abbey & Hallet, gen'l mdse
Alleman & French, saloon
Ashcroft Herald, Mackey & Mason
Baldwien & Ripperton, gen'l mdse
Boesch & King, meat market
Brooks, Jno. B., U.S. dep. m. surveyor
Borom & White, livery
Brooks, Bethune & Co., smelter
Carbary, P., stage line
Combs House, Thos. Combs, propr.
Davis, J.T., builder
Dayton, Mrs. C.S., dry goods
Elma Hotel, M.C. Sharpless
Eyssel, Hugo, drugs
Flynn, J.P., city treasurer
Gaffron, P.E., assayer
Goodwin, Jas., saloon
Illsley & Lloyd, C.E. and U.S. dep. min. surveyors
Kilborn, G.D., assayer
Kruse, Conrad, lime kiln
Colorado State Business Directories

1883 continued

Kruse, G., blacksmith
Kunz, Henry, justice peace
Lonergan, P., mayor
Miller, M.G., attorney
Mollin, F.L., physician
Monaghan, T., saloon
Monson, E., saloon
O'Hare, P., notary
Owerman, J.W., marshal
Perry, Richard, justice peace
Rathgen & Co., H., gen'l mdse
Reynolds, D.T., builder
Riverside Hotel, Boulton Bros.
Schmidt, Mrs. L., restaurant
Slater, Jas., saloon
Smith, O.D., hardware
Sowle, B.L., assayer
Sowle Bros., livery and feed
Sutton, Mrs. F., cigars & c
Tam O'Shanter Mining Co., E. Smith, manager
Teuscher & Carbary, books, stationery, & c
Teuscher, L.T., assayer and postmaster
Watkins, I.P., blacksmith
West, J.W., saloon
Wilkinson, Mrs. T.A., gen'l mdse
Worthington, M.V., blacksmith

1884 Population Summer 1000, Winter uncertain

Ashcroft Herald, Mackey & Mason
Boesche & King, gen'l. mdse. and meat market
Borom & White, livery
Brooks, Jno. B., U.S. dep. min. surveyor
Brooks, Bethune & Co., smelter
Combs House, Thos. Combs, propr.
Eyssel, Hugo, drugs
Goodwin, Jas., saloon
Hallet, S.I., mine owner
Illisley & Lloyd, C.E. & U.S. dep. min. surveyors
Kilborn, G.D., assayer
Kindt, Amos, miner
Kinney, J.A., miner
Kruse & McCormick, blacksmiths
Kunz, Henry, justice of peace
Miller, M.G., attorney
Monaghan, T., saloon
Monson, B., saloon
Nobles, C.F., mine owner
Perry, Richard, justice of peace
Schmidt, Mrs. L., restaurant
Colorado Business Directories

1884 continued

Smith, D.D., hardware
Sowle, B.L., assayer and mine owner
Tam O’Shanter M. Co., J.F. Tabor, manager
Teuscher, A.S. & L.T., mines and real estate
Teuscher & Carbary, books and stationery
Teuscher, L.T., assayer and postmaster
Traynor & Co., genl. mdse.
Watkins, I.P., blacksmith
Wist, J.W., saloon
Worthington, M.V., blacksmith

1885 Population 100

Farmer’s & Merchants’ Insurance Co., Denver
Goodwin, Jas., saloon
Hallett, S.I., mine owner
Kilborn, W.B., assayer
Kindt, Amos, miner
Monson, B., saloon
Ferry, Richard, justice of the peace
Schmidt, Mrs. L., restaurant
Sowle, B.L., assayer and miner
Tam O’Shanter Mining Co., J.F. Tabor, manager
Teuscher, L.T., books and stationery
Teuscher, L.T., assayer and postmaster
Traynor & Co., genl mdse
Wist, J.W., saloon

1886 Population 100

Fogg & Jones, hotel and saloon
Farmers & Merchants Insurance Co., 282 15th St., Denver
Gavin, John, saloon
Johnson, Morris, hotel
Kinchin, Geo., saloon
Monson, B., gen’l mdse
Traynor & Co., gen’l mdse
Warner, Mrs. Wm., hotel

1887 Population 100

Bennett & Monaghan, saloon
Darrow, J.W., saloon
Farmers and Merchants Insurance Co., 1130 15th St., Denver
Traynor & Co., gen’l mdse
Colorado Business Directories

1889 Population 50
Kinney, F.L., gen. mdse. and postmaster
Warner, W.M., restaurant

1890 Population 50
Kinney, F.L., gen. mdse. and postmaster
Warner, W.M., restaurant

1891 Population 50
Kinney, F.L., gen. mdse. and postmaster
Warner, W.M., restaurant

1892 Population 50
Kinney, F.L., gen mdse and p m

1893 Population 125
Kinney, F.L., gen mdse and p m

1894 Population 125
Crowther, J., mgr. Express mines
Bong, Robt., prop. Pass. and Frt. line between Ashcroft and Aspen
Long, Wheeler & Teuscher, props. Ashcroft Trout Ponds and Hatchery
Reiner, F.F., postmaster
Robson & Reiner, general merchandise

1895 Population 125
Adams, D.R., stage
Crowther, J., mgr. Express mines
Dawson, Milo, mgr. Treasure Vault Tunnel Co
Leahy, J.M., mgr. Monte Cristo mine
Long, Robert, prop. Pass & Frt. line between Ashcroft and Aspen
Long, Wheeler & Teuscher, props. Ashcroft Trout Ponds and Hatchery
McArthur, Dan, saloon
Oleson, B., mgr. Difficult Creek Gold M. Co.
Oleson, C.W., mgr. Antimony mine
Reiner, F.F., postmaster and J.P.
Robson & Reiner, gen. mdse.
Colorado Business Directories

1896 Population 100

Adams, D.R., tri-weekly stage to Aspen
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs. J. Larson prop.
Ashcroft Smelter, H. Webber prop.
Ashcroft Trout Pond and Hatchery
McArthur, Dave, postmaster and saloon
Reiner, F.F., justice peace
Robson & Reiner, gen'l mdse

1897 Population 150

Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs. J Larson proprietor
Ashcroft Smelter, H Webber, proprietor
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Wm J Wheeler, proprietor
Foxall, C W, mail and stage line tri-weekly to Aspen
McArthur, Dan, postmaster and saloon
Reiner, F.F., justice peace
Robson & Reiner, gen mdse

1898 Population 150

Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Larson, prop
Ashcroft Smelter, H Webber, prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Wm J Wheeler, prop
Leahy, J M, justice peace
McArthur, Dan, postmaster and saloon
Reiner, F E, justice peace
Taylor, Uriah, mail and stage line tri-weekly to Aspen

1899 Population 150

Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Larson, prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Wm J Wheeler, prop
Hannon, J E, tri-weekly stage line to Aspen
Leahy, J M, justice peace
McArthur, Dan, postmaster and saloon
Reiner, F E, justice peace

1900 Population 100

Armstrong, Chas, min'g engineer
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Johnstone, prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Wm J Wheeler, prop
Hannon, J E, tri-weekly stage line to Aspen
Leahy, J M, justice peace
McArthur, Dan, postmaster and saloon
Reiner, F F, justice peace
Colorado Business Directories

1901 Population 100
Armstrong, Chas, mining engr
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Johnstone prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long, prop
Dawson Milo, mine supt
Hannon, J E, tri-weekly stage line to Aspen
Leahy, J M, justice peace
McArthur, Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller, Fred, supt Tam O’Shanter mine
Olsen, Chas, mine supt
Reiner, F F, justice peace

1902 Population 100
Armstrong, Chas, mining engr
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Johnstone prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Dawson Milo, mine supt
Hannon J E, tri-weekly stage line to Aspen
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Fred, supt Tam O’Shanter mine
Olsen Chas, mine supt
Reiner F F, justice peace

1903 Population 75
Armstrong Chas, mining engr
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Johnstone prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Dawson Milo, mine supt
Green Wm. P, mine supt
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Fred, supt Tam O’Shanter mine
Taylor, Uriah, tri-weekly stage line to Aspen

1904 Population 100
Armstrong Chas, mng engr
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Larsen prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster & saloon
1905 Population 100
Armstrong Chas, mng engr
Ashcroft Hotel, Mrs J Larson prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon

1906 Population 100
Armstrong Chas, mng engr
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Calvin, mine supt

1907 Population 60
Armstrong Chas, mng engr
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Calvin, mine supt
Sweeney M B, genl mdse

1908 Population 60
Armstrong Chas, mng engr
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Calvin, mine supt
Schafer Geo H, hotel
Sweeney M B, genl mdse

1909 Population 60
Armstrong Chas, mining engineer
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Calvin, mine supt
Schafer Geo H, hotel
Sweeney M B, genl mdse
Sweeney M B, genl mdse
1910 Population 60
Armstrong Chas, mining engineer
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Calvin, mine supt
Schafer Geo H, hotel
Sweeney M B, genl mdse

1911 Population 60
Armstrong Chas, mining engineer
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney prop
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Miller Calvin, mine supt
Schafer Geo H, hotel
Sweeney M B, genl mdse

1912 Population 60
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Sweeney M B, genl mdse

1913 Population 60
Ashcroft Hotel, M B Sweeney
Ashcroft Trout Hatchery, Robt Long prop
Leahy J M, justice peace
McArthur Dan, postmaster and saloon
Sweeney M B, genl mdse

1950 Population not given
Toklat Husky Kennels 10-15
Toklat Wilderness Lodge 3-8