



D.W. Whipple Collection

NUMBER: 05-306-26

TITLE: Whipple Collection

CREATOR: D.W. Whipple

DATES: 1898-1910

MEDIA: Papers

LOCATION: Collection House Kitchen, Left Wall, Section 1 Shelf 2

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: Collection is open for Research and Use. Permission to publish material must be obtained from Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

PREFERRED CITATION: Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: The D.W. Whipple collection: Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

ACQUISITION INFORMATION: The D.W. Whipple collection was donated to the Tread of Pioneers Museum from various contributors.

PROCESSING INFORMATION: The processing, arrangement, and description of the collection was completed in 2005 by curator Kelly Bastone.

BIOGRAPHY:

Don Wilmer Whipple was born in Boulder, Colorado on June 16, 1862. He came to Routt County in 1879 and homesteaded with his father in Egeria Park, ranging cattle in the Rock Creek and Burns Hole areas. He was a stage man, establishing in 1888 Whipple & Stafford, the first real stage line to carry passengers to Steamboat Springs. They carried the mail from Rock Creek. In September 1888, Stafford was killed while driving the stage on the Riley Wilson hill near Phippsburg. Afterward, Whipple became the general manager of the Wolcott, Steamboat Springs and Hahns Peak stage line owned by him and F.E. Milner, who started the company in 1889 to bring mail and passengers from the Denver & Rio Grande rail line at Wolcott. Milner later sold his interest to William C. Shaw, who sold to Milby Frazier. Shaw continued as local manager for many years; F.A. Metcalf would also partner with Whipple for some time. At first the stage line made three trips per week, increasing to six trips per week in 1890. In that year the stage line was sold to P.F. Reinhardt, who conducted it two years. In 1900, the stage company secured two Concord coaches for the Wolcott, Steamboat Springs and Hahns Peak line. The coaches were purchased in Oklahoma, where they had been used by a mail contractor. They were named the Pilot and the Sentinel, after Steamboat's two newspapers. The town was proud of the two coaches, for they represented a great improvement in transportation. There were rumors that it would be dangerous to operate the big coaches over the dangerous route, especially the section from Wolcott to McCoy, so it was Whipple himself who drove the first coach, attached to four horses. The coach arrived at the

McCoy ferry without mishap. The coaches were operated year-round on the Wolcott end of the line, but during the winter and spring, sleighs took their place on the Steamboat Springs end. At one time, Whipple and Shaw had 100 head of horses ready for service. In 1909, a fire in Steamboat Springs destroyed Whipple's stage barn (along with the livery and the Pilot building) and since this was about the time of the railroad's arrival into town, the stage business was not resumed. D.W. Whipple was a successful businessman, but he enjoyed gambling, and as a result he often owed money to many people. Whipple married Mrs. Lucy Adams, widow of James A. Adams, a well-known stockman. After Lucy's death a few years later, Whipple began a legal suit to set aside her will, which left all her property to her children by her former marriage. A.M. Gooding Sr. was attorney for Whipple, while Arthur Wessels represented the heirs. The case was fought through the courts for many years, and eventually the heirs won. Whipple moved to Trona, California in 1912, where he engaged in mining. He remained in Trona until the last years of his life, when illness took him to Los Angeles. He died April 9, 1943.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF COLLECTION:

The collection includes bid letters with the U.S. postal service, tax documents, stage rate charts, railroad correspondence, letters of condolence, business transactions, a Woodmen life insurance policy, and miscellaneous envelopes addressed to Whipple.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION:

The D.W. Whipple collection is organized by type of material.

Box	Folder	File Title	Dates
1	1	Wolcott, Steamboat Springs and Hahns Peak Stage rates	1905
	2	US Postal Service correspondence and bid letter	1905-1910
	3	CO State tax dept, receipts, tax notices	1910
	4	Letters of condolence	1909-1910
	5	Denver, Northwestern & Pacific Railway correspondence	1903-1909
	6	Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad correspondence	1901-1904
	7	Financial documents: stage line checks, Milner Bank	1899-1909
	8	Business transactions, incl. Hodson Gen'l Merchandise	1898-1908
	9	Wolcott, Steamboat Springs and Hahns Peak stage papers	
	10	State of Colorado correspondence	1900-1909
	11	Life Insurance policy, Woodmen	
	12	Miscellaneous correspondence and postmarked envelopes	1909-1910