

Resolution 2012-014

**RESOLUTION
OF
THE OURAY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Re: Designation of Sites as Historic Landmarks

Whereas, Colorado Revised Statutes 30-11-107 (bb) empowers the Board of County Commissioners to provide for the preservation of the cultural, historic, and architectural history within the County; and

Whereas, Ouray County Resolution 1998-072 provides for the preservation of cultural, historic, and architectural history within the County through the Ouray County Historical Society; and

Whereas, Ouray County Historical Society has made a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners in favor of designating particular sites as Historic Landmarks; and

Whereas, the Cedar Hill Cemetery District, as owners of the property, support and concur with this recommendation.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County that the following site is hereby awarded the designation of Ouray County Historic Landmark:

Cedar Hill Cemetery

The Cedar Hill Cemetery is located at 18510 Highway 550, Ridgway, Colorado.

Adopted this 22nd day of MAY, 2012.

Voting for: Commissioners Albritton, Fedel and Padgett
Voting against: None



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO

Heidi M. Albritton

Heidi M. Albritton, Chair

F. Mike Fedel

F. Mike Fedel, Vice-Chair

Lynn M. Padgett

Lynn M. Padgett, Commissioner

Linda Munson-Haley

Michelle Nauer, Clerk and Recorder
By: Linda Munson-Haley, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Ouray County
Historical Society
Box 151 • 420 6th Avenue
Ouray, Colorado 81427-0151



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April 14, 2012

Ouray County BOCC
Ouray, CO 81427

Request for Ouray County Landmark Designation

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ouray County Historical Society, I am requesting that the Cedar Hill Cemetery be designated as a Ouray County Landmark. I have attached a five-page article by historian Doris Gregory about the early history of Cedar Hill Cemetery. The Cemetery dates back to the 1880s and has been in continuous use since then.

A cemetery district manages the Cedar Hill Cemetery. I have attached to this request a letter of support from Jennie I. Knoll, Secretary of the Cedar Hill Cemetery District.

County Landmark status will help Cedar Cemetery District obtain grant funds for stabilization work. This is the first step in the Cemetery District's obtaining site stabilization funds.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Paulson, Ph.D.
Curator

CEDAR HILL CEMETERY DISRICT

P. O. BOX 1123
OURAY, CO 81427
(970) 596-4862

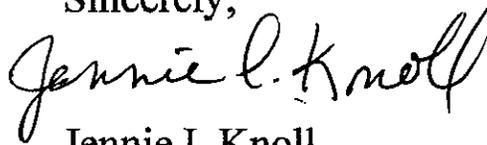
November 9, 2011

Ouray County Historical Society
Donald R. Paulson, Curator
P.O. Box 151
Ouray, Co. 81427

To Whom it may concern;

The Cedar Hill Cemetery Board would appreciate the help of the Ouray County Historical Society in adding the Cedar Hill Cemetery to the list of historical sites. This will help us in obtaining grants to improve this beautiful cemetery.

Sincerely;



Jennie I. Knoll
Secretary

Early History of Cedar Hill Cemetery

Cedar Hill Cemetery lies five miles north of Ouray in the valley of the Uncompahgre River. It is set in the midst of beauty. Looking to the south, massive Mount Abrams seems to block the far end of the valley. It is shaped like the top of an ice cream cone, topped with snow and flanked on either sides with mountains. Beyond the Uncompahgre River to the west are high mountains, white in the winter, golden in the fall, and green throughout the summer, always accented with red sandstone cliffs.

Today it is a peaceful valley and the quiet cemetery is dotted with tombstones dating back as far as 1878, with graves prior to that date. Early wooden grave markers have long since weathered and fallen. But the serene and tranquil beauty of the cemetery is misleading. For many years the land was the scene of bitter struggles, first, between the Ute Indians and the white settlers, and later between the whites themselves. Because of these struggles, the defining of land boundaries was delayed and promised land for a cemetery withheld pending proper settlement of land disputes.

Settlers arrived in the Uncompahgre Valley as early as 1875, and saw the fertile land that belonged to the Indians. To them the land was wasted upon the Indians who grew no crops. The settlers moved in, built their cabins and started farming. The U.S. Government had promised the Indians a four-mile strip in the valley south of the present town of Ridgway. This area contained hot springs that were sacred to the Indians. The area also encompassed the land that was someday to be part of the cemetery.¹

The Utes called upon the Indian agent at the Los Pinos Indian Agency to remove the white settlers.² The settlers petitioned the government to be allowed to remain. In April of 1877 the government agreed they could stay for six months, harvest their crops and then leave.³ But the settlers, with the backing of the Ouray citizens and the local newspaper, stayed on the land after the six-month period, defying the government agent who had the authority but no means of removing the white ranchers. In the spring of 1879 the Utes agreed to cede the four-mile strip to the government for \$10,000 and the settlers felt relieved, but not safe.⁴ It was not until September of 1881, when the Ute Indians were finally removed from the Uncompahgre valley and taken to Utah, that the settlers really felt secure.⁵

Once the Indians were gone there was a scramble for the land that had not been settled. The government set up rules or claiming ownership to the land by paying cash for it, but until the land was surveyed, it was impossible to set down accurate land descriptions. When the survey was finally made, a new controversy arose regarding the ownership of the land which delayed the securing of deeds for the cemetery.

The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad was building a branch up the Uncompahgre valley from Montrose towards Ouray. A number of men saw the possibility of making money through the development of a new townsite if the railroad would terminate just north of Ouray. A series of names were selected for the site, sequentially; Dayton, Helena, Ramona and finally Chipeta. The Ramona Town Company was organized on December 5, 1886, by nine men including such well-known names as

Dave Day, editor of the local Ouray paper, *The Solid Muldoon*, Otto Mears by then famous for his road building and toll roads, John M. Jardine, Mayor of Ouray and cashier of the Miners and Merchants Bank of Ouray, Edward O. Wolcott, corporation lawyer for the D. & R.G. Railroad and David H. Moffat who was to be president of the railroad in the spring of 1887.⁶ During the year prior to the organization of the Ramona Townsite Company, Dave Day was buying up land from various ranchers in the area chosen for the townsite.⁷ After the Ramona Town Company was organized, Dave Day quitclaimed the land he had purchased to the company.⁸ But the nine men who had organized the company were soon to see their dream of a new townsite dashed to pieces. They had discounted the strength of their opposition; the businessmen of Ouray and the powerful mine owners. David Moffat, president of the railroad, received a letter dated April 28, 1887, signed by all of the mine owners and/or superintendents of the mines surrounding Ouray explaining the necessity of building the railroad as close to their mines as possible and that Ouray and only Ouray was the nearest point. A.E. Reynolds, owner of the Virginius-Revenue mine, a few miles from Ouray and many other mines throughout the region, personally contacted David Moffat representing all of the mine owners sending the letter.⁹ Reynolds and the mine owners knew they were fighting a group of men trying to make a fortune buying and selling lots in the newly proposed town, but did they know that David Moffat himself was one of the town organizers?

David Moffat came to Ouray on July 24th to meet with a large audience of Ouray businessmen. To the horror of Dave Day, Otto Mears and other members of the Board of Directors of the Ramona Town Company, Moffat agreed to extend the line all the way to Ouray if the citizens would grade and furnish right-of-way to the railroad.¹⁰ The citizens agreed, and Dave Day, who had used his newspaper to promote the town of Ramona-Chipeta, now had to announce the arrival of the railroad in Ouray. Dave Day not only lost a considerable amount of money, he lost the respect of many of the businessmen and mine owners of Ouray.

With the decision made regarding the route of the railroad, it would seem that the land struggle was over and that the actual deeding of the cemetery could begin, but there were still many legal entanglements with part of the land belonging to a townsite that did not exist except on paper. Seven more years would pass before the actual deeding of the cemetery land. Until then the dead slept in graves on private property and not a legal cemetery.

Concern for a cemetery for Ouray dates back to January of 1878 when articles of incorporation were filed under the name of the Valley Cemetery Association of Ouray. Seven local citizens were members of the association. Mr. Josiah Fogg was elected president and Mr. Parsell, secretary. The objectives of the association were to secure a suitable piece of ground and dispose of it in lots or plots to individuals or societies.¹¹ It is interesting to note that the word "valley" was part of the name of the association. Since there is only one valley near Ouray, the valley of the Uncompahgre river to the north, the members of the organi-

zation must have planned to locate the cemetery on the land where Cedar Hill Cemetery now rests. In fact one of the association members, John Elliott, owned land in the valley already being used for a burial ground when the association was formed. But in their attempt to legally secure a "suitable piece of ground" they were faced with a struggle over ownership of the land that continued for almost seventeen years.

During that time the need for a cemetery was urgent. Population was increasing. People were dying and being buried in the "unestablished" cemetery. The book *Cemeteries in Ouray County, Colorado* published in 1984 by the Ouray Genealogical Society lists roughly 270 deaths prior to 1891. No claim is made that the list is complete and the number was probably much higher. A study of these 270 deaths tells much about the hardships suffered by the early settlers. Eighty-two (30%) of the 270 deaths were infants and young children, leaving grief-stricken mothers and fathers. In one week, from December 5 to December 11, in 1890, five children died of diphtheria. The panic and fear that struck the hearts of all parents is reflected in the report of these deaths in the *Solid Muldoon*.

Five young buds of promise have been sticken from the rolls of the living since our last issue. Five homes made desolate by taking from them the laughter and innocent prattle of childhood ... The hand of affliction has been laid heavily upon the parents of these little ones, all through the same dread disease, and a prayer will go up from others guarding their household treasures that they may be spared a like visitation. 12

During the same year an epidemic of typhoid fever broke out taking the lives of both adults and children. The local papers begged the citizens of Ouray to "boil water before drinking it."

The newspapers urged the Board of Health to take action to clean up the town, stating these diseases "will never be downed until the nasty, stinking alleys, cesspools and privy vaults of the village are thoroughly overhauled, disinfected and cleaned out." 13

Pneumonia was one of the leading causes of death among adults. 14 Without the use of antibiotics, doctors along with the frightened families watched helplessly over the stricken one depending more on prayer than medicine.

Another cause of death was guns in the hands of angry drunken men. During the 1880s Ouray was a town filled with many saloons and few laws. Men depended on their guns for protection and disputes were often settled quickly by a shootout. Out of the 270 deaths prior to 1881 listed in the book *Cemeteries in Ouray County, Colorado*, at least twenty persons had been murdered--fifteen by shooting. 15

For men who worked at the mines located high in the snowy mountains, the possibility of dying in town from a bullet was much less than the chance of meeting death from an avalanche. Avalanches would suddenly thunder down the mountain sides sweeping away packtrains and anyone on the trails enroute to or from the mines. Avalanches unexpectedly descended upon the mines demolishing boarding houses and mills and any person in them.

Besides the dangers of avalanches, mining was a hazardous occupation due to falling rocks in the tunnels, cave-ins from weak timbers, ill-timed explosions of

dynamite and plunging headlong into the deep chutes due to a misstep or broken machinery. When a miner was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, most of the miners from the mine where the death occurred paid tribute to their fallen companion by attending the funeral and walking in the funeral procession, gaining an unexpected and welcomed holiday to which the mine owner could hardly object.

1890 was a year when the people of Ouray became desperately aware of the lack of a decent, well-cared for cemetery; the kind of cemetery where their dead would have been buried if they had stayed in the East or their home country and not journeyed to what seemed a God-forsaken mining camp. 1890 was a year when death freely entered the homes unexpectedly claiming the lives of both old and young in large numbers. In fact there were twice as many burials in Cedar Hill Cemetery recorded in 1890 than in any other previous year since the town had started--a large percentage children! 16 As repeated funeral processions wound their way north through the valley to the cemetery, the attention of not only families of the dead but the mourners was focused on the final resting place. Their concern for a beautiful and secure burial place for the loved ones they had lost became foremost in their minds and feelings. And so the local newspaper, *The Ouray Plain Dealer* and the *Solid Muldoon*, sensitive to the feelings of the public, focused their editorials and news items on the three major and as yet unsolved problems: legal deeds for cemetery land; an irrigation ditch to water trees, grass and flowers; and a fence to keep out domestic and wild animals.

Dr. W. W. Rowan, then Mayor of Ouray, addressed these problems in a statement to the *Solid Muldoon* on October 24, 1890. According to him the building of the irrigation ditch and the fence were impossible until land was properly deeded to the cemetery.

I have promises for said deed and consent has been obtained from Mr. Henry M. Holaday for the small amount of grounds he holds, providing we will build an irrigation ditch which will cost \$1,000.

... Mr. Moses Paquin will deed, as he states, sometime this fall. Also a promise from Mr. David Day that he will obtain a deed from the Ramona Townsite as soon as possible.

It is ironic that almost a year from this statement, both Mr. Holaday and Mr. Day would lose a child in death. Neither child was buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Little actual progress was made with the cemetery during the year of 1891. E.H. Taylor, a contractor and builder who lived on Oak Street agreed to erect a picket fence, including ornamental gates at 25c per linear foot at a fund from contributions was started. 19 In January, 1891, the *Solid Muldoon* tried to shame the citizens and the city fathers into action:

Ouray, with a population of 3,000 and a prominence placing it third in the list of Colorado counties, enjoys the disgrace of patronizing a cemetery that is as repulsive, unattractive and uninviting to the eye as a dump ground. The plot is not enclosed and it is a daily occurrence to see stock trampling over the graves and utilizing cedars as shelter from storm and wind.

On May 1, Mayor Rowan placed a "Notice to Contractors" in the local papers stating that bids will be received for the next three weeks at the Post Office Drug Store. Plans would also be displayed for building a paling fence 3,234 feet around the Cedar Hill Cemetery including an arch gateway and foot passenger gates. 20 The mayor was proceeding slowly and according to city rules and regulations.

The SOLID MULDOON expressed impatience a month later insisting there was enough in the fund to build a fence and concluding:

A fence of some kind should be built at once, as the present condition of affairs at the cemetery would bring the blush of shame to the brow of an Apache.

On June 19, the cemetery committee announced that bids for the fence had been opened and that it would require something over one thousand dollars more than we have to complete it. They urged the people of Ouray to contribute as liberally as they could. 21

The Muldoon took issue with the announcement, declaring "E.H. Taylor offers to put a dressed, plank, capped and quarter boxed post fence with ornamental gates around the cemetery for 650 dollars and there is sufficient money in the fund to do the work. What say the people?" 22

When James T. Pierson replaced Dr. Rowan as Mayor of Ouray in 1892, the citizens of Ouray expected some action on the cemetery; after all, he was Ouray's first undertaker! But no one foresaw the Silver Crisis of 1893 that closed the mines and businesses, creating unemployment and panic throughout the State of Colorado. The city council had far greater problems with the needs of the living than improving the local cemetery for the dead.

The First National Bank of Ouray had closed its doors. 23 The city's cash flow was in jeopardy. Local businesses were having similar problems and failing as people lacked money to spend. The city revenues were fast shrinking and services previously provided had to be curtailed. The city council was forced to cut off all electric street lights for a year starting July 1893. They could no longer afford to sprinkle the streets. All city employees had their salaries cut 20 percent. Mines were closing; those running were laying off help and reducing salaries. 24

During the year of 1893 and 1894 the city council did elect another cemetery committee--this cost no money. They passed motions recommending further investigation of cemetery problems, but no action was taken. 25

Because Ouray's mines contained both silver and gold, the town suffered less than many Colorado mining areas. Gradually Ouray returned to normalcy: the street lights were slowly turned on and the dust in the unpaved streets was now settled by sprinkling. 26 By December 3, 1894, the city was able to take some constructive steps with the cemetery--a house was built, painted and a stove placed within. 27

When James Pierson's term as mayor expired in 1895, E.H. Taylor ran for office. He was forty-three years of age and full of energy. 28 Taylor was well known to the people of Ouray for his repeated offer to build a picket fence for the cemetery at the low cost of \$650--an offer that had never been accepted by city officials. His wife, Eva, was a school teacher, five years younger than Edward and respected in

the community. 29 They had lived on Oak Street since 1887 when they bought lots and built a house located where Barbara and Joseph Evans live today. 30 Taylor is credited with having ordered and received the first carload of lumber ever shipped over the Denver Rio Grande Railroad into Ouray in 1890. 31 He also constructed one of the first prefabricated houses shipped to Ouray from Chicago. 32 It was for Frank Biddlecom at 322 Oak Street and is still standing, in good condition, recently renovated.

Although the Solid Muldoon was no longer publishing in Ouray and Dave Day had moved to Durango, E.H. Taylor had the backing of the Ouray Herald, published by E.C. Bacon who had bought the Muldoon printing outfit from Day. 33 Taylor won the election and took office April 15, 1895. 34 His philosophy was one of speedy action--very different from Mayor Rowan's who wanted the money raised first and whose approach had resulted in a stalemate. Mayor Taylor believed in "getting the job done and worry about the money later."

During Taylor's term of office the city acquired deeds to three parcels of land for the cemetery. The first and largest was 8.34 acres from Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott on July 12, 1896. 35 John Elliott was a member of the 1878 Valley Cemetery Association whose purpose was to secure land for a cemetery. It will be remembered that it was on Elliott's land that burials had been made even before the association was formed, and steadily since. Records show he charged the City of Ouray only one dollar for the land.

Wasting no time, five days later, the City acquired a deed from Felix Paquin for 2.51 acres. 36 This land joined Elliott's to the south, extending the size of the cemetery. Paquin also charged the city one dollar.

Two weeks later Dave Day kept his promise and as majority stockholder and agent of the Ramona Townsite Company transferred four acres to the City of Ouray for one dollar. This land joined Elliott's on the south side and Paquin's on the west. 37 The shape of the cemetery grounds was now rectangular. Thus the City of Ouray acquired a deeded cemetery of 14.85 acres for only three dollars.

Under the leadership of Mayor Taylor the cemetery grounds were surveyed and platted. 38 He was now able to build the long-awaited picket fence. A camp was set up at the cemetery and ten men, most of them donating their labor, built the fence. The ranchmen willingly gave fence posts. The lower ditch and road were straightened. John Ashenfelter, well known freighter in Ouray, donated one hundred shade trees and \$200 worth of work. 39

And so the picket fence was built and the five-year struggle for it ended. On August 22, of that year, Mayor Taylor reported to the citizens of Ouray on the progress made in a front page article in the Ouray Herald and told of the need for funds and other improvements. In the same issue, Mayor Taylor received high praise from the editor of the Herald.

Mr. Taylor has been indefatigable in his efforts which have been crowned with success.

...Mr. Taylor is devoting his entire time, free, to the work and deserves much credit.

The following year, on June 15, 1896, the city council passed an ordinance concerning the city cemetery stating that the three deeds had been accepted and the "land so

conveyed shall be known officially as 'Cedar Hill Cemetery'." Just when the cemetery was first called by this name is unknown, but it was common usage for many years prior to the official designation. The ordinance also decreed that the cemetery be subdivided into lots and blocks, properly numbered, with planned roadways and walks. 40

Paupers and strangers were to be buried in Section 9 and 10 on the official plat. Lots were to be offered for sale and the money placed in the "cemetery fund" to be used only for maintaining, establishing and improving said cemetery. The fund was to be in the custody of the city treasurer.

The ordinance also provided for the appointment of a sexton of the cemetery, his compensation to be provided by resolution of the city council. The sexton would have general charge of the cemetery. He would have the sole and exclusive right to dig graves for not more than ten dollars, to be paid by the person requesting the digging, and he should keep a record of all such persons buried: their name, age, time of burial and place of burial. The sexton should be provided a fee of 25 cents for making such entry, to be paid by the party presenting a burial permit, signed by the city clerk. The city clerk should have charge of the sale of the lots and should issue burial permits.

Cedar Hill Cemetery is one of the finest cemetery sites in the country and people of Ouray owe to Mr. Taylor and the city administration which have followed him a debt of gratitude for its present neat appearance and condition.

When he came into office he built a fence around it and began a system of improvements. The example set by him has been followed and Cedar Hill Cemetery is becoming an attractive and pretty burial ground. Let the good work go on.

The ordinance closed with a statement that there was \$688.62 outstanding indebtedness against the Cedar Hill Cemetery and that the City should issue warrants on the cemetery fund (now without money) to be paid when money in said fund accrues. 41.

Mayor Taylor had moved ahead according to his unique philosophy and had accomplished more in two years than in the eighteen years since the Valley Cemetery Association was incorporated. It should also be said that the time was right for progress. The Indians had been removed from the Valley, the railroad route was settled, the State of Colorado and Ouray had lived through the panic of 1893, and perhaps there were less "in-house" community battles since Dave Day closed the **Solid Muldoon** and moved to Durango.

It would seem the story of Cedar Hill Cemetery should end with the year of 1896--a happy ending with feelings of pride and satisfaction. But it is one thing to write an ordinance and another to carry it out. Mayors change and so do city councilmen, memories become hazy and ordinances sometimes gather dust.

Eight years after the lots were deeded to the City, the **Herald** questioned the legality of the deeds and printed some misstatements quickly corrected by Mr. Taylor, who was fortunately still in town. The **Herald** admitted the error in a lengthy article on the front page, entitled "Herald Was Misinformed" correcting the misinformation. Credit was also given to former Mayor Taylor for the improvements made at the cemetery.

The **Herald's** corrected statements did not allay all concerns regarding the validity of the deeds and two years later, nine years after leaving office, Mr. Taylor met with the city council and the editor of the **Ouray Herald** to review the deeding of lots in 1895. 42 Taylor assured the council that the deed by Mr. Elliott gave a clear title and was on record in the county clerk's office. Also that the title to the Day and Paquin fractions were as good as could be given at that time "as they were encumbered." He told the council the city now had an opportunity to secure clear title to the land deeded by Paquin. (E. H. Taylor and his wife, Eva, had by now bought a ranch adjoining the cemetery grounds. A part of the cemetery land previously deeded by Paquin was included in the ranch land. A William Arthur Furman also owned a part of Paquin's cemetery land.) Taylor said the city could have clear title for Paquin's formerly deeded land for \$100. The matter was referred to the cemetery committee who recommended purchasing the land for that price. And thus, the Paquin land was redeeded on May 23, 1905. 43.

Two years later on July 19, 1907, an additional 1.43 acres of land was sold to the city for the cemetery for \$125 by Mr. Thaddeus C. Ong. This was a narrow strip 75 feet wide on the north side of the land contributed by John Elliott. 44

Thirteen years after the 1895 moment of civic pride and concern, another group took up the cause of the care and maintenance of the cemetery--the Woman's Club of Ouray--led by its president, Grace Rice. 45 In 1899 Grace Rice had faced the sudden death of her daughter, then fifteen years of age, from scarlet fever. 48 Her devastating grief and sense of loss created a strong emotional tie to Cedar Hill Cemetery where her beloved daughter now rested. To care for the cemetery was to still be caring for Elizabeth. She had no way of knowing that within the next sixty years nine additional family members including herself and her husband, John, would join Elizabeth in the family plot at Cedar Hill Cemetery and that her sister Frances would lie close by.

Under the leadership of Grace Rice, in 1908, the Woman's Club decided to approach the city council on the subject of hiring a man for five months a year to take care of the cemetery, with the club paying part of the expense. 49 They met with the council and made the proposal. The matter was referred to the cemetery committee to be taken up at the next meeting.

Meanwhile, the editor of the **Ouray Herald** took up the ladies' cause and wrote a lengthy editorial entitled "To Take Care of Our Cemetery. 50 The editorial invited the public to contract the cemetery committee and give them suggestions and opinions. The committee names were given as H. A. Karnaley, John McLeod and Ed Arps. The editorial endorsed the proposal with these words:

This is a commendable move and one that should be considered by our citizens and those interested in the cemetery. There is a satisfaction to everyone in having the graves of our loved ones properly looked after.

... There is little doubt but that this matter can be arranged and plans completed for the work to start the first of May. The suggestion is good. Let's do it!

... Let some of the ladies confer with the cemetery committee, outline plans and present them to the club at their next meeting and let the

committee present the matter to the council. Decide upon it and it is done.

This advice was followed and the ladies of the Woman's Club and the cemetery committee of Ouray City Council met. Agreement followed quickly and on April 20 the city council passed a motion to pay one half of the expenses for a man to work at the cemetery for the next four months.⁵¹

Four days later the Herald reported on a meeting called at the courthouse for the purpose of organizing a cemetery association, having for its object the care of the cemetery. This association was to provide the other half of the expenses for the man to work at the cemetery. The meeting was attended by a dozen ladies and four men. Julian Hulaniski (whose wife was a member of the Woman's Club) led the meeting. A permanent organization was formed and a president elected. Mr. E.H. Powell was the unanimous choice. Mr. J.K. Herring (whose wife was a member of the Woman's Club) was selected as secretary and Charles T. Hammond as treasurer.⁵² At a following meeting the newly formed association appointed three members of the Woman's Club to form a by-laws committee; Mrs. John F. Rice, Mrs. John South and Mrs. C.A. Sperber. Two men agreed to head a subscriptions committee to raise money; Edward Arps and Dr. C.A. Sperber.⁵³

When Grace Rice passed away in 1924 the Ouray Woman's Club continued her work with an annual cleanup day when they served lunch for all who reported for work. This was continued for almost twenty years. All businesses in town closed for a half day and a hundred or so men, women and children went to the cemetery with rakes, spades and shovels and cleaned up the grounds before Memorial Day. Some remember it as a festive day with a parade made up of a band and cars carrying the few Civil

War veterans that were still alive. It was announced in the Ouray County Herald as late as May 15, 1942, under the heading GRACE RICE MEMORIAL DAY AT THE CEMETERY. "The annual cleanup beautification and improvement day, a community event, held as a memorial to Grace A. Rice and instituted by the Woman's Club of Ouray will be held at Cedar Hill Cemetery."

In the 1940s, when the attention and time of the people of Ouray turned to World War II with its many demands for involvement in the war effort, the care of the cemetery was again neglected. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Massard took the initiative with the citizens in 1949 to have responsibility for the care of the cemetery shifted from the city to the Cedar Hill Cemetery District. On March 21, 1949, the cemetery ordinance of 1896 was repealed and on April 1, 1949, the ownership of the cemetery was transferred from the City of Ouray to the Cedar Hill Cemetery District.⁵⁴

The accomplishments of Mayor Taylor, the city council and the community in 1895, the men who deeded the land, the efforts of Grace Rice and the Ouray Woman's Club and later the Massards, should serve as an inspiration to those persons living today. But the community spirit of enthusiastic volunteer work eventually dies with the passing of time and the contributions of people are no longer remembered. Unfortunately, cemeteries, like homes and public buildings must be maintained with continuous care or they deteriorate with neglect. And so the story of the history of Cedar Hill Cemetery is a never ending one, depending forever upon the concerns and initiative of each succeeding generation.

Research and Written by Doris H. Gregory
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Footnotes

- George A. Crofutt, *Crofutt's Grip-Sack Guide*, Vol. II, (Omaha: Overland Publishing Company, 1895) "Portland, Ouray County is situated on the Uncompahgre River, four miles from Ouray on what is known as the '4 mile strip' ... Sidney Jocknick, *Early Days on the Western Slope of Colorado*, (Glorietta: The Rio Grande Press, 1913) "The 'four-mile strip' extending from a point a little south of where Ridgway now stands to within a mile of Portland. Here Major Wheeler afterwards placed a monument in 1876 by order of Chief Ouray." p. 111. ... referred to as being about a mile north of the present town of Portland. p. 305.
- Jocknick; p. 109.
- Ouray Times*, 16 June 1877.
- Ibid, 8 March 1879.
- Ibid, 3 September 1881.
- County of Ouray, Ouray, Colorado, Ouray County Courthouse, Records of Title, bk. C-1, p. 312 "Articles of Incorporation, Ramona Town Company."
- Ibid, bk. 33, p. 128, 129, 132 & 174.
- Ibid, bk. 22, p. 236, 237.
- Reed Letters, Marvin Gregory Collection, Ouray, Colorado.
- Gordon Chappell, *Colorado Railroad Annual*, No. 11, "Train Time in Ouray, The Ouray Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad," (Golden: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1973) p. 89-91.
- Ouray Times*, 26 January 1878; Ouray County Courthouse, Records of Title, bk. 1, p. 319.
- Solid Muldoon, 12 December, 1890.
- Ibid.
- Ouray Genealogical Society. *Ouray, Colorado, Cemeteries in Ouray County, Colorado*, 1984.
- Ibid.
- Ibid.
- Solid Muldoon, 2 January 1891.
- Ibid, 1 May 1891.
- Ibid, 19 June 1891.
- Ibid, 24 July 1891.
- Ouray City Council Minutes*, Ouray City Hall.
- Ibid.
- Ibid, 5 June 1893; 19 June 1893; 4 December 1893.
- Ibid.
- Ibid, 3 December 1894.
- 1880 Census, Ouray, Colorado.
- Ibid. Interview, Erma Hestwood, 1979.
- Ouray County Courthouse, Records of Title, bk. 33, p. 317.
- Solid Muldoon, 29 August 1890.
- Frank A. Rice, *History of Ouray and Ouray County*, Unpublished Manuscript, Ouray Public Library. p. 68.
- Ouray County Courthouse, Records of Title, bk. 20, p. 329.
- Ouray City Council Minutes*, 15 April 1895.
- Ouray County Courthouse, Records of Title, bk. 58, p. 246.
- Ibid, bk. 58, p. 247.
- Ibid, bk. 58, p. 250.
- Ouray Herald*, 26 August 1895; Rice, p. 30.
- Ibid.
- Ouray City Council Minutes*, 15 June 1896.
- Ibid.
- Ouray Herald*, 5 May 1905.
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