



HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

LATHAM – 1862

Ghost Towns In Weld County

Named for Senator Milton Latham of California, an early advocate for mail service to California, Latham (aka McIlvaines, Westlake Ranch, Bailey's, Fort Latham, Latham Station and Latham Junction) was established in 1862 as an overland stage station and site of Weld County court business.

Latham was located at the crossing of the Platte River Trail and the Cherokee Trail, overlooking the confluence of the South Platte and the Cache la Poudre Rivers.

By 1869 Latham had a two-story log house/inn, barns, corrals, and enough supplies to support constant traffic from stagecoaches, settlers, miners, cattle drives, county court business, and postal riders.

The last owners/operators of Latham were Daniel and Ella Bailey. After the transcontinental railroad line was finished and the Denver to Cheyenne connection was completed, transportation and postal business moved to the railroad. The Baileys, their business, and the Weld County Seat moved to Evans, closing Latham by January 1870.

“Seven men for breakfast, if men was company to me like friends at home, I would never get lonesome...[Latham] is lonesome and desolate...” From: *Diary of Ella Bailey for the Year 1869*, Courtesy of City of Greeley Museums Colorado Collection.

The above information is gleaned from the upcoming book, Weld County Towns: The First 150 Years, researched by the City of Greeley Museums staff, Nancy Lourine Lynch head writer.