



## HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

### EVANS

*Incorporated Weld County Town - 1869*

September 28, 1869, the stage coach dropped off several men at what was to be a rail head for the Denver Pacific Railroad, connecting Cheyenne to Denver, the site of



*1902 - G. A. R. FAMILIES Decoration Day (Memorial Day) with veterans of the Civil War (Grand Army of the Republic) and their families in front of Young's Hall in Evans; City of Greeley Museums Hazel E. Johnson Collection #1991.42.1106-M*

1869. Stage was renamed Evans for former Governor John Evans, and the town was platted on November 22, 1869. At that point the Weld County Commissioners moved the county seat from Latham to Evans and authorized construction of a calaboose (jail).

Greeley was known for being a "dry" town, no alcohol was allowed. In contrast, Evans became known for its saloons. The most popular was Jack O'Grady's, housed in the building that was originally the United Presbyterian Church. The saloons were concentrated on what is now Central Street between 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Streets, and included Paul Hentchell's, Jordanilli's, Fritz Neimeyers and Camnitzer & Lucas.

Accusations of fraud, ballot stuffing, and theft followed by enraged citizens vowing revenge surrounded a contention between Greeley and Evans over the county seat.

present day Evans. This new town site attracted many early residents of the Platte River Valley and the railroad built a depot called "Stage," for Bill Stage a popular railroad brakeman.

Denver and Pacific Railroad tracks reached this site November 8,

Weld County Commissioners finally passed a resolution in 1877 confirming the county seat in Greeley with an injunction to keep it in Greeley.

*“There were four saloons here then...all had signs ‘No Women Allowed’* -

Katie Moore (1901-1990) Evans resident.

***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.***