

HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

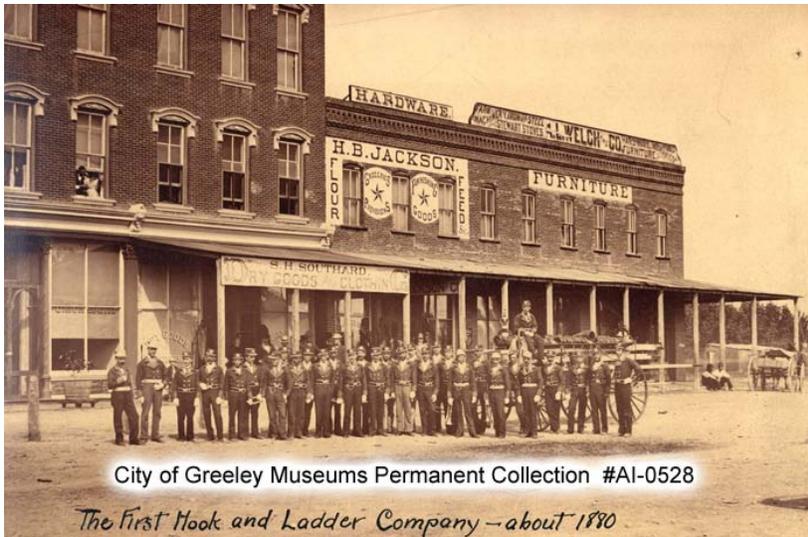
GREELEY

Incorporated Weld County Town - 1870

In 1869, Nathan Meeker, agricultural editor of the *New York Tribune*, arrived in Colorado to write about going West to farm. His boss, Horace Greeley, encouraged pioneering so when Meeker proposed the idea of starting a utopian Western colony, Greeley was eager help organize and promote it.

The colony's name was suggested by John Leavy, who stated that since they were all united in creating a utopian colony, it should be called the Union Colony. Their guiding

principles were temperance, cooperation, agriculture, irrigation, education, faith, home and family.



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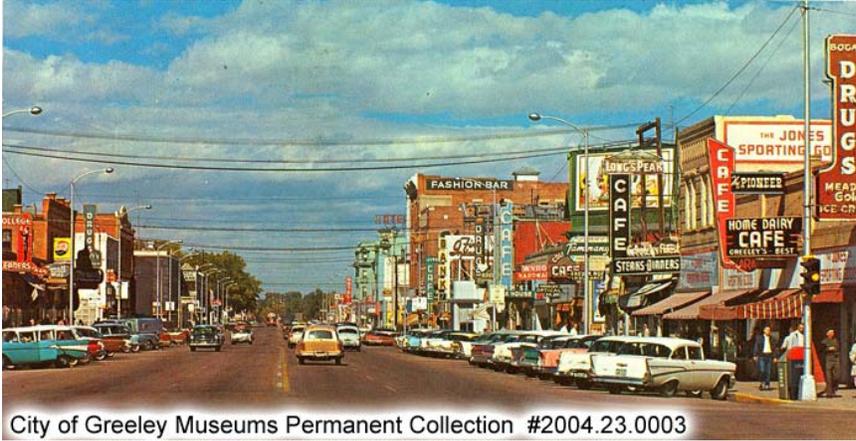
The first Hook and Ladder Company - about 1880

c1880 - Greeley's Hook and Ladder Co. (Firemen) Buildings in background were erected in the early 1870s and burned c1881; City of Greeley Museums Permanent Collection #A1-0528

Set between the Cache la Poudre and the South Platte Rivers for irrigation, halfway between Denver and Cheyenne on the Denver Pacific Railroad, colonists wanted to name the town Meeker, but Mr. Meeker did

not favor that. Greeley was chosen instead and Horace Greeley was delighted. Colonists began arriving in April of 1870.

Every Greeley deed stated that no drinking alcohol was to be bought, sold or consumed. There were several attempts to get around this, but it wasn't until 1969 that alcohol became legal in Greeley's city limits.



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c1959 – Greeley Downtown postcard, 8th Avenue looking north from 10th Street; City of Greeley Museums Permanent Collection #2004.23.0003

Greeley and neighboring Evans had personality clashes from the start. Evans was a few months older and allowed saloons to thrive. Meanwhile, Greeley was touting its founding principals, digging irrigation ditches and building fences. Both

vied for the county seat. Then in 1877, Weld County Commissioners passed a resolution and obtained an injunction to keep the county seat in Greeley.

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.