



HISTORY OF WELD COUNTY TOWNS

ELWELL – 1895

Ghost Towns in Weld County

In 1894, Reverend Cora M. Dilley was the circuit preacher for the Evangelical United Brethren Church in the area between Mead and Johnstown. Two miles west of Johnstown her parishioners built the first church in the district, Dilley Chapel. Labor costs were donated and the stone was quarried from an area near Berthoud.

Named for Rev. Dilley's mother, Mrs. E. C. Elwell, the community of Elwell grew up around Dilley Chapel and was incorporated in 1895. Rev. Dilley became ill and died April 19, 1898. At her request she was buried under a window at the south end of Dilley Chapel. In March of 1904 both the church and parsonage were destroyed by fire. The church was rebuilt in 1905 but the community waned. In 1927 Dilley Chapel and Rev. Dilley's remains were moved to Johnstown.

*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.*