

Colorado War News and Timeline

1861

April 20, 1861: Local newspapers report a Union flag and flagpole torn down by “secessionists”;

Note: This coincided with the Colorado newspapers first report on the capture of Fort Sumter by Confederate forces.

April 24, 1861: Newspapers report a “*Rebel Flag*” displayed at the store of Wallingford & Murphy;

Note: This “Rebel Flag” was flying for several days and last seen on April 27, 1861 (a contradiction of what most history books report that this flag was only flown a few hours !). Additionally, this “Rebel Flag” was not the Confederate *Battle Flag* as that flag would not come into use until December 1861.

May 20, 1861: *Frank J. Marshall* sends a letter to CSA President Jefferson Davis offering his services and advises that with support from the CSA he can secure the Colorado Territory for the Confederacy;

Note: Marshall was an ardent secessionist and had been a Major General in the Kansas State Militia prior to the start of the War, he would relocate to Colorado where he would become an active member of the Knights of the Golden Circle during the remainder of the War.

August 12, 1861: Local businessman *A. B. Miller* is elected the leader of a brigade of local “secessionists”;

Note: This was the first reference to an organized Confederate military unit in Colorado

August 19, 1861: Local newspapers report *Private Thomas S. Rogers* killed during confrontation by known “secessionist”;

Note: This was the first reported death of a Union Soldier by a Southern Sympathizer in Colorado. Adler had been employed as the saloon keeper at the *Criterion Saloon* (a drinking establishment owned by *Charles Harrison*) a well known hangout for “secessionists”.

August 24, 1861: Newspapers report Company B, 1st Colorado Volunteers harassed by “secessionists”;

October 1, 1861: Local newspapers report that “100 rebels under the command of Captain Miller” skirmished with Union forces resulting in 1 death;

October 14, 1861: Newspapers report a confrontation between Union supporters and “secessionists” at Georgia Gulch resulting in one death;

October 25, 1861: A large force of rebel guerillas intercept and capture a Union wagon train en route from Fort Union to Fort Wise;

October 26, 1861: *B. F. Hall* (Chief Justice of the Colorado Territory) writes to President Lincoln about the unrest in the territory, the need for more troops, and asks for direction on how to treat the local prisoners (Are they POWs, political or criminal prisoners ?)

Note: It is uncertain if Hall ever received an answer to his inquiry because all the prisoners escaped from the Denver Jail (refer to February 27, 1862).

October 26, 1861: Local newspapers report a confrontation between “secessionists” and Union supporters in the mining camp of Georgia Gulch;

October 26, 1861: Newspapers report that a man by the name of “*Heffner*” is attempting to recruit local men to free McKee and his men from the Denver jail;

November 28, 1861: Local newspapers report that during the night, 2nd Lt. *Joshua S. Travilla* (a member of the Denver Home Guard) had been shot by an “unknown assailant” (he later died on Dec. 8, 1861);

1862

- **January 1862:** Newspapers report *B. M. Henderson* arrested in attempt to free “secessionists” from the Denver Jail;

February 27, 1862: *Joel McKee* and all “secessionists” escape from the Denver Jail;

March 19, 1862: President Lincoln, displeased with events in Colorado, replaces William Gilpin as Territorial Governor (John Evans is the replacement);

July 10, 1862: During the 2nd Colorado Territorial Legislative Session a bill was introduced to begin the statehood process for Colorado;

Note: This was the first of several failed attempts that would have

resulted in early statehood for Colorado (and again: February 12, 1863, February 8, 1864, and January 12, 1866).

July 17, 1862: House Resolution No. 110 (passed during the 37th Session of US Congress) became law and authorized the seizure and confiscation of property owned by suspected “rebels” in any state or territory under the control of the United States;

Note: First implemented in Colorado on August 14, 1863.

July 28, 1862: Newspapers report that *Captain George T. Madison* and a company of 35 rebels captured a US Mail wagon train near Conejos;

August 10, 1862: Newspapers report that Captain Madison and his CSA unit active in southern Colorado with the express intentions “to harass and rob the government in every possible way, but not to molest private property or persons”;

1863

April 11, 1863: Lt. Colonel George Shoup reports that his company skirmished with a band of guerrillas near Black Squirrel Creek Crossing, Colorado Territory, resulting in the capture of 2 rebels;

July 15, 1863: *Captain John A. Wanless* reports many arrests and a strong secession element throughout the Territory;

August 14, 1863: Newspapers report that the Las Animas Land Grant in Huerfano County seized pursuant to the provisions of the Confiscation Act;

Note: This land grant was near “Mace’s Hole” (a well known secessionists hideout) and was the only known time that real property was seized in Colorado pursuant to this act.

September 12, 1863: Col. Chivington reports to Gen. Schofield that he can not spare any troops and that he may have to declare martial law in Conejos and Costilla Counties because all county officials have resigned;

October 18, 1863: Newspapers report the arrest of Confederate guerrilla *William S. Van Horn* (a former member of Quantrell's Raiders) in Gilpin County;

December 25, 1863: Newspapers report *Private William Duffield* (Company B, 1st Colorado Cavalry) was shot and killed by *Joseph Kittery*;

1864

February 13, 1864: Local newspapers report the US Mint in Denver "robbed" of over \$36,817.05 (in gold bars, coins, currency, etc.) by *James D. Clarke*;

February 19, 1864: *James Clarke* is captured in El Paso County enroute to Mexico reportedly to rendezvous with his brother (a CSA colonel in Mexico) however he only had a little over \$29,000 in his possession

Note: On January 25, 1862, General Canby reported to the Adjutant

General of the US Army that the CSA was staging activities in Old Mexico under the protection of local governors however the Mexican authorities would not accept Confederate paper money.

July 6, 1864: Newspapers report that *James Clark* had escaped from the Denver Jail (it is believed he had help from one or more of the earlier escapees !)

July 18, 1864: Newspapers report the re-capture of *James Clarke* by Deputy Marshal Farnum in Laporte;

Note: However he does not reveal his accomplices or other facts about his escape (he is released in 1867 and not required to make restitution for the missing money !?).

July 28, 1864: Local newspapers report 2 US Government supply wagon trains on the South Park

Road captured by guerrillas under the command of Captain James Reynolds;

August 13, 1864: Lt. J. S. Maynard (AAAG of the District of Colorado) reports that during a skirmish several of Captain Reynolds men have been captured by Lt. Shoup near Black Squirrel Creek (in El Paso County) not far from Pueblo, Colorado;

August 26, 1864: Newspapers report Captain Reynolds was captured however his brother (John Reynolds) and several others escaped;

September 10, 1864: Newspapers print the "Black List" of approximately 100 suspected local "secessionists" in Colorado;

September 13, 1864: During a special election 75% of Coloradans voted against statehood (4,676 to 1,520);

Note: For several weeks after the special election, many local newspapers reported that the failure of the statehood amendment was due to a very strong "anti-state party", the majority of which were "Copperheads" (secessionists or Southern Sympathizers).

December 9, 1864: Newspapers report that *James Reynolds* and several of his men were shot and killed while attempting to escape while being transported from Denver to Fort Lyon by a detachment of Company A, 3rd Colorado Cavalry;

1865

March 20, 1865: Newspapers report the capture of 6 Confederate guerrillas in Gilpin County

Note: This was the last known reference to Confederate military activity in Colorado however the "Copperheads" would continue

to be active and blamed for the failure of the next statehood attempt.

September 12, 1865: A special “statehood” election was held and this time the pro-statehood measure passed;

Note: The measure passed however President Johnson vetoed the bill because the state constitution did not allow blacks to vote or own property, thus delaying Colorado statehood until 1876.

1866

April 2, 1866: The Civil War “officially” ends when President Andrew Johnson declares in his Presidential Proclamation “the rebellion is finally over”.