

## Alice Parks

Her parents came from Iowa to Leadville, traveling in a covered wagon. They later located on the Junction Ranch near Malta; here Alice was born on July 1st, 1864. Her mother, Mrs Anderson, and Mrs Tabor were close friends; their babies, Alice and Maxie, being the only white children in California Gulch at that time. When Alice was seven her mother married Charles Nachtrieb, and they went to their new home on Chalk Creek.

(Charles Nachtrieb, having crossed the plains in 1859, was one of our earliest pioneer settlers. He came first to Denver, then one year later located in California Gulch where he engaged in the merchandise business; leaving there to locate a ranch on Chalk Creek. Mr. Nachtrieb was an enterprising and ambitious man, and was successful in his business ventures. In '68 he erected a saw-mill and a grist-mill, the later being the only one in Lake County. In 1870 Mr. Nachtrieb, with an eye on the San Luis Valley milling business, built a toll road over Poncha Pass. He later sold this road to Otto Mears; it being the first of the Mears Toll Road System. Mr. Nachtrieb also operated a store at his ranch; and later, when the South Park Railroad built thru that section, he erected a large Hotel at Nathrop.)

(One of Mrs Park's earliest recollections is her trips to Mears Junction for the purpose of collecting the toll-gate receipts. She made this trip about once a week on horseback, securing the money--which amounted to as much as \$1,500--from the gate-keeper, and returning to Nathrop.) On one of these trips she tarried at Poncha to hear Susan B. Anthony speak on women's suffrage.

Mrs Parks remembers when the first sewing machine was brought into this region. Her stepfather and Hugh Boone freighted it in from Denver for the Halls who lived at

the old salt works. Arriving there at three a.m. on a bitter cold night, Mrs Hall was so delighted with her new possession that she insisted upon sewing with the new machine even at that hour, and before preparing the hungry men something to eat. Her joy was short-lived, however, because she promptly ran the needle thru her finger.

Mrs Parks was the proud owner of the first Bureau equipt with a glass--quite a rare and luxurious article then--to be brought into this district; thus being the envy of all the girls in the neighborhood.

In those days newspapers reached the ranches at rare intervals, each one being carefully preserved, and when enough were collected the women would paper their kitchens with them; always being careful to paste them on so they could be read while engaged in the kitchen.

(One rainy evening in October '83, Bert Remington came to the Nachtrieb ranch and asked Alice if her father was home, he also asked Mrs Nachtrieb for horsefeed and food for himself, which she procured for him; he then entered the store to speak to Mr. Nachtrieb. Later, Alice came out of the house, and upon perceiving Remington's horse still standing at the hitching rail, she decided to mount him and go for a short ride; but upon noticing how wet the horse and saddle was, she changed her mind. She knew Remington quite well and often rode his horse.

Mrs Nachtrieb left her husband and Remington in the store, the former reading a letter. She had gone but a short distance when she heard a shot ring out. Hurrying back to the store, she found her husband lying on the floor with one of his thumbs shot off, and a bullet hole thru his head; shot from the rear while perusing the letter. Remington was gone; and Mr. Nachtrieb's murderer never captured.)

Prior to this tragedy, Mr. Nachtrieb had written to Bert Remington in response to the latter's request for a job as a cattle rider, informing him that he could use him in that capacity. Before Remington arrived at Chalk Creek, however, Mr. Nachtrieb sold his herd of cattle. The only job that remained for young Remington then, was tending a flock of sheep. Remington always resented this and harbored a grudge against Mr.

Nachtrieb. Whether this had any bearing upon Mr. Nachtrieb's murder, or not, will probably never be really known.

Upon Mrs Nachtrieb's shoulders fell the double burden of rearing the large family, and to carry on with the large ranch and business enterprises of her departed husband. The admirable manner in which she did this would do credit to any man, much ~~less~~ <sup>More</sup> a woman. Mrs Nachtrieb passed on, greatly mourned by her many friends, in March 1909.

The subject of this sketch, Mrs Alice Parks, now resides in Salida with her daughter, Mrs Drew Morris.

*Mrs. Drew Morris*