

George W. Knox

He was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, February, 10th, 1837 of Scotch ancestry. He departed from Pennsylvania and located at Jackson ville Illinois. Here he engaged in his profession, Civil Engineering. In 1862 he was happily married to Eliza Couchman, daughter of Dr. Benjamin Couchman, who settled on the first homestead at the present site of Jacksonville.

Ten years later he came to Colorado, going first to Aspen, where he was employed as manager of a mine for a short while. He then went to Alpine, which was beginning to thrive, and began prospecting for mineral. In '74 he discovered and located the "Tilden" mine, and began shipping the ore that fall. The ore was packed on burros from the mine to Alpine, a distance of 4 1/2 miles; there it was loaded onto wagons and hauled to Pueblo, requiring eight days to make the trip--and there shipped by rail to Argentine Kansas for smelting.

At that time, the "Tilden" mine was considered the richest in that district, with ore bringing as much as \$1,500 per ton, the mine yielded, within a period of six months, \$35,000 clear profit.

In '1879-80 Alpine was a booming town, boasting <sup>of</sup> a population of almost 10,000 souls one bank, several general stores, four or five hotels,--the largest was operated by Captain Reed and his wife--and 23 saloons.

Because of the wild, rough life of the mining camp, Mr. Knox did not bring his family of wife and seven daughters to Alpine. However, he spent the winters with his family, and in 1881, Mrs Knox joined him at Alpine. Mrs Knox was deeply interested in religion, and a devoted worker to that cause, so it naturally followed that she should found the first Sunday School in Alpine during the year of her arrival.

Two years later, in '83, Mr. Knox purchased the old "Doc" Wright ranch consisting of 160 acres, and located one mile above the hot springs on Chalk Creek. (This ranch, one of the most beautiful in this section, belonged to a member of the family until recently, when Mrs H.C. Hayes sold it to a Mr. Wright) Later Mr. Knox moved his family to the ranch and there established his home.

Mr. Knox spent the rest of his days at this beautiful spot, passing away there on August, 13, 1909. Mrs Knox followed him on July, 6th, 1922.

They are survived by four daughters, Mrs A. A. Hatch and Mrs Sadie Baker of California, Mrs Jennie Kent of Chicago, and Mrs H. C. Hayes of Salida.

*Mrs H. C. Hayes*