

Salida Colo. 12/14/31

Dear Mr. Niccol, Now a little spare
time will try and answer your inquiries
A letter last year covered a good deal
which will save a lot of space especially
in regard to the different bands of
Htes. The Toboquashe (Tob-a-watch-e)
was around here more so than the others
although all of them were here at different
times. Melimushes, Copotes, Musches
White Rivers or Kawwaters, Pish bands
&c, then these bands were divided up
into smaller bands under sub chiefs
at times there would be a large number
here then again a small bunch 50 to 100
or so, a large number of the old time
prominent chiefs were either head
or sub chiefs

A band would come in and it would
be Bowdweaks, Colowaw, Pattadons
Pish, Akovans, or some other chief
with more or less prominence

Spoke and Muguilus were a small party
25 or 30 who stayed around here
a good deal of the time put up their
tepees and we here all summer

They never travelled with wagons but
troops on the tepee poles lashed to the
side of the ponies with the packs on the
ponies. In passing I've seen a
calvasade what seems fit to me now
as I mentioned before I was quite
young at that time. a mile or so in
length. The bucks prancing along on
their horses, the squaws on theirs
and the papasses, where babies would be
in those back boards while a two or
or three old would be sitting out of
a pack like a little monkey.

The White Settlers were more or less acquainted
with most of the Indians as they were on a
voluntary contact with them all the
time. Shavano and Ousey were both
great friends of my father. Shavano
used to come to house here often. If father
didn't happen to be at home at the time
He used to say "Me go no Joe". Joe was father's
given name. The Settlers what few they were
tried to keep on good terms with the Indian
as you never knew when an outbreak
might start. Father traded horses with them
taking the worst of the bargain to keep
on good terms. I remember of him trading a
good Sorrel saddle horse for a little old
split eared Indian pony. This trade
was with Shavano himself. This is that

what you would call diplomacy in
present day dealings

The squaws ~~had~~ to come to the house &
a dog on or so more or less. come in
set down in a circle and jibber away
my grandmother's operable would call
em "t'vornoss" In present day
English "Beat it".

I had probably better go back and start
with a little foundation. My maternal
Great Grandfather came to America from
Scotland in 1810 and settled near
Rochester New York then a carpenter
New Country and like most of the old
country people at that ^{time} birth control
was an unknown quantity. Had 10
children of which my Grandfather was one
as most people in those days, they
lived on farms. My Grandfather left N.Y.
after selling his farm in 1859 moved to
Sparta Mo where his youngest brother had
preceeded him. and Pike Peak gold discovery
happened about that time, in the following
year June, ¹⁸⁵⁹ 1860 they left Sparta with 4
wagons bound for Pike's Peak crossing
the Mississippi at Prairie du Chem and
a ferry boat then across Iowa to Council
Bluffs then across the Missouri out to the
Great Plains. Grandfather's family consisted
wife and three children the oldest 15. My Mother

12 and the youngest ^{the} who died 9 years ago
my grand father's brother was along also.
A good many of the incidents of the trip
across will refer you to the doc't of Mr Agee
of the Gov't service had published in "Pacific
Mail". My mother said the first few days
were tiresome with the slow moving over
but that soon wore off and they staid in
the wagons, did their sewing and other duties
that they could while traveling. They were
widely religiously inclined. I know
my grand mother was as she was a very
devout Presbyterian and they never
traveled on Sunday.

My mother ^{said} it was beautiful on the Plains
the wind blowing thru the grass like
the waves on the sea antelope running
Indians and then looking thru
Ponies along thru the sea of grass
and the Sun setting down in the horizon
away off in ^{the West} to where they were trekking
and wondering when they would ever
reach the end of their journey.

After different incidents happening:
No Indian attacks however they arrived
at Coon City in October where they spent
the winter. In the Spring of 1861 they went
to California Gulch where Leadville now
stands where they staid till the Spring
of 1865. The gold panning and sluicing having
about played out. No hole mining at that
time. The people drifted out. Bonwell City
and Alder Gulch Monaca taking a number

of them as gold had been discovered there.
Some went back to the States" a few remained
and the others drifted off down the Valley and
commenced generally at the first opening
or where the valley commences to open out where
they squatted around Buena Vista or
where Buena Vista now stands. Nobody
knows of them my grand father joined among
the rest. It was as primitive as it was
5000 years ago. Nat Rich came on down and
squatted on site of the present Poncha
about the only one this side of Brown Creek
built him a cabin. John Burnett followed
while after settling above Poncha on
the present Burnett Ranch, all the rest
of the country was open wilderness no
roads nothing but Indian trails
was a road ^{every} towards Canon City. and
no settlement either, while after that
a few more came down and settled over
on Adobe Park. In 1868 my father who
had just married my mother near the
present town of Buena Vista came down
and bought Nat Rich's squatters title
as of course the country was unoccupied, and
where I was born in 1870.

King and Cox settled on the present
Acargo Place above Burnett's. King was
the first Post master. My grand father before
coming down to this locality being the Post
master at Helena the name of the Post office

in the Buma Vista and Brown Creek Settlement
the mail being carried by horse back
once a week from Fairplay Post Co.

This route who died not long ago was
about the first mail carrier between
Helena and South Arkansas as this
place was called or named Post office
He was only 14 years old at that time

The mail bag was brought to Helena from
Fairplay, our bag sufficing clear then
to Del Norte. The bag was opened and the
Helena mail taken out then to S. Arkansas
when their mail was taken then closed and
then on to Del Norte.

The people down here thought they ought
to have an Election Precinct for if they wanted
to vote they would have to go to the Browns
Creek neighborhood near the present site
of Graded, so in 1868 they formed an
Election Precinct which ran from the

top of the range east of Solida to the Utah
line and from the top of Puerca Pass to
Browns Creek. Every man voted (1868)
and they were 8 votes

At our Grandfather's place at Puerca
being at the mouth of Puerca Pass
was both a natural meeting, camping place
stopping place for both Indians and Whites
so common in contact with both Indians and
Whites more so than the other settlers

When the late Indian Reservation was set out - The largest was set out in 1868 - The lines from that time circumscribed the whole Mountain Region. A treaty was made and this Reservation was given them which included practically every thing west of the Continental Divide with an Agency established at Las Rincon between the Gunnison and Grand and Roquache some 40 miles from Roquache. The present McDonald Ranch. This Agency was for the Javaguaches which were the most numerous at that time. Later on Agency was established at White River and the country to the west over the Continental Divide was said to be mysterious but had people who you didn't find a settlement for white till I saw it at Rock at ^{about 1870} ~~Panama~~ where he stopped at Crestone or that time and he ^{was} living come down here and built his cabin, he had been a person for 3 month neither Indian or white so he thought he would see if could bring in some Indians to sort of relieve the solitude - He went over on one of those hills south of there climbed up on a high point which could be seen from the surrounding country and built some signal fires, he said the next day he had the country full of Indians as that was the method used by the scouts to signal their presence

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Aspshoos. Sioux or some other enemy
tribe were coming in to attack them
Rich had quite a stand in with the Utes
for after we came, Indians coming in
not knowing of the change would come
in and finding new comers or Rich's observance
would say "This Navajo's camp you no good
three sleeps you go Navajo heap good man"
Navajo was the name applied to Rich by
the Indians. ~~That~~ ~~Rich~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~had~~
a child born up there and he went to see
Rich and wanted him to name it for him
Rich said "Call him "Friday". A few years
ago I saw a magazine article on Indians
and illustrated with individuals and
groups, and there was one picture of a Ute
named "Friday". He was a pretty old Indian
and the photo was taken at the Hinton
Reservation in Utah where the Utes were
moved in 1880. I saw this article about
14 years ago and I was wondering if
it was the same Indian that Rich intended

After the Agency was established at
Las Pinos the Indians the ~~Indians~~ confined
them always more to that part of country
than they did prior when the San Luis Valley,
South Park and this valley was their territory
and as I said above we at the mouth of
Puebla Pass and the most convenient
stopping place. Come in contact
with Army officers, Indian Department
officers, Agency officials.

Bruno - pronounced Bruno in the early

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Sawatops was an Ismond father's up here
after a trip over the Little Reservation
This was at the time when they were executing
those Modoc Chiefs at Ft Klammath Oregon
after the Modoc War. ~~Barren~~ ~~proceed~~ ~~back~~
and went forth in the house. If he could
only get to Denver or was in Denver where
he could get a telegraphic communication
he would stop the hanging of Capt Jack
one of the Modoc Chiefs, so a little Western
history was changed there this incident.
In the early days the ~~letters~~ ~~were~~ ~~an~~
continued war with the Plain Indians
Sioux, Cheyennes, Anapokas etc and
battles were more less frequent.
As the ~~ates~~ made forays on the Plains
after their enemies and buffalo. While
the same thing happened when the
Plain Indian raided into the Territories
after ~~ates~~ ~~deer~~ and ~~tepee~~ ~~poles~~

My mother mentioned of ~~see~~ ^{ing} a large
war party of ~~ates~~ going down to the
Plains, with the war paint with yellow
Orescento on their cheek and bright ~~varnishes~~
under their eyes, giving them a terrifying
appearance. They ran into some Plain
Indians some where, as they had a bunch
of ~~scaps~~ and had big war dance
from ~~they~~ ~~returned~~
They had a big war dance up above
~~Branch~~ ~~which~~ ~~my~~ ~~uncles~~ ~~witnessed~~ The
whole Little River was lined with Tepees
seemed as though the whole ~~the~~ ~~reservation~~ ~~was~~

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Drove them along about sundown they
started coming to where the house was
waiting here which was up at the mouth
of the Chechelpo, where it enters into
the S. Arkansas about 2 miles above
Poncha. The bucks were excited jumping
into the creek whenever they came to it
regardless of the banks brush or ~~where~~
of poncha on their ponies. A pole was
erected and fire burning near the
foot, a few traps hanging on the
pole and a lot of bucks besting their tongues
and lot of the rest dancing around.
Considerable concern was felt at one
time Indians had been passing all
day and every once in while a bunch
of bucks would stop and come in
they were all pretty mad about some thing
all had the same expression. "Whites men
to much". My mother said the whites were
pretty badly worried as they didn't know
but what their might be a general clean
up of the whites. There was always more or less
apprehension anyway.

Andy Hice who died not long ago over at
Hotchkiss, took up the Ranch now owned
by Tuttle over at Round Hill or Alder
the other side of Poncha Pass, was trying
to get pay for a lot of cattle he claimed the
Indians killed up at Shirley 7 miles up
Poncha Creek from Poncha. The Government
didn't think he had proof enough I guess

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for they would not allow his claim. This was
 only a few years ago when he had his claim
 made, they were 67 high my uncle said it was 36
 - one, My Uncle who was a Red at the time
 said, he came in the house one afternoon
 his mother. (my grand mother) said, "Andy
 Hice was over today to see Burnett and
 take him up to show him a lot of cattle
 that Colorado Utes had killed." an Indian
 was sitting in the house at the time
 and he got up and said "you heap de-
 liar Utes do kill our cattle". They thought
 he didn't understand enough English
 when they mentioned it.

Tanassau an Indian who lived down on
 a ranch, now owned by Lou Swallow
 and others at Solida joined the displeasure
 of Shawano who gave him three sheep to
 go and he went.

In 1868 the Amurites were issued to the Utes
 the goods being stored at the Burnett Ranch
 the building are still standing. Apparently
 the whole Ute Nation were at there
 a good deal of Indian business was done
 at Poncha as often times they did not want
 to go over to the Agency. So would send
 word to the different Agencies "Meet us
 at the mouth of the Ponche" Ponche seemed
 to be the original way of spelling or
 pronouncing.

It seemed as I remember that there
 was Indians around all the time
 when I was small - I was afraid of them
 not so much so when they came in

but they had a habit of riding up in front of the house and set these on their ponies for quite a while apparently they never saying a word to each other. Finally with a great relief to my childish relief, Spoke mentioned before, came in one afternoon. He had not been around here for 2 or 3 years and had come in with a band of 300 or more and were camped up above the house here my other brothers (only 3 of us at that time) the youngest a baby) were playing out around the house and were not aware that Spoke was calling. He wanted to see the Papouses. Mother came out and brought us in, "Nana Papouse" then he wanted to know if there was any more ~~more~~ Mother took him into the bed room where the boy was asleep. "He sp wano Papouse" He was also quite observing, for Mother had a dinner table in front of house, imported article, not noticed to the country, and he immediately noticed that and got it the once over, making all sort of inquiries as far as his knowledge of English would permit. So they were evidently well pleased and observing along national lines I remember he had pleasant smile on his face. His hair quite grizzled and a big eagle feather stuck up in the back of it, and a rifle across his knees. He would have made a good study for an artist who was looking for Indian art.

There was one who wore a white ^{egg} tail with the bush dyed pink hair, fixed on behind some way and went around with this tail dragging behind him. Colarad dropped in one afternoon and informed my grandmother that he was going to call next day. "Heap wait bring squaw. Heap cook" Grandmother told him alright. Come along. He showed up next day, per his notice. His squaw like her white sisters had to dress up for an occasion of a formal visit, she had on one of those old fashioned hoop skirts in vogue during those times, had them on over her blanket, and a white night cap such as old ladies wore in those days. Mother said she was the most ludicrous looking person she ever saw. He was very attentive to her at the table, helping her to everything he could reach especially sugar. No took all quiet of course as sitting up and going to it was the main idea.

In 1878 was the last time I saw any Indians here.

Prof Hayden of the U.S. Geological or Biological ^{Survey} or both stopped at my grandfathers up here at Poncha and we were quite well acquainted with him. Game was plenty bear ran around on the creek banks. Buffalo were all gone when the first white settled here. Zebulon Pike killed 8 near the present town of Salida. Christmas 1807 - Old dead up carcasses were numerous

Curry said deep snow killed them all
 of some time in the 40's
 And ~~and~~ school Dist. No 3 (the ~~is~~ ^{was} Pousha
 Dist.) report for 1874. 13 between the age of 6,
 and 21 and the District at ^{that} time comprised
 what is now Asilda, and all the other
 districts in the valley here

In "the Lake Co. War" if you had a letter I wrote
 to you last year covers a good deal of them indeed
 they had rope stretched across the road
 at Cleora which they called Foot Lariat
 and no one was out or came in unless
 they could give an account of themselves
 "Father Dyer's Snow Photo. Numerous" colored
 up every thing on the side of the jobbs for a
 perfectly natural as his son was killed
 in the troubles. Most of the Vigilantes
 were law abiding respectable citizens
 and they were just as firmly convinced
 that jobbs murdered Geo. Horrington as
 other side thought he didn't of which there
 were good people also on that side
 I have heard that Judge Dyer was related
 to the jobbs thru marriage or something to
 that effect. Anyway the Vigilantes had (if any)
 use for Judge Dyer as they claimed he
 was a double crosser. ~~When~~ ^{Where} he met
 with the vigilantes after his return from
 Southern San Luis Valley, and was going
 to, and promised them ^{and was in full sympathy with them} he would assist them
 in restoring Law and order, which when he
 got to Granite he repudiated and went back
 on everything he promised. "Doc" Chopin
 was. Captain of the vigilantes and practical

all the men at this ^{end} of the County
belonged to the Orquelles besides
those that belonged at the other end
Several Killings took place before or
over including, Dave & some Boone
and Jim Kone who were killed
at Gas Creek in attempting to lynch Gibbs
When they buried the Boone Boys and
Kone was the best funeral I ever
attended I was pretty young but I
remember it quite well It was in
January and some snow being
around the graves. Had a big fire
burning so they could get warm
Every one was heavily armed
"Shall we gather at the Red" and
"Sweet bye and bye" were the two hymns
sung. The men gathered around the
graves and singing these hymns created
a feeling of awe in me even at my
age and to this day when I hear
those hymns it takes me back to
that day. Father Dyer was
very vindictive. My mother lived
him in California Gulch and he
asked her if when she got married where
ever that might be if he could perform
the ceremony. When she got married
some years afterwards (3 or 4) Father
Dyer had left the country and didn't
know where he was at. When he returned
later, finding my mother unmarried
He gave her the cold shoulder from that

time on. We have a photo of the old man
that he gave my mother when she was
a girl in California Field.

He was very bitter towards the South
as he lost a son ^{who was} in the Union Army
I could discuss this Late C War
far better verbally than in writing
I might add that I saw an old man
in the hospital at Bolinda a few years
ago who was from Elbert Co. down
by Denver and he happened in at
the trial of Gibbs, a sort of a plenary
proposition and this man told me
that Gibbs was very arrogant
and made a remark when he came
out of the court room what he was
going to do to some of these people up
here. as I understand this was what

prejudiced a lot of the later trouble
or trouble following. To hear our
side you might think that the Vigilantes
were a lot of cut throats and scoundrels
while they were far few.

The head of the Board I have was
the second funeral in this part of
country, the first being James Maxwell
Mrs Burnett. father, found father to the

Bursett says up here now He died
in 1870. The first known white child
born there was James Rich. white.

of course you got it in outline. What
gumbled up at ^{what} probably be considered
and told me few words could be
told verbally much better especially
The Late Co. War - "The Pueblo Chieftain".

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still published at Pueblo supported
the Vigilantes and the files of that
paper for 1874 & 1875 probably would
furnish historical data —

Write again and if here again
Call. Best wishes

Very sincerely

Arthur H. Henshaw

P. S. ^{1st} ^{of} ^{the} ^{files}
P. S. ^{of} ^{the} ^{files}

P.S. I might add that in 1862 my
mother's elder brother along with Chas.
Nathrop (more commonly called Nathrop
the present town & station of Nathrop being
named after him) left California Gulch with a
pack train (pack horses) to go to New Mexico
after mail as they had run out of meat & flour
up there and that was about the best place
to get any without paying an exorbitant price
They were come down the valley and over Poudre
Pass & down the San Luis Valley, about the
first time to come this way and outside of early
trappers & early day explorers. They saw nothing
but Indian camps and no Americans till

they got towards or into new Mexico
where they told them down there that they had
come this way, they rather doubted it
generally went by the way of Pueblo and South
by way of Trinidad. My uncle spoke in glowing
terms of the beautiful country he saw
bluffs, meadows, the cottonwood trees along
the creeks and rivers, quite in contrast
to the bleak, high, California salt region
to which they were used to up there

R.H.

From a Hutohian
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