

# HISTORICAL SITES FOUND AT THE BEN DELATOUR SCOUT RANCH RED FEATHER LAKES, COLORADO



## #1 – ASHLEY GRANGE

This scenic location was originally settled by three people named Roxberry, Boyle, and Grimke in 1884. Mr. Grimke eventually became the full owner of the property, and he expanded the ranch to become an education center for teaching the fine arts of ranching and cowboying to young English boys who came to America. On the ranch was a large ranch house, barn, and other buildings. The ranch house was eventually moved to Log Cabin as a hotel and stage station, but it burned to the ground in 1932.



## #2 – HALLIDAY GRAVESITE

The grave of Edward F. Halliday, born April 25, 1858, in England, and died September 2, 1884. The story of Mr. Halliday's death is one of mystery and sadness as supposedly he drank a bottle of wine that had been poisoned, but that was actually intended for his father. It is said that the senior Mr. Halliday had been interfering in someone's love affair, and that the poisoned wine had been meant to get him out of the way. Inscribed on the gravestone are the words: "Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ".



## #3 – WEAVER RANCH HOUSE

At this site sat the Weaver Ranch House constructed in 1922, former home of Mr. & Mrs. George Weaver. The Weaver's Pinecroft Ranch began in 1919 with portions of the property being purchased from C.H. Schutt. In more recent years the structure was used for staff housing and a health center until it was closed in 2003.



## #4 – OLD RANCH ICE HOUSE

This foundation supported an ice house for the Pinecroft Ranch. During the winter months ice blocks were cut from Elkhorn Creek and hauled to this location. The blocks were then stored and insulated with sawdust so the ice could be used during the summer months.



## #5 – OVERSHOT HAY STACKING MACHINE

Using a team of horses, this machine was used to place hay high on a stack. The machine was placed against the hay stack, and with horses providing the power, the arms lifted the hay to the top of the stack where a ranch hand spread it around in an even fashion.



## SOURCES

*Log Cabin* by Josie Clements, 1983 (mimeographed)  
*The Story of the Ben Delatour Boy Scout Ranch* by Harold M. Dunning, no date, (mimeographed)  
*Recorded Interview with George Weaver* by Harold Warren, 1985, (mimeographed)  
*Those Crazy Pioneer* by Lafi Miller, 2000, (self-published)



## #6 – MILLER / ROBINSON HOMESTEAD

The site of the Miller/Robinson Homestead is located on Elkhorn Creek west of the Boy Scout Camps bridge where the trail breaks off the service road and heads uphill to Camp Jeffrey. The cabin's remains rest in a pile near the site. Fearing collapse, the cabin was dismantled in 2002 with the hope of reconstructing it in its original form. It is believed that the small structure was built in the 1880s, and was the home to a family of ten.



## #7 – OLD PROSPECT CABIN SITE

This site is located at the edge of Elkhorn Creek below the Jack Nicol Cub Scout Family Camp, and on the Zimmerman Trail. Remains of a cabin and out structure can be seen. Information about the cabin's occupants or time period of construction has not been found. All historical maps show this piece of property as having belonged to the U.S. Government (Forest Service) prior to becoming part of the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch.



## #8 – JOHN & CARRIE COOK CABIN

The John & Carrie Cook Cabin is located at the edge of a beautiful meadow (Cook Meadow) along the Meadow Trail. This homestead started in 1906 on a ranch of 320 acres. In the early years of the Scout Ranch the remaining structure was used for hay storage, but in the 1980s its integrity was compromised by heavy snow falls. With the heavy weight on rotting boards the building finally gave way and collapsed.



## #9 – OLD SAW MILLING SITE

Located in Section 17 to the east of the Jack Nicol Cub Scout Family Camp is one of probably three saw mill sites operated by George Weaver. Timber was cut from the Pinecroft Ranch in an effort to serve ranch building needs and to control the spread of a pine beetle infestation in the 1920s. Timber was also cut and sold for the development of Red Feather Lakes, and to the railroad for track ties. Piles of old wood slabs and other debris still can be seen at this site.



## #10 – LOG CABIN, COLORADO

From about 1888 until 1942 Log Cabin – where County Road 68C meets County Road 74E – was a site with a stage stop, post office, small hotel, store, and later a school. The post office was closed in 1942, and the property was sold to George Weaver. Of note at Log Cabin was a snow storm that struck in the first week of December, 1913, that dropped 13 feet of snow. The old school house can be found to the east of the intersection, and the remains of building foundations on the north side of the 74E. A stone monument was placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1983 on the west side of 68C. Log Cabin is also found on most maps of Colorado as a “cartographer's” mark.



## #11 – ZIMMERMAN STAGE ROUTE

Marked today on Scout Ranch property with yellow diamonds, the Zimmerman Stage Route- and earlier routes – was from Log Cabin to the Home Post Office on the Poudre River via Manhattan. Wagons, horse riders, Stanley Steamers, and pick-up trucks were used to deliver the mail, goods, and at times passengers along this route on Elkhorn Creek.