

Researching  
James McLaughlin &  
The Second Ranch  
in the Estes Valley  
A Genealogist's Perspective

# How This Project Began

## Questions About Carriage Hills

- How did Carriage Hills get started?
- Who owned this land?
- Who lived here first?
- Expanding my focus in time and geography
- Jim Pickering: “There was an early ranch in the Carriage Hills area”
- Today’s program focuses on a very early resident: James McLaughlin

No photos of McLaughlin or the ranch

# Imagine James McLaughlin Was Your Ancestor

Where to begin?

- Prior research – family history books & local history books
- Ancestry.com or other online genealogy resources, DNA research
- Historical newspapers in online archives
- Direct descendants and their relatives (if you can find any)
- Museums and historical societies
- Libraries
- Family lore
- Educated guesses

Tip: All these sources apply even if you are researching someone who was not your ancestor (except DNA)

# Prior Research

- James McLaughlin had a ranch in the Estes Valley
- Griff Evans and James McLaughlin had a working relationship. Both raised cattle.
- McLaughlin raised potatoes and barley, and experimented with timothy
- McLaughlin was born in 1825 (actually 1824)
- He testified at the Grand Jury hearing on Dunraven's land grabbing homestead scheme
- Sources: Brief mentioning in *This Blue Hollow* and other books

# Griff Evans Ranch



Griff Evans Ranch, circa 1878  
Credit: Rocky Mountain  
National Park archives

# Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

**CH COLORADO HISTORIC  
NC NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION**  
Experience Colorado as It Happened

Home Search Browse Topics Help and forums

"James McLaughlin"

**Boolean search**

- Exact phrase
- Any of your words
- All of your words

**Search within**

- Full text (including comments/tags)
- Full text only
- Article headlines

**Limit search by date**

From

Year Month Day

To

Year Month Day

**Result summaries**

- None
- Text
- Images

**Limit search by county**

- Larimer
- Las Animas
- Lincoln
- Logan

**Limit search by city**

- All cities ---
- (Italy)
- Akron
- Alamosa

**Limit search by title**

- All newspapers ---
- The Adams County News
- Akron Weekly Pioneer Press
- The Alamosa Courier

Tip: Look for free historic newspaper collections in the state where your ancestor lived.

# Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection

**CH COLORADO HISTORIC  
NC NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION**  
Experience Colorado as It Happened

Home Search Browse Topics Help and forums

[<Back to search result list](#) **The Estes Park Trail, Volume XV, Number 1, April 19, 1935**

[Issue ▾](#) [Article ▾](#) [<Previous issue](#) | [Next issue>](#) [<Previous search](#)

Tales of Pioneer Days on MacGregor's Ranch

Text

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In 1872 when my grandparents first came to this region, Estes Park was occupied by Griffith J. Evans and James McLaughlin and was used as a stock range. "Each knew his share by mutual agreement," my grandfather wrote in a report to a special agent of the Department of the Interior, relative to land ownership in this region. Well they might, for no survey had yet been made. Early in 1872 Theodore Whyte, representing Lord Dunraven, made arrangements to have the land surveyed. In February of that year

Log Cabin

# Abner Sprague's Stories

“Of squatters on lands in Estes Park, only Joel Estes, Griff Evans, James McLaughlin, and James Nugent (Rocky Mountain Jim) remained longer than one year....Of those in the Park at the time of the sub-division, only Evans and McLaughlin's names appear as having proved up on places.....James McLaughlin entered a quarter section joining the land on which he had a squatter's right, not on the land where his buildings were. Both Evans and McLaughlin proved up on their places after selling out to the Dunraven interests.”

Sprague, Abner E. “The Estes and Rocky Mountain National Parks: An Historical Reminiscence.” *Estes Park Trail*, 28 Apr 1922, p. 3



# Abner Sprague's Stories

“At the time of the trouble, and for some time previous to the shooting, there had been stopping with Mountain Jim at a cabin on the McLaughlin Ranch two miles up Fish Creek from the Evans' home, a young man by the name of Brown, who was the only witness to the shooting, outside of the interested parties.”

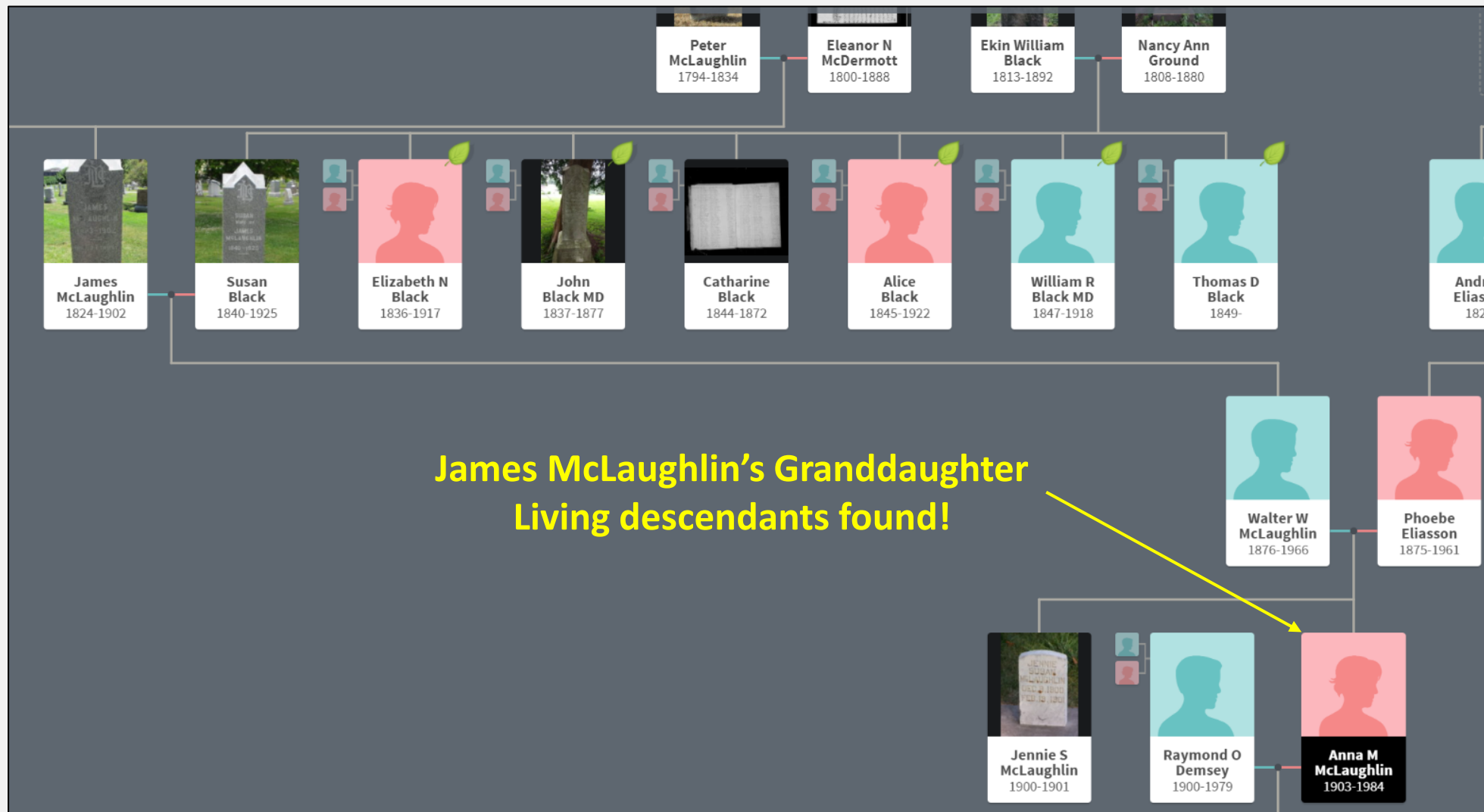
Sprague, Abner E. “The Estes and Rocky Mountain National Parks: An Historical Reminiscence.” *Estes Park Trail*, 19 May 1922, p. 3

# Ancestry.com Research

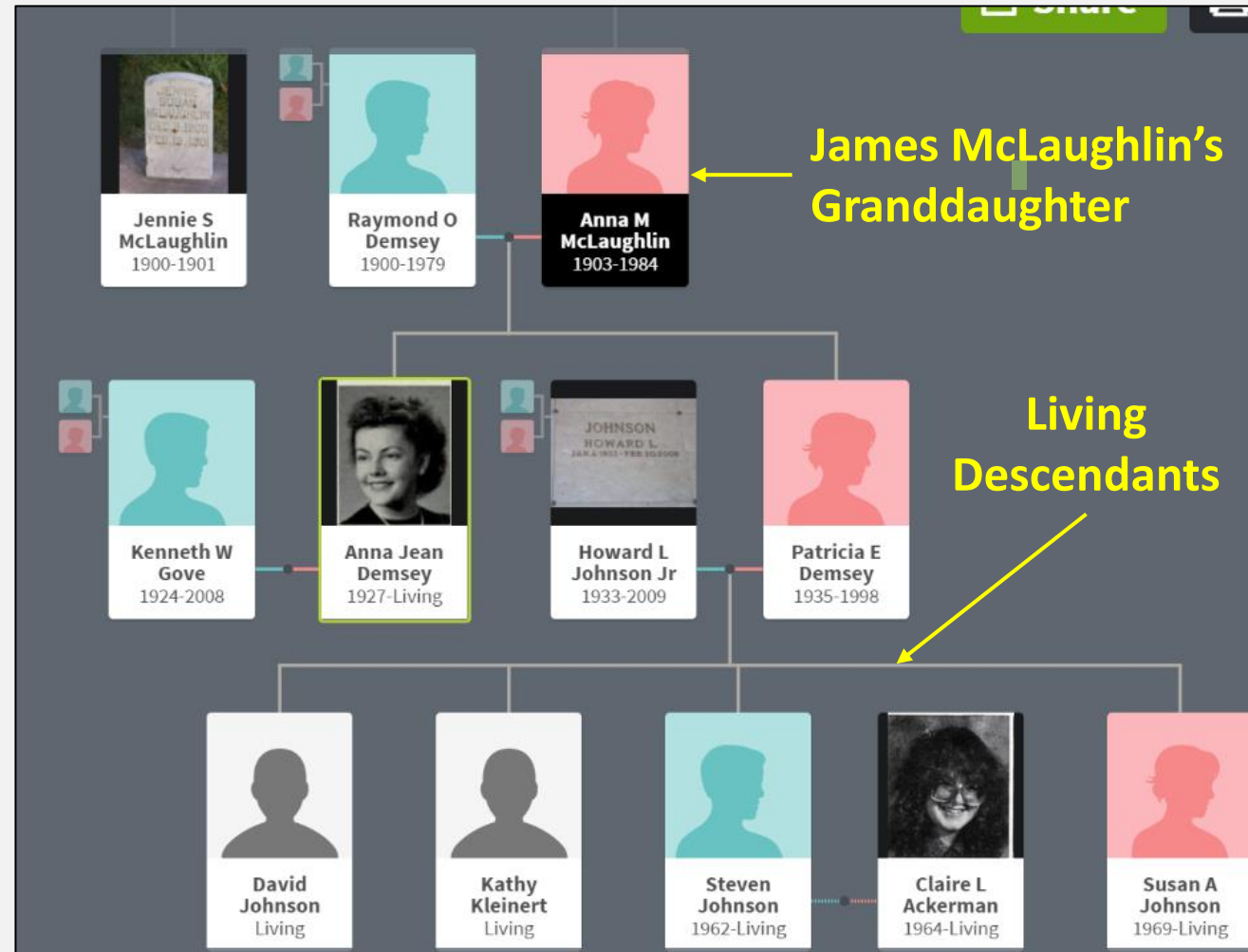
- James McLaughlin born on October 7, 1824, in in Fairview Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania
- His parents were Peter McLaughlin and Eleanor (McDermott) McLaughlin
- He was the oldest of 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls
- Be careful when using other people's online research!
  - Is this the right James McLaughlin?
  - Is the information provided correct?
  - Find multiple sources.
  - Make direct connections with your own research.

Tip: Create a family tree for the person even if not related to you or you don't know how they are related to you.

# James McLaughlin Ancestry.Com Tree



# James McLaughlin's Descendants



# Search For Other James McLaughlin Trees

## All Family Trees results for James McLaughlin

### Search Filters

Broad  Exact

James

McLaughlin

Born: 1824

Any: Colorado, USA

Collection: All Collections 

[Edit Search](#)

[New Search](#)

[Update](#)

### Filter by

[All Categories](#)

Results 1-50 of 106

**James McLaughlin** found in **77 trees**

[View all](#)

**James McLaughlin** from tree  [The Givens - Coleman Family Tree](#)

Birth	1825 Fairview, Butler, Pennsylvania, USA	Father	<b>PETER McLAUGHLIN</b> (1794-1834)
Marriage	13 Sep 1872 Weld, Yuma, Colorado, USA	Mother	<b>ELEANOR McDERMOTT</b> (1801-1888)
Residence	1900 Silver City, Juab, Utah, USA	Spouse	<b>Susan Black</b> (1840-1925)
Death	3 Oct 1902 Silver City, Juab, Utah, USA		

 **3977 People** **10 Records** **30 Sources**

# Find Other Researchers

McLaughlin ▾ Tree search Rhonda Shough



**James McLaughlin**  
BIRTH 7 OCT 1824 • Fairview Twp., Butler Co., Pennsylvania  
DEATH 3 OCT 1902 • Silver City, Juab Co., Utah

LifeStory **Facts** Gallery

**Facts** Filter ▾

1824 (AGE) **Birth**  
7 Oct 1824 • Fairview Twp., Butler Co., Pennsylvania  
3 Sources

1826 **Birth of Brother Hugh McLaughlin (1826–1906)**

**Sources**

Ancestry Sources

1850 United States Federal Census

1900 United States

# Peter McLaughlin (1794 – 1834)

- Served in the War of 1812 for 61 days.
- Established 400-acre farm in 1816 via Pennsylvania land warrant (not based on war service)
- Married Eleanor McDermott (1801 – 1888) in 1821. They had 6 children.
- Died young in 1834 at age 40, leaving widow with young children
- Because he served at least 60 days in the War of 1812 Eleanor was able to get a war widows pension of \$8 per month in the 1870's
- Eleanor continued to live on the family farm the rest of her life
- Source: War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files (Fold3.com)

# Establishing the Family Farm – Land Warrant

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ss.

WHEREAS *Peter McLaughlin* of the township  
of *Butler* in the County of *Butler*  
hath applied for *four hundred* acres of land  
including an improvement, adjoining lands of  
*Samuel Murray on the East William Waddle on the South*  
*James Bell on the West and Richard Vandine on the North*  
*Situate in Mercer township*

in the County of *Butler* for which he has paid into the office of the State Treasurer, at the  
rate of *twenty dollars* per hundred acres. Interest thereon from the *1<sup>st</sup> June 1796*  
to be paid agreeably to the several acts of Assembly in such case made and provided.

THESE are, therefore, to authorize and require you to survey, or cause to be surveyed, unto the said  
*Peter McLaughlin* the quantity of acres by him applied for at the place aforesaid, if not already  
surveyed or appropriated, and to make return thereof into the Land Office, for which this shall be your warrant.

IN WITNESS whereof *John Cochran* Secretary of the Land Office, hath  
hereunto set his hand and affixed the seal of the said office, the *twenty first* day of *February*  
A. D. *1816*

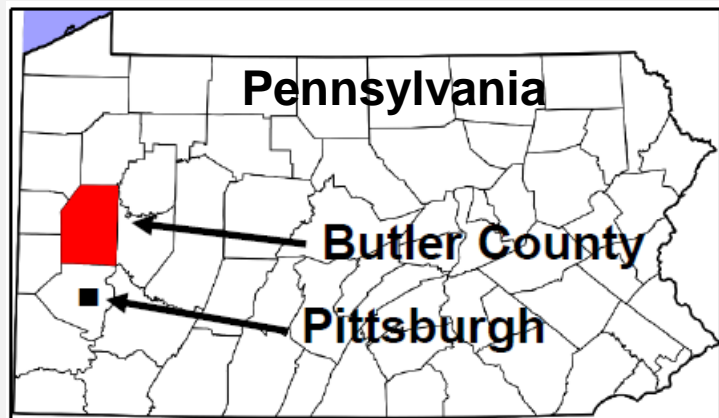
To *Rich T. Leese* Esq.  
Surveyor General.

*John Cochran* Secy of the Office

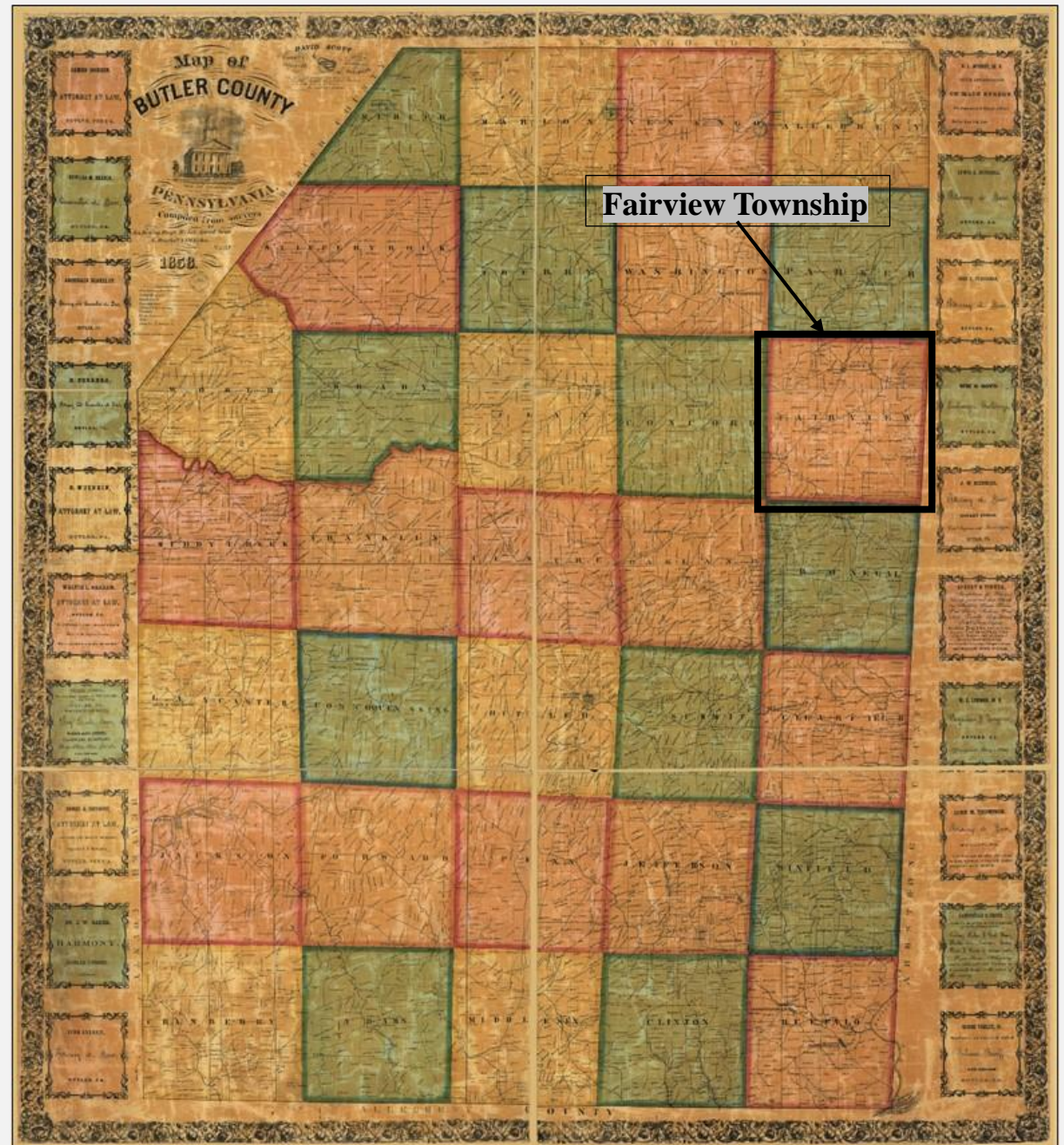
Source: Pennsylvania  
Land Warrants  
and Applications  
1733 - 1952  
Ancestry.com



# Finding the Family Farm



Dunlap, Jas, et al. *Map of Butler County, Pennsylvania*. [S.l.: s.n, 1858] Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [www.loc.gov/item/2004629221/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2004629221/)





# Tracking James McLaughlin's Movements

- At age 25, James is still living on the farm in 1850 according to the Federal Census. All 6 children are listed.
- He's not living on the farm according to the 1860 Federal Census, and not found in any other 1860 Federal Census record
- Did not serve in the Civil War  
(no info in Fold3.com & Pennsylvania military records)
- Moved to the Estes Valley by 1870

# 1870 Federal Census

29	12/3	12/3	Evans Griffith	40	m	w	Laborer	157	Wales
30			Evans Jane A	37	F	w	Keeping House		Wales
31			Evans Jennie	13	F	w			Wisconsin
32			Evans Lewellen	8	m	w			Wisconsin
33			Evans Ewean	4	m	w			Colorado
34			Evans Catharine	1	F	w			Colorado
35			McLaughlin James	45	m	w	Laborer		Pennsylvania

# Abstract of Title to Dunraven's Holdings

A B S T R A C T O F T I T L E

T O

C E R T A I N L A N D S I N L A R I M E R C O U N T Y , C O L O R A D O ,

O W N E D A N D C L A I M E D B Y

T H E E S T E S P A R K C O M P A N Y ( L I M I T E D ) O F L O N D O N , E N G L A N D .

J a n u a r y 1 5 t h , 1 9 0 2 .

P r e p a r e d b y A l f r e d K e r n s , D e n v e r , C o l o r a d o .

---

Source: James Pickering  
Collection

# James McLaughlin Homestead Entry

No.116.

U.S.Land Office Records,  
Denver, Colorado.

James McLaughlin.

HOMESTEAD ENTRY No.1194.

Dated Jan'y.22,1877.

Of Lots 1 and 2, the E.½ of Lot 6,  
and the E.½ of Lot 7 of Section 1 in Township 4 North Range 73 West. 169.64  
acres.

No.117.

Doc.No.7319.

United States of America.

PATENT.

to

Dated January 25, 1878.

James McLaughlin.

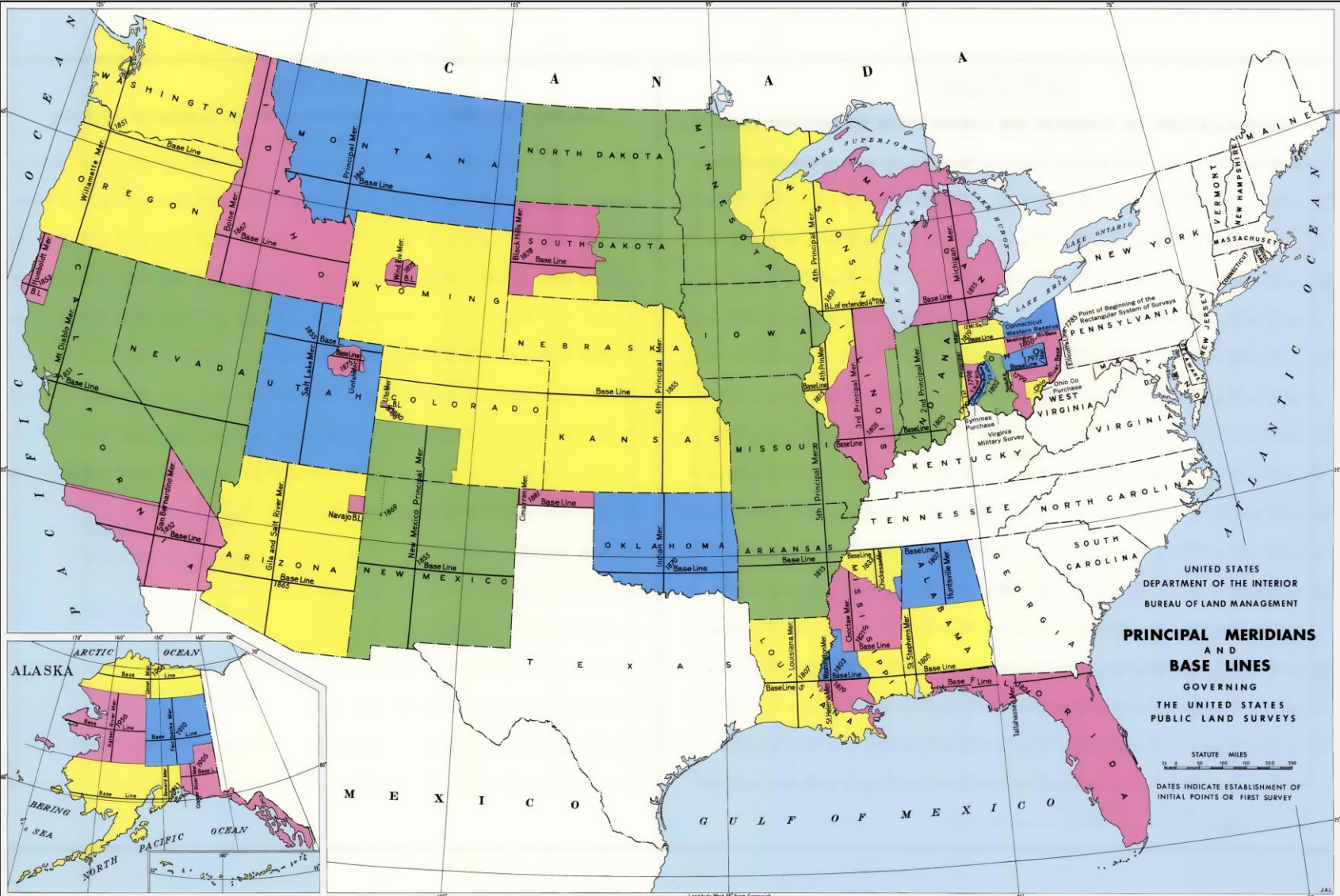
Filed for record Nov.10, 1879.

Recorded in Book T, page 153.

# How Land is Surveyed - PLSS

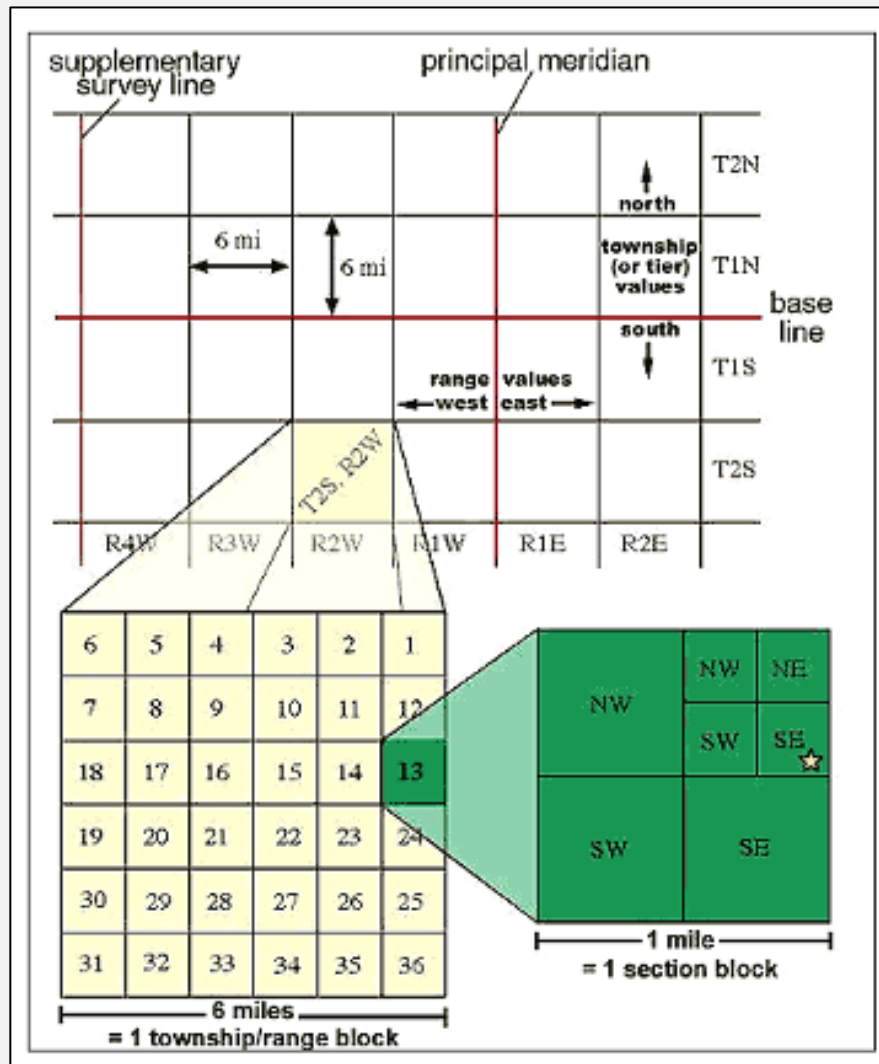
- Eastern states used Meets and Bounds survey system
- Land in the western two-thirds of the U.S. was surveyed using the Public Land Survey System (PLSS)
- Homesteading was only possible after completing a PLSS survey
- PLSS property designation: Township, range, principal meridian, section, aliquot. Example: Township 4 north, range 73 west of the 6<sup>th</sup> PM, section 1, lot 1. Properties are defined in relation to survey benchmarks.
- Residential property designation: subdivision plat, street name or block number, lot number. Example: Carriage Hills fifth filing, block 17, lot 7. Properties are defined by lot stakes within a plat.

# BLM U.S. Survey Map





# PLSS Townships and Sections



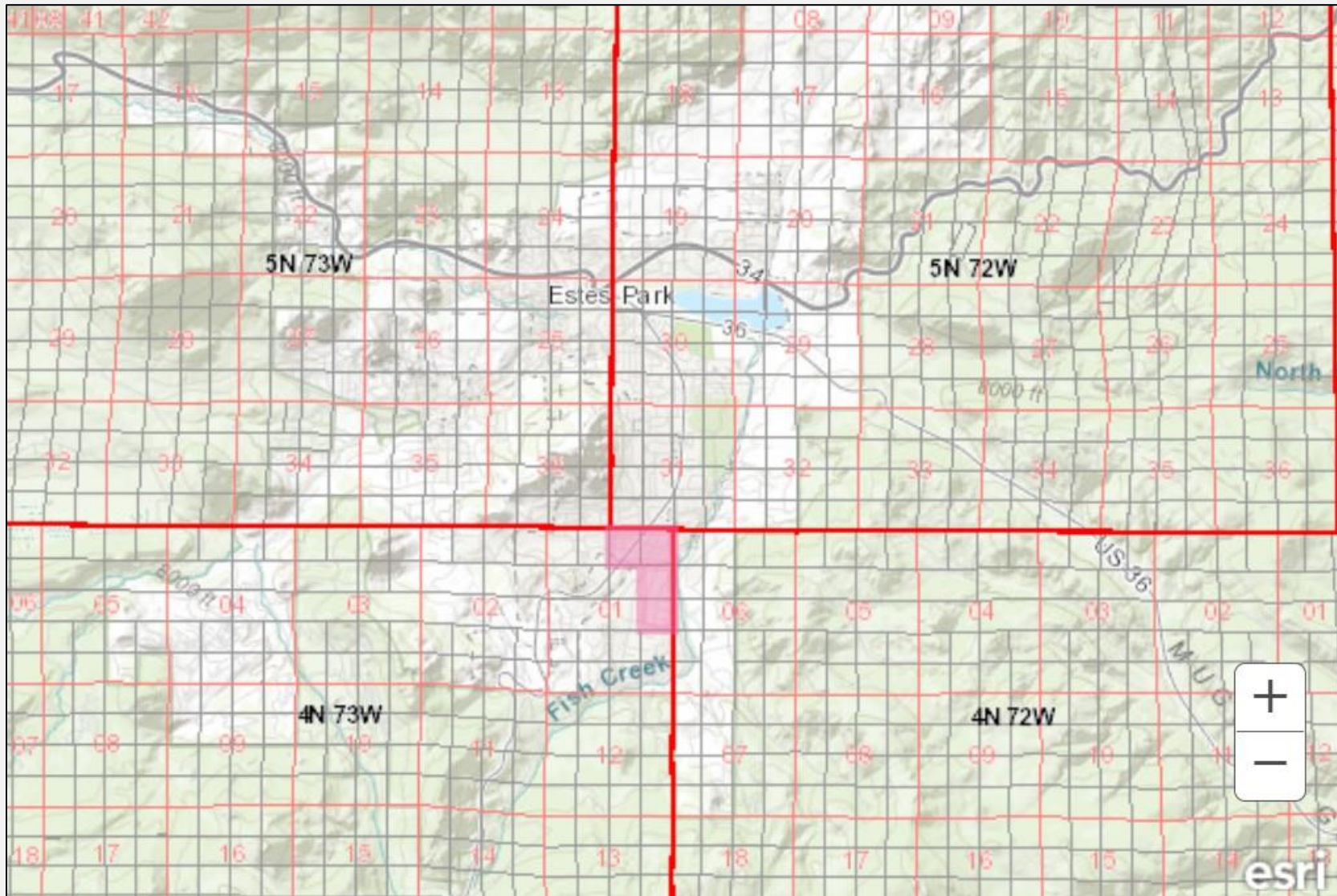
- 1 Township = an area 6 miles by 6 miles or 36 square miles
- 1 square mile = 1 section or 640 acres
- Sections are numbered from the upper right corner of the township in a zigzag pattern to the lower right corner
- Typical homestead = 160 acres or one-fourth of a section

# Estes Valley Township Grid

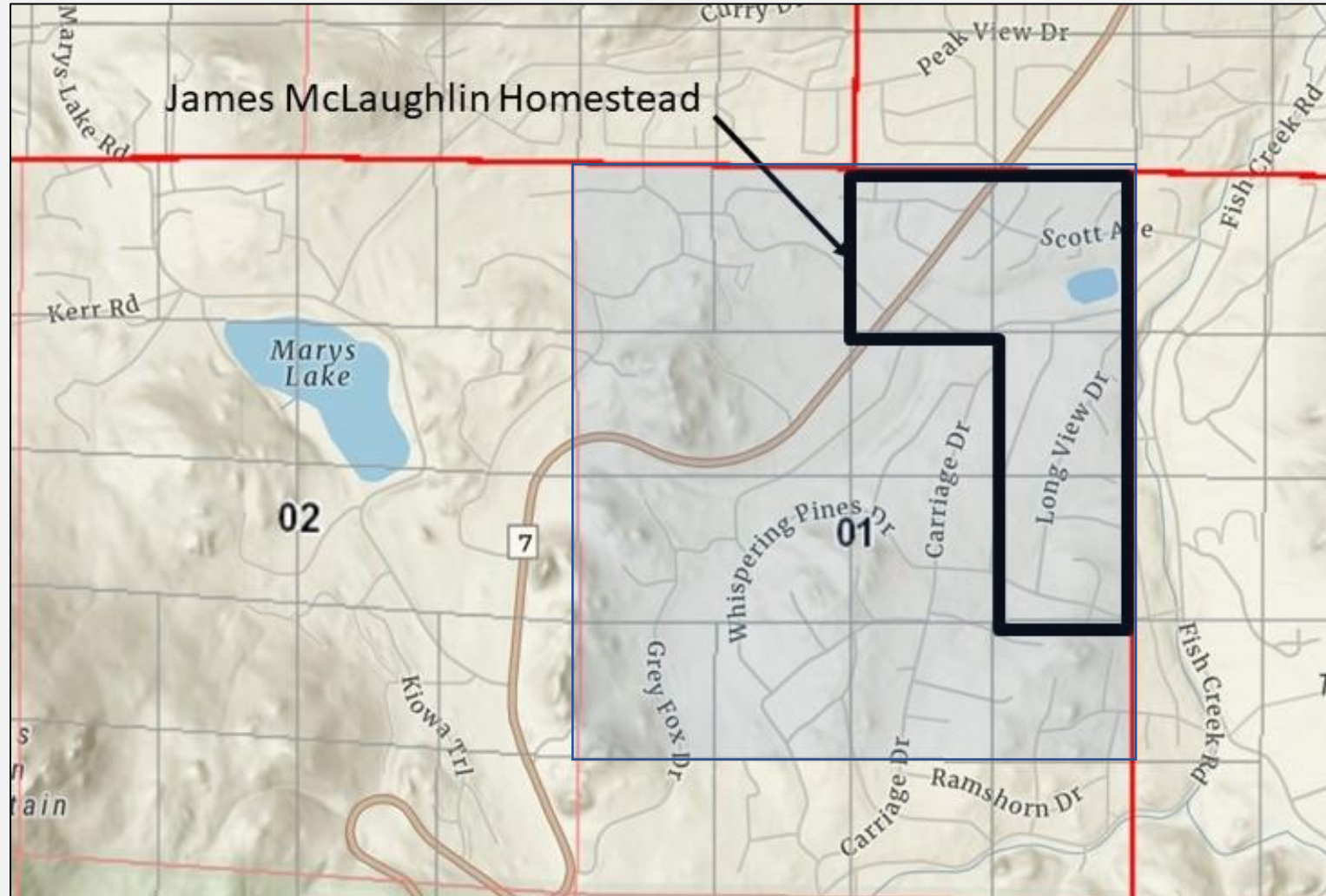
Estes Valley Surveyed  
in 1874

<https://navigator.blm.gov/map>

Tip: To work with land  
and homestead  
records learn the  
Public Land Survey  
System (PLSS)



# Location of Homestead



Legal Description:  
Lots 1 and 2, the E ½  
of Lot 6, and the E ½  
of Lot 7 of Section 1,  
Township 4 North,  
Range 73 West.  
169.64 acres

# James McLaughlin's False Claim

No.150.

Document No.7321.

James McLaughlin.

to

The Estes Park Company  
Limited of London, England.

WARRANTY DEED.

Dated September 25, 1879.

Filed for record Nov.10,1879.

Recorded in Book K, page 408.

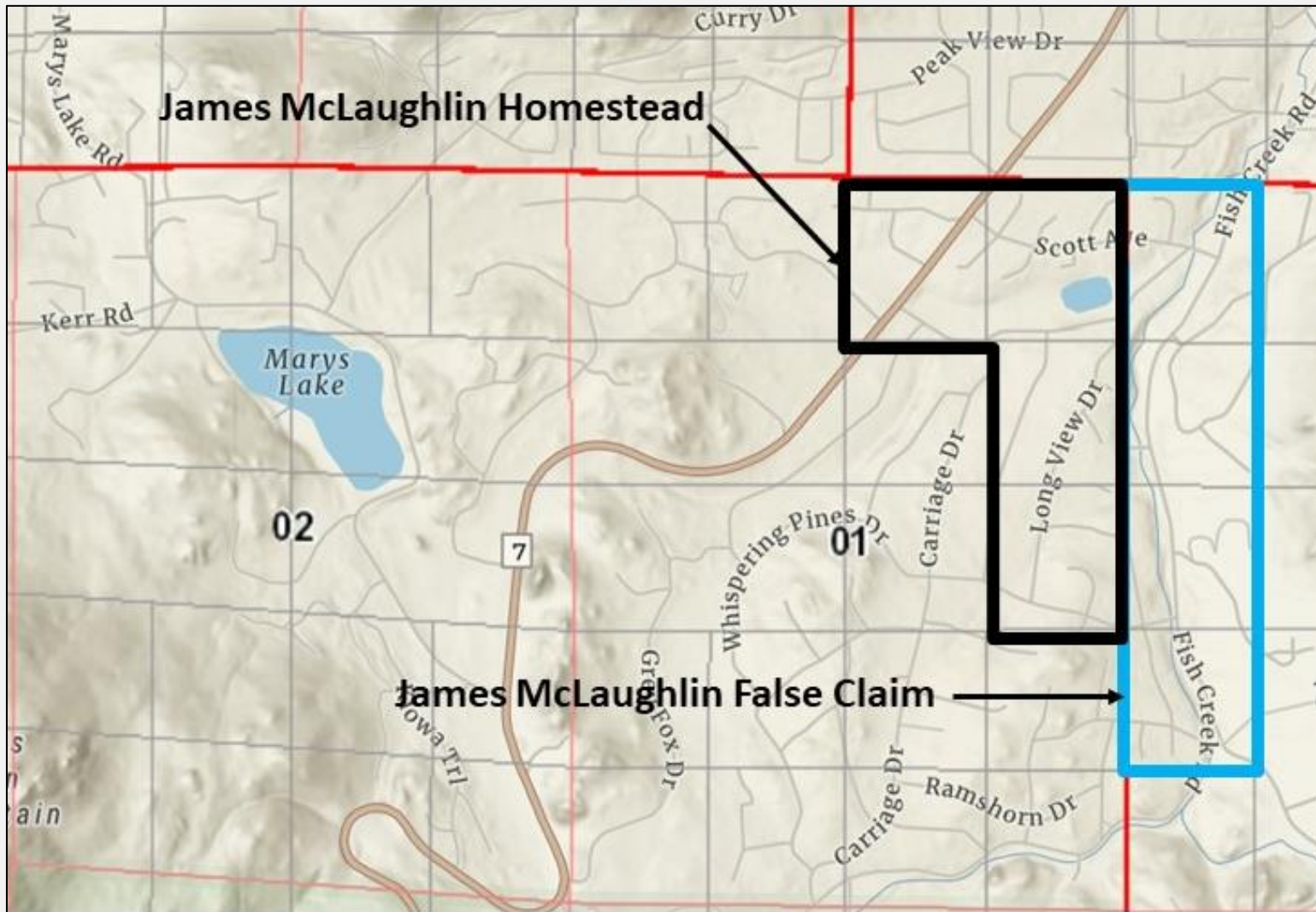
In consideration of \$3500.00 grants,  
bargains, sells, conveys and confirms to second party, its successors  
etc., "Lots numbered four (4), five (5), ~~ten~~ (10) and eleven (11) in  
Section six (6) in Township four (4) North of Range seventy-two (72)  
West containing one hundred and fifty-eight acres, more or less."

Full covenants of seizin and warranty.

Acknowledged Sept.25, 1879 by James McLaughlin before John D. Jerome,  
Notary Public of Arapahoe County, Colorado.

NOTE: No title in grantor to the above described tract is found of record.

# Location of Homestead and False Claim



Legal Description:  
Lots 1 and 2, the E ½  
of Lot 6, and the E ½  
of Lot 7 of Section 1,  
Township 4 North,  
Range 73 West.  
169.64 acres

Legal Description:  
Lots 4, 5, 10, and 11  
In Section 6,  
Township 4 North,  
Range 72 West.  
158 acres

# Scott Ponds Area



# Establishment of Ranch - 1871

No.118.

Doc.No.4019.

James McLaughlin.

to

George W.Brown.

WARRANTY DEED.

Dated Jany.22, 1877.

Filed for record Jany.24,1877.

Recorded in Book G, page 459.

In consideration of \$218.40, receipt acknowledged etc. Conveys "Lots one (1) and two (2) and the East one half of Lot six (6) and the East one half of Lot seven (7) of Section one (1) in Township four (4) North of Range seventy-three (73) West, being one hundred and sixty-nine and sixty-four hundredths acres (169 64/100) and being the premises known as "M.Laughlin's Rancho" and now and since the month of April, A.D.1871 occupied by the said first party in "Estas Park" in said County.

Full covenants, etc.

Acknowledged Jany.22, 1877, by James McLaughlin before Robt.Chalfant Clerk of the District Court Arapahoe County, Colorado.

# What Did McLaughlin's Ranch Look Like?



Griff Evans Ranch, 1870's  
Photo: W. G. Chamberlain  
Credit:  
Denver Public Library



# BLM Land Records

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** PRIVATE CLAIMS  
General Land Office Records

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Search Documents

Search Documents By Type Search Documents By Location Search Documents By Identifier

Patents Surveys LSR CDI Tract Books

Search Clear Form

**Location**

State: COLORADO  
County: Larimer

**Names**

Last Name: McLaughlin  
First Name: James  
Middle Name:

search patentees  search warrantees

**To search for land patents:**

1. Start by selecting the State.
2. **You do not have to fill in all fields**, but provide *at least* one additional field.
3. Click the **Search Patents** button.

**Search Tips:**


- Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
- Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
- For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).




<https://glorerecords.blm.gov>

# BLM Land Records

[Search Documents](#)
[Results List](#)
[Patent Details](#)

Accession Nr: [MW-0560-123](#)
 Document Type: [Military Warrant](#)
 State: [Colorado](#)
 Issue Date: [1/25/1878](#)
 Cancelled: [No](#)

[Patent Details](#)
[Patent Image](#)
[Related Documents](#)
Printer Friendly 

Names On Document		Miscellaneous Information	
 <a href="#">MCLAUGHLIN, JAMES,</a>		Land Office:	<a href="#">Denver</a>
 <a href="#">MOYNAHAN, CATHARINE,</a>		US Reservations:	<a href="#">No</a>
 <a href="#">MOYNAHAN, JAMES</a>		Mineral Reservations:	<a href="#">No</a>
		Tribe:	<a href="#">---</a>
		Militia:	<a href="#">Captain Patricks Company Michigan Militia</a>
		State In Favor Of:	<a href="#">---</a>
		Authority:	<a href="#">March 3, 1855: ScripWarrant Act of 1855 (10 Stat. 701)</a>
Military Rank:	<a href="#">---</a>	General Remarks:	<a href="#">---</a>

Document Numbers		Survey Information	
Document Nr:	<a href="#">106518</a>	Total Acres:	<a href="#">169.64</a>
Misc. Doc. Nr:	<a href="#">---</a>	Survey Date:	<a href="#">---</a>
BLM Serial Nr:	<a href="#">---</a>	Geographic Name:	<a href="#">---</a>
Indian Allot. Nr:	<a href="#">---</a>	Metes/Bounds:	<a href="#">No</a>
Coal Entry. Nr:	<a href="#">---</a>		

Land Descriptions							
Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section	Survey #	County
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">CO</a>	<a href="#">6th PM</a>	<a href="#">004N - 073W</a>	<a href="#">Lot/Trct 1</a>	<a href="#">1</a>		<a href="#">Larimer</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">CO</a>	<a href="#">6th PM</a>	<a href="#">004N - 073W</a>	<a href="#">Lot/Trct 2</a>	<a href="#">1</a>		<a href="#">Larimer</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">CO</a>	<a href="#">6th PM</a>	<a href="#">004N - 073W</a>	<a href="#">E½, Lot/Trct 6</a>	<a href="#">1</a>		<a href="#">Larimer</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">CO</a>	<a href="#">6th PM</a>	<a href="#">004N - 073W</a>	<a href="#">E½, Lot/Trct 7</a>	<a href="#">1</a>		<a href="#">Larimer</a>

# BLM Land Records

Land Descriptions					
Map	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Section
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004N - 073W	Lot/Trct 1	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004N - 073W	Lot/Trct 2	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004N - 073W	E½, Lot/Trct 6	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	CO	6th PM	004N - 073W	E½, Lot/Trct 7	1

# McLaughlin Homestead Patent

123



## The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

**Whereas,** In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, entitled "An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military service of the United States," there has been deposited in the General Land Office Warrant No. 106 578 for 160 acres, in favor of Captain James McLaughlin  
widow of James McLaughlin Private Captain Patrick's company Michigan  
 militia War of 1812

with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the Lots numbered one and two, the East half of the Lot numbered six, and the East half of the Lot numbered seven, of Section one, in Township four North of Range seventy three West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Denver Colorado, containing one hundred and sixty nine acres, and sixty four hundredths of an acre, Excess paid.

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General the said Warrant having been duly assigned to James McLaughlin in whose favor said tract has been located.

**Now know ye,** That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said James McLaughlin or assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs

# McLaughlin Homestead Patent

the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said James McLaughlin as assignee as aforesaid and to his

heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right of the proprietor of a vein or lode to extract and remove his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law.

In testimony whereof, I, Rutherford B. Hayes, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twenty fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty second



BY THE PRESIDENT: R. B. Hayes

By B. L. Perry, Secretary.  
S. H. Clark, Recorder of the General Land Office.

# Marriage of James McLaughlin & Susan Black

From Ancestry.com:

Married September 13, 1872 in Greeley Colorado

James McLaughlin, age 47,  
born in Pennsylvania in 1824  
Susan Black, age 32,  
born in Ohio in 1840

Their son Walter Mclaughlin  
born in 1876 in Nederland Co

State of Colorado		No. Unknown
Division of Vital Statistics		Bk. 1 Pg. 27
<b>MARRIAGE RECORD REPORT</b>		
County <u>Weld</u> , Colorado Territory		
Husband's Name	<u>McLaughlin, James</u>	Age <u>Unknown</u> Race <u>Unknown</u>
Wife's Name	<u>Black, Susan</u>	Age <u>Unknown</u> Race <u>Unknown</u>
Place of Marriage	<u>Unknown</u>	Date <u>September 13,</u> 1872
Name of Official who Performed Ceremony	<u>G. H. Adams</u>	
Title	<u>Minister</u>	Address <u>Unknown</u>
Over	Reported by	<u>Florence R. Hines</u>
	Address	<u>Gilcrest, Colorado</u>

100M—9-1-39—BRADFORD-ROBINSON, DENVER

# Transfer of Title to McLaughlin's Homestead

- James McLaughlin Homestead claim filed – January 22, 1877
- James McLaughlin to George W. Brown (warranty deed) - January 22, 1877
- George W. Brown to Ada Douglas Cushman (quit claim deed) - March 14, 1877
- George W. Brown to Mrs. Susan McLaughlin (quit claim deed) - November 10, 1879
- Mrs. Susan McLaughlin to Estes Park Co Ltd (warranty deed) - November 10, 1879
- Ada Douglas Cushman to Estes Park Co Ltd (warranty deed) - November 10, 1879
- James McLaughlin also sold his false claim to the Estes Park Co Ltd at same time

George W. Brown was “Captain” George Brown, one of Griff Evans’ ranching partners

Source: Abstract of Title to Dunraven Properties – James Pickering Collection

# Who was Ada Douglas Cushman?

- Born 1846, married (at age 16) to William H. Cushman (age 24) in 1862
- William H. Cushman (1838 - 1886), prominent citizen, banker, embezzler, and philanderer from Georgetown Co.
- By 1877 Ada Cushman operating on her own, divorced 1879
- Starting a ranch takes capital
- Ada Cushman likely loaned money or invested in McLaughlin's ranch
- Ada also bought another Estes Valley homestead and sold it to Dunraven's interests
- Rocky Mountain Jim sold his Mulligans Gulch squatters claim to William H. Cushman in 1873, traveling to Georgetown to complete the sale.  
Source: Dave Hicks, *Estes Park From The Beginning*, 1976.



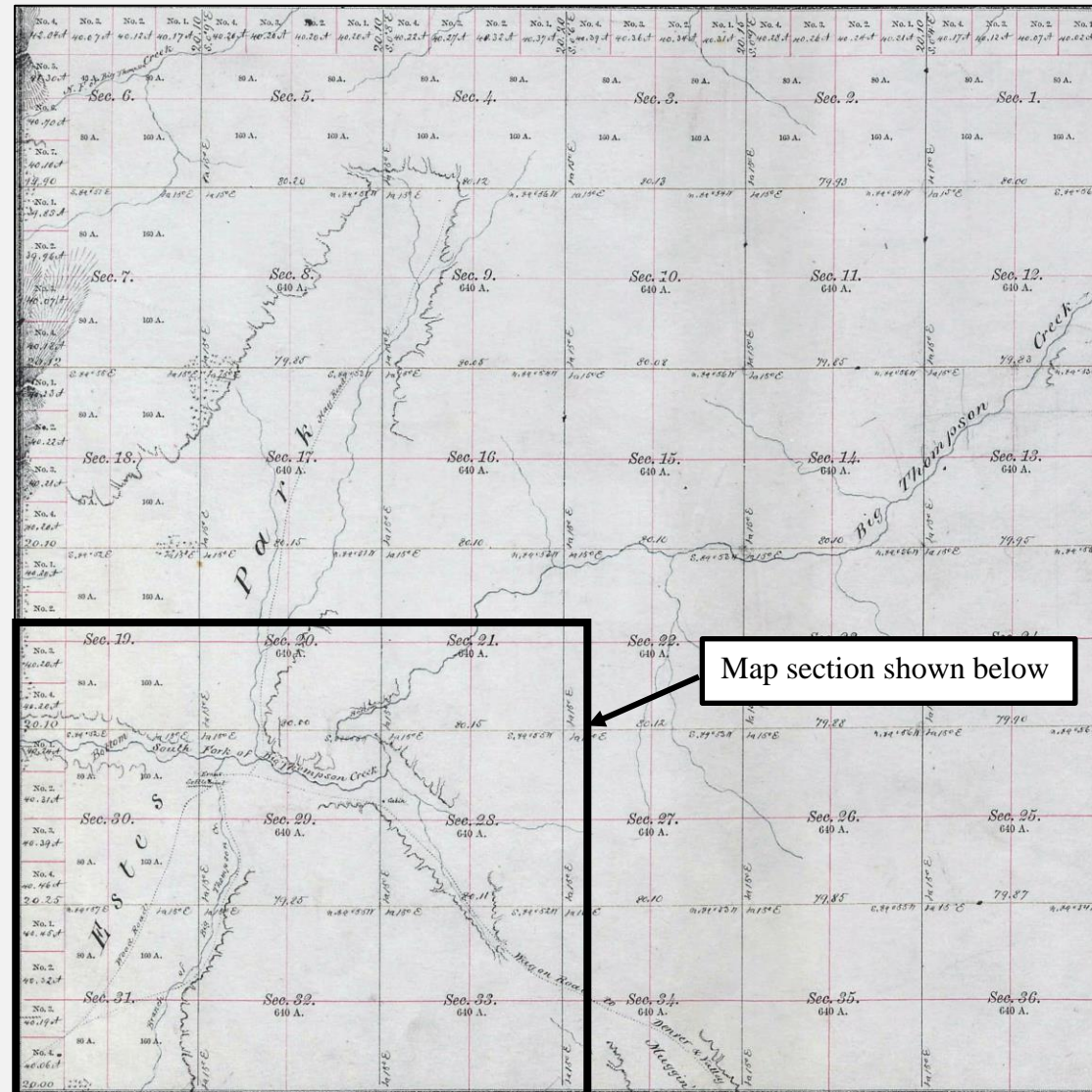
William Cushman

Source: Cheryl Freeman, "Wanted: The Honorable William H. Cushman." *Colorado Magazine Vol 49, No. 1, Winter 1972*, pp. 45 – 54.



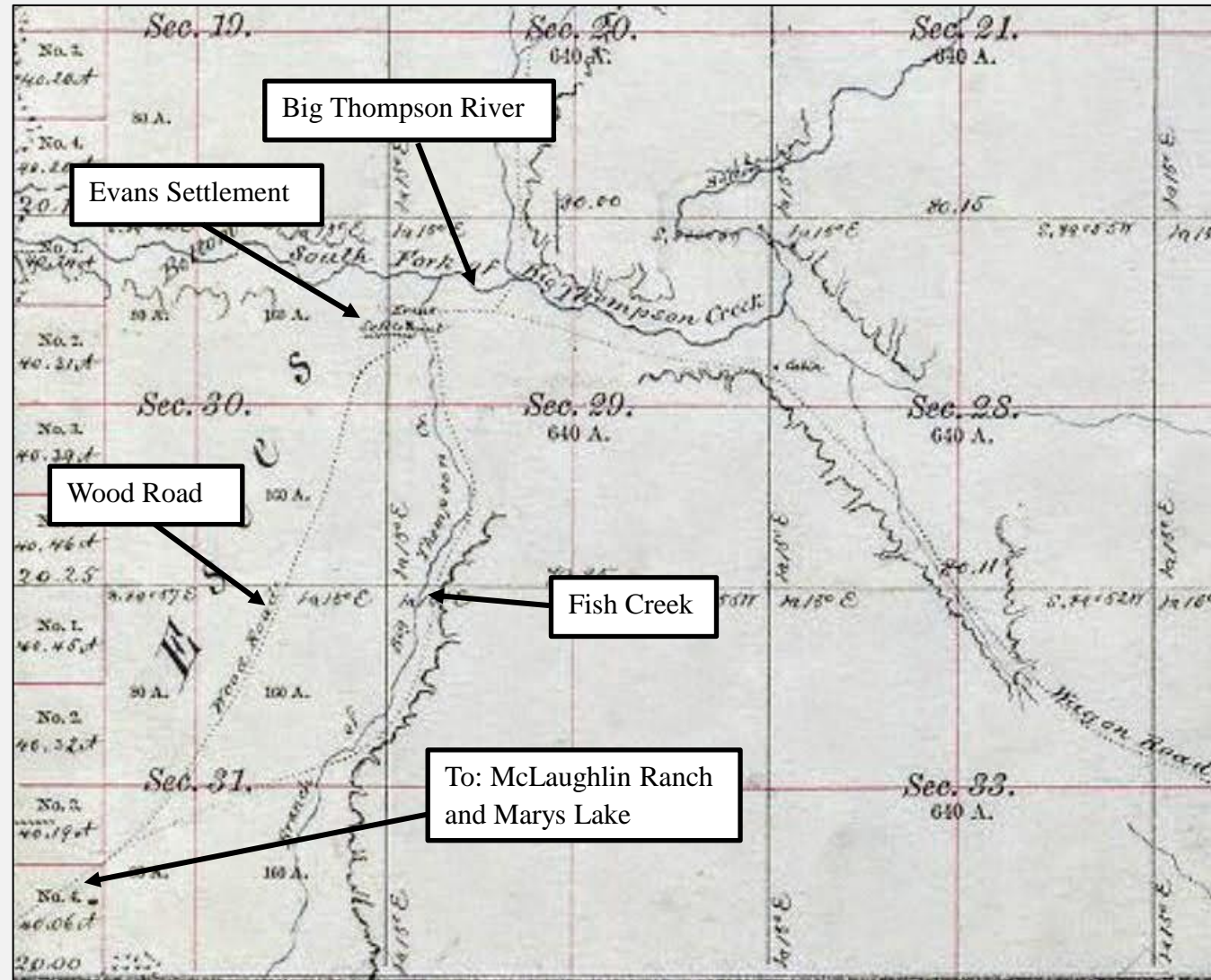
# Township Map – Original 1874 Survey

Township 5 North,  
Range 72 West,  
6<sup>th</sup> PM



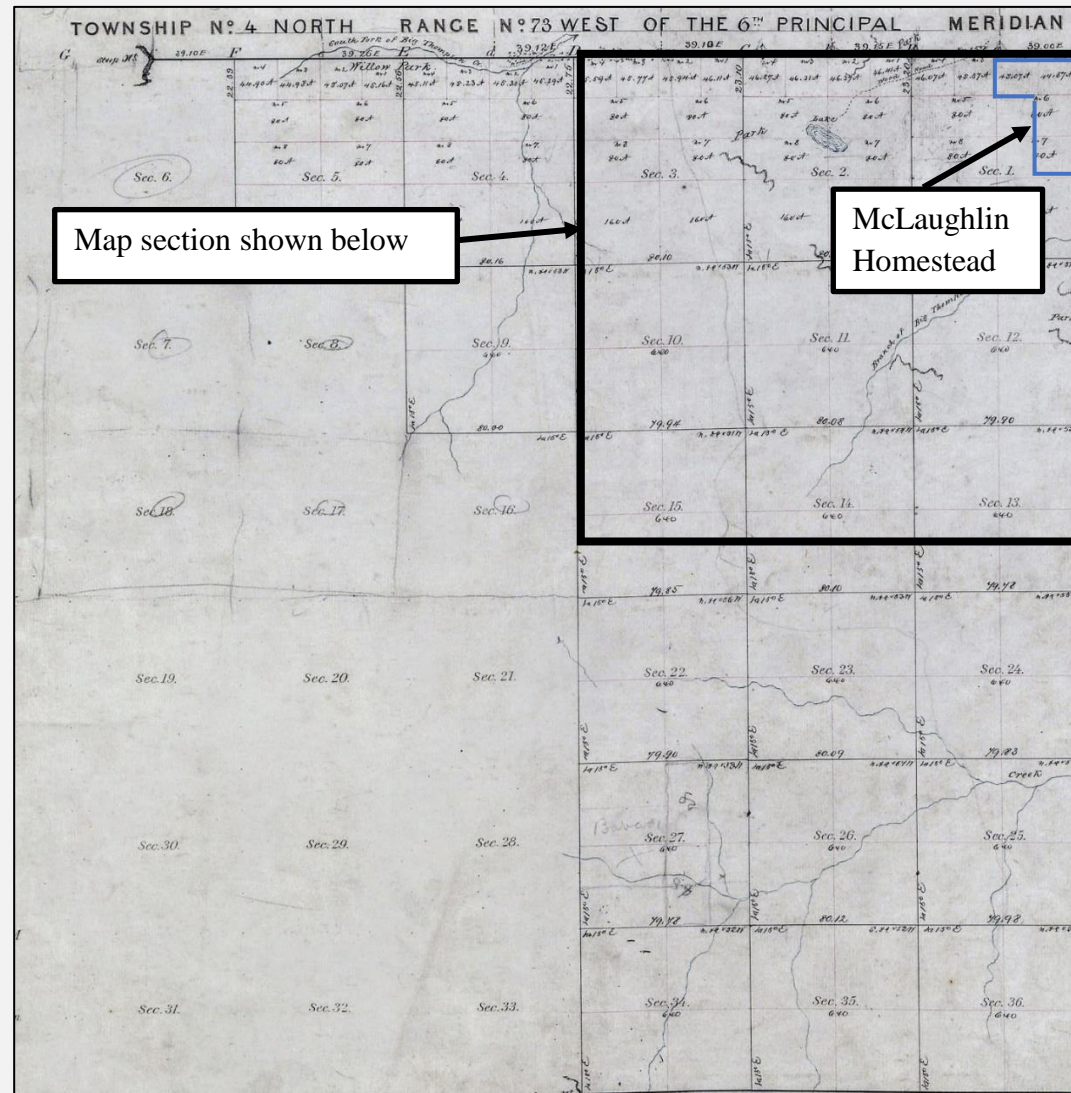
Source: BLM General Land  
Office Records  
<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov>

# Old Roads – Original 1874 Survey

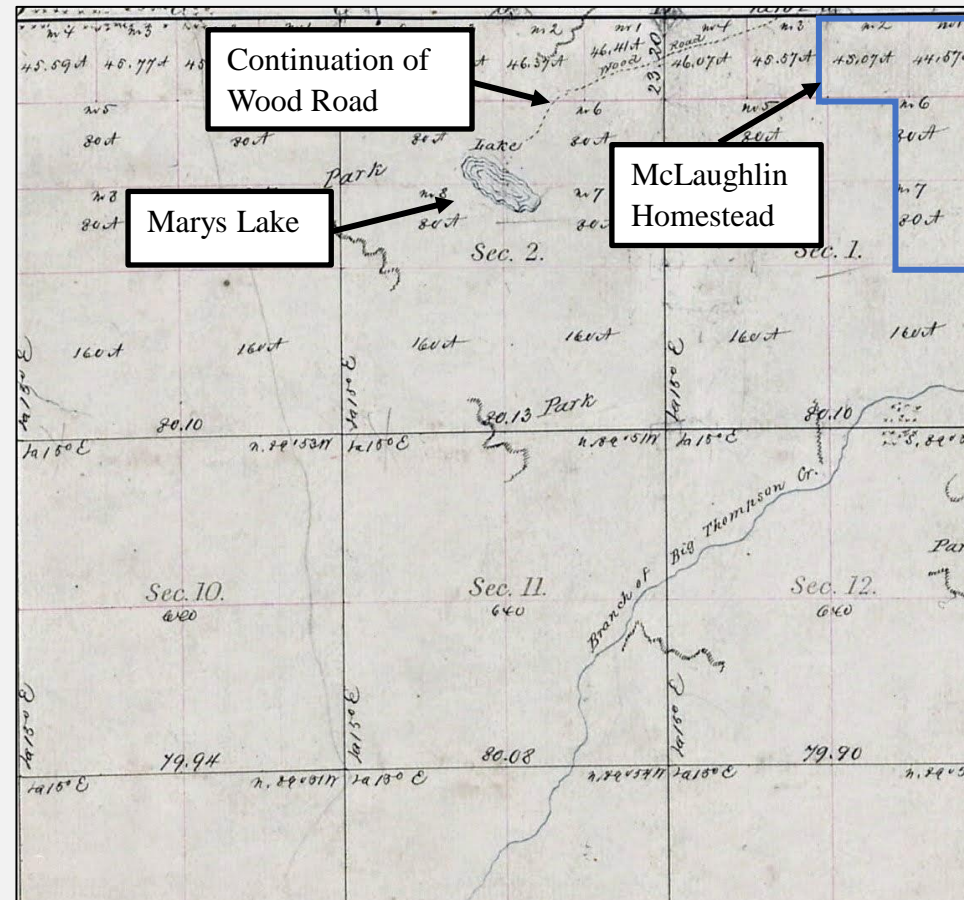


# Township Map – Original 1874 Survey

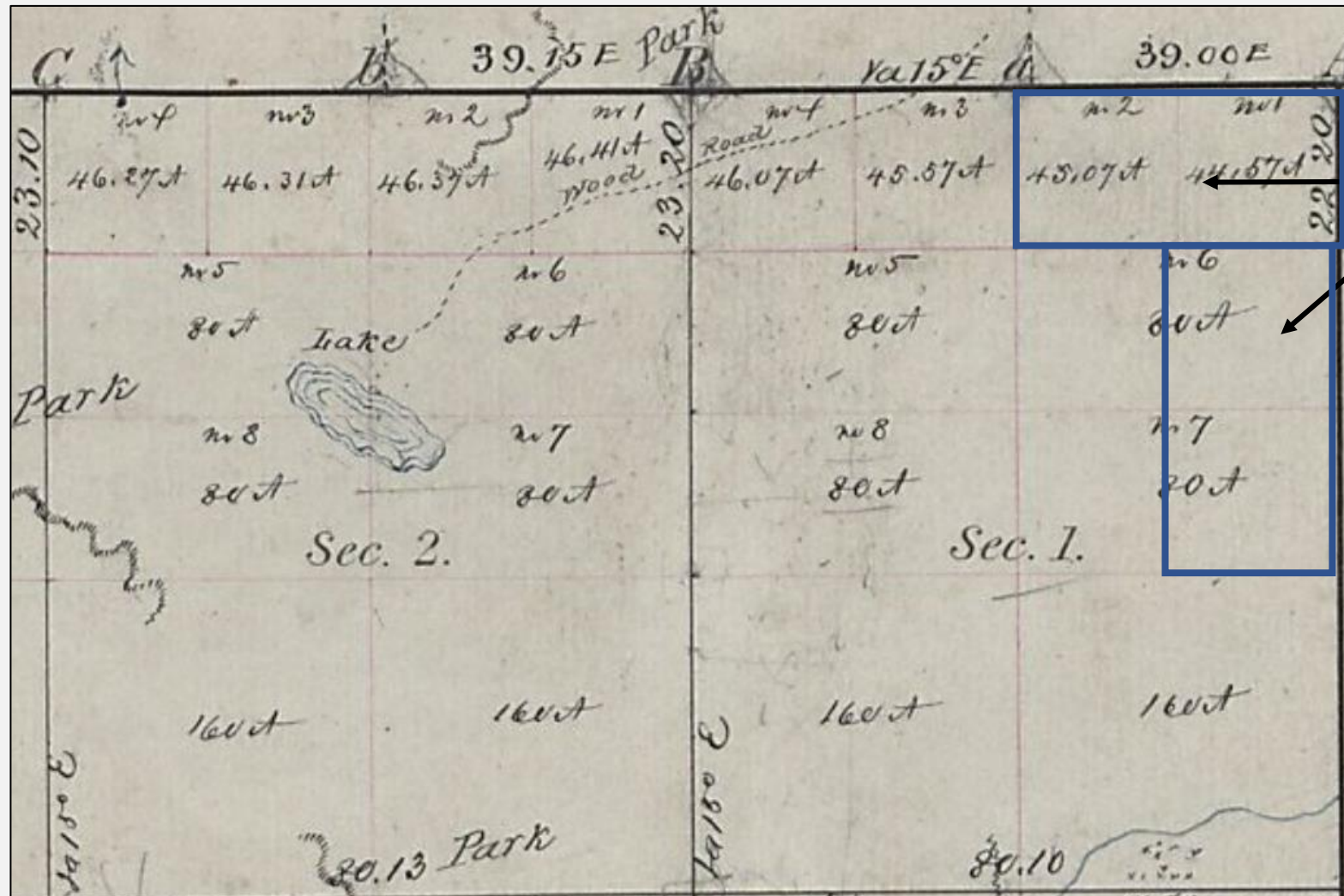
Township 4 North,  
Range 73 West,  
6<sup>th</sup> PM



# Old Roads – Original 1874 Survey



# Old Roads – Original 1874 Survey



McLaughlin  
Homestead

# Journey to Aspen Colorado

- Alpine Co (SW of Buena Vista), 1878
- Leadville Co, 1880
- Aspen Co, 1880

More than six years ago, in the early summer of 1880, Mr. and Mrs. James McLaughlin with their interesting little son Walter, started from Leadville for the uninhabited, and unexplored country of the Roaring Fork. Starting with pack animals they followed the Eagle river down from its source to its confluence with the Roaring Fork river.

After much labor and great danger they crossed this turbulent stream, overflowing its banks with the melting snows of the mountains. They then followed up the Roaring Fork, crossed Castle creek and settled in the sage brush on Aspen flat, where the Clarendon hotel now stands. [Continued next slide]

*Rocky Mountain Sun*, November 27, 1886, p. 3.

# Aspen Colorado, 1880

Here Mr. McLaughlin, with the aid of the few hardy pioneers who were then in Aspen, erected a good sized tent, and here Mrs. McLaughlin served the first meal that was ever cooked by a white woman in Pitkin county.....It wasn't a dainty meal compared with what is now furnished at the Clarendon, but the prospectors who sat down to it considered it a meal fit for the gods.

-- Aspen a primitive mining camp, prospecting just getting started



Aspen, 1882

Credit:

Aspen Historical Society

# First Hotel in Aspen – Aspen House / Clarendon

Built: 1880, 1881  
Burned Down: 1884



Credit:  
Aspen Historical Society



# Second Clarendon Hotel

Built: 1885

Photo: circa 1900

Torn Down: 1903



Mill Street  
Durant Ave

Credit:  
Aspen Historical  
Society

# Clarendon Advertisements

## **The Clarendon,**

Cor. Mill and Durant sts.,

**Aspen, Colorado.**

This is the only modern hotel in the camp, and is equal to any in the west. The building and furniture new.

**Special Rates to Permanent Boarders.**

Special Attention given to the traveling public.

**James McLaughlin, Propr.**

1885 City Directory

## **THE CLARENDON HOTEL,** **Aspen, Colo.**

The First Class Hotel of the City of Aspen. Finely located for tourists and the business public. Everything modern,—electric lights, electric bells, hot and cold [water, Turkish baths, barber shop, and billiard hall.

**JAMES McLAUGHLIN, PROPR.**

Rocky Mountain Sun, February 11, 1888

# Clarendon Banquet Menu

M E N U  
RAW OYSTERS.  
New York Counts.  
SOUPS.  
Green Turtle, Cream of Celery.  
Consomme Royal.  
FISH.  
Mountain Trout, Lyonnaise Potatoes.  
Boiled Spanish Mackerel  
BOILED MEATS.  
Capon with Cream Sauce.  
Tongue with Capor Sauce.  
Ham, Champagne Sauce  
ROAST MEATS.  
Tenderloin of Beef, Lamb with Jelly  
Young Turkey with Chesnut Dressing and  
Cranberries.  
ENTREES.  
Salmy of Teal Duck with Olives,  
Filet of Veal with French Peas  
Sweet Breads with Mushrooms,  
Calf's Head with Maderia Sauce  
Small Patties of Chicken Liver,

VEGETABLES.  
Mashed, Bolled and Browned Potatoes,  
Hot Slaw, Sugar Corn, Gumbo  
RELISHES.  
Lobster Salad, Potato Salad, Chicken Salad,  
Pickled Beets, Dressed Crabs, Celery  
DESSERT.  
Mince Peach and Lemon Pie,  
Vanilla Ice Cream  
Jelly Roll, Fruit Cake, Egg Kisses,  
Cream Puffs, Jelly Tarts  
Mountain Gems, Apples, Grapes,  
Peaches, Raisins, Cheese  
Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, Iced Tea,  
Milk, Lemonade

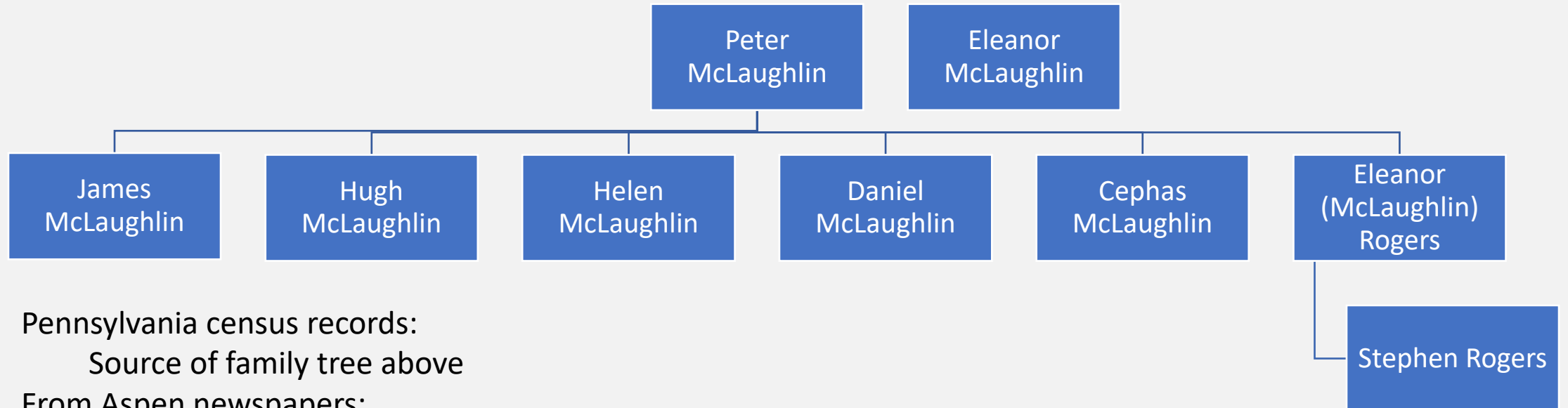
Rocky Mountain Sun, November 3, 1888

# McLaughlin Activities in Aspen Colorado

- Built, rebuilt, and ran the Clarendon hotel for 8 years
- Owned land and houses in Aspen
- Had financial interests in at least 16 silver mines
- Owned a herd of dairy cattle
- Appointed and later elected to the Town Board
- On Board of Directors of the first Water and Light Company
- Lawsuit over mine lease went to Colorado Supreme Court
- Susan McLaughlin was a partner in all activities
- Walter McLaughlin went to grade school in Aspen

Source:  
Aspen Newspapers

# The McLaughlin's Relatives Visit Aspen



Pennsylvania census records:  
Source of family tree above

From Aspen newspapers:

Stephen Rogers visited James and Susan McLaughlin in Aspen Colorado  
Eleanor (McLaughlin) Rogers moved to Durango Co and James McLaughlin visited her there  
Susan McLaughlin's relatives also visited them in Aspen, as recorded in the newspapers

Provides proof that the Pennsylvania James McLaughlin is the same one that came to Colorado



# Nephew of James McLaughlin Visits

## Personal.

Emery Visino is in the city.

L. B. Hollis is sick with typhoid fever.

C. D. Robinson and wife are in the city.

Mr. Thos. Bracken has returned to Aspen.

Maj. Kasson has this week been in Denver  
Col. Eames this week made a trip to Denver.

Mr. Charlie Todd came to town first of the  
week.

Mrs. Joseph Ruse has been quite sick this  
week.

Miss Emma Benson is fast improving in  
health.

Col. Newberry and wife this week went to  
Denver.

I. W. Chatfield and family will reside in  
Denver.

Norman Strait has returned from British  
Columbia.

J. A. Ewing, of Leadville, visited Aspen  
this week.

Mr. and Mrs. VanHoevenbergh have re-  
turned home.

Mr. Eben Smith and wife on Monday were  
at the Clarendon.

Gen'l Agent Waters returned Monday night  
with the excursionists.

S. H. Rogers, nephew of Mr. James Mc-  
Laughlin, is in the city.

M. J. Marshall, receiver of the Aspen mine,  
arrived in Aspen Tuesday.

# Aspen & Aspen Mountain, 1887



Credit:  
William Henry Jackson  
Aspen Historical Society

# Mines on Aspen Mountain



Vallejo Mine,  
McLaughlin &  
Partners

Credit:  
Aspen Historical  
Society



# Mines On Aspen Mountain



Vallejo Mine,  
McLaughlin &  
Partners

Credit:  
Aspen Historical  
Society

# Aspen Mountain and Town Today

Vallejo Mine  
Approximate  
Location



Clarendon Hotel  
Approximate  
Location



Credit:  
Snowbrains.com

# Move to Silver City Utah

- Clarendon hotel sold to Jerome Wheeler in 1888 for \$25,000
- McLaughlin's travelled for 2 years, then settled in Silver City Utah in 1890
- Ran the Paxman Hotel
- Built and ran the Tintic Hotel (18 rooms)
- Postmaster of Silver City from 1896 – 1901
- Bought and sold properties in Salt Lake City
- Why Silver City Utah?



Jerome Wheeler

Sources: Aspen Colorado  
and Utah Newspapers

# Silver City Utah



Circa 1887, Credit: Utah State Historical Society

# Silver City Facts

- Founded in 1869 in the Tintic Mining District, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest district in Utah
- Population fluctuated according to productivity of nearby mines
- By 1880 down to 5 businesses as mine production lagged
- New mines in 1896 led to rebirth, rapid growth
- Railroads reached town and smelter installed
- Population peaked at 1,500 in 1908
- By late 1930's almost deserted
- Ghost town today
- Tintic Historic District on National Register of Historic Places

Sources: Tintic Historical Society  
and Utah Newspapers

# Silver City



Brigham Young University Lee Library L. Tom Perry Special Collections; MSS P 1

Credit:  
Brigham Young University  
Lee Library L. Tom Perry  
Special Collections

# Silver City



Circa 1920's  
Credit:  
Tintic Historical Society

# Silver City



Brigham Young University Lee Library L. Tom Perry Special Collections; MSS P 1

Credit:  
Brigham Young University  
Lee Library L. Tom Perry  
Special Collections



# Silver City Boarding House



Credit:  
Tintic Historical Society

# Silver City Store



Circa 1920's  
Credit:  
Tintic Historical Society

# Silver City Railroad and Smelter



1909

Credit:

[Westernmininghistory.com](http://Westernmininghistory.com)

# Silver City Public School, 1920's



Circa 1920's

Credit:

Tintic Historical Society

# Wrapping Up

- James McLaughlin continued working in area mines until 1901, dying in 1902 at age 79
- Son Walter McLaughlin (1876 – 1966) was an assayer in Silver City in the late 1890's
- Walter became a professor at Utah Agricultural College (later Utah State University) in Logan Utah
- Walter became an irrigation engineer and moved to Berkley California
- Walter married Phoebe Eliason in 1898 and they had a daughter Anna
- After James' death in 1902, Susan McLaughlin lived with Westley and Phoebe McLaughlin in Berkley California until her death in 1925

# Deaths and Final Resting Place

James McLaughlin  
1902



Mount Olivet Cemetery,  
Salt Lake City



Susan McLaughlin  
1925

Sources:  
Ancestry.com  
Findagrave.com

# Obituary of James McLaughlin

## DEATH OF A VETERAN POSTMASTER.

Mr. James McLaughlin, postmaster at Silver City, died Friday night from an attack of pneumonia. Deceased was postmaster at Silver City for the past six years, but owing to his advanced age, (79 years), he recently resigned the position and Mr. Samuel B. Gough was appointed to succeed him, but has not as yet qualified. Mr. McLaughlin was also proprietor of the Tintic hotel at Silver City, and had a large acquaintance among the mining men throughout the state, who will sadly miss his genial countenance. Mrs. McLaughlin and one son survive him. Funeral services were held from the public hall at Silver City this afternoon and were largely attended by friends of the elderly gentleman. The burial took place in the Eureka City cemetery.

*Deseret Evening News* (Salt Lake City)  
06-10-1902

# Resources

- **Estes Park Museum Staff and Online Collection**
- Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection
- Utah Digital Newspapers
- Aspen Historical Society
- Tintic Historical Society
- Utah State Historical Society
- Denver Public Library Western History Collection
- Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records
- Colorado Division of Vital Statistics
- Local history books, historians, and residents
- Library of Congress
- Greeley History Museum
- Ancestry.com
- Findagrave.com
- Abstract of Title to Dunraven Properties
- Brigham Young University, Lee Library L. Tom Perry Special Collections
- Westernmininghistory.com
- Federal & State Census Records
- Rocky Mountain National Park Archives

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