

Digging Allenspark: The Quest for the First Cabin

by Edie DeWeese



Published by the Allenspark Wind



Allen fireplace resident and site supervisor

Selected Resources

Documentation:

Boulder County Clerk and Recorder

Colorado State Census, 1885

United States Census, 1820-1920

United States General Land Office Records, 1862-1920, Bureau of Land Management

Reading:

I wanted to be a Cowpuncher: Cowboy Life of a Colorado Pioneer

Alonzo Harris Allen, Edie DeWeese; Publisher: Allenspark Wind, 2015

Weaving Mountain Memories: Recollections of the Allenspark Area

Lorna Knowlton, Edie DeWeese; Publisher: Allenspark Wind, 2011

Research:

Carnegie Library for Local History, 1125 Pine Street, Boulder, CO 80302

Longmont Museum, 400 Quail Rd, Longmont, CO 80501

Western History Collection, Denver Public Library, 10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, CO 80204

About the Author

Edie DeWeese comes from a family with roots in Allenspark history stretching back to 1904, when her great-grandparents came to the area. Starting from local stories she heard in childhood, she has researched and produced books and articles detailing the town's past. In recognition of DeWeese's role in initiating the Alonzo Allen dig, History Colorado awarded her with their prestigious Caroline Bancroft Award. DeWeese is a retired technical editor and former head of Publications at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder. She does not pretend to know anything more about archaeology than what she's learned from the National Geographic.



D MALLO, Editor and Proprietor.

COLUMBUS, FEBRUARY 9, 1859.

✶ Every mail brings us further news of new gold discoveries at Pike's Peak, and the Yellow (gold) Fever is still spreading without any prospect of an abatement soon, and thousands are being carried off by it, and we fear, to that bourn from whence, for some, there will be no return. We also fear that some of the gold stories are rather too highly colored, and would advise all not to be too sanguine, but look before they leap.

An editorial from Allen's hometown newspaper, dated just three months before he made the "leap" for Colorado's gold country. *Columbus Republican*, Columbus, Wisconsin, February 9, 1859.

Folk lore has it that Alonzo Allen, the namesake of Allenspark, Colorado, blazed a trail from Ward to Allenspark in 1859 to prospect for gold. It is said that he built a cabin in 1864 and that it burned in 1894, just before Allen died in the Pueblo Insane Asylum. All that remains of his cabin is a rough stone fireplace east of present-day Allenspark.

In 2011, as the 150th anniversary of Allen's cabin approached, local historian Edie DeWeese began to wonder what modern archaeology could reveal about the man and the legends. This book delves into Allen's story, while showing the workings—and findings—of the two-summer archaeological dig she organized at his Civil War-era cabin site.

