

Douglas County, Colorado Timeline

1,100,000,000 BCE

- Pikes Peak Granite, from which the Rampart Range is composed, is formed. (Bauer, Geology, 27)

54,000,000 BCE

- The area around Castle Rock is a rain forest, receiving up to 100 inches of precipitation per year. (Douglas County News Press, 30 August 1995)

c. 13,000 BCE

- Mammoth, horse, camel, and bison frequent the Lamb Spring area. (Heckendorn)

c. 8,000 -9000 BCE

- Paleoindians of the Cody Complex hunt wild game near Lamb Spring. (Heckendorn)

c. 5500BC -1300AD

- Paleoindians live in Douglas County. (Noel, 43)

c. 1050

- High plains people of the Upper Republican Phase settle in the Franktown vicinity as well as lower Jarre Creek. This culture is marked by nascent horticulture and cord-marked ceramic jars. It also seems likely that several severe droughts occurred during this period. (Gunnerson, 65-76)

1601

- Juan De Onatels' second gold-hunting expedition passes through Douglas County. (Somerset, 87)

c. 1500

- Utes settle in Rocky Mountain region of Colorado, including western Douglas County. (Colorado State Archives)

1682

- Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle claims the Mississippi River drainage for France. He names the area Louisiana for Louis XIV. (Stone, 34)

1763

- The Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the French and Indian War. France cedes Louisiana to Spain. (Stone, 35)

1801

- The Treaty of Madrid forces Spain to relinquish the Louisiana Territory to France. (Stone, 35)

1803

- April 30: Napoleon sells the Louisiana Territory to the United States for \$15 million. (Magill, 445; Stone, 35)
- May 9: Negotiations are completed for the Louisiana Purchase.

1820

- Numerous Native American tribes live in the Colorado area. The Utes live in the mountains and the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reside on the Plains from the Arkansas to Platte Rivers. (Colorado State Archives)
- July 7: Major Stephen Long and the Long Expedition enter Douglas County near the area where the South Platte River flows from the mountains.
- July 9: Long and another expedition member ascend a high butte, probably Dawson Butte, to get their bearings. July 10: The Long Expedition exits Douglas County to the south. (Bell, 148-159)

1831

- Thomas Fitzpatrick, founder of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, surveys what is now I-25 through Douglas County. (Douglas County News Press, December 12, 1974)

1843

- John C. Fremont's second expedition takes Fremont and thirty-eight companions through Douglas County. Among members of the company are Kit Carson and future territorial governor William Gilpin. (Stone, 58)

1846

- August: Francis Parkman travels through future Douglas County on his exploration of the American West. His travels are recounted in his book *The Oregon Trail*. (Parkman, 305-306)

1849

- Parties of miners, including Green Russell, travel Trapper's Trail on the way to California during the Gold Rush. They discover small amounts of gold along Cherry Creek, possibly within the bounds of Douglas County. (Hall, Vol. III, 333 and Spencer)
- Trappers Trail is redubbed the Cherokee Trail. (Sanford, 30)

1858

- Castle Rock is named by miner David Kellogg. (Marr, 138)
- Thousands migrate to Colorado chasing rumors of gold. (Appleby, 1)

1859

- The D. C. Oakes lumber mill begins shipping wood to Denver. (Hall, Vol. III, 335)
- John H. Craig, Jack Johnson, and Charles Holmes settle in Happy Canyon. (Hall, Vol. III, 334)
- The "Pikes Peak or Bust" Gold Rush lures migrants to Douglas County. (Appleby, 103)

1860

- The Perry Park area is homesteaded by Peter Brannan, Albert Dakan, James Gott, Benjamin Quick, George Ratcliffe, and David Goodwin. (Webb, 11)
- March 24: The town of Huntsville is founded. The first territorial post office is located there. (Bauer, Post Offices, 76)

1861

- The Colorado Territory is established. Douglas County, named in honor of famed 19th century orator Stephen Douglas, is one of the original 17 counties. It stretches to the Kansas Border and Frankstown is the county seat. (Stone, 172)
- The United States Civil War begins. Colorado, as part of the Kansas Territory, remains in the Union.

1862

- May 22: Russellville Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 126)
- September 8: Russellville Post Office moves to Franktown (Bauer, Post Offices, 126)
- December 20: Bennett Springs Post Office opens (Bauer, Post Offices, 19)

- The first county commissioners are elected in Douglas County. They are John L. Boggs, Sylvester Richardson, and Joseph Hipley. The first sheriff is Charles Parkhurst; the Clerk and Recorder is James Frank Gardner; the Treasurer is Noel Webber. (Hall, Vol. III, 333)
- D.C. Oakes relocates his sawmill to Huntsville (possibly in conjunction with the one in Bennett Springs / Oakesville). (Scott)
- The United States government passes the Homestead Act to encourage settlement in the West. ("About the Homestead Act," National Forest Service)

1863

- April 7: Bear Cañon Post Office established (Bauer, Post Offices, 17)
- April 7: Keystone Post Office opens (Bauer, Post Offices, 82)
- The county seat is temporarily relocated to James Frank Gardner's California Ranch, which was owned by Charles Parkhurst. (Weir, 184) Fire at California Ranch destroys county records. (Appleby, 48)
- A telegraph line links Denver with the east coast; ten words to New York cost \$9.10. (Colorado State Archives)

1864

- The town of New Memphis is founded two miles north of Castle Rock by a land company from Memphis, Tennessee. (Weir, 185)
- Heavy rain over the upper basin of Cherry Creek causes 19 deaths along Cherry Creek and the South Platte River in Denver. (National Weather Service)
- The massacre of the Hungate Family in Douglas County worsens tensions between settlers and Native Americans. This tension culminates in the Sand Creek Massacre north of Fort Lyon on the Arkansas River. (Douglas County News Press, 5 June 1864) Thirty white families take refuge in Huntsville's "Oakes' Folly" fort on-and-off for six months. (Appleby, 103)
- Conrad Moschel is murdered by unidentified Native Americans near the George Engl Ranch. His epitaph is carved into the nearby bluffs and becomes a marker for travelers. (Appleby, 57)

1865

- The town of Round Corral (later Sedalia) is founded by John H. Craig. (Weir, 184)
- March 27: The Spring Valley Post Office is established. (Bauer, Post Offices, 135)
- September 1: The Franktown and Sedalia school districts are organized. (Marr, 35)
- Douglas County has three school districts with a total enrollment of 70 students. (Weir, 185)
- The United States Civil War ends.

1866

- President Andrew Johnson vetoes a bill for Colorado statehood. Among his reasons are the Sand Creek Massacre, the doubtful legality of the proposed state's constitution, and the shrinking population caused by the lessening of gold strikes. (Encyclopedia of Colorado, 92)
- The Oaklands School opens. (Cornish)
- James Frank Gardner buys California Ranch from Charles Parkhurst. (Bull)

1867

- David Gregory, the first homesteader in the Highlands Ranch area, files for 80 acres. Between 1867 and 1910, 189 filings were made nearby.
- The Huntsville Post Office dismantled. (Larkspur, 1)

1868

- Glen Grove School is founded. (Marr, 201)
- A fort is constructed on Benjamin Quick's property to protect settlers against angry Native Americans. A raid occurs the following week. (Webb, 11)
- Pine Grove / Parker School opens. (Our Heritage, 375)
- The Treaty of 1868 establishes a reservation for the Southern Utes, including 53 million acres in western Colorado (this size is later diminished significantly). (Southern Ute Indian Tribe website)

1869

- John H. Craig sells the town site of Sedalia to Jonathan House. (Appleby, 163)
- Jeremiah Gould stakes claim at present site of Castle Rock. (Appleby, 8)
- Ferdinand Hayden's geological survey expedition designates Pleasant Park valley, now known as Perry Park. (Appleby, 139)

1870

- The Kansas Pacific Railroad completes its first rail line in Douglas County near present day Limon, linking Denver to Kansas City. (Weir, 184)
- The Spring Valley Cemetery is founded. (Appleby, 191)
- The first burial is interred in the Franktown Cemetery. (Appleby, 57)
- The Pine Grove Post Office opens. (Bauer)

1871

- Colorado Springs is founded by General William J. Palmer. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad is built southward from Denver by Palmer, bringing the railroad through Douglas County. (Colorado State Archives) (Encyclopedia of Colorado, 93)

- April 5: The original Castle Rock Post Office opens at the site of Douglas, south of the town of Castle Rock. (Bauer, Post Offices, 31)
- December: The town of Huntsville is moved to Larkspur. The name Larkspur is chosen by Governor Hunt's wife, Elizabeth. (Larkspur, 1)
- September 6: Round Corral becomes Plum after Denver and Rio Grande names their depot "Plum Station." (Weir, 184) (Machann, 2)
- The Lake Gulch School district is formed. (Doepke Family Papers)

1872

- January 8: The New Memphis Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 105)
- February 12: Frost's Ranch Post Office is changed to Rock Ridge (Bauer, Post Offices, 123)
- April 8: The Sedalia Post Office opens. The name Sedalia was chosen by Henry M. Clay, a prominent landowner, who came from Sedalia, Missouri. (Bauer, Post Offices, 130)
- Silas Madge, "the father of the lavastone industry," begins work in the Madge Quarry south of Castle Rock. Madge Quarry is also known as Douglas Quarry, and the nearby settlement of Douglas soon grows to meet the needs of quarry workers. (Record Journal of Douglas County, December 10, 1948) The National Land and Improvement Company acquires the townsite of Douglas. (Our Heritage, 345)
- Missouri industrialist and railroad owner John D. Perry purchases several homesteads to make a ranch at Pleasant Park (now Perry Park). (Weir, 9).
- The Lone Tree School is built. (Marr, 214)
- A community church is built at Bear Canon. It will later become St. Philip in the Field Episcopal Church. (Our Heritage, 400)
- John D. Perry purchases Pleasant Park, which later becomes Perry Park. (Our Heritage, 344)
- The Plum Post Office opens. (Douglas County News-Press, April 1, 1997)

1873

- June 3: The Greenland Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices Supplement, 2)
- The first Allison School building, wood-framed, is constructed. (Miller, 65)
- English traveler Isabella Bird visits Perry Park Ranch. (Appleby, 140)

1874

- January 30: The Acequia Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 9)
- May 18: The Castle Rock Post Office changes its name to Douglas and the New Memphis Post Office moves to the recently-formed town of Castle Rock. (Bauer, Post Offices, 46)
- February: Douglas County shrinks as its eastern portion becomes Elbert County. (Ellis, 147-149)
- April 25: The town of Castle Rock is founded and named county seat. A two-story wooden courthouse is built in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 18)

- Jarre Creek School (District 5) is built. (Our Heritage, 381)
- July 1: Denver South Park and Pacific Railway opens for business up the Platte Canyon in Douglas County. (Poor, 127)

1875

- The town of Greenland is established by Fred Z. Salmon. (Hall, Vol. III, 336)
- Greenland is named by writer Helen Hunt Jackson. (Johnson, 1)
- Castle Rock's first grade-school is built on the current site of Cantril Elementary School. (Our Heritage, 368)
- The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Station, also known as the Castle Rock Depot, is built in Castle Rock (now the Castle Rock Museum). (Appleby, 20-21)
- The Cedar Hill Cemetery is established in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 21)
- January 20: California Ranch burns down south of Franktown for the last time, and is not rebuilt. (Appleby, 49)

1876

- Colorado attains statehood.
- The Plum Creek Toll Road Company establishes a toll road south of Larkspur. (Larkspur Historical Society, 1)

1877

- October 11: The Platte Canyon Post Office opens (Bauer, Post Offices, 115)
- The Pratt or Cherry School (District 20) is built on West Cherry Creek. (Marr, 53)

1879

- The second Allison School, made of brick, is constructed on Allison Ranch. (Miller, 66)
- The Kelly/Gann School is constructed. (Our Heritage, 372)
- The Big Dry Creek Cheese Ranch is established in northern Douglas County. (Appleby, 69)
- The Owens House, a hotel, opens in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 27)
- Construction begins on the Highline Canal, which passes through northwestern Douglas County. (Our Heritage, 345)

1880

- The town of Douglas is platted by the National Land and Improvement Company. The town serves as a shipping point for rhyolite. (Weir, 185)
- The John Mouat Lumber Company opens the first sawmill on the banks of the Platte River at the site of the current town of Trumbull. (Appleby, 33)

- The Castle Rock ditch system is built to provide irrigation water for the town. (Douglas County News Press, 21 January)
- Local Utes are officially expelled from the Roxborough Park area and forced into Utah, conducting a three-day farewell ceremony to their homelands. (Appleby, 155)
- The East Cherry Creek School opens sometime between 1800 and 1887. (Everest, 10)

1881

- The Tabeguache and White River Utes are removed onto reservations. (Colorado State Archives)
- The Denver Coal Company begins shipping coal from the town of Lehigh, located west of Sedalia. (Marr, 106)
- The town of Castle Rock is incorporated. Irving S. Morse is the mayor, George Triplett is the clerk and recorder. Members of the town council are John G. Baldwin, David Owens, Thomas King, and Dr. A Johnson. (Weir, 185) (Appleby, 8)
- The town of Acequia is established by the National Land and Improvement Company. (Weir, 185)
- George Crofutt's *Grip Sack Guide to Colorado* is published. Thousands of people come west as tourists. (Appleby, 104)

1882

- March 17: The Pine Grove Post Office changes its name to the Parker Post Office. (Bauer, Post Offices, 113)
- Denver and Rio Grande railroad renames Plum station "Sedalia." (Appleby, 163)
- The town of Sedalia (previously Plum) is platted by the National Land and Improvement Company. (Machann, 2; Hall, Vol. III, 365)
- The second Glen Grove School is constructed after the first was destroyed by fire. (Marr, 201)
- The Colorado Stone Company begins quarrying in Sellers Gulch. (Our Heritage, 346)

1883

- The wooden Fonder School burns down and is rebuilt with local rhyolite. (Miller, 65)
- Construction on the Highline Canal completes. (Our Heritage, 345)

1884

- The Indian Park School is built. (Marr, 229)
- The Larkspur School is built. (Marr, 188)

1885

- Frank Allison constructs two houses known as the "Twin Houses" on his ranch near Parker. (Marr, *If Walls Could Speak*)

- The Spring Valley School is built. (Our Heritage)
- April: The Spring Valley Post Office burns, likely due to arson after postmaster Lorenzo Leppart dies of smallpox. (Appleby, 179)

1886

- November: the Goldale School opens. (Marr, 59)
- Elias Ammons and Thomas Dawson begin ranching on the South Platte River. Ammons would later become governor of Colorado, while Dawson Butte in central Douglas County was named in honor of Thomas Dawson. (Encyclopedia of Colorado, 124)

1887

- The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail line is built through Douglas County. (Weir, 185)
- The Methodist Church in Castle Rock is completed. It is the first church in Douglas County. (Weir, 185)
- Castle Rock becomes the first school district in the county to have a nine-month school term. (Weir, 185)
- The Rock Ridge School is open and operating as Douglas County School District Number 24. (Castle Rock Journal, 29 April 1887)

1888

- John Perry and Bela Hughes form the Red Stone Town, Land & Mining Company. They begin plans to construct a resort community at Perry Park. (Webb, 24)
- The Hilltop School, a log building, opens. (Cornish)
- The St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church is completed in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 28)
- December 23: The community church at Bear Canon is dedicated as St. Philip in the Field Episcopal Church. (Appleby, 172)

1889

- Construction begins on the Douglas County Courthouse on Wilcox Street in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 23)
- The Santa Fe Quarry begins operations west of Castle Rock. (Our Heritage, 346)
- Renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted is hired to design the Village of Lake Wauconda in Perry Park. The Nanichant House Inn and guest house opens. (Appleby, 142)

1890

- February 17: The Hilltop Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 73)
- Douglas County has 28 school districts, with an enrollment of 612 students. (Weir, 185)

- July: The Douglas County courthouse is completed at a cost of \$24,000. (Hall, Vol. III, 336)
- The Castlewood Canyon Dam is constructed. (Horan, 10)
- The Larkspur School is destroyed by a tornado. (Marr, 188)

1891

- The Forest Reserve Act passes, creating Pike National Forest.

1892

- March 11: Perry Park Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 112)
- Elias Ammons is elected to the Colorado State House of Representatives. He represents Douglas County. (Monnett, 229)
- Red Stone Town, Land & Mining Company runs into legal problems when questions of ownership arise in regard to parts of Perry Park. (Webb, 38)
- The Greenland School is built. (Our Heritage, 377)
- The first Douglas County Fair takes place. (Douglas County Fair Books)

1893

- Colorado becomes the second state (after Wyoming) to grant women the right to vote. (University of Colorado)
- July: The repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act causes Colorado's economy to collapse. Many banks and businesses close in the ensuing panic, including the John Mouat Lumber Company. (University of Colorado)

1895

- April: Gold is discovered in Tyler, in the mountains near Westcreek. (Appleby, 34)
- November 27: The Tyler Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 144)
- Happy Canyon School opens. (Castle Rock Journal, 18 January 1896)
- The Denver Water Board begins acquiring land along the Platte River in western Douglas County. (Rocky Mountain News, 11 June 1898)

1896

- January 23: The Pemberton Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 112)
- April 11: The Daffodil Post Office (now Deckers) opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 41)
- May: The Glade School is temporarily closed by a measles epidemic. (Castle Rock Journal, 6 May 1896)
- May: A new school building is built in Larkspur. (Larkspur Historical Society)
- November: The Castle Rock School burns down due to a defective chimney flue. (Castle Rock Journal, 27 November 1896)
- December 30: The Dakan Post Office is established. (Bauer, Post Offices, 41)

- The Westcreek School opens. (Cornish)

1897

- August 7: The Rock Ridge Post Office becomes the Case Post Office. (Bauer, Post Offices, 31)
- The Cantril School is built and included a high school curriculum. (Weir, 185)
- The Castle Rock schoolhouse opens. (Appleby, 1897)

1898

- The new Hilltop School is built. (Miller, 66)
- The Dewey School, District 34, is opened. (Douglas County School Census)
- September 5: The Cantril School building opens (also known as Castle Rock High School or Douglas County Union High School). (Castle Rock Journal, 19 August 1898)
- John Springer begins to acquire land in present day Highlands Ranch, eventually acquiring a large spread for cattle. (Appleby, 61)

1899

- July: The Flintwood School (District 35) is established. (Our Heritage, 374)
- The Denver & New Orleans Railroad's name is changed to the Colorado & Southern Railway.
- Cedar Grove/Larson's School is in operation as School District Number 33. (Special School Tax)

1900

- April 7: Cherry Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices 33)
- July: Acequia Post Office closes. (Bauer, Post Offices, 9)
- The population of Douglas County reaches 3,120. (Weir, 185)

1901

- The Keystone Hotel (now Castle Café) is built at the corner of 4th and Wilcox in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 26)

1902

- March 28: The Bethesda Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 19)
- April 14: The Pemberton Post Office becomes the Westcreek Post Office. (Bauer, Post Offices, 112)
- The Columbine School is built. (Everest, 5)
- C.B. Frink establishes the Carlson Frink Creamery in Larkspur. (Our Heritage, 343)
- Drought begins. (Our Heritage, 357)

1904

- The First National Bank (later the Masonic Lodge) is built in Castle Rock using local rhyolite. (Appleby, 25)

1905

- The Cheesman Dam is built in southwestern Douglas County by the Denver Water Department. (Appleby, 44)
- Teddy Roosevelt makes a campaign stop in Sedalia. Schoolchildren were released early to see the future president. (Roudebush, 17)

1906

- Louviers Works, an explosives factory, is built by the Du Pont Company. The town of Louviers is built to support factory workers. (Fearnow, 2)
- Christ Episcopal Church is built in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 21)

1907

- Douglas County High School is built on Wilcox Street in Castle Rock. (Weir, 185)

1908

- February 19: The Daffodil Post Office is renamed the Deckers Post Office. (Bauer, Post Offices, 41)
- The Du Pont Company changes the name of Toluca to Louviers. (Douglas County News Press, 16 November 1972)

1909

- May 17: The Glen Grove School burns down for the second time. (Castle Rock Journal, 26 May 1909)
- Pike's Peak Grange Hall is constructed. (Appleby, 58)

1910

- Douglas County High School burns down. (Weir, 185)
- The first long-distance phone call is placed from Denver to New York. The first airplane leaves Denver. (University of Colorado)

1911

- May 24: A murder at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel prompts John Springer to divorce his second wife, Isabelle. (Appleby, 62)
- September 27: The Strontia Springs Post Office opens. (Bauer, Post Offices, 136)

- Douglas County High School is rebuilt. (Cornish)

1912

- July: A rain and hail storm kills one in Douglas and wipes out the trestle bridge in Parker. (Miller, 84)
- A new Cherry School building is constructed after the first school burns down. (Everest, 5)

1913

- John Springer sells his ranch (later Highlands Ranch) to his first father-in-law, Col. William Hughes, owner of Perry Park Ranch. (Appleby, 62)
- June 24: The Case Post Office changes its name to the Irving Post Office. (Bauer, Post Offices, 78)
- A major snowstorm along the Front Range causes everything to close for 11 days. (Miller, 84) Six students are stranded at the Cherry School for two nights. (Appleby, 189)
- June: The Louviers School opens. (Our Heritage, 372)
- The state of Colorado begins licensing automobiles. (University of Colorado)

1913-1915

- Douglas County resident Elias Ammons becomes governor of Colorado. (Encyclopedia of Colorado, 97)

1914

- The Pine Grove, Plainfield, and Allison Schools combine to form the Parker Consolidated School. (Our Heritage, 373)
- The New East Cherry School is built. (Everest, 10)
- World War I begins.

1916

- The state of Colorado adopts Prohibition.
- The Emily Griffith Opportunity School is opened in Denver, and later has a campus in Douglas County. (Colorado State Archives)
- Castle Rock's ditch system is replaced by underground iron pipes. (Douglas County News Press, 21 January 1995)
- The Dewey School consolidated with Castle Rock. (Douglas County School Census)

1917

- The Louviers Village Club opens, and currently houses the oldest continually operating bowling alley in the state. The Louviers Clubhouse is owned by Du Pont and membership dues are \$1 per year. (Record Journal of Douglas County, 9 November 1917)
- The town of Daffodil changes its name to Deckers. (Record Journal of Douglas County)

1918

- May: The Glade School consolidates with the Castle Rock School. (Record Journal of Douglas County , 10 May 1918)
- World War I ends.

1920s

- A new school is constructed at Case/Rock Ridge/Irving. (Cornish)

1920

- Florence Martin donates her extensive holdings in northern Douglas County to the Denver Mountain Parks system. The property is named Daniel's Park. (Appleby, 70)

1921

- Parker State Bank robbers steal \$10,000 in cash, locking the assistant cashier in the vault (she survived). (Appleby, 126)
- Electricity is first supplied to Castle Rock. (Douglas County News Press, 21 January 1995)

1923

- Electricity is first supplied to Sedalia. (Roudebush, 21)

1924-1926

- The Charlford House, designed by Burnham Hoyt, is built for owners Alice and Charles Johnson. (Weir, 552)

1924

- A teacherage is built at the Franktown School. It is occasionally used as a classroom. (Bull)
- A timber fire sparked by lightning burns in the Larkspur area. (Larkspur, 1)
- The Denver & Rio Grande depot at Greenland burns down. (Johnson, 1)
- Co-Masonic organization members establish the American Federation of Human Rights headquarters at Larkspur. (Appleby, 106)

1925

- The Ku Klux Klan is at the height of its power in Colorado. The local Klan holds a meeting in the district courtroom of Douglas County with “good attendance.” (Record Journal of Douglas County, 27 February 1925)

1926

- Waite Phillips sells his holdings (Highlands Ranch) to Frank Kistler, president of Wolhurst Stock Farms, for \$425,000. Kistler raises Angus cattle, sheep, hogs and chickens. Kistler names the ranch the Diamond K Ranch. (Appleby, 62)

1929

- Lawrence C. Phipps, Jr. moves the Arapahoe Hunt to the Diamond K Ranch (now Highlands Ranch). (Appleby, 63)
- Columbine School burns down and is not replaced. (Our Heritage, 378)
- August: Castle Rock installs three stop signs on Wilcox Street at 3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets. (Appleby, 12)
- October: the Douglas County Women's Club opens the first library in Douglas County. (Maguire)

1930s

- Baldridge School, District 39, opens briefly. (Douglas County School Census)

1932-1937

- The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl strike Douglas County. (Encyclopedia of Colorado, 99)

1933

- August 2: The Castlewood Canyon Dam collapses after three to nine inches of rain falls in 9 hours. Floodwaters reach all the way to Denver. (Horan, 18)
- The Louviers Power Plant supplies electricity to Louviers and Castle Rock. (Fearnow, 5)

1936

- Parker High School opens. (Our Heritage, 375)
- The Castle Rock Star is erected by the Castle Rock Volunteer Fire Department. (Record Journal of Douglas County, 18 December 1936)

1937

- Financial difficulties force Frank Kistler to sell his ranch to Lawrence C. Phipps, Jr. The present Highlands Ranch holdings are assembled by Phipps. He sells several of the peripheral parcels and added lands from the East Ranch and Cheese Ranch between 1937 and 1976. (Appleby, 63)
- May 28: A tornado hits Castle Rock, damaging Douglas County High School, the Episcopal Church, several residences, the Denver & Rio Grande toolhouse, the Standard Garage, Kroll's Grocery, the Cottage Hotel, and a metal tower with the fire bell attached to it. The nearby Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration camps help out in the emergency. (Record Journal of Douglas County)

1937-1939

- Douglas County High School graduate Teller Ammons becomes the governor of Colorado. (Encyclopedia of Colorado, 100)
- The Bank of Douglas County opens in Castle Rock. It is the first bank in Castle Rock since the Great Depression hit. (Appleby, 13)

1945

- A major flood hits Parker and Franktown. (Miller, 84)
- July: Woodbine Lodge, a restaurant and gambling establishment, burns down. (Record Journal of Douglas County, Rocky Mountain News)

1946

- Shamballa Ashrama is founded by the Brotherhood of the White Temple. (Appleby, 167)
- Castle Rock Town Marshall Ray Lewis is shot to death in the B&B Cafe by escaped prisoner Manuel Perez. (Douglas County News Press, 9 October 1991)

1948

- Pike's Peak National Forest in Douglas County is closed to cattle grazing. (Roudebush, 25)

1951

- A wooden framed Quonset hut is constructed by the citizens of Parker as a community center. (Whelchel, 68)

1952

- The Cherry Valley School is created from the consolidation of Spring Valley (District 3), Upper Lake Gulch (District 13), Goldale (District 14), Cherry or Pratt (District 20), East Cherry (District 22,) Irving/Case/Rock Ridge (District 24), Cedar Grove (District 33,) and Pine Grove (District 27). (Everest, 4-5)

1954

- Tweet Kimball purchases the Cherokee Ranch from Charles A. Johnson and Ray Blume. (Colorado State Historical Society, 552)

1959

- March 31: The Greenland Post Office closes. (Bauer, Post Offices Supplement, 2)

1961

- The current Douglas County High School is built. (Our Heritage, 368)
- Castlewood Canyon State Park is established. (Appleby, 56)

1962

- The Franktown Fire Department and Fire District is established. (Appleby, 52)

1964

- Parker celebrates its centennial.

1965

- June 16: A flood causes major destruction in Douglas County and Denver. The flood begins as a cloudburst near Larkspur and spreads northward along Plum and Cherry Creeks. (Roudebush, 23)
- The Westcreek School closes. It is the last of the one-room schoolhouses to close in the county. Its former students are sent to Woodland Park. (Douglas County News Press, 2 September 1965)
- November 28, 1965: the first annual Star-lighting ceremony takes place in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 13)

1966

- The Franktown School closes. (Bull)
- The Douglas County Library Board is established. Douglas County Commissioners contribute money to the library for the first time, establishing the county's first public library. (Maguire)
- UFO reports flood the Denver area after seven people claim to see UFOs in Daniel's Park. (Denver Post, 14 April 1966)

1967

- Perry Park is sold to Lee Stubblefield of the Colorado Western Development Company. (Webb, 52)
- The Castle Rock Junior High School is built. (Everest, 3)
- The Castle Rock Library opens in a former storefront. (Maguire)
- The Louviers Library comes under the jurisdiction of Douglas County. The original library was run by the Du Pont Company and opened in 1924, serving employees of the Louviers Works dynamite factory. (Maguire)

1968

- January: A prank by two Castle Rock boys causes 30 Douglas County residents to report a UFO over the courthouse in Castle Rock. (Rocky Mountain News, 11 Jan 1968)
- December: The Castle Rock Library officially opens in a building on Gilbert St. (Appleby, 14)

1969

- A groundbreaking event is held for a planned "heritage park" in Castle Rock. (Douglas County News Press, 19 June 1969)

1970

- The Parker Library opens as a book depository. (Maguire)

1971

- The Du Pont Company ceases dynamite operations at Louviers. (Douglas County News Press, 21 January 1971)
- The total assessed valuation of Douglas County is \$27,569,450. (Weir, 394)
- The Parker Library joins the Douglas County Libraries system. (Maguire)

1972

- The population of Douglas County reaches 9,989. (Weir, 185)
- A new school is built in Larkspur. (Larkspur Historical Society)

1973

- Prolonged rains in May cause major flooding along the South Platte River for two weeks. (National Weather Service)

1975

- The Bear Canon Agricultural District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Appleby, 59)

1976

- Lawrence C. Phipps, Jr. dies at the Highlands Ranch Mansion. (Appleby, 63)
- The Douglas County Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Appleby, 24)

1977

- Highlands Ranch is sold to a group of Denver businessmen. (Appleby, 63)
- The Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society surveys Roxborough State Park, discovering a multitude of sites. (Appleby, 159)

1978

- January: The Mission Viejo Company enters into a two-year option agreement leading to the acquisition of Highlands Ranch. The Mission Viejo Company initiates a three-phase planning program to formulate a development plan for Highlands Ranch. (Appleby, 63)
- March 11: The Douglas County courthouse burns after a nuisance fire rages out of control. (Appleby, 24)

1979

- A library opens in the Acres Green Subdivision. (Maguire)

1980

- August: The Mission Viejo Company begins construction on the new town of Highlands Ranch. (Appleby, 64)
- Douglas County's population reaches 25,042. (Denver Regional Council of Governments)

1981

- The town of Parker is officially incorporated.

1983

- A library branch opens in Northridge Elementary School in Highlands Ranch. (Maguire)
- Ponderosa High School opens south of Parker. (Douglas County News Press)
- May 10: Highway 67 between Westcreek and Deckers washes out due to a flood along the South Platte River. (Douglas County News Press)

1984

- The Acres Green Library closes to make room for C-470. (Maguire)

1985

- The Oakes Mill Library opens. (Maguire)

1987

- The Philip S. Miller Library opens at 961 Plum Creek Parkway in Castle Rock. (Maguire)

1988

- Douglas County School District moves Oaklands School building to grounds of South Elementary School in Castle Rock. (Douglas County News Press, 1988)
- Historic Frankstown established. (Appleby, 58)

1989

- The Highlands Ranch library leaves Northridge Elementary School and joins the Oakes Mill Library. (Maguire)
- The Highlands Heritage Regional Park opens in Highlands Ranch. (Appleby, 66)

1990

- Douglas County Libraries is formed as an independent taxing district. (Maguire)
- The population of Douglas County reaches 54,250, a 140% population growth from 1980. The median household income is \$51,864. (Wall Street Journal, 8 March 1994, Denver Regional Council of Governments)

1991

- The Highlands Ranch Library opens in a former storefront. (Maguire)

1992

- Castle Rock Factory Shops opens. (Ephemera Files)
- The DPLD Local History Collection (formerly Douglas County History Research Center, now Archives & Local History) is officially recognized in November.

1994

- Larkspur, Cherry Valley, and Roxborough satellite libraries open. (Maguire)
- December 25: A minor earthquake centered in Castle Rock shakes Douglas County (Douglas County News Press, 26 December 1994)
- The Castle Rock Historic Preservation Board is established (Appleby, 17)
- The Russellville archaeological site survey is completed. (Appleby, 59)

1995

- Douglas County becomes the fastest-growing county in the State of Colorado. (Douglas County Trail Newspaper, 12 September 1996)
- The Castlewood Canyon Dam site added to the Colorado Register of Historic Places.

1996

- The Castle Rock Museum opens in the former Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Depot. (Castle Rock Museum)
- The Park Meadows Shopping Mall opens in August. (Ephemera Files)
- Douglas County acquires Prairie Canyon Ranch, purchases a development easement on Cherokee Ranch. (Douglas County News Press, 18 September 1996 and 11 December 1996)
- The Larkspur library satellite branch closes. (Maguire)
- Thunderridge High School opens in Highlands Ranch. (Douglas County News Press, 10 Feb 1996)
- June: The City of Lone Tree is officially incorporated. (Douglas County News Press)
- Tweet Kimball donates Cherokee Ranch and Castle to the Cherokee Ranch and Castle Foundation. Douglas County begins a phased purchase of a conservation easement on the ranch in order to protect wildlife, agricultural heritage, and historic buildings on the ranch. (Archives & Local History Biography File)

1997

- Douglas County becomes the fastest growing county in the United States. (Cortez)
- The median household income in Douglas County is \$63,570. (Douglas County News Press, 12 April 1997)
- The Robert A. Christensen Justice Center is named after County Commissioner Robert “Chris” Christensen, who served from 1991-1996. (Appleby, 16)
- The Philip S. Miller Administration Building is constructed in Castle Rock using local rhyolite. (Appleby, 17)
- Shea Homes purchases Highlands Ranch from Mission Viejo. (Appleby, 68)

1998

- Chaparral High School opens in Parker. (Yearbooks Collection, Archives & Local History Reading Room)
- Lone Tree Library opens on Lone Tree Parkway. (Maguire)

1999

- Dawson Butte is protected by a conservation easement. (Douglas County News Press, 13 October 1999)

- Douglas County's growth has increased 160% since 1990. (Highlands Ranch Herald, 16 March 2000)
- Louviers is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (Appleby, 120)
- The Douglas County Administration building gains an addition on the Wilcox Street side of the building.

1999

- A ribbon-cutting ceremony takes place for the newly-renovated courthouse building in Castle Rock. (Appleby, 15)

2000

- Greenland Ranch is protected as open space. (Douglas County News Press, 19 April 2000)
- The Highlands Ranch Library opens in the new town center of Highlands Ranch. (Maguire)
- Douglas County has the highest median income of any county in the United States, with the average household earning over \$77,000 per year. (Douglas County News Press, 19 April 2000)
- Douglas County purchases Prairie Canyon Ranch in March to preserve open space. (Appleby, 190)

2003

- The U.S. Census Bureau designates Douglas County as the second wealthiest county in the United States.
- The Douglas Public Library District changes their name to Douglas County Libraries (DCL), receives a new logo and branding image, and creates a new website design and new website addresses for the district and each individual library.

2012

- The Metro District acquires the Highlands Ranch Mansion property and begins renovations. Highlands Ranch Mansion opens to the public.

2016

- Castle Pines, Lone Tree, and Parker Library branches open after renovations.

2017

- The Louviers Village Club House, which houses the Louviers branch of Douglas County Libraries, celebrates its 100th anniversary.

2019

- Renovations are completed at the James H. LaRue Library branch in Highlands Ranch.
- The James H. LaRue Library branch is renamed the Highlands Ranch Library after a Board decision.

2020

- The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic causes shutdowns nationwide.
- On March 16, Douglas County Libraries closes to the public.
- On March 26, Stay-at-Home orders issued by the Tri-County Health Department take effect. On April 27, phased reopenings begin under Governor Polis's "Safer-at-Home" order.
- On April 30, Douglas County Libraries begins curbside services, including social-distanced pickup of holds.
- On June 29, Douglas County Libraries reopens to the public.
- On July 9, 2020, the Board of Douglas County Commissioners votes to secede from the Tri-County Health Department in response to a July 8 vote by Tri-County Health vote in favor of issuing a mandate to wear masks in public.
- On July 17, Governor Polis issues a statewide mandate requiring masks to be worn in all indoor public spaces, overriding local decisions.

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