

Colorado Springs Gazette Newspaper

January 12, 1903

Headline: *El Paso County's Oldest Document a Poll Book of Forty Years Ago*

“The recent overhauling of the basement of the county jail, in which are stored the dust-covered books and yellow-edged papers belonging to the county known as “archives” brought to light what is believed to be the oldest El Paso county document extant.

It is the poll book made out after the election held at the Cotton ranch on September 1, 1863, 40 years ago.

The Cotton ranch was at that time the central habitation of precinct No. 3, which is described in the document itself, reproduced below. Present at that election were several El Paso county citizens who are still in the county, among them J. C. Woodbury, B. Hall, A. G. Hill, Anthony Bott and A. C. Beach, while Thomas Owens, who was a candidate for county commissioner and A. Z. Sheldon who was elected surveyor and representative, are still here.

The territorial council, to the lower house of which A. Z. Sheldon was elected, met that year in Colorado City. For lack of accommodations it was necessary for it to move, however, and, the country counties being greatly opposed to Denver as the seat of the state government, it was moved to Golden. It was necessary for it to move again, however, and it finally landed in Denver. Mr. William Howbert, father of Hon. Irving Howbert of this city, was chaplain of this council.

The following is the complete contents of the poll book referred to:

El Paso County, Colorado Territory  
POLL BOOK  
Precinct No. 3  
Election September 1, 1863

Precinct No. 3, Commencing at the junction of Cherry creek and Colorado roads, thence down the Fountain Qui Bouille to and including A. D. Sprague's ranch, together with all that section of country between the southern boundary line of El Paso County and northerly to Bijou creek not included in other precincts.

I, B. Hall, do solemnly swear that I will perform the duties of judge according to law and the best of my abilities, that I will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit, and abuses in conducting the same. B. Hall

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Cotton's ranch house this 1st day of September, A.D., 1863. G. A. Bute

I, J. B. Wright, do solemnly swear that I will perform the duties of judge according to law and the best of my ability, that I will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting the same. J. B. Wright

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Cotton's ranch house this 1st day of September, A.D., 1863. G. A. Bute

I, J. P. Hammons, do solemnly swear that I will perform the duties of judge according to law and the best of my ability, that I will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting the same. J. P. Hammons

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Cotton's ranch house this 1st day of September, A.D., 1863. George A. Bute

I, J. C. Woodbury, do solemnly swear that I will perform the duties of clerk according to law and the best of my ability, that I will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting the same. J. C. Woodbury

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Cotton's ranch house this 1st day of September, A.D., 1863. George A. Bute

I, Robert B. McKay, do solemnly swear that I will perform the duties of clerk according to law and the best of my ability, that I will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit and abuse in conducting the same. R. B. McKay

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Cotton's ranch house this 1st day of September, A.D., 1863. George A. Bute"

Names of Voters: (*transcribed as printed*)

R. B. McKay

J. C. Woodbury

B. Hall

J. P. Hammons

G. A. Bute

J. B. Wright

Herald Kimball

O. M. Cotton

Sam O. Val

Jesus O. Morro

A. G. Hill

W. L. Harm

Antonio Sandowale

Chas. E. Singer

Wm. Copeland

P. Fisher

A. C. Beach

Juan Teloqui

Michael O. Lono

George W. Replogle

Francisco Yarrar

Garcin Tafor

T. S. Moore

Osa Bosanti  
Angus McDonald  
Isaac Melle  
Wm. Cotton  
Wm. Rowe  
John Baptist  
John Bley  
H. Talcott  
Samuel C. Liston  
Anthony Bott  
James Kinn  
W. L. Rothrick  
David P. West  
George K. Venanci  
Jesus Martinez  
Pateric Baylen  
John Gelsen  
Thos. Parker  
H. Panine  
C. L. Kiker

At our election held at the house of O. M. Cotton in the third district of El Paso County, in the territory of Colorado, on the first day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, the following named persons received the number of votes annexed to their respective names for the following described offices, towit:

For the council, John Howard received (10) ten votes, Robert Stubbs received (32) thirty-two votes.

For representative, A. Z. Sheldon received (37) thirty-seven votes. Baxter received (1) vote.

For county commissioner, O. M. Cotton received (16) sixteen votes. Thomas Owens received (16) sixteen votes. Charles E. Senger received (3) three votes.

For treasurer, L. (I.?) M. Rhoads received (34) thirty-four votes.

For assessor, J. B. Wright received (33) thirty-three votes. W. G. Harmes received (5) five votes.

For surveyor, A. Z. Sheldon received (30) thirty votes.

For clerk, G. A. Bute received (37) thirty-seven votes.

For attorney M. Green received (30) votes.

For coroner, H. Stevens received (37) thirty-seven votes.

For sheriff, R. S. Kelly received (38) thirty-eight votes.

For probate judge, E. T. Caten received (37) thirty-seven votes.

For superintendent of schools Rev. W. H. Fisher received (30) thirty votes

For justice for two years, J. C. Woodbury received (36) thirty-six votes; Sprague (1) vote.

For justice for one year Rothrick received (36) thirty-six votes.

For constable for two years, S. Lister received (36) thirty-six votes.

We the undersigned judges of election held at the house of O.M. Cotton on the first day of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, do hereby certify the above to be a true record of the votes cast for the different candidates.

J. B. Wright

J. P. Woodbury (possible misprint, perhaps should read J. P. Hammons)

B. Hall

Judges

R. B. McKay

J. C. Woodbury

Clerks"

Directly below this above article on the same page for the Gazette, Jan. 12, 1903, is another article: *Death of El Paso County Pioneer at Fountain*. "Word was received here yesterday of the death at Fountain of Mr. Ames, one of the oldest residents of this section of the state. While no particulars were received, it is understood that Mr. Ames had been more or less ill for some time and he was quite advanced in years. He was one of the pioneers of Colorado."

---

Colorado Springs Gazette

January 11, 1903

Headline: *Oldest Official Document in History of El Paso County*

Sub-heading: Pole Book of the First Election Held in this County is Unearthed from Archives of the County Treasurer - Dates Back to 1863

"While delving among the archives of El Paso county in the county jail last Thursday, Mr. Hollis Jewitt, a clerk in the employ of the county treasurer's office, dug up what is believed to be the oldest official document in the poll book of the first election in the county, and bears the date September 1, 1863, a time which antedates the founding of the city of Colorado Springs by about eight years.

According to the aged document, the election was held in the ranch house owned by A. M. Cotton, the father of Frank Cotton, who is at present one of the firm of Cotton, Terrill & Garlick. The record is written on legal cap, and covered with common brown paper, and in addition to the names of the voters it contains the oaths of office taken by the newly-elected county officers. The list of voters follows:

R. B. McCay  
J. C. Woodbury  
B. Hall  
J. P. Hammons  
G. A. Bute  
J. B. Wight  
Herald Kimball  
A. M. Cotton  
Sam O. Val  
Jesus O. Morro  
A. G. Hill  
W. L. Harm  
Antonio Sandowall  
Charles E. Singer  
Wm. Copeland  
P. Fisher  
A. C. Beach  
Juan Teloqui  
Michael O. Lono  
George W. Replogle  
Francisco Yarrar  
Grocin Tafor  
T. S. Moore  
Asa Rosanti  
Angus McDonald  
Isaac Miller  
William Cotton  
William Rowe  
John Baptist  
John Bley  
H. Tolcott  
Samuel Liston  
Anthony Bott  
James Kine

W. L. Rothrok  
David P. West  
George K. Venance  
Jesus Martinez  
Patrick Boyle  
John ? (Gusin?)  
Thomas Parke  
H. Panine  
C. S. Kiker"

There are varied name spelling discrepancies between the two election lists that were in the Gazette newspaper on these two days. The names have been copied here as they were written in the paper, and have been proofread.