



Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

June 2024

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---Contact Us---

Postal Address:

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club
PO Box 171
Lake George, CO 80827

Website:

[LGGMC website](#)

[LGGMC on facebook](#)

Meeting Location:

Lake George Charter School GYM

[Map to Meeting Location](#)

About Us

The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth Science, rocks and minerals, fossils, lapidary work, jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The Club

normally meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Charter School gym, located on the south side of US Highway 24 approaching the town of Lake George from Florissant. In the winter, we meet at 10:00AM. **From April through September, we meet at 9:00AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Club Officers

2024 introduces a lot of new faces to our club management team. Following are the LGGMC Officers for 2024. Please reach out if you need any help.

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President | Dave Bruess | david@bruess.me |
| Vice President | Bart Zobel | bezobel@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Steve Kahler | pipprophet@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Cathy McLaughlin | cathy_mclaughlin@hotmail.com |
| Newsletter Editor | Betty Bowles | bbowles2@gmail.com |
| Field Trip Coordinator | Dave Alexander | dave@davealex.com |
| Show Coordinator | Carol Kinete | kinatec@aol.com |
| Pebble Pups Coordinator | Betty Merchant | betty.merchant@yahoo.com |

Club Officer Biography

This month, we would like to introduce you to our Newsletter Editor, Betty Bowles

I joined the LGGMC in 2024 and became the Newsletter Editor at that time. I have been a rockhouser since I was a kid in KY where I found flint nodules, crinoid fossils and arrowheads along the river by my house. There were caves to go exploring in too. I have kept my enthusiasm for geology my entire life. I remember reading in my 4th grade geology book about all the amazing rock formations found out west

and wanting to go explore them. Well, here I am. I spend most of the time in the summer hiking around this great area: hunting for crystals and fossils, visiting and discovering archeological sites, following dinosaur tracks, and learning more about this awesome place where we live! It is a pleasure to be part of this club and share member companionship and enthusiasm for field exploration.

To Join Our Club – (Membership is officially closed for 2024)

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We gather monthly as a club to share information including guest speaker presentations, workshops, and rock specimen show and tell discussions. We coordinate and supervise amazing field trips for club members that cover a broad spectrum of geological, archeological, rock, and mineral interests. We also sponsor the annual Gem and Mineral Show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, or jewelry.

Annual Membership

Current year membership application and/or renewal and application occurs only during **January 1-March 31**. Membership is closed for the current year after this time and last years membership list will be purged April 1. Please note that all memberships must be current in order to participate on any field trip or to use any club claim.

How to Apply

One may apply for membership in person at our monthly meetings, or visit our club website at <https://lggmclub.org> to obtain a membership application, or go directly to https://lggmclub.org/LGGMc_Member24v.pdf to download the application in PDF format. The application will need to be filled out and submitted to the club along with the appropriate membership dues. The mailing address to submit the application is provided in the [Error! Reference source not found.](#) section of this newsletter. Remember to get your application in before April 1, 2024!

Annual Membership Fee

Annual membership dues are collected (Jan. 1 through Mar. 31). They are as follows:

| LGGMC Annual Membership Dues 2024 | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| \$15.00 | Individual | Age 18 and over |
| \$25.00 | Family | Parents + kids under age 18 |

Look Forward to June Meeting (June 8, 2024 @ 9 AM)

First, May Meeting Summary

At our May meeting, John Rakowski gave his famous lecture on rockhounding and field collecting int the Pikes Peak region. One learned how to, where to, and what to collect in the Pikes Peak region. His field collecting notes are provided in the May 2024 newsletter.

Thank you, John!

Next, June Meeting Show & Tell

So far, we have had some really fun club collection outings and events. We are asking members to bring and talk about their recent finds. So suit up and show up with your booty! Also bring any specimens that you would like help identifying.



Upcoming Events

Pikes Peak Gem & Mineral Show

(June 7-9, 2024)

Norris Penrose Event Center, 1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd, COS, CO

This the 60th annual event which is hosted by the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. This event will feature over 50 vendors offering gems, minerals, and fossils from Colorado and around the world, as well as jewelry, sculptures, meteorites, and more! Enjoy this family-friendly event with activities for the kids, exhibits from private collections, lapidary and faceting demonstrations, gold panning, door prizes every 30 minutes, and mineral auctions.

Friends of Mineralogy CO Chapter 24 Symposium

(June 13-16, 2024)

Mines Museum of Earth Science, Golden, CO

The symposium theme will be “**Mineral Oddities: Twinning, Inclusions, Pseudomorphs, and More.**” Here is the tentative symposium agenda:

- **Thursday, June 13:** Field Trips (TBA)
- **Friday, June 14:** Mineral Photography Workshop and Evening Reception at the Mines Museum
- **Saturday, June 15:** Symposium Presentations
- **Sunday, June 16:** Symposium Presentations (half day)

24th Annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show

(June 14-16, 2024)

Victor, CO

The annual Victor Gem & Mineral Show presented by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) in Victor, Colorado will be held the third weekend in June.

The event will be held in downtown historic Victor and is open and free to the public. The show will include vendors from across the state selling Colorado dug minerals. Items for sale will include polished gems, hand-crafted jewelry, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, geodes, and more. There will also be gold and gem panning at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. Show hours are from 9 to 5 Friday and Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday.

Note to Club Members: Please start thinking about donating decent specimens to be auctioned at the shows. New this year is a Silent Auction to be lead by Betty Merchant.

Johnstown Meteorite

(July 6, 2024)

Roosevelt High School, 3349 Roosevelt Pkwy, Roosevelt High School, Johnstown, CO

This year, 2024, marks the centennial year of the Johnstown Meteorite landing just outside town, and quite literally shaking things up as it made its magnificent entrance. There is a parade on June 1, in Johnstown where you will be able to see the meteorite in the parade. The meteorite is normally kept on display in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The “I Landed in Johnstown Centennial Celebration” is on July 6 where celebration include a memorial dedication, art show, rock and gem show, drone show, and a presentation from scientists and an astronaut.

Florissant Heritage Day Festival

(July 27, 2024)

Florissant, CO

The town of Florissant, in Teller County, has a rich and varied history – from the native Ute people who called the area home, to the early mountain men who traversed the area seeking furs for trade, to the pioneers who left their mark by building homes and establishing a town. Every year, the town of Florissant celebrates this legacy with the annual Heritage Day celebration.

Southern Colorado Rock & Mineral Show

(Aug 30-Sep 1, 2024) **Note rescheduled dates!!**

COS Convention Center, 3960 Palmer Park Rd COS, CO

Demonstrations, vendors, presentations, rock auction, live music, beer garden, kids' activities, supply sales, geology clubs, door prizes, food, gold mining tips, & much more!

Upcoming Field Trips

| Field Trips in June | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 6/1/2024 | Topaz Mountain Gem Mine - pay dig |
| 6/8/2024 | Hartsel blue barite claim |
| 6/17/2024 | Time Assassin claim |
| Field Trips available at the June 8 th Meeting (so far) | |
| 7/6/2024 | Smoky Hawk Mine |
| 7/13/2024 | Florissant Fossil Quarry - pay dig |
| 7/13/2024 | Gold City Claim Fluorescent Minerals (day) |
| 7/13/2024 | Gold City Claim Fluorescent Minerals (night) |
| 7/20/2024 | Rocky Mountain High Claim |

You can check out all the details for each of these trips on our event website FieldTrips.LGGMClub.org. Each event has an "availability date" shown in the trip details (see the button at the top-right), this is when that trip will be available for website registration, typically the following Wednesday after the club

meeting where early sign-up is available. Note that website registration starts at 12:00 am Mountain time on the date listed.

Feedback and field trip sign-up tips

A few reminders based on feedback from members and field trips thus far:

When signing up for an event, ensure you add this commitment to your personal calendar. TIP: There is a "Add To Calendar" button available on each trip to make this easy for you.

Review the route to the meeting place within the event in the days PRIOR to the trip. This will give you an idea of travel time and please add enough contingency time in case of unexpected road construction or traffic. ***Field Trip leaders will leave on-time.*** TIP: There is a Google Maps at the bottom of every field trip event page that you can use in your planning, and for navigation on the day-of the event! Try it!

As always, if you no longer can join us on the trip, please unregister yourself ASAP as most trips have eager waitlists!

Meet Our Neighbors

Here is a list of nearby gem, mineral, fossil, and geology club meetings that you may enjoy. Go to each club's website for more information.

Cañon City Geology Club

Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6PM at United Methodist Church, Cañon City.

Pueblo Rockhounds

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM at Westminster Presb. Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo

Columbine Gem & Mineral Society

Meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30PM at meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th, Salida

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM Colorado Springs Christian School, 4855 Mallow Rd, Colorado Springs.

Monthly Mineral for June, 2024 (Carnein photos and collection)



Fig. 1

This month's mineral is relatively uncommon but occurs in a world-class deposit in Colorado (Fig. 1) and is sometimes a valuable ore mineral. It has a very simple formula, moderate SG (4.6 to 4.76) and a very low H (1-½ to 2). Its typical habit is to occur as platy aggregates, like the specimens above (Fig. 1). Only rarely does it occur in fine hexagonal crystals that bring very high prices from collectors. Although it sometimes resembles pyrite (Fig. 2), it often exhibits a spectacular blue to purple iridescence (Fig. 3), which makes it a collector favorite. Mindat.org (accessed May, 2024) lists over 150 Colorado localities, including about 25 in Park Co. and even a few in Teller Co. What do you think it is?

Fig. 2

Fig.3



Last Month's Mineral: Mimetite, $Pb_5(AsO_4)_3Cl$

Last month's mineral (Fig. 4) is another one of those attractive minerals from the oxidized zone of mixed sulfide deposits. (Note the presence of oxygen in its formula—it's an arsenate). This mineral forms where galena (lead sulfide) and arsenopyrite (iron-arsenic sulfide) break down due to the alteration of pyrite (iron sulfide). The pyrite releases sulfuric acid, which attacks the other minerals and produces a wide array of minerals for the collector. The high SG (about 7.1) results from the abundance of lead in its formula. Cerussite, anglesite, and wulfenite are other lead minerals that may occur with it, along with smithsonite (zinc carbonate), malachite and azurite (copper carbonate), etc. Most commonly, mimetite occurs in botryoidal aggregates, like the specimen in Fig. 4, which came from Mexico.

Fig. 4

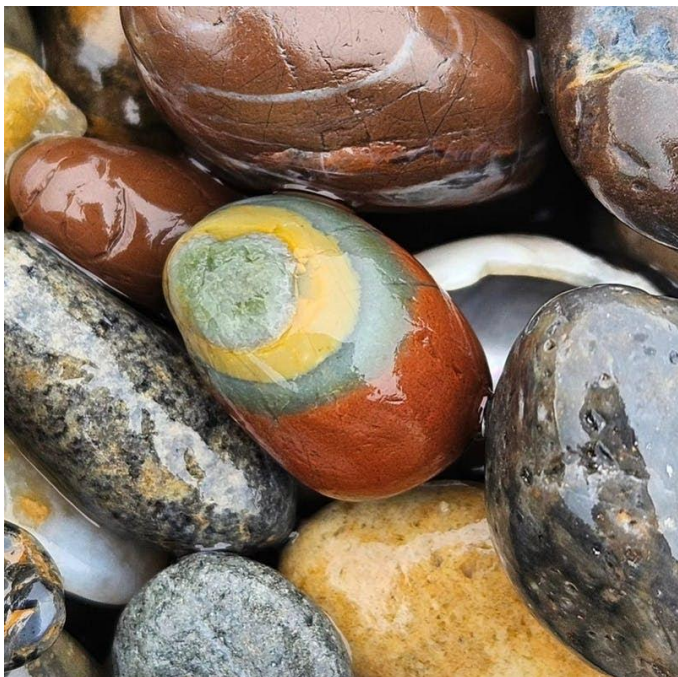
Interesting Reads

In this section, we provide some fun rock, mineral, and geology news and information to enjoy from several of our favorite magazines.

From Rock Seeker

PICTURE OF THE DAY

I thought it would be fun to start today's email off with this beautiful little bullseye jasper! Kind of reminds me of an everlasting gobstopper. Remember those?



r0ck.punk/IG

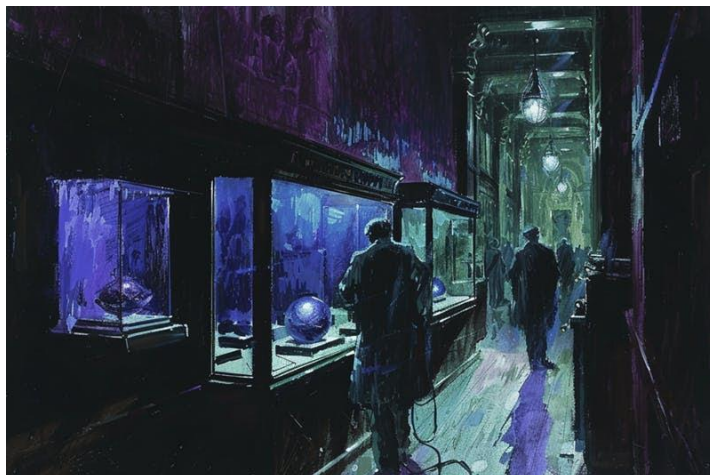
Jasper happens to be a favorite of mine. It's a beautiful stone, and the variation is enough to make any collector excited. It's a form of cryptocrystalline silicon dioxide (SiO_2 or silica) that's opaque and is usually characterized by bright colors, including green, red, blue, and many others.

More About Jasper:

- [A Collector's Guide To Jasper](#)
- [12 Different Types of Jasper \(And 4 Wannabe Jaspers\)](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

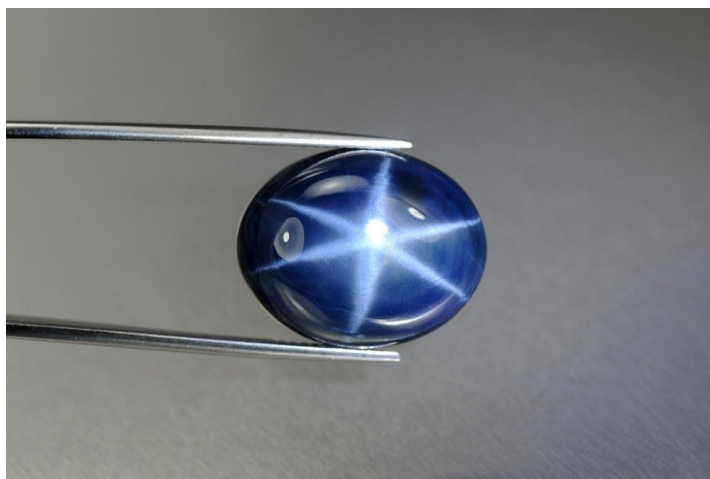
[*The Great Jewel Heist: The Daring Theft of the Star of India*](#)



Have you heard the story of the Star of India Sapphire heist? This is a true story of one of the most audacious jewel heists in history! Learn about how a gang of thieves planned and executed the theft of the priceless Star of India from the American Museum of Natural History. Follow the dramatic chase and the bizarre recovery of this legendary sapphire. It's a story of intrigue, suspense, and ultimate justice and you won't want to miss it!

[Read The Story!](#)

Star Sapphires



Star sapphires, like the Star of India from the story above, are a unique and mesmerizing variety of the corundum mineral family, distinguished by [their star-like phenomenon known as asterism](#). This optical effect, combined with the stone's rich history and geological significance, makes star sapphires some of the most sought-after gemstones in the world.

[See What Asterism Looks Like Here](#)

Formation and Asterism

Star sapphires are formed under high-temperature and high-pressure conditions deep within the Earth's crust. They gain their signature asterism from the inclusion of rutile, a titanium dioxide mineral, which forms tiny needle-like structures within the sapphire.

When these rutile inclusions are oriented in a specific pattern, they reflect light in a star-shaped pattern across the surface of the stone. The star typically has six rays, but twelve-rayed stars are also known, though not nearly as common.

The star effect is best seen under a single light source, such as sunlight or a direct flashlight beam. The star appears to move across the surface of the stone as the light source or the stone itself is moved. This captivating effect makes star sapphires highly prized among collectors and jewelers.

Color and Clarity

Star sapphires come in a variety of colors, including blue, black, pink, yellow, and even green. The most prized color is a deep, velvety blue, similar to the famed Star of India. The color of the sapphire can affect the visibility and quality of the star effect, with darker stones typically showing more pronounced stars.

Clarity in star sapphires is less critical than in faceted sapphires because the rutile inclusions that cause asterism are a necessary feature. However, stones with too many inclusions or other internal features can appear cloudy and less attractive.

Cut and Shape

Star sapphires are typically cut as cabochons, which enhances the star effect by allowing light to reflect off the rutile inclusions uniformly. The height and symmetry of the cabochon dome are crucial in ensuring a sharp, well-defined star.

Sources and Mining

The most famous sources of star sapphires are Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), Myanmar (Burma), and Thailand. Sri Lanka, in particular, is known for producing some of the finest star sapphires, including the Star of India. Other significant sources include Australia, Cambodia, Kenya, and the United States (specifically Montana).

Other Famous Star Sapphires

Besides the Star of India, other famous star sapphires include:

- **The Black Star of Queensland:** Weighing 733 carats, it is one of the largest black star sapphires in the world.
- **The Star of Bombay:** A 182-carat blue star sapphire from Sri Lanka, given to actress Mary Pickford by her husband, Douglas Fairbanks.

[5 Gemstones with Captivating Asterism Effects](#)

QUIZ OF THE DAY

1. Herkimer diamonds are a form of which mineral?

- A) Diamond
- B) Quartz
- C) Topaz
- D) Calcite

[Check Your Answer](#)

2. Herkimer diamonds are named after which location?

- 1. A) Herkimer County, New York
- 2. B) Herkimer Mountain, Colorado
- 3. C) Herkimer Valley, California
- 4. D) Herkimer City, Texas

[Check Your Answer](#)

TIP OF THE DAY

Shout out to Cutting Edge Supply for this tip...

When flat lapping small stones or the backs of finished cabochons, avoid the frustration of stones flying off or sanding your fingertips by using this simple tape handle method. Cut a small piece of sturdy tape, such as scotch tape or heavy-duty packing tape. Fold it in the middle so that the adhesive sides stick together, forming a small handle, but leave the ends apart. Attach the sticky ends to the top of the stone, creating a secure, non-slip handle. This makes it easier to hold and control the small stone.

Links to Other Resources

- 1. [Rocky Mountain Federation Newsletter June 2024](#)
- 2. [GEOSCIENCE BOOKS - ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SALE - 40% OFF ALL TITLES!](#)
- 3. Anyone who is going to on the upcoming field trip to the Florissant Fossil Beds may be interested in this article about a CO homesteader (1849-1930) who contributed to paleontology through finding several significant fossils within the Florissant Fossil Beds. It looks like you need to subscribe to the Gazette for access to their article on Charlotte Hill: [Gazette article about Charlotte Hill and the Florissant Fossil Beds](#). However, there is also an article about her contributions on the Florissant Fossil Bed website: [Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument - Charlotte Hill \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Through the Lens of History: the Photography of William J. Gillen in Cripple Creek's Early Years – by Steven Wade Veatch

A photograph is a moment of time captured forever. It is a glimpse into the past and a reminder of the present. — Unknown

Little is known about William J. Gillen, who worked in Denver, Colorado as a photographer, starting perhaps as early as 1885¹. One of the things that he left behind was an intuitively and masterfully made collection of photographs of the early days of the Cripple Creek mining district.



Figure 1. A photo of W. J. Gillen and his photography studio. The false front of this wooden building declares: W. J. Gillen, photographer. It is possible that the well-dressed man standing next to the buggy is Gillen, and next to him is his wife, Louisa A. Gillen. Photo date October 7, 1895 by an unknown photographer. to courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Near the end of 1890, while Gillen was taking pictures in Denver, Bob Womack filed his El Paso lode claim in what was to become the Cripple Creek mining district. News spread beyond the hills of Cripple Creek, and prospectors and merchants flowed into this area on the west side of Pikes Peak.

In 1891, entrepreneurs platted the town of Fremont on land that was part of the Broken Box Ranch. Hayden Placer, east of Fremont, was established in 1892 (Figure 2). The rival towns of Fremont and Hayden Placer merged in 1893 to form the City of Cripple Creek.

Cripple Creek's brawling, sprawling free-for-all gold strike generated national headlines in the 1890s. Gillen no doubt read these stories. It is possible that he grew restless taking portraits of babies, couples, and individuals in his studio at 1332 Larimer Street in Denver. He was helpless to resist the lure of the Cripple Creek goldfields. Sometime in 1892, moved by the news accounts of Cripple Creek, Gillen packed his bags, grabbed his equipment,

and headed to the booming Cripple Creek mining district and opened a photography studio². The 1893 Cripple Creek City Directory lists Gillen as proprietor of the Cripple Creek Photo Gallery.³ At that time, he competed with only one other photographer, J. G. Wilson.

Gillen's photographer's stamp and address appear on the back of many of his cabinet cards: "Wm. J. Gillen, photographer, tin types a specialty, open Sundays, duplicates furnished on short notice, Cripple Creek, Colo." The 1894 Cripple Creek City Directory shows him operating a gallery on the southeast corner of Fifth and Bennett⁴. Gillen now competed with two other photographers: D. P. Morgan had a studio two doors north of the Palace Hotel and J.W. Shaw, operated on Third Street.

W. J. Gillen captured the vibrant activity and rugged landscapes of the Cripple Creek mining district. He played a pivotal role in documenting the transformative era of the mining district. Using his camera, he preserved the perseverance of miners and the lively communities that emerged in and near the gold camp. These historic photographs go beyond being visual chronicles of the past; they provide us with invaluable insights into the social, economic, and cultural dynamics of a bygone era, offering a glimpse into the lives and times of the individuals who played a role in shaping the Cripple Creek mining district.

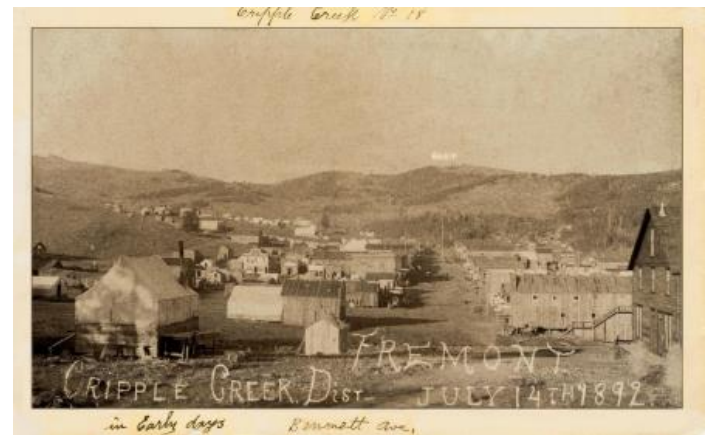


Figure 2. The town of Fremont merged with Hayden Placer in 1893 to form the City of Cripple Creek. Photo date July 14, 1892, by W.J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

² 1892 is the last Denver City Directory listing William J. Gillen as a photographer. It is likely that he left for Cripple Creek sometime in 1892.

³ Cripple Creek Complete Directory, 1893. (Johnson Bros. Publishers) pg. 28.

⁴ Cripple Creek City Directory, 1894. pg. 141.

¹ Amon Carter Museum of American Art, accessed March 1, 2024. www.cartermuseum.org/artists/william-j-gillen

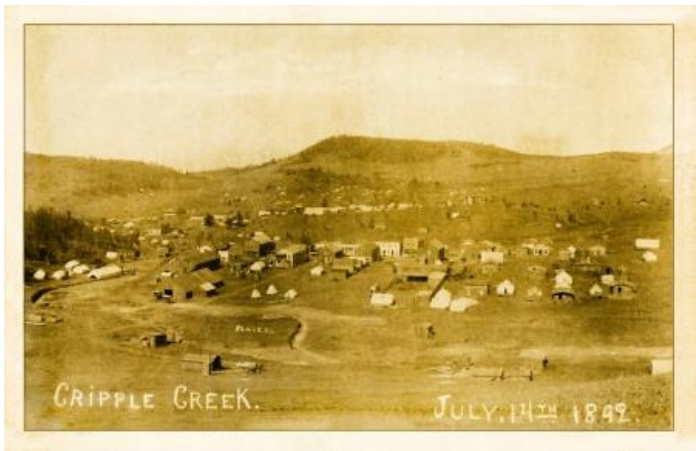


Figure 3. An early view of Cripple Creek. Photo date July 14, 1892, by William J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

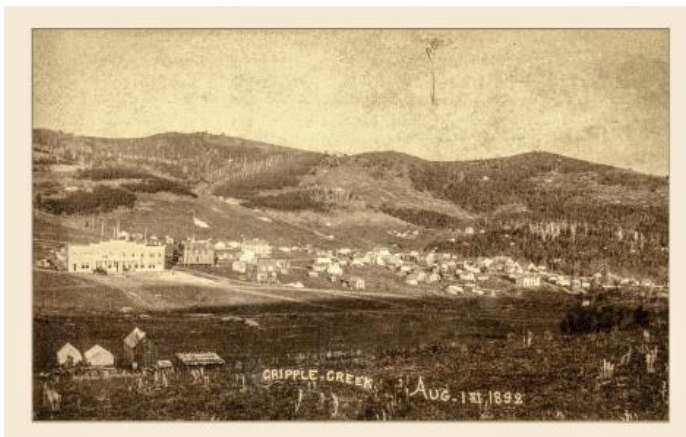


Figure 4. Early panoramic view of Cripple Creek. The large white building is the Anheuser Bush Hotel, 416 Bennett Avenue. Photo date August 1, 1892, by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

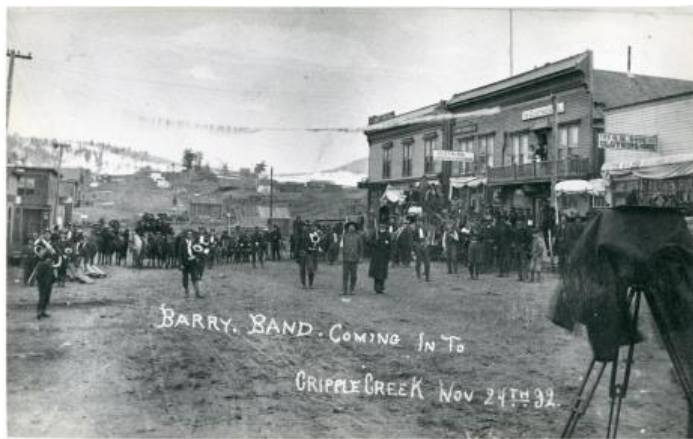


Figure 5. The Band from Barry, one of the camps in the Cripple Creek mining district, is marching into Cripple Creek. Clothing stores are on either side of the Continental Hotel. A photographer's tripod and camera are seen on the right side of this photo. Photo date November 24, 1892, by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

One August day in 1893, Gillen left his Cripple Creek studio and rode over to Mrs. Hoyte's ranch in the West Four Mile Creek area. He had a job to photograph Mrs. Hoyte's and her neighbor's ranches. Hetty (Hattie) Hoyte had a 160-acre

homestead⁵. Mrs. Hoyte's homestead was near those of the Tremayne family and the Grose family. All these neighbors were British immigrants and appeared to be friends. Together, they owned a patented lode claim on Gold Hill above Guffey, Colorado⁶.



Figure 6. Home of Mrs. Hoyte on West Four Mile Creek. Mrs. Hoyte was a British immigrant. She later became a U.S. citizen. Nine people are seen in the front of her rustic home. One man sits in front of a window holding a dog. An older man who is dressed up sits in a chair. Two chairs, with potted plants, are in the front of her home. Photo date September 1893, by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 7. Pictured is Mrs. Hoyte's Ranch outside of Cripple Creek. Mrs. Hoyte's large garden, protected by split-rail fencing, is in the foreground. Her log cabin has a stone chimney. The cabin is surrounded by buildings that include a barn, chicken coop, root cellar (used for storing vegetables, fruits, and other perishables), corrals, wagon sheds, and blacksmith shop. Note the great quantity of hay being grown in the meadow at the ranch. Today nothing exists here except for one old building. Photo date September 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

⁵ Today that property is located in the Bear Trap subdivision in Park and Teller Counties (T15S, R71W Section 15 - W1/2 NW1/4, SE1/4 NW1/4, NE1/4 SW1/4).

⁶ Personal communication Flip Boettcher, email. March 7, 2024.



Figure 8. Haying on Mrs. Hoyte's Ranch. Hay wagon and hay barn in the foreground. Two horses are hitched to the wagon. Three men are on top of the hay. Mrs. Hoyte's log cabin is in the background on the left. A man and a boy stand near the back of the wagon. Photo date September 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 9. "Milking Time" on Mrs. Hoyte's Ranch. Photo date August 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum. Color photograph in insert, taken by Flip Boettcher in 2024, is of the same site (at a slightly different angle) as it exists today.



Figure 10 "Recess" at the Four Mile School. Eight students surround the teacher. Some of the students are holding slates where they have written the year the photo was taken on them. The boy in the second row on the left, who is holding a chalk board, has leather cowboy cuffs on. These leather cuffs protected him from rope burns and from kicking hooves of cattle. Three buggies are seen in the middle ground. In the background

is the one room schoolhouse. Photo date August 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum. Color photograph in insert, taken by Flip Boettcher in 2024, is of the same building as it exists today. Someone added a small addition to the back of the school sometime after Gillen took the photo.



Figure 11. Early view of Myers Avenue, Cripple Creek. The St. James Hotel is on the right. Businesses line both sides of the street. Photo date 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

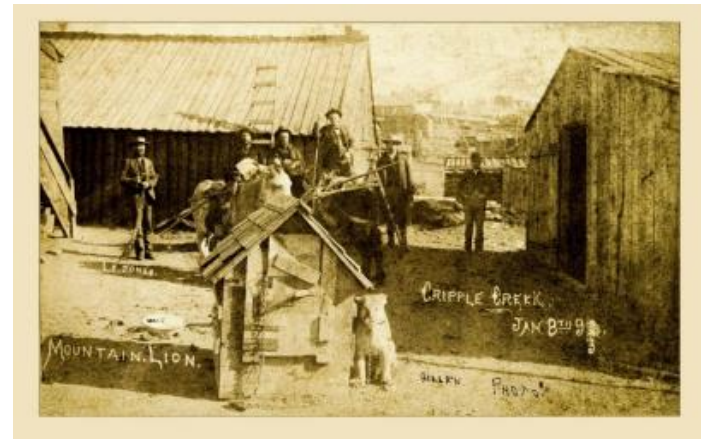


Figure 12. "Mike" the mountain lion poses next to his catbouse in a cabinet photo. A man with a rifle stands to the left in the background. Two donkeys, loaded with prospecting gear, stand behind Mike and in front of two prospectors. A man with a surveyor's transit stands next to a building. A man is wearing a bowler hat with his hands in his pockets on the right of the photograph. Photo date January 8, 1893, by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 13. Chicago Cripple Creek Tunnel, Cripple Creek. The Chicago tunnel enters Globe Hill from Poverty Gulch, a short distance east of the Abe Lincoln mine, and

By William Gillen. Photo date October 3, 1893. Fred and Jo Mazzulla Collection, Credit: Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas. P1976.36.3. Public domain.



Figure 14. A scene 700 ft. Underground in the Great" Chicago Cripple Creek Tunnel, Colorado - Photo date October 3, 1893, by W. J. Gillen. Fred and Jo Mazzulla Collection, Credit: Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas. P1976.36.2. Public domain.



Figure 15. The cabin of S. J. Roberts (possibly the man standing). These young men, seen with a fife and fiddle, likely owned a mine they were developing themselves during the early days of the gold camp. The tools, rope, and wooden buckets were used to dig a shaft. Photo date August 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 16. In this posed photo, a man, with his hat upside down points a revolver at seven men, with their hands up, on the roof of a Cripple Creek miner's cabin. Another

man, holding a revolver in his right hand, is sneaking up on the roof behind the standing men. Photo date October 15, 1893 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 17. Spencer Penrose and Charles L. Tutt stand in front of their one-story log cabin with a low gable and sod roof. Two saddled horses are tied to the corner of the cabin. Penrose and Tutt built the cabin in 1891. Photo date February 1894 by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 18. Lanyers, bill collectors, a notary public, and a justice of the peace, gather outside of Driver's Collection Agency on New Year Day, Cripple Creek, Colorado. The men stand on a boardwalk behind a small dog. Photo date January 1, 1894, by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 19. Fourth of July 1896 in Cripple Creek, Colorado. A large crowd gathers in front of a tent to celebrate the holiday. Fourth of July was often celebrated over several days in the mining camps of the Cripple Creek district. Photo by W. J. Gillen. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Four years had passed since Gillen arrived in the gold camp in 1892. He would soon witness a terrifying series of events. In April 1896, two raging fires, within four days of each other, devastated the town of Cripple Creek. The combination of flimsy construction materials, chilly winter winds, and a scarce water supply made it challenging for volunteer firefighters to put out the flames, leading to the rapid spread of both fires. The fires destroyed the central business district and burned over 1,000 homes, displacing over 3,600 people. Several fatalities occurred, and many more individuals experienced severe injuries. It took the town close to a year to rebuild, this time using fire resistant brick.

Although some of Gillen's photos have dates past the great fire, it is likely that his business declined after the spring of 1896. The people of Cripple Creek were busy with the arduous task of rebuilding their town. With his business reduced to a snail's pace, it appears Gillen left the district after the summer of 1896. He was not listed in the 1896 City directory.

Today, we have little information about Gillen. He seems to have disappeared into history after 1896. We know Gillen played a key role in capturing early images of local landscapes, ranches, mines, and towns in the early days of the Cripple Creek mining district. Despite Gillen's obscurity, his photographs, undiminished by time, have left an indelible mark on the pages of Colorado's history.

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