

UTAH TERRITORY ~ 1859

Gold Is Discovered

Breckinridge, U. T.

Gold was discovered in 1859 on the Blue River west of the Continental Divide in the Utah Territory. This was one of the first major discoveries on the western slope where the town of Breckinridge soon was built. The community was named for John C. Breckinridge then Vice President, and a man with Southern sympathies. When the Civil War broke out 1861 pro-Union citizens changed the name to Breckenridge changing "I" to "E". The Northern population had little sympathy for the Confederacy.



Breckinridge, Utah Territory ~ September 13, 1860

Letter to J. J. Barclay, Esq., Fort Dodge, Webster Co., Iowa with manuscript cancel and dull red 3cent #26 with pen cancel. The post office opened January 18, 1860. This is the earliest of the two known postmarks from the Utah Territory in what is now Colorado. Ex-Persson, Bauer Coll.



Incoming Letter to Mr. Albert C. Townsend to Breckenridge P. O., American Gulch, Rocky Mts. Utah Terr.