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Ghost Town Resurrected: Exposing Diverse Archival and Educational Materials through Electronic Publishing

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Project Overview

What?
- An experiment to create an interactive, multimedia electronic book using digitized primary source materials.

Why?
- To make digital materials more widely available, package them to be more readily integrated into the classroom for teaching purposes.

How?
- Using freely available software allowing users to create and publish electronic books.
Inspiration: Civil War Letters iBook

- Created by a high school teacher using a collection of Civil War-era letters that the library had digitized and made available in our repository.

- Book showcases the letters along with contextual information and links to additional digital resources from sources like the Library of Congress.
eBooks in Teaching

- Explosion in use of electronic devices and open educational resources in recent years.

- Studies show that students prefer interactive electronic book format over traditional learning tools.
What are iBooks?

- An e-book application created by Apple for use with its operating systems and devices.

- iBooks files can be downloaded via the iBooks store.

- A free application called iBooks Author allows users to create interactive books and distribute them in the iBooks store.
The Dearfield Collection

• Contains materials related to the African-American agricultural settlement of Dearfield, Colorado.

• Contains documents that belonged to O.T. Jackson, the founder of Dearfield. Items include:
  • correspondence
  • maps
  • photographs
  • oral histories
  • newspaper clippings
  • business receipts
  • bank statements
  • land transfer documents
  • materials for recruiting colonists
  • census records
  • various other ephemera.
Three letters to O. T. Jackson from J. J. Houston, who has moved from Casper, Wyoming to San Marino, California and purchased land there. He discusses the value of his Standard Oil stock and asks Jackson to attempt to sell his land holdings [presumably in Dearfield].
Research Process

Locating resources

- Resources spread across Colorado’s Front Range
- Oral histories, documents, photographs and artifacts
- Visits to various institutions and Dearfield site itself
Partnerships

Collaboration

- Limited success creating partnerships with other institutions
- Some were reluctant to share their materials, others expressed interest but failed to follow through
- Were successful in getting assistance from two scholars at UNC who have expertise in history and archaeology of Dearfield
History of Dearfield

Geography and climate

- Approximately 70 miles northeast of Denver
- Situated on the Eastern Plains of Colorado
- Semi-arid climate
History of Dearfield

African-American colonization efforts

- Attempts to create all-Black towns in America can be traced to the 18th century
- Post-Civil War between 80-200 all-Black towns emerged throughout the West
- First attempts in Colorado in the 1870s
History of Dearfield

Oliver Toussaint Jackson

- Arrived in CO in 1887
- Caterer, dining services supervisor, restaurateur, messenger, farmer
- Inspired by Booker T. Washington
History of Dearfield

Foundations 1909-1914

- 1909: Negro Townsite and Land Company
- 1910: James Thomas, O. T. and Minerva Jackson are Dearfield’s first settlers
- 1914: Dearfield is officially incorporated
History of Dearfield

Boom years 1915-1921

- **1915**: Twenty-seven families living at Dearfield. Town has forty-four wooden cabins, a boarding house, store and church.

- **1918-1919**: Favorable weather conditions and war-time demand result in an economic boom.

- **1920**: Plans were being made to establish a fifty-room hotel, a creamery, a canning factory, and a bank.

- **1921**: Sixty families living in Dearfield.
History of Dearfield

Decline 1922-1948

- 1922: Less than 3 inches of rain falls during the growing season and agricultural prices begin to drop

- 1925: Many Dearfield residents seek employment in Denver

- 1926: O. T. and Minerva Jackson advertise Dearfield as a “valley resort” encouraging African-American visitors to visit for the fish, game and dancing

- 1936: Townsite almost completely abandoned

- 1948: O. T. Jackson dies, leaving all remaining Dearfield interests to his niece
Software Used

iBooks Author
Create and publish amazing Multi-Touch books for iPad and Mac.

Now anyone can create stunning iBooks textbooks, cookbooks, history books, picture books, and more for iPhone, iPad, and Mac. Start with one of the Apple-designed templates that feature a wide variety of page layouts. Add your own text and images with drag-and-drop ease. Use Multi-Touch widgets to include interactive photo galleries, movies, Keynote presentations, 3D objects, and more. Preview your book on your iOS device or Mac at any time. Then submit your finished work to the iBooks Store in a few simple steps...More

What’s New in Version 2.4
- ePub templates now support the Pop-Over widget
- Minor usability improvements to the ePub templates

Information
Category: Productivity
Updated: Sep 30, 2015
Version: 2.4
Price: Free
Size: 419 MB
Family Sharing: Yes
Software Used
CHAPTER 1

Untitled

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, suspendisse nulla pretium, rhoncus tempor placerat fermentum, enim integer ad vestibulum voluptat. Nisl rhoncus turpis est, vel elit,
Dearfield colony

1871
First recorded meeting of African-Americans in Colorado meeting to discuss "organizing a colony with a view to settling in some portion of Colorado and building up a city."

1872
An agent representing fifty Georgia families sought a location in Colorado to begin a colony. The settlement appears to have been established by 1875, but disappears by 1900.

1887
Dearfield was one of the last examples of an exclusively African-American agricultural community established in the Great Plains. These towns represented efforts by African-Americans to create self-governed communities free from the racial violence and intolerance endemic to much of the country.

Dearfield

After the American Civil War, many African-Americans sought to create communities in the American west, including such settlements as Nicodemus, KS, Kendleton, TX and El Vado, NM. Several attempts were made to colonize areas within Colorado beginning with the efforts of over fifty Georgia families to purchase land and establish a colony to raise stock near Colorado Springs in the early 1870s. Although this effort appears to have failed, other colonization efforts continued occurring during the late 19th century. Inspired by Booker T. Washington's dream for the advancement of African-Americans through entrepreneurship and the ownership of property, members of Denver's African-American community formed the Colorado Negro Business League (CNBL) in 1905. Along with plans to promote economic advancement for African-Americans, the members of the CNBL were interested in creating an African-American community in Colorado.

Plans to develop a colony were presented by Oliver Toussaint Jackson during the first convention of the CNBL in 1905. Jackson was an African-American entrepreneur who arrived in Colorado in 1887. He worked as a caterer, operated a café and ice cream parlor, served as the staff manager of a large dining hall and eventually owned his own restaurant and farm. Jackson believed that his dream of an African-American agricultural colony required political patronage from white politicians, a belief that was not shared by most of the CNBL. Jackson became involved in local politics, serving as the president of the Democratic Negro Bryant Club in 1908. His involvement in politics led to an appointment by Colorado's newly elected Democratic governor to serve as a messenger for the governor's office. Jackson believed that this association would encourage white administrators in the land office to pay attention to him. As with many others in the CNBL, he envisioned an African-American farming community along the front range of Colorado based on Washington's vision. Jackson continued to be closely involved with the CNBL and in 1909 the group incorporated the Negro Townsite
Software Used
Software Used
Erma was the oldest of the children. She settled in Kansas and married a farmer named Walker. Walker's family moved to Kansas after the Civil War. They had two sons, Jim and John, who grew up to become successful farmers themselves.

Chapter 3: Decline of Dearfield

Chapter 4: Dearfield Today

Gallery Media
- IMG_0965.JPG
- Barn pavilion.tif
- Lunch room.tif
- Dearfield lodge.tif
- Filling station.tif

Accessibility Description
Dearfield residents in horse-drawn carriage.
Dearfield was one of the last examples of an exclusively African-American agricultural community established in the Great Plains. These towns represented efforts by African-Americans to create self-governed communities free from the racial violence and intolerance endemic to much of the country.
Publishing

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To publish “Dearfield,” click Continue.

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Continue
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Create sample from chapter:

1. Dearfield: History

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Finish publishing with iTunes Producer.

Open iTunes Producer to provide additional information and deliver your book to the iBooks Store.
**Dearfield**

**Ghost Town on the Plains**

**Series Name (Optional)**

**Author (Optional)**  
Hayden, Jessica

**Author (Optional)**  
Monson, Jane

**Author (Optional)**  
Trask, Jay

**Description**  
Dearfield: Ghost Town on the Plains contains an historical overview of Dearfield, Colorado, an early African-American settlement on the eastern plains of Colorado. This book contains photos and a selection of primary source documents that showcase the rise and decline of the settlement. Modern preservation efforts and archaeological studies are also highlighted.

**Subject Category**  
Americas (North, Central, South, W...)

**Interest Age (In Years)**  
Choose (Optional)

**Contains Explicit Content**  
No

**Publisher**  
Jessica Hayden, Jane Monson, Jay Trask

**Imprint (Optional)**

**Publication Date**  
10/28/2015

**Book Language**  
English

**Print Length**  
22

**Book Type**  
Book
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- Continue to cultivate partnerships
- Add more content
- Promote to relevant groups
- Explore alternate avenues of publishing
- Explore the use of electronic publishing to showcase other digital collections of primary sources