

<http://www.weldcounty150.org/EducationinWeldCounty/WindsorSchools.html>

Windsor Schools: RE-4

*This information was provided by Rachel Kline of the Windsor-Severance Historical Society*

Windsor's school district, Weld Re-4, was established in Weld County in 1870. Its first school, however, had been built four years prior, one and one-half miles west and one-quarter mile south of the original Windsor Town Hall (just south of Safeway). Built by neighboring families, the schoolhouse provided education for approximately 20 children in the western Weld County and eastern Larimer County area, until the Windsor and Timnath school districts were organized.



After creating District 4, Windsor residents established Whitney School by Whitney Ditch, south of town. Among the first school teachers were Miss Amelia Plowhead, Miss Brown, Miss Emma Hubbell, and Miss Mate Smith. After Windsor became well established, residents moved the schoolhouse to the west in 1883. R.S. Dickey took charge of the school as the sole teacher.

Later the building was divided into two rooms in order to employ another teacher. In 1886, the old frame structure was replaced by a two-story, four-room brick building and moved to Walnut Street. Again, to provide more space, residents constructed another building on the corner of third and Walnut in 1904, known as Park School. Population growth of the general community also called for the creation of more district schools throughout the area including New Liberty, Riverside, Bracewell, Whitehall, Severance, and Oklahoma.

Around this time, most female teachers were required to live in a "teacherage" or with a family. Windsor had at least two teacherages near New Liberty and Whitehall that set specific rules for their teachers to live by. In 1915, a few of these rules included: 1) You will not marry during the term of your contract, 2) You will not keep company with men, 3) You may not loiter in downtown ice cream stores, 4) You may not dress in bright colors, 5) You may under no circumstances dye your hair, and 6) You must wear at least two petticoats. Teachers were also expected to



keep the school neat and clean by sweeping the floor at least once a day, scrubbing the floor at least once a week, cleaning the blackboards at least once a day, and starting the fire at 7 a.m. so the room would be warm by 8 a.m.

With the advent of the of the Sugar Beet Factory in 1903 and the new residents that the industry brought, the Windsor School District found its schools wholly inadequate for the incoming number of children. By 1907, the school census listed 495 persons of school age in the district with 207 of them being children of German-Russian parentage.

To accommodate the increasing population, Windsor residents voted to construct an additional wing on Park School in 1913. But not even the new additions provided enough space, and so Windsor residents contemplated construction of a new high school building. In 1918, the Windsor High School was constructed with George E. Tozer as its first principal. Not long after the construction of the new high school, the Windsor School District consolidated and sold the Whitehall and New Liberty schools and teacherages as residences. The school board then voted on the creation of a junior high school which was constructed in 1921.

Windsor gained national notoriety in 1924 when its high school basketball team won the US Basketball National Championship held in Chicago. The ball-handling wizardry of the Windsor players impressed the Chicago media so much so that the media dubbed the team “wizards” on the court. The name stuck, and upon the team’s return home, the Wizards replaced the Windsor Bulldog mascot. During the championship, Frazier’s Drug Store served up the daily basketball scores along with its fountain sodas. Updated scores were provided by the telegraph station manager, who ran scores across the tracks to the store where they were lettered on a big mirror behind the counter for Windsor residents. Large celebrations were held in Windsor and Greeley to honor the team.

The mid-century ushered in another population growth spurt in Windsor, requiring the construction of additional schools. In 1961, Tozer primary school was constructed with additions constructed in 1962 and later in 1978. Tragedy struck in 1964 when the junior high school caught on fire and was partially destroyed. Reconstruction of the portion of the building damaged by the fire was finished in 1966. In 1975, the new Windsor High School was constructed to the northwest of downtown which still hosts the Windsor Wizards. In 2010, the old Windsor High School was beautifully restored to house the Windsor Town Hall.

Today the Windsor School District includes Mountain View Elementary, Grandview Elementary, Range View Elementary, Skyview Elementary, Tozer Primary School, Severance Middle School, Windsor Middle School, Windsor High School, and Windsor Charter Academy.

*To learn more about the history of Windsor and Severance or to find out how you can help preserve this history, visit [www.thewshs.org](http://www.thewshs.org). Watch for the Windsor-Severance Historical Society’s new book, *Windsor*, a photographic history from Arcadia Publishing coming this fall.*

Fort Collins Standard, July 22, 1874

### Vested Rights,

The editor of the Greeley Tribune seems anxious that the Fort Collins people should understand that the establishment of his principle of prior rights is their only salvation. He argues that a heavy capitalist or corporation may come here and take a huge canal from the Poudre above La Porte and run it through the Box Elder country, and around on the bluffs so as to irrigate perhaps 20,000 acres of new land, and,—dire result—not leave enough water in the river to fill our canals. This would be unfortunate, but luckily for us there is no danger of such an occurrence.

It is generally conceded and understood that the best way to prevent water from running in canals, is to prevent the construction of the canal. That is the proper time to enjoin a canal, and there is no doubt but that a permanent injunction can be secured against any parties contemplating the construction of another canal drawing water from the Cache a la Poudre.

Admitting, for the sake of his argument, that this stupendous hypothesis is possible, Larimer county would be a gainer by opposing the establishment of this principle of prior rights. If what Greeley claims is admitted, a permanent injunction would be immediately issued against two of our most valuable canals, and the town of Fort Collins would be greatly damaged, as well as many acres of valuable outlying lands. That would be immediate ruination. The heavy capitalist or corporation may be twenty years in arriving at Fort Collins, and possibly, neither will ever come. Procrastination is more agreeable than otherwise to the party sentenced to be hung. Brethren let us procrastinate.

### The Water Question.

This much talked of topic may be considered as temporarily settled by the somewhat incongruous and noisy convention held at Whitney's school house on Wednesday last. It was here that the people of Greeley first learned that they had begun at the wrong end of the question to arrive at a satisfactory adjustment of the difficulty, and many of them had the good sense to change their tactics.

The first general information that ~~the~~ people of Greeley were suffering for water was brought by N. C. Meeker, J. C. Shattuck and others, who came to Fort Collins, ostensibly to secure a portion of the water running in the Larimer county ditches. As no one having authority to close the canals was approached on the subject, of course no satisfaction was received.

and the gentlemen returned to Greeley to hold an inflammatory meeting. Among other things, Mr. Shattuck stated at that meeting that Canal No. 2 was nearly sixteen feet wide, (he had lost the stick he measured with) and was running two feet of water; furthermore, that less than two hundred acres of land were under cultivation under that ditch. This was probably a mistake of Mr. Shattuck's, but it naturally inflamed the Greeley people. We have been informed by the builder of the flume of No. 2 canal that the timbers were but ten feet, so Mr. Shattuck evidently made a mistake. The officials of Union Colony concluded, at the close of the meeting at Greeley, to enjoin canals Nos. 2 and 3, and stop the water, that it might flow to Greeley and leave the trees and crops of Fort Collins to get along as best they might. Then it was proposed by Gen. Cameron and Hon. B. H. Eaton that a convention of the ditch owners of the two counties be held, to endeavor to compromise the matter without a law suit, which was agreed to. This brings us to the convention at the Whitney school house.

The preliminaries were soon settled, and Gen. Cameron moved that a committee be appointed to bring in a series of resolutions which would cover the ground and bring the subject in proper shape before the convention. This was opposed by the Greeley delegates, as a matter of course. A few members from Greeley seemed to understand that they met to devise some way whereby they might get water immediately. The others came merely to discuss "prior rights" and Gen. Cameron--what he did and said one, two, three and four years ago. The Greeley delegation wished to make these points:

1st. That the Fort Collins Canal had

prior rights as against any Fort Collins canals, notwithstanding their canals had been nearly doubled in capacity since they were constructed.

2d. That owners of Fort Collins canals should admit said "prior vested rights."

3d. That the crops of Greeley were perishing for the want of water, and

4th. That the people of Fort Collins should close all their headgates and allow suffering Greeley to dip her nose in the cooling fluid.

These points were sustained by orators for which Greeley is so famous. Mr. Meeker was philosophical ; Capt. Martin was sternly sarcastic ; Capt. Boyd was—well, say forcible. In fact so forcible that one of the Greeley gentlemen was forced to his feet to utter a disclaimer for the Hibernian warrior. They succeeded in establishing the following points :

1st. That the canal owners of Fort Collins would not admit any priority of right in favor of Greeley canals.

2d. That the canal owners of Larimer county were willing to go on short allowance of water in order to save the crops of Union Colony, and

3d. That if war was intended, Larimer county would irrigate her crops first and last, and that if the injunction was decided in favor of the Union Colony, it would be too late to save



the crops.

It was then agreed to allow the injunction suit to drop, and that the canal owners of Larimer county would unite in sending the water to Greeley.

An important resolution was introduced by Gen. Cameron, which, if acted upon, will protect the interests of the valley permanently. The resolution was to the effect that the convention unite in preventing other canals from being taken from the Cache a la Poudre river.

The convention adjourned subject to the call of its president, Joseph Moore.