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**A History of Buford, Colorado**  
**A History of the Upper White River Country, Meeker, Colorado**  
**By: Richelle Buckles**

These two books were the first ever written or published on the area and the collection of the data for them was an enormous project in itself, as well as the fact that I had never written or published anything before it also became a great learning experience for me.

In the fall of 2005 the renovation of the old Buford Store and Lodge was underway. In going through the documents and information found at the old store, it was suggested by our friends and owners to do research and a small book or pamphlet on the store. Thus, my first book, "A History of Buford, Colorado" was begun. It begins in the middle 1880's until today. The area of the upper White River has drawn people from every walk of life. Buford Store and Lodge became the "hub in the wheel" for the people who lived there and the people who came there to visit. It was the first place to receive mail, to get supplies, to catch the stage into Meeker, and to go for catching up on the news of the valley. Buford Store and Lodge were named after Buford Peak which was located right next to the store and lodge. I was also named after the famous general Buford. This book tells the story of the owners, the people who lived around it and its purpose in the past as well as today for the area. It is filled with old pictures, documents, and historical information and contains 141 pages.

After this first book was finished, I began my next historical book called "A History of the Upper White River County, Meeker, Colorado". This book contains 688 pages of history, pictures, and documentation of the area from Elk Creek to Trappers Lake. Even with this many pages there was still information that was there but, no room to add. It contains the stories of the people, their lives, and how they settled the upper White River country. It contains the original people who opened up the area after the last Indian uprising, to those who homesteaded it, to those who then patented their land, and to those who own and live there today. The old newspaper articles about this area as well as census records, school records, marriage, military, death, Forest Service, and any other document that could be found is in this book.

One of the more famous families of country today came and lived in the White River valley. It was a favorite hunting area of Teddy Roosevelt. He came regularly to the area to hunt and bring his family. Owning land in the area was Elliott Roosevelt who married Minnewa Bell. Mrs. Roosevelt, mother of Teddy and grandmother of Elliott came often to the White River and enjoyed walking the roads. She and Minnewa Bell donated the land and the old school house to the community which is still used today. Their home, known as the Bell house and the Game and Fish property located beside it is known as Bellaire after the well known area in California where the Bell family resided. Minnewa Bell is buried upon the hill overlooking the valley which she loved. Their story and the time they spent in the area as well as many others are in this historical book.

I can only add that researching and writing the history of the area and the people who lived there and made it what it is today touched me in a way I will never forget. To know that each mountain, each lake, each area is named after a person who came and settled there so long ago is a monument not only to them but, a gift to us all.

To Contact Richelle Buckles about her books, you can email her at <http://reachingacrosstimegenealogy.com> or [rbuckles2@reachingacrosstimegenealogy.com](mailto:rbuckles2@reachingacrosstimegenealogy.com)

Submitted November 10, 2008



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*Submitted by Jo Culberson, 22 Oct. 2008*