

LP2009.013.023

**Hattie Burroughs Oral History Summary**

In an oral history recorded on May 2, 1972, Mrs. Burroughs recounted the life and legacy of her family, focusing on her father-in-law, "Dad" Burroughs, and her mother-in-law, Sarah Bruce. Dad Burroughs, born in New York, was bound out to a family named Russell as a child but ran away at age 14. He traveled to Duluth, Minnesota, and later joined a wagon train to Colorado in 1860. Settling in Leadville, he supplied gold miners with food in exchange for shares of their gold.

Sarah Bruce, Mrs. Burroughs' mother-in-law, came west from Wisconsin with her family, bringing cattle acquired through barter. They traveled to Colorado via the Ute Trail and established a homestead in what is now known as the City Ranch area. Sarah and Dad Burroughs married in 1863 in Park County, Colorado, and later moved to Hardscrabble Creek, building a life through ranching and farming.

Mrs. Burroughs detailed her family's encounters with Native Americans, including peaceful exchanges of milk and bread. She recounted the construction of their brick home in 1888, using locally made bricks from Florence. Dad Burroughs raised fine horses and managed a sawmill producing ties for the railroads. The family also navigated dangers, including the killing of Sarah's father, Grandpa Bruce, by the Espinosa brothers, infamous outlaws.

The interview highlighted the resilience of pioneer families, their entrepreneurial spirit, and their role in shaping Colorado's early communities.

*This summary was created with ChatGPT.*