

Garfield County was founded on February 10, 1883, eight years after Colorado statehood, and named in honor of President James A. Garfield.

HISTORY

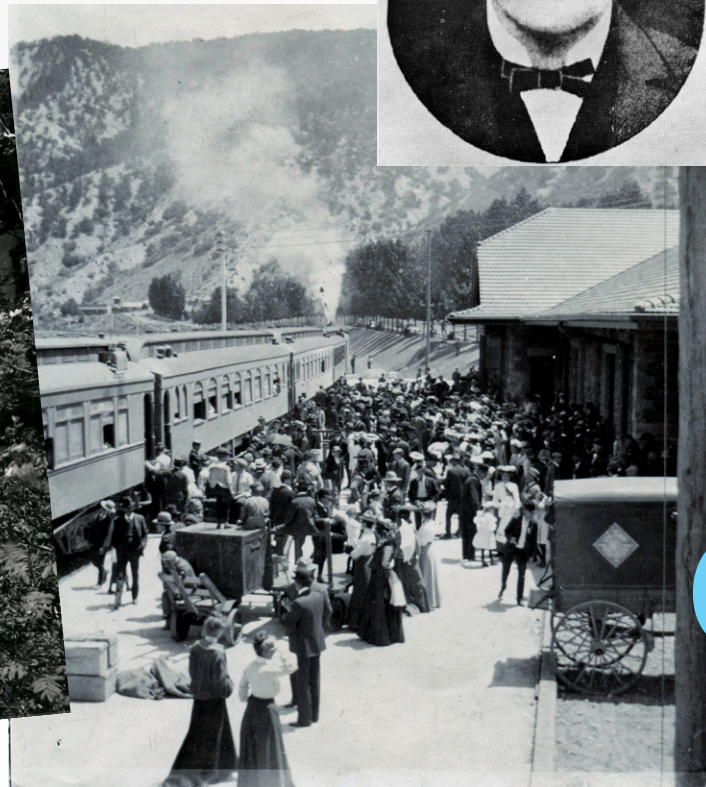
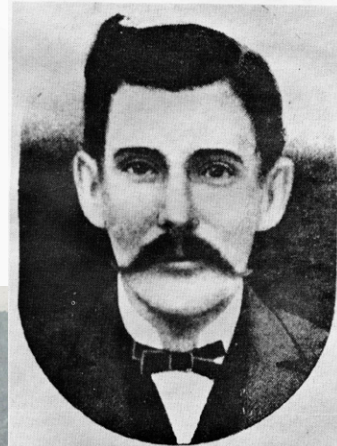
The oldest known human habitation in Garfield County was on Battlement Mesa, where an Indian pit house was discovered that dates back approximately 3,000 years. Along the Colorado River, and especially along the Roaring Fork River, was the land of the Tabogauche Utes, who enjoyed 7,000 square miles of prime hunting ground and the healing waters of the Glenwood Hot Springs. The first white men who visited Garfield County were two Spanish Franciscan Friars, Silvestre Escalante and Francisco Dominguez, who came to Colorado in 1776. The predominate nationalities that settled in Garfield County were German, Irish and English.

Prospectors from Leadville reported carbonate deposits in the area as early as 1870. Several parties entered the territory and built Fort Defiance, 3.5 miles east of today's Yampah Spa and vapor caves. Another camp was made on the Flat Tops named Carbonate City, which later became the first county seat of Garfield County. It was re-incorporated again in 2015. Carbonate City is now an abandoned mining camp, and has no permanent residents. In August of 1883, by resolution of the county commissioners, Glenwood Springs was named as the county seat. The first election

was held November 6, 1883.

Glenwood Springs, originally called Defiance, is located at the confluence of the Roaring Fork and Colorado rivers. In 1887, the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad extended tracks through Glenwood Canyon and into Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen and surrounding mining towns, and connecting Garfield County with Denver and other eastern cities. Railroad service remains important economically to the local economy.

The Glenwood Hot Springs Pool was constructed in 1887, and remains a nationally recognized spa and recreation center. The hot springs and pool have been a major visitor attraction for over 120 years. Glenwood Springs and surrounding areas have entertained the likes of President Theodore Roosevelt, who dubbed the Hotel Colorado as the "White House of the West." The White River National Forest, the most visited national forest in the nation, is headquartered in Glenwood Springs. This forest, which is home to seven of the nation's largest and most recognized ski resorts, was formally instituted in 1905, and continues to be a major force influencing the local economy and defining urbanization patterns.



GARFIELD COUNTY

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