

The Tallman-Newlin Cabin - Our Very Own Little House on the Prairie

By: The Town of Parker Historic Preservation Commission

Just up the hill in a quiet little place on the eastside of town resides the Tallman–Newlin cabin. At first glance it doesn't seem to be that old or that special, but at closer observation you can see cutouts in the siding with plastic panels over this area (done by the Parker Area Historic Society - PAHS), revealing this historic building as one of Parker's only remaining log cabins believed to be built in 1865/1866 by John and Elizabeth Tallman, just two short years after Parker was founded. In 1879, the Tallman's sold the interest in their property to William Gilpin Newlin and his wife, Elizabeth. The cabin then received a new "updated" look by the application of wood siding. William and his wife first settled the land around Newlin Gulch (Parker's experiment in gold mining, was named after him) and later bought the Tallman property and its cabin. He brought 30 head of short horned cattle to Parker to improve the cattle industry in the area.



Story goes that the mountain-dwelling Ute Indians frequently crossed the Tallman land heading toward hunting grounds. Elizabeth customarily left food for them, and she became a favorite with their chieftains. Jonathan Tallman, John's brother, wasn't so lucky in his dealings with Indians though. His headstone at the Parker Cemetery reads: "Killed by Indians, 1870".

The cabin originally sat close to Sulphur Gulch in the present day Canterbury Crossing area. To make room for development, it was slated to be torn down in the mid 1990s; however, in 1996, the Parker Area Historic Society discovered its true historic significance and convinced the developer to allow them to raise the money to have the cabin moved. The developer, Parker Land Associates, donated a small parcel of land so that the cabin could be relocated, a couple thousand feet, up the hill next to the Tallman family cemetery. When the Parker Area Historic Society mounted a drive to save the log cabin from demolition, the community came together and rose over \$6,000 to move the cabin to its current resting place. In the process of moving the cabin, the many additions that had been added over the years was removed and only the original log portion was moved in one piece.

Since then, the cabin has been renovated by the Parker Area Historic Society, and local girl scouts have planted flowers around the house. The cabin was placed on the Colorado Historic Register in December of 1997 and became a Parker Landmark in 1998. To visit this interesting part of This Old Town history, head out Mainstreet to the Canterbury Parkway then turn south and go down to Canterbury Trail. Turn left and go to Callaway Road. Turn left again and you will see the little cabin on the right. The historic Tallman-Newlin cabin celebrates another example of the community coming together to save a piece of our history for our children and children's children to see and explore how early settlers in Parker lived.