

AUNT ELIZA BOONE

Born 1788 into slavery property of the Daniel Boone family of Kentucky, she moved to Colorado in 1859 with her then master, Colonel A. G. Boone, a grandson of Daniel Boone. He was appointed an Indian agent and was to establish a reservation on 1400 acres east of Pueblo. However, the death of an important member of the tribe was an omen of bad fortune and the superstitious Indians withdrew from the negotiations. The land, known today as Boone, CO was then sold to Col. Boone and he established his home, a stage station and a post office.

Upon emancipation Aunt Eliza moved to Pueblo where she passed away at the age of 105 on November 28, 1893. She befriended many, loved and trusted by all. She supported herself by washing and nursing for many prominent families. She was taken to her final resting place in a covered wagon from the church she attended and loved, Eighth Street Baptist Church.

Aunt Eliza's story led to research and records dating back to 1891 which revealed an interesting piece of Roselawn Cemetery's history: In 1891 the cemetery was founded as Riverview Cemetery. The northern boundary extended across Hwy 50 north to the Arkansas River which was the cemetery entrance. Originally the people of privilege were to be buried on the bluff over-looking the river. However, our country experienced the "financial panic of 1893" and Riverview unable to meet the land payments to the Colorado Coal & Iron Company forfeited the land north of the existing northern boundary. Cemetery records indicate that Block 12, originally the back of the cemetery, had been designated for (Single Graves Colored). Approximately 600 people of color were laid to rest in Block 12 - the majority in unmarked graves. Through the generosity of our community on November 18, 2018, after 125 years, Aunt Eliza's monument was unveiled commemorating the final resting place of this remarkable woman.

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