

# The Parish Family Homestead

Billie DeLancey  
Parish House Museum Director



The Parish family homestead was located on the SW corner of what is now CO Hwy 60 and Parish Ave where the McDonalds restaurant now stands. Right to left: Harvey and Mary with children Albert, Lottie, and Raymond. Infant Ruthford is on Mary's lap, 1893. The Parish's youngest child John, for whom Johnstown would be named, would be born the following year in 1894.

\* \* \* \* \*

Harvey Jay Parish was born in Taylor County, Iowa near Hawleyville on February 5, 1862. He traveled to Colorado in a covered wagon with his family when he was four years old, and they settled a few miles west of present-day Loveland on a quarter section of land that is now known as the Buckhorn Ranch.

Mary Celinda Ann Wygal was born in a sod fort near present-day Windsor on November 20, 1864. She has been touted as the first white baby, or one of the first babies, born in the area.

The couple married on Harvey's 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 1884. The newlyweds started their life together in this modest farmhouse Harvey had built on his homestead the year before. The farm was bounded on the north by what is now CO Hwy 60, on the east by WCR 17 (now Parish Ave), on the south by WCR 46, and on the west by WCR 15 (now Telep Ave). If you look closely, you can see the small survey pin embedded in the sidewalk on the corner.

The former farmhouse's foundation was revealed in early 2002, the centennial year of Johnstown's founding, during the excavation for the McDonalds restaurant currently occupying that location.

The Johnstown Historical Society worked with the McDonalds Corporation, which funded the purchase and placement of a commemorative plaque on the corner of the building. The restaurant opened on May 22, 2002, and the dedication ceremony followed on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Sources: *A Tribute To Johnstown*, Rebecca S. Healy, 1977; Weld County Clerk/Recorder; *Portrait and Biographical Record, Denver and Vicinity, Colorado, 1898*; Research by June Grelle, 2002.



## The Historic Parish House and Museum

701 Charlotte Street  
Johnstown, Colorado 80534

970-587-0278  
[www.JHSCO.org](http://www.JHSCO.org)

Open Wednesdays and the first Saturdays of the month  
9:00 A.M. – Noon, and by appointment