



# VIRGINIA DALE OVERLAND STAGE STATION & CLUB HOUSE

844 CR43F, Virginia Dale, CO 80536  
www.VirginiaDaleCommunityClub.org  
www.facebook.com/VDStageStation



Stage Station built in 1862; Club House built by Emil Hurzeler family in 1909  
Privately owned by Virginia Dale Community Club, a Colorado Non-Profit Corporation.

Tours by Appointment – Contact Sylvia at 970-495-1828 or email: [jimsybb@msn.com](mailto:jimsybb@msn.com)

- 1862** Overland Stage Station built by Jack Slade, superintendent for owner Ben Holladay. Valley named for Jack's wife, Marie Virginia Slade.
- 1863** Jack Slade fired for repeated misconduct. He was later hanged in Montana for other crimes.
- 1864** A 65-ft. well was hand dug - in service until the late 1960's.
- 1868** Mr. & Mrs. Seymour C. Leach purchased the Station from the US Government and ran it for several years as a stage stop.
- 1872** The first homesteaders arrived. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Boyd and other family members came to the "Dale" from Greeley.
- 1909** Emil Hurzeler bought the Station and built the log cabin now known as the "Club House".
- 1914** Augustus & Florence Lawson purchased the Station from the Hurzeler. Lawson ran the Station as a store and community building. Mrs. Lawson became the new Postmistress.
- 1921** This was the year the Virginia Dale Home Demonstration Club was formed. Nine local ladies were the charter members.
- 1925** Lawson built a dance floor onto the Station in front. It was later removed. The Stage Station was used as a store. There was also a filling station and camping was allowed in the meadow.
- 1929** Bert & Mable Bashor purchased the Stage Station from the Lawsons.
- 1932** Hwy 287 (old 285) changed from its location in front of the Stage Station (part of the Overland Trail) to its present location. Bashors built what is now the closed "Virginia Dale Store & Post Office" Cafe by the Virginia Dale sign.
- 1935** Colorado State Historical Society & the Fort Collins Pioneer Society erected the stone monument on US Hwy 287 at intersection of County Rd 43F.
- 1943** Fred & Maude Maxwell purchased the Station and log home from the Bashors. The Maxwells graciously allowed the community to use the Station for all its socials, dances, and special events.
- 1948-50** Maude Maxwell donated the log cabin and 4 acres to the Virginia Dale Home Demonstration Club. The Club incorporated and then the members remodeled their Club House.
- 1950's** The bronze plaque from the roadside monument was stolen. It was later found in the rubble of a building being tom down in Denver. It was re-attached to the monument.
- 1964** The Virginia Dale Home Demonstration Club received the deed to 6 more acres and the Stage Station from the Maxwell estate. It was to be used as the Community Building for socials, dances, etc. and to be preserved for its historical value. The Club now has 10 acres and the Club House and Stage Station and out houses.
- 1982** With a grant from the Colorado Historical Society, the southeast foundation was stabilized.
- 1988** With a grant from the Fort Collins Historical Society, a new roof was put on the Stage Station.
- 1993** The Club changed its name from the Home Demonstration Club to Virginia Dale Community Club. All the VDHDC's values and community image were kept intact.
- 1994** With a minigrant from the Colorado Historical Society, the property was surveyed and fenced. This was the first survey in the area since the original one in 1877! Club members, plus volunteers, did the fencing.
- 1995** The roof of the Club House was in very sad shape. With donations from MANY GENEROUS BUSINESSSES in Fort Collins, Club Members, and volunteers, the roof was replaced along with the ceiling in the kitchen. The ceiling in the main Club House area was removed - almost fell by itself - to expose the log support beams. The first male member to pay dues joined the Club. (Most of the men

already members of the Club, had become lifetime members after being with the Club for 25 years, so they no longer paid dues.)

- 1996** The Club received a \$30,224 grant from the Colorado State Historical Society for the stabilization of the Stage Station foundation and building. Some main foundation logs were disintegrating and were replaced with new hand-hewn logs. The job was ended in 1997 - not enough funds to finish SE corner.
- 1997** New incorporation status applied for and received. The last living charter member of the Club - Mildred Moen - passed away at the age of 104 years!!! At age 103, she was still able to put a few stitches in the Club's Raffle Quilt. It was raffled off in June at the Annual Open House and was won by her daughter-in-law, Shirlie Moen - her son Forrest's wife!
- 1998** Preservation and maintenance of the Stage Station and Club House is still the priority of the Club. We make and raffle a quilt yearly to raise money. The raffle funds are used strictly for maintenance of the Stage Station. Other monies raised the day of the Open House and Craft Show go into the Club treasury.
- 1999** Received a grant from the Larimer County Open Space & Parks to put wood preservative on the log structures.
- 2000** The year we drilled a NEW WATER WELL! We now have water in the kitchen without having to haul it in containers from our homes. If we should have a fire, this would be very helpful! Thanks to all who donated time, labor, and well-drilling services.
- 2001** We had the largest turnout for our Annual Open House, Crafts Sale and Quilt Raffle so far. Centennial Bank of the West donated a Stage Coach and team of horses for those wanting to experience a ride in a real Stage! Cow pie contests were added to the games of the day.
- 2009** VDCC received a \$10,000 grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund for the structural assessment of the Stage Station – in progress.
- 2011** The Northern Colorado Branch-American Society of Civil Engineers selected, via its competitive application process, the VDCC for its next Community Service Project (CSP).  
The Virginia Dale Questers community service organization donated \$550 for materials and PJM Design donated ½ of the labor towards a new cellar door/stairs.
- 2012** **The Stage Station is 150 years old!** Plans are being made to stabilize and restore the station with the help of the Northern Colorado Branch-American Society of Civil Engineers, and volunteers.

Volunteers do all of our work and we sincerely appreciate your interest in our "piece of history." We are not only attempting to preserve the buildings for the future, but also the values of the rural ranching way of life and its original homesteaders.

If you feel you would like to participate by making a monetary donation to the Stage Station Restoration, please visit our website for more information or send donations to our address. You can become a member by filling out a membership application form and paying **annual dues of only \$12.00**. This will allow us to know you better and determine your skills and level of interest in the Club. You do not need to attend meetings to be a member, but if you would like to help with work projects, we would appreciate knowing that also.

We hope you enjoyed your tour and will want to bring others to share this historic site. Tours can be arranged at your convenience with Sylvia Garofalo at (970) 495-1828. (Leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as possible.)



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