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THE GRAVES OF COLORADO CITY

Posted by Dave Hughes on March 5, 2013 at 10:30am [View Blog](#)

Few El Paso County residents know just who Anthony Bott was, or what he donated to Colorado City in 1895. I know, for I and my family will be buried in five burial plots he originally owned in today's Colorado Springs Fairview Cemetery.

When visitors come to Old Colorado City's annual August Cemetery Crawl they can see a large and imposing monument he built for he and his wife and hear his story. Because they had no descendants. Their two burials are close by the monument. On his monument you can see markings that showed he was proudly one of the 19 prominent Colorado City men in Company G, 3d Colorado Cavalry who rode to punish the Cheyenne Indians at Sand Creek in 1864. He was also a Mason.



You can consider Anthony the first Pioneer of Colorado City, 155 years ago. As a young man in 1858 he came to the foot of Pikes Peak with the Lawrence Party from Kansas - which camped by the gateway red rocks, giving the name to Camp Creek. The rest of the party went back in August, but Bott stayed, and tried to start a town called El Dorado. It failed. So he rode to Denver City, found investors, and together they founded the original town of Colorado City on August 12, 1859 two miles long and one mile wide, astride Fountain Creek. The majority of the lots in the 'Fosdick Plat' still legally define westside properties.

Anthony owned a portion of those lots, in today's Westside "Midland Area." But more importantly he also owned some of the earliest Territorial water rights.

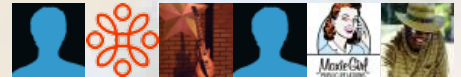
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As Colorado City grew, the first burials took place on a hogback ridge now part of Red Rock Canyon - so the Indians could not ambush the funeral parties. But the ground was too hard. So the second burials were made on the steep hill above today's Colorado City's Creamery. But it was never legally platted as a cemetery. It was just a Boot Hill. So Reverend William Howbert, father of prominent Irving Howbert, who homesteaded along Camp Creek in 1861, generously donated land you know today as Pioneer Park inside today's Pleasant Valley. Pioneers are still buried there. But being on a high mesa, there was no water. So in 1895 Anthony Bott donated to Colorado City the 43 acres that is the heart of Fairview Cemetery. He also sold water to the town, for what is a cemetery without grass? In return he kept six burial plots over the hill in the oldest, western section, of the cemetery.

Few residents know that, under state law, if burial plots purchased from a city owned cemetery are not used for 100 years - after failing in a good faith effort to find owner-descendants - the city may resell the plots.

When I saw the legal notice in the Gazette several years ago. I jumped at the chance to buy the 5 remaining Bott sites - one for my wife, one for me, three for my grown children. After all, if Anthony Bott was the first Pioneer of Colorado City preserving its history, I determined to be the last.

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Comment by [Dave Hughes](#) on March 5, 2013 at 10:51am

The figure in the photo is me, several years ago, portraying Anthony Bott during a Cemetery Crawl. (I am 85 now, looking a bit older)



PHOTO GALLERIES



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