

Dwyer, Robert

PL 302

THOMAS ROCKWOOD.

Pac. M.S. L. 302

J. W. CLARK.

chms. 87
3-24-87
Grand Central Hotel.

THOMAS ROCKWOOD & CO., - PROPRIETORS.

SPECIAL SAMPLE ROOM
FOR COMMERCIAL MEN.

Durango, Colo. March 13th 1887

Dictation of La Plata
Robert Ripper County Colo.

Was born 1847, in Ireland. Came to America when quite young. His educational advantages were quite limited. His parents died when he was quite young and he has always had to depend on his native resources for success in life. He left the East in 1868 and came to St. Paul Minn, which place he regarded as his home for four years. During this time he visited Dakota and other territories, remaining 6 months at Fort Hutton Dakota at the time the Indians (Sioux) were so bad there. In 1872, he went to Salt Lake City and remained from Oct. 1872 to July 1873. Then started back east and stopped at Denver for a few

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days. While in Denver he heard much with reference to the San Juan country and determined to come and see it; hence came on here in 1873. At that time there were but three white men in this valley, Alex. Wilson, Maci Greenley and David Miller. He located the first ranch taken up in La Plata County Oct. 11th 1873. which ranch is located between Animas City and Durango about midway (1 mile) between these towns. This land is becoming quite valuable now: he says by selling in town lots as he is now selling, it will bring him \$1000. per A. Little improvement was made here before the N. & G. R.R. came in 1880. Since that time the improvement has been very rapid. In 1871 Mr Dwyer

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was elected Sheriff of LaPlata Co. on the Democratic Ticket - was re-elected to the same position in 1879 and resigned his position in 1880, because there was no money in the position. He became Marshal of Durango in 1881 in order to suppress the great lawlessness then existing here, and manifested such diligence and bravery in the execution of his duties that the citizens of Durango presented him with a beautiful gold star richly set in diamonds which he values very highly as a token of esteem. He is an earnest Catholic and takes great interest in the Catholic church and schools located at Durango. Is delighted to know the Historian is giving the work done

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by Catholics on the frontier full credit. Mr Dwyer says that the mining resources, agricultural interests, coal fields, stock raising and climate of this section insure its future prosperity. He is held in the highest esteem by the entire community and has done much for Durango and vicinity. Too much cannot be said for the active part he has played for the development of southern Colorado.

Colorado

Declaration

