



JOHN L. JEROME
School Principal — Lawyer — Financier

John L. Jerome was born in Onodaga County, New York on July 6, 1854. He was a kinsman of Jennie Jerome, Sir Winston Churchill's mother. After graduating from Hamilton College in 1873, he came to Colorado as Principal of the Public Schools in Central City. He practiced law in Denver until his death in 1903.

While searching for the "loveliest spot in the Rockies" in 1899, Jerome discovered his dream-location near Buffalo Creek. He purchased extensive acreage, and built a comfortable rustic home for his family on a high bluff. The water system he installed was so well engineered that it continues to serve the six structures on his estate as well as the Buffalo Creek community. Mr. Jerome purchased the Blue Jay Inn and operated it as a hotel before giving it to the Episcopal Church. The family gave another parcel of land for a chapel, erected in 1901, which remains the non-denominational church for the area.

John Jerome's home, which he called La Hacienda, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It continues to be a summer retreat for five generations of the family.