

Henry W. Rhone was born near Grand Junction, Colorado in 1888. Soon after attaining the age of eligibility, he joined the U.S. Army and patrolled the Mexican border. He was mustered out and almost immediately reenlisted, serving as a mess officer through most of World War I.

Rhone had heard of the Colorado Valley while attending college in Denver and came to the valley shortly after his marriage on May 24, 1918. Encouraged by John Holzwarth, Sr. he immediately built the subject cabin, intending to formally enter a homestead claim at his leisure, a practice commonly followed in the region at that time.

On June 16, 1920 he filed a Homestead Entry on the W1/2 of the SW1/4, the SE1/4 of the SW1/4, and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 25, Town 5 North, Range 76 West. Upon filing the Homestead Entry, he learned that a portion of his claim (including that on which the Rhone Cabin stood) had already been claimed by a certain John Rausch of Estes Park, Colorado, and Rhone's entry was suspended. However, as a result of his failure to prove the claim, Rauch's interest was cancelled on June 22, 1920, and Rhone's entry was allowed effective the same date. The patent was issued on December 12, 1922.



*Henry & Carolyn Rhone with twin daughters Judith & Janet 1930s*



*Henry and Carolyn Rhone*

Rhone lived at the cabin for only 3 winters while his wife returned to Denver where she was employed as a teacher at South High School.

Capitalizing on his Army experience as a mess officer, in 1920 Rhone opened the Corner Cupboard which became one of the leading establishments of the Grand Lake resort community.

After the spring of 1921, Rhone no longer lived at the homestead site, though it was occasionally used for cookouts organized at the Corner Cupboard.

The portion of the property lying east of the Colorado River was sold to the US by deed of January 9, 1951. The remainder – that including the Rhone cabin – was sold to the Holzwarth interests. This property was acquired by the Nature Conservancy on March 13, 1974, and ownership was transferred to the US on February 5, 1975.

*(Information from an interview with John W. Rhone by F. Atkins, July 24, 1974.)*

