

## Robert Lincoln Wheeler

### “Squeaky Bob”

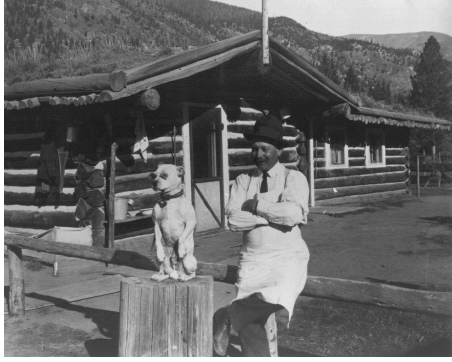
He was born Robert Lincoln Wheeler in Buchanan, Michigan on May 22, 1865. He was a cousin of the famous General Fighting Joe Wheeler of the Spanish-American war. As a lad, Wheeler had incurred the bronchitis attack which produced a distinct “squeak” in his voice and which persisted for the rest of his life.



He came to Colorado in 1885 and homesteaded in North Park. He guided many English parties on hunting trips. Afterward the town of Pearl was located on his ranch. In 1893 he sold the ranch and tried mining in Wyoming. He also served in the Spanish-American war. He came to Grand Lake in 1902 and homestead in 1907 near the headwaters of the Colorado River (Grand). He started his dude ranch, Camp Wheeler or Hotel de Hardscrabble in 1908. He built

several tent cabins to house the visitors and prepared wonderful meals for the guests. As his popularity spread, he eventually had 20 tent cabins for his guests. He married one of his housekeepers, Allie Farquher Corbley, in 1915 and they operated the ranch together.





He had a bull dog, Jack, with a set of tricks that travelers the country over talked about. Jack would go up and down a ladder with a skill many firemen could do well to attain. "I'm going to teach my dog tricks like that" Johnnie Holzwarth told Squeaky one day. "You got to know more than a dog, to teach a dog tricks!" Squeaky advised his neighbor.

He operated the camp until 1926 when he sold out because of a heart condition and it later became Phantom Valley Ranch. The moved to Denver and Allie died in 1933. Squeaky Bob Wheeler died as a result of a stroke in Denver on January 28, 1945 and was buried beside Allie.