

Summit County

South Swan District

Recognized by Henderson (1926) and is considered part of the large **Breckenridge District**. Dunn (2003) notes it as a rather small district, occupying sections 31, 32, and 33 of T6S, R73W. The district is along the South Fork of the Swan River, near Georgia Pass, where the first prospectors came across the Continental Divide and into present-day Summit County. It butts against the Georgia Pass District (which is generally not considered to be part of the Breckenridge District).

When a party of prospectors from Georgia pushed across "the Snowy Range" (as they called it) from South Park in May 1860, they crossed what they called Georgia Pass, down Georgia Gulch, to the South Fork of the Swan River. There, on the north side of Farncomb Hill, in Georgia Gulch, a very rich strike was made. Gilliland (2006) quotes totals of \$10,000 made in the summer season, with a party of 4 miners producing \$300 to \$500 in gold per day (at a time when the standard wage was less than \$2/day.) The rich placer gravels were soon exhausted, so lode mining took over. After that, hydraulic operations washed down the deeper gravels.

Eberhart (1969) describes the town of Parkville - founded in 1859 - as the largest in the area with as many as 10,000 residents at its apex. Residents used this little town as a commercial center for activity in the Swan River, Georgia Gulch and Georgia Pass areas. It was eventually buried under the tailings from the hydraulic operations.

References:

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