

Summit County

Swan River District

This district is part of the large **Breckenridge District**. It runs the length of the Swan River upstream to the confluence of the Middle Swan. The best descriptions of the area are found in two books on the history of the area, by Eberhart (1969) and Gilliland (2006). Gilliland (2006) describes the locations along the Swan River. The river was extensively dredged. Very rich placer mining took place at Galena Gulch, where the North American Gold Dredging Company ran a large operation down to bedrock at the turn of the 20th century.

According to Gilliland, the next gulch upstream - Summit Gulch - was the site of the Hamilton Mine, operating from 1887 until 1910, with a ten-stamp mill, a tramway, flumes and its own reservoir. Swan City was located at the mouth of Brown's Gulch, with a population of 200 to 300 (Eberhart, 1969) during the 1880s. The DXL, New York, and Summit Mines were located there (Gilliland, Ibid). Up the North Fork of the Swan River were found the Rexford, the Rochester King (Arrastre King), formed from the original Black Swan, White Swan, Sweet William, Santa Claus and Ben Franklin claims.

References:

Eberhart, Perry. 1969. *Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*. Fourth, revised edition. Swallow Press, Athens, Ohio.

Gilliland, Mary Ellen. 2006. *Summit: A Gold Rush History of Summit County, Colorado*; Alpenrose Press, Silverthorne, Colorado.