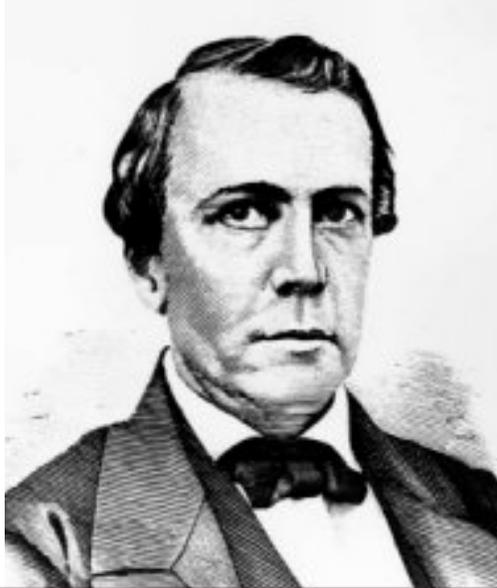


Meet Joseph Bainbridge Doyle



Real People! Real Stories!

Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame

Joseph Bainbridge Doyle
(1817 – 1864)

- Trader, Freighter & Rancher
- Storekeeper & Bookkeeper
- Pioneer of Colorado
- Millionaire
- Entrepreneur
- Established Doyle Ranch, or Doyleville & Built his home, known as “*Casa Blanca*”

Real People! Real Stories!

Joseph Bainbridge Doyle was born July 10, 1817, in Shenandoah County, Virginia. By the early 1830's the family had moved to Belleville, IL, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. In 1839, the family moved to St. Louis and Joseph signed on with Bent, St. Vrain & Company working as a trader and freighter.

Doyle left St. Louis in July 1830 traveling with a Bent St. Vrain wagon train following the Santa Fe Trail to Bent's Old Fort. During the next 5 years, he would work at the fort as a store keeper and bookkeeper and would travel the trail many times. Records show him to be in St. Louis in 1842 and 1843. In 1844, Doyle made his last trip along the trail as an employee of the Bent St. Vrain Company. In St. Louis, he was paid his final year's salary by the firm's agent, F. Chouteau Jr. & Co.

However, his days of trading and commerce were not finished. During the next 15 years Doyle and various partners owned or built trading posts along the Arkansas, Huerfano, and St. Charles Rivers in Colorado. These posts dealt in hides, grains, horses, and Taos whiskey. Trade with Bent's Fort and other frontier forts was common. When gold was discovered in the Denver area in 1859, Doyle hauled wagon loads of food, grain, and other supplies to Denver City. The trade was so profitable that within a year he was a millionaire.

Doyle's final home was “Casa Blanca”, a white two story clapboard mansion along the Huerfano River east of Pueblo on land he bought from Ceran St. Vrain. Here he built a magnificent ranch on thousands of acres of land that stretched for miles along the river. He raised corn, potatoes, beans, oats, cotton, melons, and tobacco. He build a flour mill, a trading post, post office, wagon and blacksmith shop, and a schoolhouse. In 1864, while serving on the Colorado Territorial Council in Denver, he suffered a fatal heart attack. Governor John Evans and other dignitaries escorted his body home to his ranch where he was buried in the family cemetery on a hill overlooking his ranch. At the time of his death, he was considered the richest man in Colorado