

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Mount Soule: summit; elevation 14,264 ft.; in Mount Evans Wilderness on the boundary of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pike and San Isabel National Forests, 1.4 mi. NE of Mount Bierstadt; named for Captain Silas Soule (1838-1865) who refused an order to participate in the Sand Creek Massacre in which U.S. troops killed members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes; Sec 26, T5S, R74W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Clear Creek County, Colorado; 39°35'18"N, 105°38'37"W; USGS map – Mount Evans 1:24,000; Not: Evans Peak, Monte Rosa, Mount Evans, Mount Rosa, Mount Rosalia, Mount Rosalie, Rosa Mountain.
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=39.588228&p_longi=-105.643716&fid=204716

Proposal: to change a name considered offensive

Map: USGS Mount Evans 1:24,000

Proponent: Karen L Naiman; Denver, CO

Administrative area: Mount Evans Wilderness / Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests /
Pike and San Isabel National Forests / Denver City and County Parks

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Mount Evans (FID 204716)

Local Usage: Mount Evans (many sources)

Published: Evans Peak (Wheeler, 1879, *Topographical Atlas*); Monte Rosa (Hart, 1925, *Fourteen Thousand Feet*); Mount Evans (USGS 1903, 1905, 1957, 1983; AMS 1953, 1957, 1958, 1960, 2011, 2013, 2016; USFS 1970, 1974, 1997, 2012, 2018; Rand McNally, 1879 and onwards; Thayer, 1880, Colorado map; Hayden, 1881, *Geological and Geographical Survey*; Adams and Son, 1887, Colorado map; Gannett, 1906; many other local, state, and national sources, both historical and current); Mount Rosa (Byers, 1890, "Bierstadt's Visit to Colorado" in *Magazine of Western History*; Hart, 1925, *Fourteen Thousand Feet*; *Denver Post*, 2017); Mount Rosalia (Denver Pacific Railway map, 1868); Mount Rosalie (Hart, 1925, *Fourteen Thousand Feet*; Bright, 1993, *Colorado Place Names*; *Denver Post*, 1987, 2017); Rosa Mountain (USGS)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the name of Mount Evans in Clear Creek County to Mount Soule. It was submitted as a counterproposal to an earlier proposal to change the name to Mount Cheyenne Arapaho (Review List 432). The name would commemorate Captain Silas Soule (1838-1865), who refused an order to participate in the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864 in which U.S. troops killed members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

The summit's current name was given in honor of John Evans (1814-1897), the second Territorial Governor of Colorado from 1862 to 1865. The original proposal was to change the name Mount Evans because of Evans' "part in the infamous Sand Creek Massacre and its subsequent cover up." The Sand Creek Massacre occurred on November 29th, 1864 when U.S. Cavalry led by Colonel John Chivington attacked a village consisting of Cheyenne and Arapaho who had sought protection near Fort Lyon in present-day southeastern Colorado. The proponent of the name Mount Soule agrees with the reason for the change but wishes to honor Soule's actions during the Sand Creek Massacre and states that other areas in Colorado are already named for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. She reports that "the Cheyenne Traditionalists, other Cheyenne, other Native

Americans and non-Native Americans, with whom I have had numerous conversations about changing the name of Mount Evans to Mount Soule, have endorsed my suggestion, and agreed it would be better to not reuse a name.” She claims she first discussed a name change in 1996 while visiting “Cheyenne Traditionalists leaders and other Cheyenne living in Oklahoma, who were descendants of the survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre.”

The summit is the fourteenth highest peak in Colorado and located in the Mount Evans Wilderness on the border of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. Denver City and County Parks manages Summit Lake Park just below the summit. Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages the Mount Evans State Wildlife Area approximately eight miles east of the summit.

Soule was born in 1838 in Maine to an abolitionist family. In the 1850s, his family moved to Kansas, helped found the city of Lawrence, and were active in the Underground Railroad. He worked with John Brown in Kansas as he helped escaped enslaved African-Americans find freedom. In 1859, Soule gained local notoriety for helping an abolitionist escape from prison after being convicted in Missouri. Later that year, he joined a group of men who attempted to help John Brown escape from jail in West Virginia (Brown refused the help). In 1860 he traveled to Colorado to try gold mining, but soon enlisted in the Union Army. He was stationed at Fort Lyon and worked with Major Edward Wynkoop to help maintain peace with local Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in the area. He attended the meeting at Camp Weld between Governor John Evans, Colonel John Chivington (Commander of the Army in Colorado), and a group of Cheyenne and Arapaho under the leadership of Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle. In November 1864, Chivington led the 3rd Cavalry and some of the 1st Cavalry south towards Fort Lyon in order to conduct a campaign against hostile Tribes. He commandeered soldiers from Fort Lyon, including Soule.

At Fort Lyon, Chivington learned about a nearby encampment of Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek and planned to attack them before pursuing hostile warriors aligned with the Sioux. Despite protests from some officers at the fort who knew the Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek were peaceful, Chivington led an attack on the village at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864. Chivington’s forces numbered 675 men (and included four 12-pound howitzers) whereas the village numbered about 750. The village at Sand Creek consisted of over thirty Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders as well as large numbers of women, children, and the elderly. Young men were either hunting for buffalo before the winter or had refused to settle under the assumed protection of Fort Lyon. As the attack began early in the morning, Black Kettle raised a U.S. flag along with a white banner he had been told would indicate the village’s peaceful intentions. During the attack, which lasted until the afternoon, U.S. soldiers indiscriminately slaughtered the Cheyenne and Arapaho, including those who did not fight back as well as fleeing women and children, mutilating their bodies. Mutilation of corpses by U.S. soldiers continued the following day. Between 150 and 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho were massacred, including over a dozen important tribal leaders, and an equal amount wounded. U.S. casualties numbered 24 killed and 52 wounded. Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Sioux warriors retaliated in response to the massacre.

During the massacre, Soule noticed the U.S. flag along and the white banner which indicated the protection promised by Fort Lyon. He, along with Lieutenant Joseph Cramer ordered their men to hold their fire and not participate in the massacre.

Soule wrote to Wynkoop about the horrors of the massacre and testified against Chivington in a military investigation in Denver. Soule was appointed to the Denver Provost Guard and

reportedly became the target of many murder attempts by Chivington's supporters. On April 23, 1865 (just three weeks after getting married), Soule was shot by Private Charles W. Squier of the Second Colorado Cavalry, after responding to reports of a drunken disturbance. After Squier escaped from jail, Soule's supporters began to claim that Chivington or his supporters directed the murder. However, there is no evidence that Squier knew Chivington and Squier was not present at the Sand Creek Massacre.

Soule was buried with full military honors in Denver's City Cemetery and was later relocated to present-day Riverside Cemetery. The annual Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run/Walk, which began in 1998, eventually included a ceremony at Soule's grave site and at a plaque honoring Soule located near the side of his death.

The earliest reported name of the summit is Mount Rosa and the naming was described in 1890 by William Byers, a surveyor and Denver newspaper editor. In 1863, Byers led the artist Albert Bierstadt on a trek to the present-day Mount Evans area where he was inspired to paint *A Storm in the Rocky Mountains, Mt. Rosalie*. Byers reported that Bierstadt gave the highest summit the name Mount Rosa after Monte Rosa in the alps. Other sources reported that the name was given because Bierstadt had not seen alpenglow anywhere else in the Rocky Mountains. However, as John Lathrope Jerome Hart's 1925 *Fourteen Thousand Feet* stated, the name was given to commemorate Rosalie Osborne Ludlow, who was the wife of Bierstadt's friend Fitz Hugh Ludlow, with whom he traveled in the United States. Bierstadt met Rosalie Ludlow on his travels and fell in love with her. Some sources report that they were lovers and many sources mistakenly report that they were married at the time. Bierstadt later married her after Rosalie and Fitz Hugh divorced. Despite Byers' claim that Bierstadt named the summit Mount Rosa, Mount Rosalie became the name of the summit now known as Mount Evans, even though art scholars and mountaineers debate which exact peak is depicted in Bierstadt's painting. Other versions of this name have been recorded: Mount Rosalia on an 1868 Denver Pacific Railway map; and Monte Rosa in a letter sent to Hart from the U. S. Geological Survey. Details of this letter are unknown. (A 14,060-foot summit southwest 1.4 miles to the southwest is known today as Mount Bierstadt; a 13,575-foot summit three miles to the southeast is known today as Rosalie Peak.)

The name Evans Peak was used by the 1879 Wheeler Survey. Hart reported that the name Mount Evans dates to 1870 when the name was given in a celebration in Greeley, Colorado. In 1895, the Colorado legislature resolved that the name of the summit be Mount Evans on Evans' 81st birthday, two years before his death. U.S. Geological Survey maps have used the name Mount Evans since 1903. Countless other sources have also used this name since the late 1800s.

The summit lies in land that was granted to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes by the United States in the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty. The subsequent 1861 Fort Wise Treaty excluded the summit from Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal lands. The Tribes' present-day reservation is in western Oklahoma. The summit also appears to be in ancestral lands of the Ute Tribes, according to Robert W. Delaney's 1974 *The Southern Ute People*. The Cheyenne and Arapaho formed an alliance in the early 1800s and they lived and hunted on the Great Plains.

Proposed by: Karen L Naiman; Denver, CO
Submitted by: same
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Case ID: 5037
Reviewed by: J.Runyon

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Date: same
Date: 3/28/19
Quarterly Review List: 435
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