

# Rutherford Trail

Rutherford Trail was once a wagon road from Georgetown to the mines near Silver Dale and the Argentine Mining District. The road and its bridges were nearly obliterated by flood of 1965 and the road fell to disuse. It was reopened as a trail with the rebuilding of the lower bridge in 2012.



The Rutherford family freight hauling business used the historic road through the 1920s and 30s to haul freight to Silver Dale's mines and ore back to Georgetown's mills. William I (Bill) Rutherford, born in Hamlet Nebraska in 1898, arrived in Clear Creek in 1923. He and a partner struck a rich silver vein in the Bellevue Hudson mine west of

Lawson. After selling their interest in the mine, they came to Georgetown where they purchased a freight hauling, logging and livery stable business. Rutherford bought out the partner and the family continued the business. In addition to freight, they cut ice at the reservoir above town, brought it down to the freight depot (11<sup>th</sup> and Rose), and stored it in sawdust to be use in the ice boxes of the day.



The donkeys were loaded right here at the head of 3<sup>rd</sup> street to haul the loads up the hill. At the top they were set free. The donkeys always returned on their own to Georgetown and fed in the vacant lots until they were loaded up for another haul.

Bill lost his home and business in the Depression, but he left a legacy of life and work in a time past.



Mary Lou Rutherford