

There were competing visions of what Lakewood was or would become in each period of the city's history. Before incorporation, the pleasantly named communities mentioned above were considered part of Denver, Golden or Edgewater, or simply in Jefferson County. In the late 19th century, three entrepreneurs subdivided a patch of farmland adjacent to Denver and named their plat Lakewood. This 1889 plat was not the first division of farmland into city lots, and it failed as a planned development. However, the community became a fine streetcar suburb with carefully planned streets, parks, and schools. This Lakewood was adjacent to the Denver Interurban trolley line. It was convenient for gentlemen who worked in Denver but wanted their wives and children to have the benefits of country living.

Just to the west, a very different view of community, work, and home life was developing. An 1891 application to establish a post office at West Colfax Avenue and Lakewood Road (today's Carr Street) described a new village consisting of a factory, 100 settlers, and an anticipated 400 more in two years. This post office was to be named Lakewood. The factory was later destroyed by fire. In the 20th century, Lakewood was both a suburb of Denver and a community of farmers who tried to find ways to stop the encroaching city, but Lakewood was developing into a town with its own identity. Gradually, during the early 20th century, the population increased beyond the initial vision of the first two Lakewoods. By the 1930's, the community had grown beyond a cluster of neighborhoods; a local newspaper referred to the intersection of West Colfax and Wadsworth Avenues as "the Busy Corner" and "the Business Center of Lakewood."

One of the earliest families in Eiberhood, the Guebelles, lived at 13th and Hoyt. Their 10-acre apple orchard stocked the Cider Hill roadside stand run by the family. Unfortunately, their stately two-story brick home was torn down in 1944. More change in the area was inevitable.

Carson Howell first purchased 80 acres in an area now known as Daniel Gardens in 1868. The farm included gardens, dairy cattle, and hay fields. Later, he purchased additional land at West Colfax and Kipling Street. Near this intersection, he oversaw the construction of an Italianate-style home. The house, which is located at 1575 South Kipling Street, was built around 1876 and is the oldest surviving structure along West Colfax Avenue.

Lakewood School was constructed in 1892 at Wadsworth Boulevard and Tenth Avenue. Lakewood did not build a senior high school until 1928. Prior to that, Lakewood's students completed their public schooling in either Wheat Ridge or Denver.

Within a few hours of arriving in Denver, Joseph Pearson went to the Swedish Lutheran Church, because he knew there would be Swedish-speaking people who could help him find a job. They also introduced him to his future wife Elizabeth. The Pearsons bought a farm at Lakewood's Fourteenth Avenue and Holland Street. They sold apples and cherries from a stand on Colfax Avenue. The Pearsons also sold the wool they took from their flock of sheep at a market in Denver.

By the 1920s, many family farms in northern and central Lakewood were subdivided into smaller tracts that were sold to the next, less rural generation of homesteaders. It was the beginning of the end for Lakewood's beginnings. After World War II, returning servicemen came to Lakewood and looked for a tract home on the range.

Like the rest of the nation, the Great Depression hit Lakewood in the early 1930s. However, families like the Eibers still had much to celebrate. George and Lillian Eiber moved to Lakewood in 1920. George Eiber was a photo-engraver for the *Denver Post* and began a poultry business in 1943. They and other families fostered a local turkey industry during the mid-20th century.

Information gathered from internet information and *Images of American, Early Lakewood* by Robert and Kristen Autobee with Lakewood's Heritage Center