Born 1846, in Columbus, Indiana, his family moved to Iowa in 1852.

He came to Colorado with his father in the summer of 1860 and stayed in Hamilton, Park County, and Colorado City, El Paso County.

His family moved to Colorado City in 1861 and lived on a ranch at Cheyenne Creek, near the future town site of Colorado Springs.

In 1864, Irving enlisted in 3rd Colorado Cavalry and took part in the Sand Creek Massacre.

He was El Paso County Clerk from 1869 to 1879, played a huge part in securing land for the new city of Colorado Springs.

He married Lizzie Copeland in 1874 and had two children.

In 1878, Howbert became part owner of a silver mine in Leadville.

He became the President of the First National Bank in Colorado Springs in 1880 and a Colorado State Senator from 1882-1886.

Besides banking, business and politics, Howbert led railway companies, wrote two books and held many civic positions in Colorado Springs.

He died in 1934 and is buried at Evergreen Cemetery. Irving Howbert Elementary School is named for him.

Great Resources on Irving Howbert


Howbert, Irving. *Memories of a Lifetime in the Pikes Peak Region*. NM : c1970. *(please note that although very interesting and valuable, this book is graphically violent in places.)*


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Right photo courtesy of Special Collections, PPLD