

Land Acknowledgment Statement

Approved by Boulder Friends Meeting on July 12, 2020

Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends acknowledges that we live and worship on land where Indigenous peoples have lived for more than 13,000 years. Chief Nawath (Left Hand) and his band of Arapaho were living in the Boulder Valley under the terms of the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie when gold was discovered in 1858. In violation of the treaty, the Arapaho were forced out of the area. Fort Chambers was built to protect the booming towns of Boulder and Valmont. In 1864, volunteer militiamen mustered at Fort Chambers and joined U.S. Colonel John Chivington's forces in carrying out the Sand Creek Massacre. More than 200 Arapaho and Cheyenne people, including Chief Nawath, were killed. We lament this history of land theft, betrayal, murder, and displacement, knowing that we have become its beneficiaries. We acknowledge Indigenous peoples' enduring love for this land and the valuable contributions they make to our community today. We seek ways to build relationships with them now based on truth, respect, justice, and our shared humanity.