



General Background:

Before the National Weather Service, the Signal Service reported the weather from various stations around the country. The highest signal service station was on Pikes Peak from 1873 – 1888. The mission of the men stationed atop Pikes Peak was to report the weather, and gather enough information to predict weather patterns. Initially, weather reports were made via telegraphic summaries sent to Washington, D.C. from the various observation sites around the nation, then distributed out to the public via railroad stations and news media outlets. The Pikes Peak mountain observation site was connected to the city of Colorado Springs down below by telegraph line #99. Harsh winds and heavy snow fall often downed the line, at times the poles themselves.

Information about the Diary Entry:

- Two pages from Dr. Samuel Caldwell 1878 diary. The entry discusses mining supplies being hauled over Ute Pass, a trip to Glen Eyrie, Pikes Peak summit looming, and a trip to bring supplies to the Signal Station.

Questions to Consider:

1. What can we learn about the roads at the time from Dr. Caldwell?
2. How was life for the men stationed on Pikes Peak? What do you think happens when the supplies cannot make it to them?
3. What do you think people seeing Pikes Peak for the first time think?