Background on the Gully Family

The Colorado Gold Rush and the Homestead Act brought many newcomers to the region in the 1860s. Farms and ranches popped up in what is now Aurora. The Gully Homestead House is believed to be the oldest building still standing in Aurora. Thomas and Temperance Gully first homesteaded near the present intersection of Mississippi Avenue and Chambers Road in the late 1860s after spending a few years in the mining towns of Colorado.

The earliest verifiable date for the structure is 1870, as evidenced by a German newspaper used as insulation in the walls. The Gully’s youngest son, John, and his wife, Elizabeth, raised five children in the house. The Gully House was a community place, with the Gully family holding Rodeos from the 1920’s to 1950’s. The family continuously occupied the house into the early 1960s, at which time it was abandoned in a state of disrepair.
Gulley Family Homestead Deed 1887, city of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives, Gully Family Box #1
Gully Family Holdings on Willet’s Farm map 1899, city of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives, Gully Family Box #1
Gully Journal 1877, city of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives. Gully Family Box #1
Gully Journal 1877, city of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives, Gully Box #1
Gully Homestead with outbuilding 1944, city of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives. Photography collection P1994.8978.3
*This Round Barn was built in its current location around 1902. It was built as a silo, the opening for grain was cut into the northeast facing, lower part of the roof.*
Hay stacking 1920’s, City of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives. Photography collection P1990.20.2
Rodeo Horses 1920’s, City of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives.
Photography collection P1992.5907.3
Rodeo 1920-1950, City of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives.
Photography collection P1993.7575.2
Breeding Chart, City of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives, Gully Family Box #1
John and Elizabeth Gully c.1890, City of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Archives. Photography collection P1999.42.2
Image of nine men posing in front of a large tractor pulling a thresher on the Maul farm in Aurora. c.1916
P1996.13258, city of Aurora, Aurora History Museum Photography Collection