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Colorado's Diamond Anniversary

Enabling Act and Formation of Constitution Admitting Colorado As a State

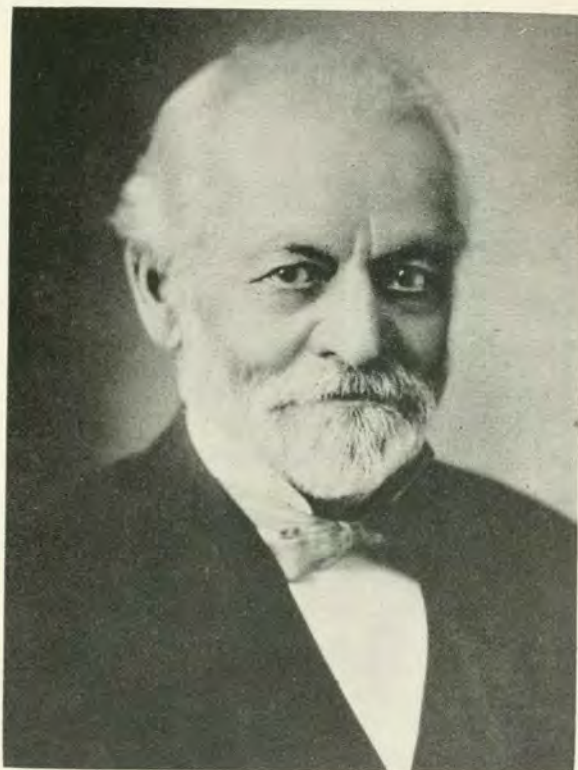
By CHARLES DOWNING BRADLEY*
United States Attorney for Territory of Colorado

The movement, in the year 1875, for the admission of the Territory of Colorado as a State in the Union was of paramount and exciting interest to the inhabitants of the Territory. It was as stirring to their imaginations as the anticipations of a youth nearing twenty-one of attaining full age and becoming his own master. It would not be creditable to the pioneers of this commonwealth if it had been otherwise. To found permanent settlements in the Territory beset with the dangers and difficulties that attended the settling of Colorado; and to then get the Territory admitted, at the age of seventeen years, into that grand and incomparable Union of States, The United States of America, was a momentous and glorious work.

The recollection of this work should not and certainly will not fail to excite a thrill of satisfaction in the breast of not only every one who took any part in it however inconsiderable, but of every patriotic American citizen. And too much commendation cannot be bestowed on the sons of Colorado for commemorating, by public observances, the birth of Colorado as a State on its birthday anniversary. It is to be hoped that these observances will never be omitted and never grow less.

It is quite natural as the first of August [1913] draws near that I should recall with some emotion the events in Colorado in 1875 and 1876; and especially the great event of the admission of Colorado as a State. It fell to my lot to take an inconspicuous part in that event.

*Charles Downing Bradley wrote this article in 1913. He was born Feb. 11, 1839 and was the youngest of twelve children of Philo Bradley of Weston, Connecticut and Mercy Gardiner Bradley of Rensselaer Ville, New York. He married Mary Hastings Rush Canon at St. Louis, Mo., in 1871. He died at Florence, Colorado in 1919, aged 80 years. His son, Joseph Markley Bradley, a mining engineer, married Margaret Jane Laing McLean of Edinburgh, Scotland. He lives at Arvada and for a number of years was general manager of the Highland Mary Mine at Silverton.



CHARLES DOWNING BRADLEY
U. S. Attorney for Territory of Colorado

I was United States Attorney for the Territory of Colorado at the time. By the terms of our Enabling Act, an act of Congress approved March 3, 1875, "To enable the people of Colorado to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of the said State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States," certain duties in that connection were devolved upon the Governor, the Chief Justice, and the United States Attorney. By Section 3 of that act it was, among other things, provided: "That all persons qualified by law to vote for representatives to the General Assembly of said Territory, at the date of the passage of this act shall be qualified to be elected, and they are hereby authorized to vote for and choose representatives to form a Convention under such rules and regulations as the Governor of said Territory, the Chief Justice, and the United States Attorney thereof may prescribe; and the aforesaid representatives to form the aforesaid Convention shall be apportioned among the several counties in said Territory in proportion to the vote polled in each of said counties at the last general election as near as may be; and said apportion-

ment shall be made for said Territory by the Governor, United States District Attorney, and Chief Justice thereof, or any two of them."

The officers above named, namely, John L. Routt, Governor, Moses Hallett, Chief Justice, and myself as United States Attorney, in pursuance of the foregoing authority vested in them in due time divided the State into districts for the election of representatives to a Convention, to form a State Constitution; and also prepared rules and regulations for such election, as required by the Act. These rules and regulations were drafted by the Chief Justice who was deemed especially qualified for that task; but the work was done in the presence of the other members of the board with whom the Chief Justice fully advised on all points of duty it involved. All returns of this election were sent to this Board who canvassed the same and issued to the successful candidates certificates of their election. In short, it may be said that the representatives' duties imposed upon the Governor, Chief Justice and United States Attorney by the enabling act were duly and fully performed, and without any objections or complaints.

The Convention to form a State Constitution met in Denver in the winter of 1875-6. I was almost a daily attendant at that Convention and during its whole sitting mingled freely with its members. I was in touch with them on all points of discussion affecting the very responsible work of providing a suitable Constitution for the new State. This was no easy task because from our Constitution in an arid and mining country, new and special provisions were required affecting the rights of the inhabitants of the States to the waters of the State for irrigation, and also affecting the mining industries of the State. It must be said that the members of this Convention performed their duties well, and that the Constitution framed by them is worthy of the highest commendation.

After the election of the people adopting the Constitution was held, I was in the city of Washington, and, as the etiquette of my office demanded, the first thing I did after arriving there was to call on the Attorney General of the United States, my chief, who at that time was Alphonso Taft, the father of Ex-President Taft. After passing the compliments of the day he remarked, "You people out in Colorado have formed a good Constitution," a copy of which was lying on the table before him. He was then examining it for the purpose of seeing whether it complied with the Enabling Act, and if so of preparing a proclamation to be issued by the President, declaring the State admitted into the Union. Some other remarks were then made by the Attorney General, but he soon again recurred to the subject of our Constitution and further remarked with emphasis on the word "very," "you have adopted a very excellent

Constitution." He then proceeded to discuss its various provisions, and I perceived that he thoroughly understood it. Of course, I did not dissent with any of the Attorney General's views about our Constitution as they were so favorable to it; but on the other hand fully agreed with him about the merit of the document. And I thought it opportune to say and did say that our Constitutional Convention should have been able to provide a good Constitution because its members were not only intelligent and liberal minded men but had before them the Constitutions of all the other States



MISS COLORADO BEING WELCOMED BY COLUMBIA INTO THE UNION
From a painting by Joseph Hitchins now in the State Museum

then members of the Union to aid them in their work. The interview was very satisfactory and gratifying to the pride of a resident of Colorado. I think before I reached home the proclamation declaring Colorado a State had been signed and issued¹ by Ulysses S. Grant, then President of the United States. And so when I got home I found myself a member of the great Centennial State.

It causes a sense somewhat like lonesomeness when my thoughts run back to the year 1875. Of the board to which I have referred, I am the only one left. Governor Routt passed away a number of years ago, and Judge Hallett quite recently. And of the members of the Constitutional Convention, except Judge Ebenezer T. Wells, Judge Wilbur F. Stone and State Senator Casimiro Barela, I can recall but few, if any, living. It, therefore, follows that at no distant

¹Issued August 1, 1876.

future celebrations of the admission of Colorado into the Union there will be but few to indulge in reminiscences of that event. On the contrary, with those who celebrate it the event will be history only.

The Statehood Celebration of 1876

Perhaps the Fourth of July, 1876, was the most festive day in Colorado's history. On that day, which not only was the 100th birthday of the Nation, but was the birthday of the new member of the Union, Colorado—celebrations were staged in every corner of the Centennial State.

Denver's parade was elaborate: four large divisions, composed of bands, militia units, Colorado pioneers, patriotic and fraternal orders, city and territorial officials, and citizens made up the units in the line of march. Flags, banners, and decorated floats added much color.

Among the few who still remember that gala day is Mrs. May Butler Brown of Denver, who presided as "Miss Colorado." This year, seventy-five years later, Mrs. Brown will be crowned Queen of the State Fair in Pueblo, during the Big Diamond Anniversary celebration in August.

In describing that joyous Admission Day celebration in 1876, Mrs. Brown said in 1926: "Proudly I sat upon the white wagon, decorated in bunting and flags of the United States. Teams of white horses drew the wagon up Larimer Street to Denver Grove, then a clump of trees on the bank of the Platte and the only thing in the city that resembled a public park. On all sides of me were other girls, each representing one of the states and all doing homage to their new sister Colorado. I wore a robe of bunting, high crown of gold and carried a golden wand in my hand. As the wagon proceeded through the streets cheer after cheer rose from the people of Denver and Colorado. It was the greatest Fourth of July of my life."¹

After the parade reached the Grove on that exciting Fourth of July, a patriotic program was presented. Governor Routt gave the address of welcome, which was followed by the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Mayor R. G. Buckingham. O. J. Goldrick, the first school teacher of the region, "he who had come attired in a broadcloth suit, kid gloves, and a plug hat as he drove his ox team into the pioneer settlement on Cherry Creek," next read a long historical sketch of the city and the surrounding area. Digressing from the historical data, Goldrick gave the following toast:

¹*The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. III, No. 3, August, 1926, p. 96.

"All hail to Colorado!
 The Rocky Mountain gem!
 That glistens on the summit
 Of Columbia's diadem;
 Her climate mild and varied
 From plain to mountain dome,
 Invites the poor from all the world,
 Who here can find a home.
 With cattle on a thousand hills,
 And room for millions more;
 With gold enough beneath to pay
 The Nation's debt twice o'er."

The orator of the day, Reverend Doctor Ellis, received much applause for his "eloquent phrases and majestic periods." Then followed the reading of an extended poem, written for the occasion by L. N. Greenleaf. Honorable H. P. Bennett, long Delegate of the Territory in Congress, proposed thirteen toasts. Owing to the lateness of the hour some of the speakers asked leave to have their remarks printed in the newspaper instead of delivering them. In response to the thirteenth toast, Hon. S. H. Elbert said: "Colorado, the Centennial State—Like the 'Star of Bethlehem' it is rising, and the 'wise men' of the East are beholding it and coming to it."

As for some of the other celebrations held in Colorado, in honor of Statehood, Canon City scooped South Pueblo in a match game of baseball; Greeley "celebrated in good style," but suffered from a fire which destroyed the barn and two horses belonging to Daniel Hawkes; Pueblo reported that the outstanding feature of her Centennial festivities were the historical reminiscences of Colonel Wilbur F. Stone.

The greatest excitement of that momentous day perhaps, occurred in Black Hawk. According to the *Central City Register*, "While firing salutes Monday night, on the hill back of the school house in Black Hawk, a quicksilver tank that had been loaded with powder, on being exploded, flew into the air, passed over the gulch and entered the Black Hawk House front, passed through two or three partitions, and created the wildest consternation among the boarders. Nobody hurt, but the hotel is in the dry dock for repairs."

It is interesting now in 1951 to look back and to examine an editorial article which appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News* on July 4, 1876. In part it read:

But today is memorable, not only as the birthday of a great nation, but as the anniversary of the institution of a form of government that must ultimately overspread the world. Napoleon said that Europe some day would be either republican or Cossack. If this country sees another centennial birthday, his prediction will be realized as to the former. Already the growth of republican principles in the Old World is such that not a monarchy but is leavened with it, and before the lapse of many years the whole mass may be leavened.

Views on the Admission of Colorado in 1876 (Fifty Years Later)

By THEO. F. VAN WAGENEN*

Just as the purchase of the Mississippi Valley from France by President Jefferson, the acquisition of the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast regions from Mexico in 1848, and the purchase of Alaska from Russia were condemned as follies by a few short-sighted patriots, so, when Colorado applied for admission to the Union, there were some in the large cities of the East who were unable to see any future for it, and were strongly opposed to its elevation to the dignity of statehood.

After the enabling act was passed and Colorado admitted, a banquet was held in Denver to celebrate the event, at which nearly all the notable Coloradoans of the time were in attendance, and many good speeches were made. I have preserved two extracts from the remarks of the late highly respected lawyer, Caldwell Yeaman, who responded to the toast of "Our State." From a Philadelphia paper of the period when the question of the admission of Colorado was under discussion in Congress, he read the following paragraph:

Colorado is one of the most intelligent manifestations of the spirit of territorial enterprise we have had. The discovery of gold, and the profligate scenery of the state is its entire fortune. General Denver, in whose honor the capital is named, is now a prosaic claim agent in Washington. Colorado consists of Denver, the Kansas Pacific Railway and scenery. The mineral resources of Colorado exist in the imagination. The agricultural resources do not exist at all.

From a New York publication of high standing he quoted thus:

There is not a single good reason for the admission of Colorado. Indeed, if it were not for the mines in that mountainous and forbidding region there would be no population there at all. The population, such as it is, is made up of a roving and unsettled horde of adventurers, who have no settled homes there or elsewhere, and are there solely because the state of semi-barbarism prevalent in that wild country suits their vagrant habits. There is something repulsive in the idea that a few handfuls of miners and reckless bushwhackers should have the same representation in the Senate as Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York.

We need not lay it up against the writers of these amusing effusions, because we have fooled them so badly, for really we are more than at quits. It is a well-known failing of elderly and sedate communities, as well as of individuals past a certain age, to underestimate the possibilities of youth; and it may be up to us to watch ourselves closely when other parts of our national domain such as Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Virgin Isles show consciousness of maturity, and give them the kindly encouragement we asked—and in the main received—when our great state was still an unorganized part of the Public Domain.

**The Colorado Magazine*, Vol. III, No. 3, pp. 86-88, August 1926.

At the same time we can fairly point with satisfaction to what Colorado has accomplished in the half century of its life. With a population which the census of 1920 placed at over a million, and which is now believed to be 1,250,000, our production of raw material in 1925 from the mines, the farms, the forests and the waters of the state is conservatively placed at a value of \$250,000,000, while that from the metal mines alone has amounted during the fifty years, according to government statistics, to more than \$1,500,000,000 in new wealth of a permanent nature. Finally, this "mountainous and forbidding region" has become one of the great summer playgrounds of the continent; a region to which, in a few hours, our fellow citizens of the lowlands to the east, by ever-increasing thousands each year come in summer and enjoy the rest and relief that our altitude and "profligate scenery" provides.

(Seventy-five Years Later)

The following paragraphs written by Edward D. Foster, Commissioner of the Colorado State Board of Immigration, at the close of Colorado's half-century as a State were so prophetic we are using them to preface a brief survey of the quarter of a century that followed:

"So many profound theories have been overturned and so many surprises have come to pass in the span of a single generation that no one can predict what the future will hold. So vast are the state's known resources and so cursory has been the search for resources up to this time that it is entirely possible to witness in the next generation events of development even more amazing than those which have transformed a desert into a garden, and a barren, unpopulated domain into a rich, industrious commonwealth, giving homes and a living to more than a million people.

"Progress in the past half-century has been amazingly fast. Changes have come so swiftly that men who visited the hopeless wastes of barren territory in their young manhood have returned in their old age to stand aghast at the transformation, but so vast are the undeveloped resources of the region that it is possible, if not probable, that the present generation will witness and participate in an era of development and growth and progress that will dwarf by comparison the astounding things which have taken place since the magnet of hidden gold first focused the eyes of America upon Colorado."

That the present generation has witnessed and participated in an era of development and growth and progress that produced astounding things has become fact.

But because facts cannot be weighed for their true value without the passage of time, it is not yet possible to measure with the balance of a true historian's eye, the story of the twenty-five years just closed. Time alone can provide an accurate perspective.

Much has been written about Colorado's prehistoric races and the Spanish occupancy; about her explorers, traders and trappers, hunters and adventurers. Much also has been told of the first discovery of gold in our State and how gold was the magnet which brought the first permanent population to the Territory.

But Colorado has been so busy making history during the past half century that only now are students, historians and writers turning their attention to the story of the great development which has come to this area with the establishment of the livestock industry, the opening of innumerable mines, and the great strides made by agriculture and by the development of water resources, good highways, air lines, and radio. What impact on history has been made by the development of atomic materials from the sun-washed walls of the Paradox is not yet measurable.

The effects of developing such cultural things as the Central City Opera House, the Red Rocks Theater, and Aspen's Goethe Festival have been far-flung.

Here today in secluded parks where, in the long ago, explorers and fur traders worked and played, hundreds of thousands of persons seek recreation. Hunting, fishing, riding, dude ranching, swimming, skiing keep Colorado's calendar crowded twelve months of the year.

From 40,000 in 1870 and 194,000 in 1880, Colorado's population has climbed to 1,318,048 in 1950. This population has shifted from the rural areas to the cities. Although the entire State's population increase during the past ten years has been 17.1 per cent, thirty-five of Colorado's sixty-three counties have had a loss in population. Particularly is this loss noticeable in the mountain counties which have been chiefly dependent upon mining.

During the past quarter century there has been considerable increase in attention to conservation of soil and water resources, among all types of citizens, from agriculturists and bankers to manufacturers and sportsmen.

As the thirty-eighth State to enter the Union, Colorado had the seventh largest area. The State now ranks thirty-third among the states in population.

Although hit hard at times by economic depressions, drought, and discouraging conditions in various sections, the State has continued to go forward. With world conditions now as they are, Colorado's citizens have been and are being called upon to give their

best in food, manufactured products, and man-power. The Centennial State is responding to the needs of the hour. Its citizens take pride in the past, find joy in the present, and have faith in the future.—ED.



William ("Billy") H. Adams

Colorado's Dean of Legislators

By CHARLES W. HURD*

(Note: It seems fitting in this Diamond Anniversary year to pay tribute to a man who probably has been more intimately connected with Colorado's history for eighty years than any other individual in the State.—Ed.)

William H. Adams, three times governor of Colorado, still lives at Alamosa, where he entertains his friends in a sunny hotel apartment. Every day is visitors' day and he is never happier than when talking with some of his old acquaintances, from the cow country, from the cities, or from the far corners of Colorado.

On last February 15, "Billy" Adams celebrated his ninetieth birthday, which was declared by Governor Thornton as "Billy Adams Day" in Colorado. He is crippled up a bit physically, but he is mentally alert and his memory is marvelous. His work in the affairs of state probably gave him as broad an acquaintance in Colorado as was the lot of any man of his time. He knew most of the early day cattlemen of the state and can call their names today.

William H. Adams was born at Pokerville, Wisconsin, February 15, 1861, and came to Colorado in 1871 in a covered wagon. He stopped first at Greeley and then at Denver.

On arriving at Denver, his father and oldest brother, Alva, got jobs helping build the Denver & Rio Grande Railway to Pueblo. The family lived in a covered wagon and a tent, moving day by day, as the road progressed. They camped at Manitou Springs for a time when the first house was being built. And Billy, the boy, saw the first house under construction in the town that became Colorado Springs.

On completion of the railway to Pueblo, the father joined with A. D. Craig in establishing a hardware store, which is still in operation under the name of the Holmes Hardware Company. After

*Charles W. Hurd says that he "came from Ontario, Canada a long time ago and graduated from Colorado College. Spent nine months touring Europe and then spent forty-three years with the Santa Fe Railway Company doing station work." Mr. Hurd retired in 1946 and since that time has been doing research work on the pioneer history of southern Colorado.

about a year, Mr. Craig sold his interest to Mr. Holmes. Mr. Adams and Mr. Holmes formed a partnership that was to be of long standing although it was only a verbal agreement. No corporation papers were made out until many years later, when government regulations called for a signed agreement. It was the mutual understanding of the two partners that a man's word was as good as any signed agreement and was sufficient.



WILLIAM ("BILLY") H. ADAMS
Colorado's Dean of Legislators

Billy's brother continued with the railroad until it reached Garland City, where he quit construction work to start a store. The boy, Billy, stayed in Pueblo and attended school. In a short time, a second store was opened by the brother in Del Norte; then he dropped back to Alamosa and started another. William was installed as clerk in the Alamosa store and as soon as he became efficient in the work, was made manager. His brother returned to the store in Pueblo.

The store at Alamosa, that had been established when the railroad arrived in 1878, was sold in 1887 and Billy embarked in the cattle business on a ranch a few miles south of town. He still owns and operates that property. He has never regretted the day he

became a cowboy. He has a fine herd of Herefords on a 100,000-acre range.

In 1878, Mr. Adams started to drill a well with a steam threshing machine for power. He brought in a gusher. This is said to be the second oldest artesian well in Colorado and is still flowing. Up to the time it was brought in, no one suspected that this was artesian territory.

The brother continued with the store in Pueblo and today the Adams family owns and controls the Holmes Hardware store and the Pueblo Savings Trust Company.

Billy Adams' political career began in his home town, Alamosa, where he was mayor and also county commissioner. At the age of twenty-five he was elected to the Legislature. He served two terms. He then became State Senator and served ten terms, aggregating forty years. Next he became governor of Colorado, which position he held for three terms and was asked to run again, but he declined. He served the state for fifty continuous years and was commonly known as the Dean of Colorado Legislators.

The length of his service in the state and the fact that the Adams State Teachers' College of Alamosa was named in his honor, all bear witness of the high regard in which he is held.

Mr. Adams still enjoys life, day by day. He says that Colorado is the place to live and he wants to stay as long as he can. He looks on the sunny side of life. He goes to the ranch whenever possible to look at the cattle and to see how the men are getting on with the work.

He credits his long life to heredity and to the fact that he has lived much in the open on the ranch where he eats plain food and doesn't worry about anything.

Colorado Festivals

By THERESE S. WESTERMEIER*

PART I. FESTIVALS OF THE NATIONS

A few years ago, at the time of the Goethe Bicentennial Convocation at Aspen, "culture-crazy Colorado" suddenly came into the limelight of publicity, and as a result of it she not only graciously

*Therese S. Westermeyer (Mrs. Clifford Westermeyer) is Assistant Professor of German at the University of Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Westermeyer have spent several years in research work with reference to the origin and continuance of the various types of festivals for which Colorado was, and still is, famous. In a second article Mrs. Westermeyer will discuss religious and folklore festivals; subsequent articles on agricultural and historical festivals will be done in collaboration.

welcomed the culture seekers and renowned scholars, but also gladly accepted their intellectual contributions, and their dollars! One was led to believe that Colorado, like Goethe's *Faust*, had been floundering hopelessly, and that culture had, for almost a century, by-passed the territory and finally settled down with a capital "C" when the spirit of the great poet hovered over Aspen for several weeks in the summer of 1949.

Newspaper accounts reveal an amazing number of celebrations and festivities on the part of our "builders of state," which prove that Colorado, even in the early days, was not only culture conscious, but also very adept in amusement and most liberal in fabulous "free-food" festivals. Already in the years before statehood was achieved, newspaper editors and community-spirit minded citizens were well aware of the old adage that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"—a fact which is well substantiated in an editorial comment on "The Values of Amusement": "It is impossible to suppose that a human being can labor exclusively. He must be amused, he must laugh, sing, dance, eat, drink and be merry."¹

Some forty years ago an editorial in the *Denver Republican* made the following comment on the impressions that a country, "still in the raw," had made on a certain pianist:

The great West today is just beginning to find time to take breath after the struggle of conquest. The years of conquest have been noble years, full of deeds and bravery and self-sacrifice—deeds that will inspire the poets and musicians who are to come. Tomorrow the songs of the mountain pines and of the prairie winds will find their translators.²

Now, after years of struggle, our state may well pause and proudly review a long list of colorful celebrations that are indeed "somewhat unique and more or less peculiar to Colorado."³

These celebrations may be divided into three groups: first, festival of the nations, which portray old world traditions brought from the fatherland; second, religious and folklore festivals, which for the most part are also old world in nature; and third, agricultural and sport festivals, those fabulous "free-feeds" which were attended by multitudes far outnumbering those at the biblical bounty of loaves and fishes. There is a fourth group which developed later, the festivals of historical pageantry, community celebrations, paying tribute to the noble deeds of the pioneers.

Among the earliest celebrations in the state were those which the first emigrants transplanted from their homelands. The contribution, both in population and in achievements, on the part of the

¹MacArthur, M. S., *History of the German Element in the State of Colorado* (Chicago, 1917), p. 41. Note: This author quotes from *Rocky Mountain News*, February 2, 1865, but the reference cannot be located on that date.

²"The West and Music," *Denver Republican*, June 1, 1910.

³"Local Autumnal Feasts," *Ibid.*, September 3, 1910.

foreign born is well portrayed by Doctor Colin B. Goodykoontz, Professor of History at the University of Colorado, in "The People of Colorado,"⁴ and a careful study of this shows that the foreign born played a significant part in the development of our state, and that Colorado, like the tower of Babel, was not "of one language and of one speech."

In a country which was in its infant stage as compared to centuries of history and tradition across the sea, these people, with the spirit of true Westerners, courageously endured the hardships of adaptation to a new land and its customs. It is only natural that in this new undeveloped country they cherished their old world traditions and sought to establish them in this land of their choice. Although they willingly accepted the freedom and advantages which America offered them, the love of fatherland still lived in their hearts, and what is appropriately said of the Welsh people in a newspaper account in 1896 is applicable to all emigrants:

... That inborn love of country which exile but engenders the more, unlocks the pent-up ardor of national pride on an occasion like to-day's. The festival that holds the living generation of its nation fast-bound in one unbroken chain to its remotest people and customs is an institution which the Welsh people revere and cherish . . .⁵

The earliest emigrant groups were the English, German, Irish, Scotch and Welsh. Then followed the Chinese, Swedish and Italian; still later the Russian, Slavic, Greek, Mexican and Japanese. Some of these foreign born settlers limited their festivities to religious, marriage, burial and special holiday observances among themselves, others staged their national festivals on a large scale and, as much as possible, in the manner of the fatherland.

Outstanding among the latter is the Welsh Eisteddfod which is an ancient institution in Wales. Before printing and writing were in vogue, the Welsh bards and "wise men" assembled for musical and poetical contests and to impart the philosophy they had learned. Such assemblies are still held annually in Wales and in sections of the United States settled by Welsh people. They were held in Colorado as early as 1881, and in 1896 a Rocky Mountain Eisteddfod was held in Denver. Out-of-state attendance numbered over a thousand from Salt Lake, Philadelphia, Scranton and New York; large crowds were expected, and seating capacity for 10,000 people was arranged. The city extended a hearty welcome to the hundreds of strangers; in compliment to the important occasion the store windows were decorated with the Welsh colors and insignia; Governor McIntire said in welcome that "everything Cambrie was now in vogue from an Eisteddfod to a Welsh rare-bit,"⁶ and Major McMurray "gave

⁴Hafen, Leroy R., (ed.) *Colorado And Its People* (New York, 1948), vol. II, chpt. IV, pp. 77-120.

⁵"Eisteddfod," *Denver Republican*, September 2, 1896

⁶*Ibid.*

them [the Welsh] the freedom of everything, except the jails and the banks."⁷ The *Denver Republican* reporter was most enthusiastic in his accounts:

This is the day of the great Eisteddfod, the rock upon which the literary foundation of the Cimbric nation is built. It is to be commemorated by the Welshmen of the Rocky Mountain portion of the Western hemisphere for the first time in Denver today and its approach is heralded by the arrival of hundreds of strangers to join in and be witnesses at the display of literary and musical learning . . . It is through its observance that they [the Welsh] have retained so many of their pristine characteristics and so much of their folk-lore learning . . . The seclusive habits of the peasantry of Wales who have stamped individuality upon their country, have also been responsible for the original and simple beautiful music and song of their country . . . The *Eisteddfod* from its earliest history was never narrow in its aims and took in everyone who excelled in any field of genius . . .⁸

The following day he continues in a glowing comparison between Wales and Colorado:

One thought of a people, small in stature and giant in intellect, congregating in the valleys of a small mountainous country, living a quiet, uninterrupted life, gathering together annually to hear what the thinking ones in the hills had put into rhyme and song while they followed their peaceful avocation during the preceding year. The scene is transposed, although the surroundings are not dissimilar. The rugged grandeur of the Rockies and the quiet calm of the prairie vastness incites the poet to as noble efforts as ever have the hills of Wales . . .⁹

The Eisteddfod was carried on in the Welsh language; the platform was draped with a huge Welsh emblem—a red dragon on a white rectangular cloth—and "beneath this were the words familiar to those acquainted with the legend of the slaying of the monster of darkness and illiteracy by the champion of learning—'Y gwir yn erbyn y byd'."¹⁰ Prizes were awarded not only for poetry, music and literature but also for painting, embroidery, wood carving, knitting, crocheting, tatting and even household inventions! The prize-winning invention was a window bead fastener, "an arrangement whereby a window may be taken from its socket by a spring, a veritable treasure to the housekeeper who must clean upstairs windows on the outside."¹¹ The final and greatest event was the awarding of the historic Bardic chair and three hundred dollars to the writer of the best poem, "Saul of Tarsus." The bard was impressively "chaired" with the recitation of the "Englyn" which says in part: "Believe, ye aspiring sons of the muse, that poesy this day has not been dishonored. The glory and prestige of the Cambrian Bardic chair has been worthily won by a true son of the Cymbric muse."¹²

⁷*Ibid.*

⁸*Ibid.*, September 1, 1896.

⁹*Ibid.*, September 2, 1896.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, Meaning of phrase: "The truth against the world."

¹¹*Ibid.*

¹²*Ibid.*, September 4, 1896.

The Welsh, ever lovers of song and famed for their singing, also celebrated on March first, the day of their patron saint, David, Bishop of Caerleon. According to legend, the good bishop had such a melodious and powerful voice that "as he preached his feet rose and became a hill, so that he was heard by an innumerable crowd."¹³ The illustrious saint must have had a few descendants in Colorado, for Evan Williams mentions Daniel Jones of Silver Plume, "singing 'Half Bushel' until Gray's Peak almost dances" and Lewis Oliver "melodiously and most charmingly singing 'Hen ffon fr nain' (My Grandmother's Old Staff)."¹⁴ One of the earliest celebrations in honor of the Welsh patron was held in Denver in 1883. A fine program of songs and music was arranged, and "the entertainment commenced about four o'clock, when a great many enjoyed themselves with a 'cup of tea and cake'—the old Welsh fashion."¹⁵

The English, according to a state census of 1885, constituted twenty-five per cent of the twenty per cent foreign population, and due to their great number "Colorado was termed as England beyond the Missouri."¹⁶ Early in the eighties they formed an Albion Society and perpetuated their native customs and habits. There is no evidence of any great national English festival in the state; however, it is quite probable that the May Day customs and dances which appeared very early in Colorado's colorful background are of English origin. The *Denver Republican* records an interesting account of an Albion gathering in 1883:

"Merrie England" is well represented in Denver, and as the English, despite their idiosyncracies, are an enjoyment-loving people they never fail to enjoy themselves, whether sunned at the tropics or chilled at the poles. All English girls are not pretty, but there are beauties among them, and they all, wherever they are, preserve that purity of complexion and roundness of form which marks the sex in England.

The Albion Club of Denver, though not an old organization, is already noted for its entertainments. They are not of regal splendor, such as would cause the sun to blush at its own insignificance, but just such entertainments as the man or woman of quiet and refined tastes loves to occasionally attend, and enjoy himself to the fullest bent of his power and appreciation.¹⁷

In his rather lengthy and critically courteous analysis of English traits, the scrutinizing reporter eventually mentions a dance that followed the musical program, at which the Albions "glided to the music of Strauss' dreamy melodies, or tripped more blithely to livelier strains."¹⁸

The sons of bonny Scotland enjoyed themselves in early Colorado. In 1880 they formed a Caledonian Club, and, in addition to

¹³Butler, Rev. Alban, *Lives of the Saints* (New York, 1887), p. 92.

¹⁴Williams, Evan, *History of the Welsh People* (Denver, 1889), p. 13.

¹⁵"Saint David's Day," *Denver Republican*, March 2, 1883.

¹⁶T. T., "The English in Colorado," *The Coloradan*, vol. I (November 15, 1892), p. 6.

¹⁷"Albion Club," *Denver Republican*, February 5, 1883.

¹⁸*Ibid.*

annual picnics and balls, they also celebrated in honor of their patron, Saint Andrew, on November thirtieth, and for their beloved Bobby Burns on his birthday in January. The observant reporter of the *Denver Republican* also cast his scrutinizing eye at the Scotch and wrote:

If any people know how to enjoy themselves it is the Scotch. Of course they are somewhat clannish, but a people coming from a country so rich in historical reminiscences have a right to be. They hold to the customs of their country with the tenacity characteristic of their race, and their entertainments—especially those of the Highlanders—preserve in this country in a great measure the weird and fascinating delights that have made them famous in romance and song.¹⁹

Scotch legend speaks of Saint Andrew as "one of Christ's disciples who wandered away to Scotland where, through his pious acts of charity and his manly sacrifices, he became the one saint adored above all the rest."²⁰ The Gospel of Saint John relates that it was Andrew who spied the small boy with the five barley loaves and the two fishes, and so perhaps the thrifty Scotch chose him as their patron because in this alert disciple of the Lord, whose quick action caused those insignificant loaves and fishes to multiply and feed five thousand, they felt they had found a good example of "making a penny go a long way!" At their festivities in honor of the good saint "wine flowed like water" and 'hot Scotch' was the crowning element of the meal."²¹ The ninth annual celebration held in 1887 is recorded as follows:

The Caledonian Club of Denver celebrated St. Andrew's Day—a day dear to the Scottish heart . . . A number of the men were dressed in regular Highland costumes, and a bold piper strolled around as proud as if he were playing the pibroch [bagpipe] on his native hills. A Highland fling was one of the features of the occasion, and as the brawny lad in kilt and tartan went through the lively measure, he was rapturously applauded and received many a bright smile from the bonnie lasses who were present.²²

The complete menu was printed in Scotch—a seven course meal with everything from "soup to nuts." The reporter, who was most probably invited to the meal, graciously records the grace that was said:

Some hae meat an' canna eat,
An' some hae nane that want it,
But we hae meat an' we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thanket.²³

The souvenir program is also described:

The programmes were characteristically Scotch. A picture of two old cronies sitting at a table with a pitcher between them, each holding

¹⁹"Caledonian Club Ball," *Denver Republican*, December 1, 1882.

²⁰"Scotia's Stalwart Sons," *Ibid.*, December 1, 1887.

²¹*Ibid.*

²²*Ibid.*

²³*Ibid.*

a glass, was the appropriate design on each one, and beneath the picture a stanza from Bobby Burns' immortal poem appeared, as follows:

An' here's a hand, my trusty frien',
An' gi'e 's a hand o' thine;
An' we'll tak a right good willie-waught,
For the days o' auld lang syne.²⁴

The same paper records the 1883 Caledonian celebration in honor of the beloved poet, at which two hundred loyal Scotsmen "partook of venison pot pie and 'hot scotch'."²⁵ Some ten years later the club undertook to raise funds to purchase a statue of Burns.²⁶

At their annual picnics the Scotch held contests in various types of athletics: pole vaulting, shot put, catching a greasy pig, also in dancing. "With the skirling of the bagpiper played by Highlanders in kilts and horsetails, they went forth to hold athletic games so dear to the Scottish heart as to the Spartans of old."²⁷

The Germans were a jolly group, much given to festivities and merry-making. They loved parades and took an active part in any parade that was scheduled. Most interesting among their celebrations were the singing societies and balls, pre-Christmas balls and lavish pre-Lenten masquerades, so dear to the continental European in the carnival or Mardi Gras season. Their love for parades is colorfully portrayed in an account concerning a parade held on July 4, 1894:

With a patriotism, which is one of the great characteristics of the German-American societies, a magnificent parade was given yesterday . . . and the floats were the most elaborate seen here for some time past. . . . One of the most original floats that has ever been seen in a local parade was that of the Denver Maennerchor . . . which was representative of the Shakespearean quotation, "Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast." . . . The conveyance was made to represent an Indian reservation . . . there was the wigwam of the chief . . . and the whole surrounded by thick foliage, which the typical Indian prefers when in a savage mood. . . . When the procession started, he [the Indian] looked very fierce, but Music . . . gradually brought him under peaceful subjection, and well it might, for the lady was a beautiful and graceful St. Cecilia.²⁸

Numerous German Clubs and Societies existed in early Colorado, the earliest, in all probability, was the Turner group which was organized in the spring of 1866. The following November they held a ball and engaged "in the festivities with the zest and good humor so peculiar to the German character. . . . The ladies were pretty and graceful, the gentlemen joyous and genial, and the lager, fresh, plenteous and of the best quality."²⁹

²⁴*Ibid.*

²⁵*Ibid.*, January 26, 1883.

²⁶*Ibid.*, January 16, 1893.

²⁷"Caledonians Hold Annual Picnic," *Denver Republican*, July 19, 1903.

²⁸*Denver Republican*, July 5, 1894.

²⁹"The Turner Ball," *Rocky Mountain News*, November 1, 1866.

That Germans and their beer were about as inseparable as bread and butter is evidenced in numerous accounts concerning their festivities such as: "It takes a true German to enjoy a dance. Of course the beer flowed freely. The German is no teetotaler, but he is temperate, which is as good and he seeks enjoyment in a harmless manner. He gets his money's worth every time."³⁰

In February, 1868, a grand masquerade ball was staged by the Turners. Tickets were five dollars, and "costumes were not known in those days, so each one had to make his own dress, and that such were often quite original one can imagine."³¹

Fifteen years later, Carnival season was a gay one in Denver and festivities were elaborate in preparation and enjoyment:

The Vorwaerts Turnverein of Denver, taking advantage of the Carnival season, had a turnout or parade proper which would have done credit to a city much larger than Denver. . . . In the lead was the Grand Marshal, dressed in the costume of a chief of police, and twelve aids in policemen's uniform. Following them was the band wagon and after it came numerous wagons handsomely decorated with flags, Chinese lanterns and bunting. On one wagon drawn by four handsome gray horses was seated the Goddess of Liberty, and other goddesses were plentifully represented. On other floats were numerous jolly Teutons drinking beer and seemingly having as good a time as the peasants do in the old country when treading the luscious grapes and the girls are splashed from pink toes to garter line with the blood of the vine. . . . The procession moved to the State House where King Carnival was received by Governor Grant and other notabilities. . . . An elaborate ball was held in the evening . . . the hall was crowded; many handsome as well as grotesque costumes were to be seen, and everyone imagined himself a carnival and went in for having a good time.³²

Annually, in summer, the Germans held a "good old get together" for old times' sake. They betook themselves to a park and took it over for the day:

"Wie geht's" was the watchword and the motto. It was heard all around. With guttural accompaniments, peculiarly Teutonic, it tumbled and romped and held riotous festival all over Military park. . . . Seated around the tables, scattered through the park, were family parties. Little mugs of amber colored liquor dotted the tables. . . . Men and women toasted the Vaterland, neatly attired young girls sang snatches of the "Die Vacht [sic] am Rhein," as they wandered beneath the trees and audibly hummed some of the ditties and ballads which smacked of Berlin, or had a far-away suggestion of harmony that bespoke the rippling of the Elbe. Once in a while a deep bass note would break in upon the more gentle tones and suggest a huge dong of the big clock in the Strassburg tower. . . . The fat man's race excited considerable laughter. The weight limit was two hundred pounds, and several very heavy specimens of German-American humanity were entered . . . and their aspirations to shine successfully in the athletic firmament attracted many varied observations on their anatomical construction and proportion. . . .³³

³⁰"Schwaben Ball," *Denver Republican*, December 1, 1882.

³¹Barth, Robert, "History of the Denver Turnverein," in *Souvenir des Denver Turnvereins* (1890), p. 135.

³²"Carnival Ball," *Denver Republican*, March 1, 1883.

³³"German Picnic," *Ibid.*, July 3, 1894.

The Irish, naturally, gave full rein to festivity in honor of Saint Patrick, for "wherever an Irishman is found there the name of Saint Patrick, the patron saint, is revered, and the Irish societies in accordance with ancient custom will honor his memory."³⁴ Annual balls were held as early as 1867, and frequently the various Irish societies joined forces in a huge street parade; however "this excessively jovial character of the celebration appears to be departing, especially in America."³⁵

The first Swedish settlement in Colorado was located at Ryssby in Boulder County. Here these early settlers gathered on Sundays at the largest house in the community to sing their national songs and to carry on their traditional folk dances. The two most eagerly anticipated celebrations were the Christmas Eve and the Midsummer (Saint John's Day) festivities. Christmas was a grand and gala occasion. For weeks much butchering and baking took place; pine needles were strewn upon the freshly scrubbed floors; windows were decorated with pine boughs and homemade candles gleamed everywhere. On Christmas Eve the *Kaffe Kalas* (coffee feast) was served, which consisted of a *fruit suppa*, a delicious concoction of tapioca or rice with raisins and apples, then came a great variety of sausage and cheese with coffee. Concerning the first Christmas Eve celebration in the settlement, Esther Gunnison Kingdon says: "Christmas of 1881 was celebrated in true holiday fashion. Mothers baked *Kringlor* and spicy cookies and cooked great kettles of rice for Christmas Eve. Stockfish and lingon berries had been sent from Sweden, and a silver spruce was brought down from the mountains for the children's Christmas program."³⁶

In Denver there were two Swedish musical groups, the Sangar for Bundet Lyran and the Orpheus. Meetings were always well attended, five hundred on occasion, and the programs were usually followed by folk dances.³⁷

The Swedes also celebrated Forefathers' Day in honor of the first Swedish landing in America in 1638. The first celebration to be held in Denver occurred September 14, 1892: "All the leading Swedish families were present and the spirits of their forefathers must have been delighted with the stalwart manliness and the vigorous beautiful womanliness of their descendants as represented in the audience."³⁸

The Chinese held various celebrations, but the outstanding ones were in honor of their New Year and for each of the four seasons.

³⁴"Saint Patrick's Day," *Ibid.*, March 17, 1883.

³⁵*Rocky Mountain News*, March 16, 1884.

³⁶Kingdon, Esther Gunnison, "Ryssby, The First Swedish Settlement in Colorado," *Colorado Magazine* 10 (July, 1933), p. 128.

³⁷"With Song and Mirth," *Denver Times*, February 24, 1901.

³⁸"Forefathers' Day," *Denver Republican*, September 15, 1892.

The New Year festivities began at midnight with fireworks and continued for three days, since "it required about three days for a Chinaman to get thoroughly warmed up, but when he does get his joints loosened he manages to kick up a circus fully equal to anything which the Melican man is capable of doing."³⁹ This reporter of the *Republican* evidently covered the three-day spree very carefully:

All Chinatown is in a blaze of glory and the Celestial population of Denver are engaged in an animated rivalry, each with the other, to see which can yell the loudest, eat the most, drink the greatest quantity of intoxicants without getting paralyzed, expend the most money in fireworks and make the largest number of calls. There is commotion in the ranks, and if any readers of the *Republican* fail to get their usual weekly change of clean linen on Sunday, they may lay it to the fact that the washee-washees have been on a first class "toot."⁴⁰

For the autumn celebration the Chinese, said to be well-fortified with whiskey, rode in hacks to the cemetery to honor the dead:

Yesterday was a holiday among the Chinese, and it was duly celebrated by eating roast pig and by ceremonies over the graves of dead chinamen. . . . Both the living and the dead are remembered on these occasions. The belief among the Chinamen is that four times a year they must provide for the repose and comfort of those of their friends who are numbered among the departed. They must provide them with food, money and clothing, and if a son or brother neglects this, the spirit of the departed relative will come back and torment him. The clothing is provided by burning it in honor of the dead. . . .⁴¹

The roving reporter took in a masquerade ball given by the Harmonie Francais Club:

The tourist who has gone South, for the purpose of witnessing a Mardi Gras pageant, would as soon think of visiting Italy without seeing Rome as to leave New Orleans without seeing a French ball.

There are many of the sons of La Belle France in Denver, and Washington's Birthday was chosen by them to commemorate the glories of the Jardin Mabille. . . . About one hundred and fifty couples, dressed in grotesque, outre or elegant costumes, gyrated, prouetted or glided to the fascinating strains in perfect time and unison. . . .

All historical persons were present, and a few that weren't historical by any means, and besides notabilities, local celebrities were not lacking. Lack of space precludes the possibility of mentioning names and costumes, though "rich and rare were the gems she wore" could be said of quite a number present—of the female persuasion.

Everything was very decorous, however; there was nothing going on to offend the most fastidious, to use the time honored, but elegant phrase. . . . Perchance the dresses flew wide and high and glimpses of snowy drapery, variegated hose and well rounded ankles appeared like meteors on an August night, dazzling but not lasting. . . .

Mirth pranced with Joy a gay fantastic round; Pleasure sat high enthroned, and smiling stretched out her sceptre over all.⁴²

³⁹"Chinese New Year," *Ibid.*, February 8, 1883.

⁴⁰*Ibid.*

⁴¹"Chinese Celebrate," *Denver-Tribune Republican*, September 2, 1884.

⁴²"Harmonie Francais Club," *Denver Republican*, February 23, 1883.

A month later, the same reporter attended a grand concert and ball under the auspices of the Hebrew Benevolent Society:

The Hebrews never do things by halves. When they contemplate anything it is on a scale of magnificence and with a decision to outshine all previous enterprises. . . . The entertainment of the evening began with a concert. . . . Rapturous applause was the compliment tendered the performers, and they were compelled to appear again. . . . By this time the immense audience [400] was getting worked up to an excitable pitch, and demanded at each number a repetition of the vocal or piano or other efforts. . . .

A grand hop followed and rarely has Armory Hall seen such an exhibition of elegance and fashion. . . . A sumptuous repast of wines and other luxuries followed. . . .⁴³

The Italian celebrations were many in the early years, some of which were of a religious nature and will be treated in a subsequent article. However, they, as many foreign groups, celebrated an Independence Day. For the Italians this was Garibaldi Day, in honor of Guiseppe Garibaldi who was responsible for the unification of Italy, and whose birthday appropriately, for the Italian-Americans, fell on July fourth. On one occasion the orator of the day concluded his speech with, "Three cheers for the Fourth of July, George Washington and Guiseppe Garibaldi."⁴⁴

Colorado Italians were responsible for establishing Columbus Day as a legal holiday, thereby giving Colorado the honor of being the first state to do so. The bill was first introduced into the legislature in 1905 by Angelo Noce of Denver; however it was not passed until two years later.⁴⁵ Already in earlier years, the Italians had celebrated the day with a parade: "Our Italian fellow citizens came to the front on Columbus Day in a manner that reflects great credit upon themselves and their nationality. Denver is under obligation to them for redeeming us from the lack of a general celebration."⁴⁶

In 1905, the Italian societies of Pueblo and neighboring towns erected the first statue in America in honor of Columbus. Twelve thousand people were present for the ceremonies which were very elaborate and impressive, attended by a special representation of King Victor Emanuel III, and followed by a general fiesta. Mayor Speer of Denver delivered the principal address and in closing paid tribute to the Italian societies with these words: "Actions like yours speak louder than words, for your gift comes largely from foreign born citizens."⁴⁷

⁴³"A Fashionable Affair," *Ibid.*, March 29, 1883.

⁴⁴"Italians to Celebrate," *Ibid.*, July 5, 1910.

⁴⁵*Ibid.*, October 9, 1907.

⁴⁶"The Italian Celebration," *Coloradan*, November 1, 1892.

⁴⁷*Ibid.*, October 13, 1905.

Other foreign born groups, the Japanese, the Spanish-American, the Mexican, the Russian, the Polish and others of Slavic descent celebrated their national holidays and followed native customs in festivity. The Poles in Trinidad and the adjacent coal mining districts celebrated July fifteenth in honor of the victory of King Vladislaus Jagiello over the Teutonic knights;⁴⁸ the Spanish-Americans in certain parts of the state at one time held cock-fights on the day of their beloved Santiago (St. James);⁴⁹ the Slavic groups are noted for their elaborate and colorful wedding festivities. Many of these events are more or less private affairs and consequently usually escape the notice of newspaper reporters.

This study deals primarily with the foreign born who emigrated to Colorado previous to 1900, and no attempt has been made to follow these "festivals of the nations" up to the present time. After World War I many new clubs were formed, such as Italian-American, German-American, et cetera; the newspapers occasionally give accounts of meetings of various groups: the Ryssby church was reopened in 1925 and an annual Midsummer ceremony is held;⁵⁰ in 1929 the Welsh held a sacred song festival in Colorado Springs;⁵¹ in 1942 the Slavic people of Denver pledged their faith in the United States of America at an impressive "Slav Day" in City Park.⁵²

In 1924 a Nationality Night was inaugurated in Denver at which some fifteen foreign groups presented a program of native song, dance and music.⁵³ This continued for several years and was later, about 1934, renewed as an International Folk Festival.⁵⁴

Through many years the principal customs and traditions have been handed down from one generation to another. Gradually some have disappeared entirely, for with rapid progress in education, travel and communication, the groups have been fused in the melting pot of America, the land of their choice. What was said of the Germans at the dedication of the new Turner Hall in 1890, may be fittingly applied to all groups, they "will work with all their strength for the foundation and development of a race of men in all points truly free."⁵⁵

⁴⁸*Ibid.*, July 16, 1910.

⁴⁹*Colorado: A Guide to the Highest State*, Colorado Writers' Project, American Guide Series (New York, 1941), p. 383.

⁵⁰*Ibid.*

⁵¹"Welsh to Hold Song Festival," *Rocky Mountain News*, August 25, 1929.

⁵²"Slav Sunday," *Ibid.*, June 22, 1942.

⁵³"Nationality Night," *Ibid.*, April 10, 1926.

⁵⁴"Americans All," *Ibid.*, May 22, 1942.

⁵⁵Barth, Robert, "History of the Denver Turnverein," in *Souvenir des Denver Turnvereins* (1890), p. 136.

Alfred E. Mathews, Western Artist

By ISADORE MATHEWS*

Alfred E. Mathews was born in Bristol, England, June 24, 1831. His parents, Joseph Mathews and Sarah Sharland Mathews, brought their family of six children to the United States in 1833. They settled in Stark County near Canton, Ohio. The father had been a book publisher in Bristol, England, before emigrating to this country. Alfred was the youngest of the five brothers, only two years old when arriving in this country.



ALFRED E. MATHEWS
Western Artist

William T., ten years older than Alfred, afterward developed into "the painter of presidents." He was so known because he had made oil paintings of the presidents: Lincoln, Hayes, Garfield, Harrison, and McKinley. Among his other portraits were Charles Sumner, Daniel Webster, William C. Bryant, and William J. Bryan.

Charles H. Mathews, a brother twelve years older than Alfred, founded the *Ohio Democrat* in New Philadelphia, Ohio, in 1839. It was in the printing office here that Alfred learned the art of setting type; but he never worked much at the business, having a natural taste for the fine arts.

*Miss Mathews, New Philadelphia, Ohio, was a niece of A. E. Mathews. The State Historical Society has in its possession Mathews' *Portfolio of Pencil Sketches of Colorado*, 1866, comprising 23 plates.

In August, 1861, Alfred volunteered in the 31st Ohio Regiment of Volunteers and served during the war. He participated in the siege of Corinth, battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, and others, making drawings and maps of the country, as well as of scenes of combat. He made many sketches of battle scenes in the armies of Ohio, the Cumberland, the Tennessee, and the Mississippi. Included in his sketches were those of the extensive works of Vicksburg and the line of Sherman's march to the sea, all with remarkable accuracy. These maps and drawings received written commendation for their accuracy and artistic finish from Generals Grant, Sherman, Logan, and others. These works gave Mathews a wide reputation as a faithful delineator and were widely sought after by the soldiers.

After the war the artist traveled through Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, and Montana, making beautiful sketches of the western scenery. The last eight years of his life were spent in Colorado, and at the time of his death he was engaged in an extensive project of propagating fish in some of the beautiful mountain streams of this state.

It was at Big Thompson near Longmont, Colorado, on October 30, 1874, that this lover of nature, at the age of forty-three, met his death from exposure and hardships. He developed a sudden attack of cramp colic and, being twenty-two miles from a physician, died before medical aid could reach him. He was ill only forty-eight hours. W. M. Large, a friend and employee of Alfred, was the only one with him at the time of his death.

Katharine Brackenbury's Letters to Her Mother

COMPILED BY RICHARD BRACKENBURY*

FROM NEW YORK

April 16, 1893

Our last day aboard was most disagreeable. The fog got denser and denser and though we were close in, no pilot could be found to take us through. Rockets were sent up and flash lights used but all to no avail; nothing seemed able to penetrate the denseness, so we

*In submitting these extracts from his wife's letters to her mother in England, Richard Brackenbury, husband of Katharine, resident of Colorado for more than thirty-five years, now living in La Jolla, California says: "Katharine Gibbs, daughter of Alfred and Sarah Gibbs, was one of a family of twelve children, ten living at the time of our marriage, March 22, 1893, the ceremony taking place in the ancient Waltham Abbey. Her home was Gillwell Park, about ten miles from London in the County of Essex. It was one of those fine old English estates, eighty acres, on the border of Epping Forest. It is now the International Headquarters of the Boy Scouts. The portrait is taken from a pastel painting by my sister, Georgina Brackenbury, a noted artist with two portraits in the National Portrait Gallery. It is darker than the original, her eyes were a lighter blue. Katharine left the security and comfort of home and family when she married, to

were obliged to slack off till morning, which sad to say was pouring wet and stormy, so our first impression of New York was far from favorable.

We landed at 8:30 when the most fearful scene began. For five hours we fought for and around our luggage while the whole building rang with the noise of 1200 people suddenly disgorged to claim their own. Our personal luggage was hardly looked at and all passed, but alas we had twenty-one pounds duty to pay on the cases. They did not unpack them which was one comfort.

This horrible business over we had a good lunch, so delicious after ship-fare. We then saw the Bowles, Lizzie, and the boys off.¹ Poor Dick was quite tired out for he had every one to look after. We went round to the Westminster Hotel, very nice and not too expensive, but the lack of service is too funny, the chambermaids will do nothing for you, not even answer the bell.

We spent the morning in Central Park. It does not equal Hyde Park because you never lose sight of the tall buildings towering round. They are wonderful structures, beautifully built, but with such a cold look about them. The whole city has a cheerless look and the noise is deafening, as the streets are made of cobble stones for the sake of the tramways which run everywhere, to the exclusion of cabs. It has the advantage over London in the matter of fresh air and cleanliness—no soot. I can not think what becomes of it. We feel all the better for a day on terra-firma, some hard exercise and nice meals. We had buckwheat cakes and maple syrup for breakfast—it seems so American!

emigrate to the rough life in a log cabin on a Wyoming ranch." After the birth of three of their six sons, the Brackenbury family moved to Denver where Mr. Brackenbury engaged in the Livestock Commission Business. The six sons born to Katherine and Richard Brackenbury were: Lionel B., Richard Athelstan, Charles Maurice, William Launcelot, Gabriel Keith, and John Morland. About 1900, Mr. Brackenbury and some Wyoming friends purchased a ranch near Trinchera under the company name of The Mesa de Mayo Land & Livestock Company. This name stemmed from the fact that a Spanish mailed gauntlet was at one time found on the mesa top nearby. The company paid \$100,000 for land ownership rights in a range of some 300 square miles. Fred Hee, of Wyoming, took up the duties of Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the company. Mr. Brackenbury handled the business end and being an expert sheep-man was Hee's principle advisor. The company built up its holdings to around 35,000 sheep and from two to three thousand cattle. At the time it sold out in 1914, The Mesa de Mayo Land and Livestock Company had the largest sheep ranch outfit in Colorado. Sale of the ranch was made when the Government passed the section homestead act and the settlers began to move in and plow up the range. Says Mr. Brackenbury: "It is my opinion that the start of the 'dust bowl' was from our property after sale." On his retirement in 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Brackenbury moved to La Jolla, California where Katharine passed away last year at the age of eighty-eight years. Their son, Richard Brackenbury has for a number of years operated a ranch in Larimer County, making his home in Fort Collins. A granddaughter, Barbara Brackenbury (Mrs. Robert Fullerton), her husband and children: Barbara Belle, Richard John, and Carolyn Sue, also live on the family ranch on the Cache La Poudre.

¹Lizzie was a maid, and the boys—young Englishmen going west to learn ranching.

LARAMIE, WYOMING

April 21, 1893

Here we are in Laramie, only three hours from Carbon, it is joyful! I am sick of travelling. Lizzie has gone on with the luggage, we follow a train later as Dick has business. The railway journeys taken altogether have been a joyful surprise; the carriages are very comfortable, there is room to move, you get good meals and I sleep



KATHARINE BRACKENBURY

all night in spite of the noise. The greatest drawback is the heat, they keep the cars at 70, never less, mostly more. Imagine the hottest room you have been in and double it, and you get an idea of the average American parlour.

We travelled by the fastest train in the world on leaving New York, it oscillated so violently that I believe I should have been sick if we had not just left the steamer; in fact all the trains swing very much which makes it extra tiring. We started at 6-pm and reached Chicago at 9-pm the next day. Then we had a days rest and made

the most of it: Shopping all morning; World's Fair all afternoon. The shopping was great fun, I bought a camera—such a lovely one—for ten pounds. I could not get a sewing machine that I liked, which was vexing. We looked at stoves and refrigerators and many other things, and then took a train to the Fair. Such a place, quite overwhelming!

We could not get inside the buildings as the fair was not yet officially open, but the outsides were more than enough; great pure-white imitation-marble edifices, ornamented most beautifully. No pains had been spared to carry out every detail to perfection. The central building is large enough to hold three Chrystal Palaces inside it, but it does not give you the impression of such size owing to every thing being on such a gigantic scale. We then dined and caught the 10-pm train for Nebraska.

A terrible gale set in the next evening, making our train an hour late. We did not get to Central City, Nebraska, until seven o'clock. There is no station but the train is bound to slacken at the crossing,² so we bundled all our luggage on the platform of the train, and as it slackened we dropped off and our goods were pitched after us. The next evening we had to get on the train in the same fashion, which was worse as the gale which had been blowing all day increased in fury and the train we finally caught was five hours late. We sat huddled in an omnibus waiting for it, every other pane of glass was broken so we had plenty of ventilation, but the cold was piercing.

The Wyoming country we have just been passing through is lovely, great snow clad mountain-ranges all around. The incline was so steep that though we had two engines they kept stopping. We have traversed the most dangerous piece of line, as it is a single one and being five hours late there was considerable risk.

It is snowing hard now: I hope it will let us drive out tonight, but we will not get to the ranch till midnight. I am very well and have born the journey splendidly, thanks to Dick's unceasing care. I never knew such a person as he is for thinking of every thing. My letters sound very I-sy, but I expect you will understand and won't mind.

ANCHOR RANCH

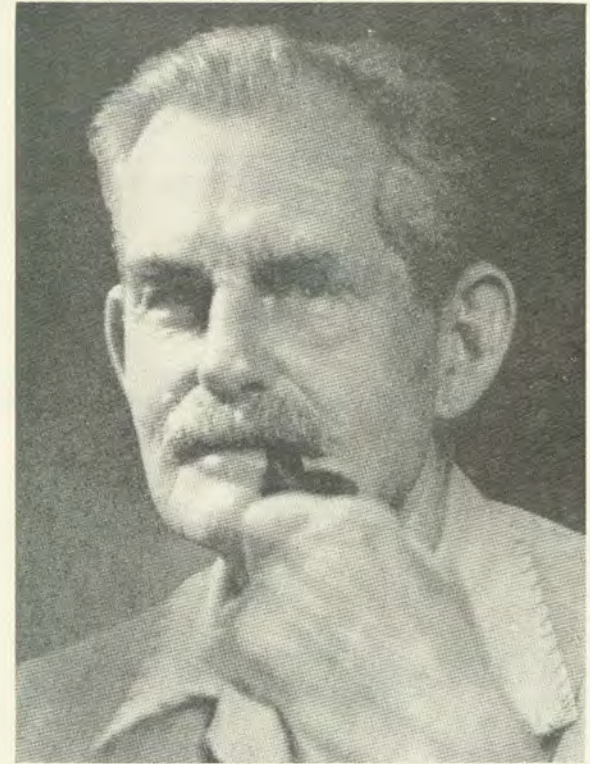
April 23, 1893

It is too delightful to be here at last after such long travels. The last part from Laramie was very weary, as there were bad storms, the wind delaying the trains as much as five hours, so we reached Carbon too late to drive out to the ranch. Just as we left the train it broke down. Its engines were too powerful and pulled

²Where the Union Pacific and the Burlington tracks crossed.

one of the carriages to bits.³ Happily no one was hurt, but as it meant more delay we were thankful to be out.

The first drive was characteristic: A Mr. Evans met us with a wagon, so we all climbed in and set off. First we tried to cross the line at a place that was too steep. Evans would not listen to Dick's advice not to try it but whipped up the horses, snap went the harness and round we whirled, happily not turning over. It would have been so aggravating to be smashed up at the very end.



RICHARD BRACKENBURY

We arrived at the Evans' home and he kindly offered to put us up, so we tumbled into bed without bolsters, blankets and baths. Mr. Evans is a shop-keeper in Carbon, it seems so strange staying with people like that. They are so hospitable, no false shame of their poor little homes prevents them from asking you. It puts many of our English people to shame. They had a sweet baby that cried all night, and a sweet mouse that squeaked, and a sweet cat

³Probably the brakes held against the power and a draw bar was pulled out with a crashing sound—R. B.

that walked in at the window to catch the mouse, and a sweet parrot that aroused us early in the morning with cries of "Papa Come Here." It was rather nice when morning came.

We walked through the town shopping. Everyone was so much delighted to see Dick, and of course many introductions and handshaking followed: innkeepers, storekeepers—in fact everyone. About 10:30 Lizzie and the luggage went off in the wagon. Dick and I followed in the buggy. It was such fun getting off, we went rushing along anyhow. It feels rather dangerous at first. I drove for a bit, but the horses were too unmanageable.

The way is lovely: great wide prairies covered with rich yellow grass, broken here and there by piles of grey granite, with exquisite snow-covered mountains on either side. Arriving at the house I had another pleasant surprise, for the rooms are large and light and the boys had made all so neat and clean. They were much excited and had prepared a very grand dinner: soup, roast beef, and apricots and cream.

Lizzie and I started cooking breakfast this morning at 7:30—as it was Sunday. The scarcity of utensils is very funny, one jug, no basins, or pie-dishes, so it needs a little arrangement. Tomorrow I will begin with the dairy and poultry, and we wash. This evening we are going to have some hymns, etc. I expect boys will be a little mirthful at first.

My ambulance lessons have already come in useful as one of the boys had broken his collar-bone, unfortunately four days before we arrived, it has been knocking about anyhow. No time for more.

April 22, 1893

Sunday:—our first day passed off very well. We took it pretty easily, cooked a little, walked a little and inspected everything indoors and out. The view from the front is very lovely; just a stretch of bright yellow grass, then the pretty winding river, and beyond the grey and brown hills covered with pinky-pale green sage. The hills looked very much like parts of Scotland with their great granite boulders standing about. We climbed up one in the morning, and climbed the other side in the afternoon. It seems strange to see nothing but hills in every direction.

Our first little service went off very well; we sang hymns and then Dick read a chapter, then more hymns. I think all rather liked it.

On Monday we began work in real earnest. Up at 5:30, dress as fast as possible so as to have breakfast laid, cooked and served by 6:30: fried eggs, bacon, coffee, tea and porridge. Over by seven

when I went out to feed the poultry. Then we washed up. After which I set bread, prepared the stock for soup, chopped up meat and prepared a batter, while Lizzie tidied the bedrooms. At ten o'clock, having started the dinner we did a little washing—it has of course rather accumulated on our travels—then back to lay and eat the dinner, which last operation takes place at 12 o'clock. That over, wash up again and finish the clothes: sit up again for three quarters of an hour, studying lists and cookery books. At four, make up bread and begin to prepare tea; boil bacon, fry potatoes, and make soda cake, skim the milk and feed the poultry. Six o'clock, tea, then wash up, lay the breakfast to save morning time, mend some clothes and to bed by 8:45. Happily the air keeps one up wonderfully.

My skin begins to suffer in spite of many precautions and I am tanned very brown already. Today, Tuesday, I have not been so busy and so I have snatched this spare half hour to write. It is 2:15 and a bad snow storm has driven all the boys in. They are sitting in rows round the table and rather interfere with the cooking operations. It is funny having snow after such a hot day as yesterday.

The boys are taking week about to help us. They carry water, chop wood, cut up meat; in fact, all the nasty part of the work. They call it doing chores. They have given us a rocking chair and a lamp, and a man in Carbon gave Dick a clock.

I wonder what anyone would say of the kitchen just now. Sand has drifted in and lies in ridges across the floor. The boys have all brought in masses of mud on their boots, and ashes have blown off the stove. Happily it does not affect my peace of mind in the slightest, but it does affect my dresses.

Wednesday: Rather a bad day again, constant snow showers. We managed better and consequently had more time to turn around. Bertie started being "chore" for this first week and is too kind and assiduous, helping us in every possible way. Dick is horribly busy of course and is away occasionally at meal-times. It feels so funny sitting down to dinner with six boys. Opportunity for posting so no more.

On Friday we drove into the great city of Carbon to get some needfuls. Dick and I in the buggy and two boys following in the wagon to bring the goods home. On the way thither we went to inspect the kitchen utensils of another ranch which Dick has just bought; such shabby little things the people do put up with, but I suppose we will have to do the same as a pie dish costs 1/6, and a common pudding bowl 1/9; such as you get for 4d. In fact, a dollar equals a shilling in almost everything.

The new ranch joins on to this and gives Dick command of six miles of the river. We shall also have a great many more milk-cows, so there will be lots of butter to make; also three dozen more hens making six dozen altogether. The first brood hatched out on Saturday—it is so bitterly cold for them.

But to go back to the shopping: Carbon is really too horrid. It is just one great rubbish heap, with wooden shantys pitched on the top, here and there and everywhere. They say nearly all the children die and no wonder with such arrangements. We walked round for an hour, shopping. Everything we wanted was expensive, it is so aggravating. The drive home was the coldest I have ever experienced, a fine snow driven into our faces by a strong north-west wind. It was jolly to get into the warm kitchen again.

Saturday: Still heavy snow. We worked hard all day so as to have nothing to do on Sunday. I will tell you what we did: After breakfast and washing up: soup to start, bread ditto; Beef to boil and potatoes; mince to make, sago pudding and Sunday pudding; churning and butter to be made up, besides chicks to feed every two hours and the rooms to sweep and dust. All this was the morning's work.

After dinner there was the bread to bake, salmon and potatoes to boil, eggs to collect, milk to skim, and a cake to bake. Then tea to set and wash up. Besides all that I found time to make five bags to hold my dresses, and get to bed by nine o'clock. The days are busy but very nice, and the boys are always ready to give a hand if I am tired, but the air suits me and I feel strong as a horse.

Sunday: Today we had a real holiday. It does seem so odd without church. It has been snowing almost all day.

Monday: We had three ranchers drop in to pay their respects and stay to dinner. Of course Lizzie and I were high busy, so that while rancher number one, who arrived at 10:30, sat down to watch and chat, the answers he got were few and far between.

May 10: Dick has been ill with rheumatism for a week, and a very dreadful week it has been. The pain was so intense that he could neither move nor bear to be moved for three days and nights. He is still so weak that he spends most of his time in bed, but with good food and tonics that will soon mend, I hope! He is going out today for the first time. I keep very well; Lizzie and I have come to the conclusion that there is no time to be ill. The boys have all been so good, especially Bernard H—I am so glad they are a nice set.

We get twice as much done as at first, having settled down to work most comfortably; still there will always be something

to keep us out of mischief! The great drawback is dirt, and it gets into everything. It feels no use dusting, and when you sweep it almost chokes you; we take up a scuttle-full of dry earth off the floor of one room each day. As to underlinen, I have to have a complete change twice a week, and even then I have never worn such black garments. Bedclothes are just the same, both sheets have to be washed each week and pillow-cases changed twice, so you see our wash is an extensive one! I am longing for the camera to come so as to take groups in their funny clothes.

The cases we shipped by freight arrived all covered with snow, but no harm done thanks to the oil-cloth. Breakages were very few, two saucers, and one picture-glass; so we were very lucky. The saddles look very jolly. Directly Dick is well we are going for a ride. It is so nice to have a few pretty things to use, instead of the awful three-pronged forks, the iron spoons, and tea cups made without handles. It feels funny to put all the silver in an unlocked cupboard and go to bed leaving the kitchen door not only unlocked but wide open!

May 11th: I have just been for a ride. It was so lovely. Jack, that is my horse's name, is such a dear thing, the slightest touch on the reins brings him to a standstill. He is an old racer and can go like the wind. I cannot say I feel very steady, still the time will come!

There are blackbirds here the same as in England and in an evening when they are singing I have but to shut my eyes and I am at home again. What a different scene I am looking upon now! It is 5-pm and I am sitting outside the door filling up a spare half hour before preparing tea. The sun is still brilliant and *so* hot, despite the fact that there was snow on the ground this morning. The willows show no sign of green yet, but the feathery red and purple is I think even more beautiful. The great mountains towering all around each with its snow-cap are too magnificent.

We are glad to have some cloths for use now, and have turned the long box on end and put in four shelves, and this is my linen-cupboard—a very capacious one too. I don't think I have brought out anything superfluous except my white silk dress—that would certainly look a trifle incongruous!

May 14th: A scorching day. Dick wanted to count his sheep, so I went too. It was so jolly whirling off through the fresh air. We took our little picnic basket with our lunch. Arriving at the camp I sat down at a respectful distance for 2600 sheep are not exactly sweet companions! It took two hours before the business was done and as the sun was very hot you can imagine the colour of my face. Then we lunched; the shepherd providing the hot water.

Wednesday: This has been a most interesting day: It was the cattle roundup, so after an early breakfast they all mounted their various horses and went off; then about 11.30 the meadow was alive with cattle. It was interesting seeing them brought over the bridge; the clever way in which they dodged the horsemen and made off toward the hills again, and the rate at which the horsemen follow. I felt inclined to get Jack and join in. After dinner Lizzie and I walked up to the corral to see the calves being lassoed. It was a strange wild scene!

Thursday: Dick is not gaining strength very fast, he needs a good week's rest to get better, instead of being on horseback as he was yesterday, riding hard from 8 am to 6pm, with one hour off for dinner. There is a tremendous sandstorm; the rooms are all thick, everything you eat is covered with sand and to go out is quite impossible. It is fine and sunny above, but the sand blowing through the air makes a thick murky look.

Friday: Such a dangerous drop in temperature, from 88 in the shade to freezing and snow. It makes me anxious for Dick as he has to drive ten miles to Medicine Bow, and then stand about for the next four days watching the shearers. Most of the boys are ill at present as last Saturday they killed a pig, and we had nothing but pork the whole of this very hot week and they would eat such a lot!

May 25th: The whole party is back once more. Oh! I am so glad to have my dear husband safely back. The weather could not have been worse for him: Tuesday, Wednesday and today heavy snow and a most bitter wind, so very trying after the heat. Yesterday afternoon Dick and G.B. had started back in the wagon; at five o'clock they came upon Dan the shepherd wandering about in search of his sheep. It had been snowing all day and the travelers were pushing home as fast as possible, but on hearing Dan's news, Dick had to get out and go in search of the sheep, and it was ten o'clock at night before he got them safely stowed away in a neighbour's corral. Happily they plied him with whiskey and provided dry clothes, but he is very stiff again today. However, I soon had a nice fire burning in the bedroom, a hot bath, hot towels, dry clothes and much rubbing and he seems less stiff this evening. We have been up since 4.45 this morning, so I keep dropping off to sleep as I write.

May 29th: Dick has been rather bad again and in bed ever since his return. Saturday, Sunday and Monday I had my hands full. Lizzie had mountain-fever and required a certain amount of looking after: meals in bed, etc. Dick of course wanted all the time I could spare to keep his spirits up, and there was all the cooking, washing up, dairy, chickens and general tidying to do. It is such

a blessing I keep well and strong. On Sunday I was terribly afraid I was in for it, but there was not time to give in and today I am as well as ever. All the boys were out to dinner on Sunday, so I planned eggs for the invalids so as to have no cooking and I thought I would have a good hour's sleep, as I had been up since 2 a.m. rubbing and waiting on Dick; but one after another, ranchers came to call, so I gave it up and cooked a nice dinner instead. I feel much happier tonight for Dick looks decidedly on the mend. Lizzie too is quite well again this evening.

* * * * *

Note: Letters omitted tell of the trip to Ogden Hot Springs (where it was necessary to take Dick for his rheumatism). They returned to the ranch in the latter part of June,—R.B.

* * * * *

June 28th: Such hot weather and the mosquitoes awful! They swarm round so thick that it is impossible to beat them off. Dick is getting quite well and strong again. I feel so nervous every morning lest he should wake in pain, but I should think it must have got boiled out of him in Utah! I did not quite learn to swim there, the water was too hot.

Today I went to see some horses branded. It does not hurt them much, but I never saw such a dangerous performance. They drive the horses one at a time from the larger corral into a circular enclosure. Then one man starts it off at a gallup, whilst two others stand with lassos which they fling around the horses fore-feet. Then the most awful scene begins; the horse, which is perfectly wild to begin with, becomes mad with terror, and rears and dashes itself about, while the men do all they can to throw it—keeping clear of its struggles, and the way they have to spring and rush, makes one quite sick. Post going, so no more of this!

July 2nd: The mosquitoes have never been known to be so bad as this year: I went for a walk yesterday wearing a mosquito net, thick leather gloves, and big india-rubber boots—rather hot for a summer stroll! My dress was black with the little wretches. The flowers are so lovely, wild roses cover the ground everywhere, quite tiny little bushes covered with flowers. I found a blue-bird's nest and secured some butterflies for the Allum children; but the ground is so full of gopher holes that to run at headlong speed is dangerous.

We are having lovely weather, the heat is not at all insufferable at present. There is a slight monotony about our meals: the ices we make are quite as good as you can buy, and are as easy to make. The youth H—shams ill at intervals, but as he does not know the correct symptoms, detection is easy! On Thursday, loud

cries resounded through the air—"Oh my head! my head!" "Oh! I have a sunstroke!" . . . Presently, the owner of the silvery accents appeared staggering and clutching for support, and threw himself—an inert mass—on his bed. But as no notice was taken of him he began rapidly to recover, especially when he heard a murmur of "beefsteak pie!" However, I kept him on bread and milk for two days and I believe such strong medicine will quite prevent the sun from injuring his head again!

July 4th: Lizzie and I in the buggy; Dick and Bernard riding; are going on a picnic, it will be such fun!

July 5th: Our picnic of the 4th was characteristic. Instead of getting into a wagonette and bowling sedately along on smooth and level country roads to the appointed place, Lizzie and I got into the buggy with plenty to eat and plenty to drink stowed in with us—the latter destined to keep our feet cool and to design artistic patterns around the edge of our skirts! Butterfly-nets were tied at the back, and shady hats under our chins.

The next act was not so pleasing, for we had to wait in the meadow while the equestrians mounted. Dick was on a broncho which he is breaking and the way it bucked was truly alarming. Even the sober horse I was driving got excited and whirled round to inspect his spirited brother. At length, unable to dislodge the rider, the broncho bolted in the right direction, much to our satisfaction, and we pursued our way. And such a way! First over irrigation ditches, then we came to a place where they had been felling timber. "Can I drive over trees?" I questioned somewhat faintly. "All right, go ahead!" was the cheerful response; and ahead we went till we came where the river we were expected to ford *ought* to "flow noiseless through the wood," but being swollen by melting snows, it was rushing past. "Tuck your feet up and follow me closely!" called Dick, and we floundered along, the water pouring into the buggy on all sides. Next we espy a clump of trees on a mountain side, and towards this we drive, dodging rocks, scrub and prairie-dog holes, and crossing several deepish gullies, till we find ourselves in the shade at last.

We did not stay in the shade long, however, for tempting butterflies of divers hues flitted past, and we flitted after them—up hill and down dale, till by dinner time we were in that state which mosquitos love best! At 3.30 we turned homeward, our outriders going off at a gallop, and our gentle steed, not wishing to be outdone, followed suit. We raced home in glorious style, thus ending the strangest drive that I ever had.

July 16th: The horse-breakers have been here for a week and in that time they have—what they call—broken ten horses. I went

up to the corral with Dick this morning to look at the "gentle ten" and they killed one while I was there. They had lassoed it and were trying to bridle it, but it kept rearing and striking at them; finally breaking from them, it galloped to the end of the tethered rope, and went over, breaking its neck. It was so sad to see!

* * * * *

14 MONTHS LATER

September 23, 1894

Lizzie and Bertie and I went currant-ing the other day. Dick and all the rest were away cutting timber in the mountains, so we had plenty of time and picked 30 lbs. We dined at 10 a.m. and then I started and they joined me. We had afternoon tea at 2 o'clock—primitive hours, but we had had breakfast at 4.30, so the intervals were about right. My sweet antelope went and swallowed the tube of his milk bottle the other day, so I am fearful daily of his demise. He is such a darling and has grown bigger than range antelope ever do. . . .

* * * * *

2 MONTHS LATER

November 27, 1894

I am getting along splendidly and so is my baby, he makes me laugh he looks so like a Japanese doll. The nurse makes such a clattering and talking and forgets everything unless I keep reminding her. You would be amused could you hear her calling people "confounded fools" and "beasts," and muttering "dash it" when anything goes wrong.

* * * * *

5 MONTHS LATER

April 16th, 1895

Today we took Lionel bathing with us. He looked such a little thing in the water, and then we rolled him in the hot sand. He thoroughly enjoyed it!

**Historical Sketch of That Part of Douglas County
Known as West Plum Creek
1869-1900**

By EDWIN W. SMITH*

To define the boundaries of this territory known as West Plum Creek, let us begin with Jarre Canyon¹ and Jarre Creek on the

*Edwin W. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Upton T. Smith, lives in Sarasota, Florida, but spends considerable time in Colorado. He owns the old account books and journals kept by his Colorado pioneer parents.

¹Alfonso (Bon) Jarre and his brother Joe came to the West Plum Creek locality in the 1870's. Alfonso settled on the creek and built a log house. He

north, with the small town of Sedalia at the junction of East and West Plum Creeks, thence along the high plateau including Table Mountain, one mile northwest of Castle Rock, the county seat of Douglas County, thence south toward Pikes Peak to, and including, Dawson Butte, more commonly called Dawson Mountain, which lies about three-quarters of a mile northwest of Larkspur and about two miles northeast of Perry Park. This latter is situated at the mouth of Bear Creek canyon, and constitutes the southern boundary of the territory under discussion. On the west of this tract lie the Rocky Mountain foothills from which emerge (naming them from south to north): Bear Creek, Spring Creek, Dry Creek, Jackson Creek, Garber Creek and Jarre Creek.



MR. AND MRS. UPTON T. SMITH

My boyhood days were spent on the homestead of my father, Upton T. Smith, which was situated about in the center of the above outlined territory. I was born in the log cabin on my father's homestead, February 19, 1878. I attended the country school known as the Lone Tree school. Here I finished the eighth grade in 1896. My first school teacher was Charles Sumner Kingsberry, who later married May Stevens, daughter of L. G. Stevens, one of the earlier pioneers of the territory.

My father, Upton Treat Smith, located his homestead while on a surveying trip from Denver to the Spanish Peaks in 1869. On November 26, 1869, he filed on a quarter section of Sec. 26, Township 8, Range 68 West. He later added a preemption of 160 acres, all of which he fenced with rails and posts that he cut in the mountains about two and one-half miles west of the ranch. Some of them were drawn to the homestead by oxen and later on by horses. Those fences were not very enduring and in less than twenty-five years

hauled stone for corners and built a worm pole fence that enclosed part of his land. He gradually acquired a large herd of cattle and maintained a cow camp for about twenty years at Madge Gulch. The people in the West Plum Creek vicinity lived almost as one big family, each one making a livelihood in some way out of timber for which there was a great demand. The Rio Grande, the South Park, and the Old Circle Railroads were all customers for ties, piling, telegraph poles, and bridge timber, most of which came down through Jarre Canyon.

we had torn them all down, cut them into fire wood and burned them during cold winters. We refenced the ranch with barbed wire. In 1893 my father made final proof on 160 acres more under the Timber Claim Act. This we also fenced with barbed wire and our ranch then contained 480 acres. West Plum Creek ran across the original homestead and we had a second priority water right in the George Ratcliff Spring Creek ditch, but we considered our place to be what is known as a dry ranch. We ran the place as a dairy ranch and my father made and sold butter in Denver until a creamery was opened at Sedalia.

I have heard my father say many times that he sold butter to every grocery store in Denver during that time, and I well remember accompanying him on some of these trips. We packed our butter in stone crocks containing from one-half gallon to three gallons. The grocers used to run a testing tube to the bottom of the jars to test the butter for sweetness, and I can say they never found any stale butter in my father's jars.

Our ranch was thirty-five miles south of Denver. It was a long, hard, two-day trip with team and lumber wagon. I can remember our leaving the ranch when the stars were still shining and of stopping to eat our breakfast on the sand hills east of Acequia. We stopped at the old Murphy House in Denver and after a busy day or so, would start home early in the afternoon and not get home until way after dark. My sister and I would be asleep on some hay in the back of the wagon. I can yet close my eyes and imagine I hear the squeak, squeak of the harness and the wagon body as we rolled along towards home. We nearly always awakened when the horses splashed into the stream at the crossing just below our home.

This article, however, is not to be a personal history, but rather is it designed to chronicle the names of the early settlers and some of the events that transpired during the period 1869 to 1900. My personal recollections are revived and substantiated in part by biographical sketches appearing in a book entitled "Genealogy and Biography, Denver and Vicinity, Colorado," published in 1898, also in the "History of Colorado," published in two volumes in 1919.

The facts regarding the price of commodities purchased and of produce sold from the ranch, as well as the prevailing wages paid during the time, have their source in the diaries and account books kept by my father and mother during the most of the period.

I well remember that when I was a boy, blank paper was rather scarce. This probably accounts for the fact that the following data are found on pages that had been left blank in an old Guard Book H. Company, Sixth Reg. MR. V.M. This book was evidently kept by the Sergeant of the Guard, beginning at Camp Washington, George-

town Heights, July 28, 1861, and concluding April 14, 1862. This book also contains a list of the men who died, of those who were transferred, and of those who were discharged from Company H. In that part of the book which remained unused as a Civil War record, I find some of my mother's favorite recipes, among which are Tomato Pickle, Citron Preserves, Chocolate Filling, Soft Cookies, Doughnuts, Coffee Cake, Ginger Snaps, Suet Pudding, and the like.

The following data are copied from the accounts kept by my father in this old Guard Book:

BUTTER ACCOUNT 1871

May 29	37 lbs. @ 26 cents	\$ 9.62
June 19, Sold at the Mill	20 lbs. @ 30 cents	6.00
July 4 Denver by Hammer	38 lbs. @ 25 cents	9.50
Aug. 12 By James	196 lbs. @ 35 cents	68.60
Oct. 7	163 lbs.	55.42
Dec. 29 with Gott to town	67 lbs.	26.80

Total.....521 lbs. \$175.92

EGGS SOLD 1873

March 25 19 doz. @ 30 \$5.70

The butter account for 1873 sold from 25 cents to 38 cents a pound and totaled 395 pounds.

LABOR ACCOUNT 1881

N. S. Grout	1 day's mowing	\$ 3.50
	Part of a day	1.50
	Raking with horse	2.00
	1 full day's threshing	1.50
	1 full day's threshing for Geo. Ratcliff	1.50
	Credit by one sack of flour	Paid
L. M. Wells	Part day's threshing	1.00
	Full day's threshing	1.50
	Full day's cutting corn	1.25
Cash	Cash	10.00
	Full day mowing	3.50
John Daniels	July 1881	
	One day mowing	3.50
Roly G. Curtis	One day mowing	3.50
	Paid	1.00
		2.50
	Aug. 19 by beef 90c	2.50
	Aug. 24 Cash	1.60
John James	22 hours mowing	7.50
George Ratcliff	Sept. 2 mowing barley	2.25
	Sept. 3 mowing barley	1.25
	Sept. 10 mowing barley	1.25
	One sickle to mower	2.25
	Full day threshing	1.50
	Full day threshing O'Neal	1.50
		2.50
	Paid Dec. 24	10.00
W. Maud	One day mowing oats	3.50
	One day mowing corn	3.50
		7.00
	Took saddle in payment	7.00

Thomas Lapham	December	
	Coal tar	.20
	Dec. 11, 1 day grubbing	1.50
	Due on dinner	.10
	Dec. 27, 1 day grubbing	1.50
	28, 1 day grubbing	1.50
1882	Jan. 5 one half day grub.	.75
	6 full day grubbing	1.50
	13 cutting wood and	
	17 sawing wood at door	1.35
	Feb. 10 sawing wood	1.50
	27 sawing wood	1.50
	Mar. 9 half day saw. wood	.75
		12.15
George Ratcliff	Dec. 24 drawing and cutting one load wood	1.50
	26 cutting and drawing load of pitch wood and cutting it at the door	1.75
	Jan. 10 drawing two loads of wood from timber	1.50
	19 drawing 2 loads of wood from Sch. Sec.	1.00
	30 drawing three loads of wood with team	1.75
	Feb. 2 one day cutting ice	1.00
	3 one day cutting ice	1.00
	18 drawing wood with team full day	2.00
	20 cutting wood	1.00
		33.50
	Cr. 400 lbs. wheat	5.00
	Bill rendered	28.50
		Paid U.T.
L. G. Stevens	Jan. 19 bot 100 lbs. beef	6.00
	Paid to Tidy	
Thomas Lapham	Amt. brot forward	12.15
	Mch. 22 1/2 day grubbing	.75
	23 1/2 day grubbing	.75
	Apr. 7 1/2 day grubbing	.75
	13 hauling wood	1.50
	23 16 lbs. veal at 16c	2.56
	Jan. 23 1/2 day pitching rye	.75
	Aug. 8 cutting oats	1.50
	Bill rendered Sept. 18, 1882—Paid	
	September 15, 1882	
	Amount of cash paid for blacksmith work and carpenter work and so forth.	
	October 2 Repairs on wheel, new tire, etc.	\$3.90
	Dec. Sharpening picks at Castle Rock	.40
	Jan. 1883 Sharpening picks at Sedalia	.50
	Feb. Sharpening one pick at Castle Rock	.20
	Mar. To new steeling and sharpening pick	.60
	Apr. 16 To sharpening two picks and one grubhoe	.60
	May 26 To new steel on pick (Victor)	1.00
	Apr. To soldering tinware at Castle Rock	.15
	July 2 Repairs on bosom pins, tinker C.R.	.25
	Aug. 1 Welding pitman and making bolt G. Dakin	.35
	Sept. 14 Repairs on silver breast pin	.40
		\$8.35

As evidence that the life of a hard-working Yankee pioneer was not centered entirely on material things, I submit the following copied from my father's own beautiful handwriting from the old Guard Book:

SPRING

Spring to me is the most pleasant time of the year. How refreshing it is to inhale the tempered breeze after a long cold winter, especially when it wafts the music of birds that appear so happy in singing their songs of welcome to the return of warm weather, green leaves and flowers. The fields are now sprinkled with the yellow dandelion. The apple and the cherry trees are in full bloom. The honey bee can be seen busily collecting the sweets of each flower. Spring, indeed, to nature, must be the morning of life to all that is beautiful.

The persons of my acquaintance who lived in the West Plum Creek section of Douglas County during the thirty-one years covered by this paper appear in the following lists:

Among the earlier settlers should be named: D. I. Cramer, Allan Dakan, James Gott, N. S. Grout, R. C. Grout, Alfonso Jarre, Chris Manhart, John D. Perry, Ben Quick, and Upton T. Smith.

In addition to the above I remember and was acquainted with: Dr. George E. Alexander, Hon. E. M. Ammons, Johnny Archer, James Ball, Dave Barker, Louis Beeman, Elmer Blunt, J. G. Blunt, Peter Brannen, Willis Bryant, John Cantril, Alexander Colvin, Charley "Grandpa," Rolly and Teddy Curtis, Albert, Frank, George, and Hiram Dakan, Mr. Davis, William Dillon, Harold Durand, "Uncle" and Lou Fritz, Robert Gann, Mr. Geim, Albert, Edward, George, John and Will Geim, James Gott, Bill and Charles Green, Leon, Robert C. Jr., and Robert C. Grout III, Mr. Gove, Thomas Hall, George S. Hill, Jonathan House, Abe Howarth, Frederick Huxtable, John and Lindsey James, M. L. James, Fred Kingsley, John Kinner, Mr. Kuba, William T. Lambert, Archie and Thomas Lapham, Mr. Lowell, Bert and Henry Lowell, John MacDonald, Harper, Jim and Pat McInroy, Hiram McIntyre, Bon, George and Henry Manhart, Andrew, George Sr., George Jr., and Joe Nixon, John and Lou Overstreet, Frank, Mortimer and Owen Penley, Charles, James and John D. Perry, Mr. Porteous, Walter Priest, George and Richard Ratcliff, Ben Skelton, Albion, Anthony, Edward W., Guy W., and Roger P. Smith, Frank and John Sobey, Henry Starr, Fred, L. G., Lon and Tide Stevens, Charles, George, Gordon, Herb, and Izett Stuart, Marquis Victor, Baron Von Winkler, Gustave Watson, Len M. Wells, Arthur White, Ed and Borgney Wolfensberger, Jake Wolfensberger.

The first person buried in Bear Canyon cemetery was a Mr. Wertz who was killed by lightning. The second person buried there was George Lapham, son of Thomas Lapham, who was killed by falling on the rocks on the west slope of Devil's Head while hunting.

The foregoing statements bear out my father's saying that this is such a healthful country that the only way to start a cemetery is either to kill or hang a man.

NOTES COPIED FROM A DIARY KEPT BY MY MOTHER, LIZZIE G. SMITH

(Not consecutive. I selected only such items as might be of some historical value sometime.—E.W.S.)

- 1874
- Apr. 18 James Boone died tonight.
23 Mr. and Mrs. Ball and Mr. and Mrs. Wells called.
- May 11 Mrs. Ratcliff called today.
16 Father (Robert C. Grout, Sr.) has taken Mr. Ratcliff's house to build.
22 Treat (Upton Treat Smith) went to Castle Rock this P.M. to serve an execution on a land case. Rec'd \$7.10 as fees.
23 Mrs. Wolf here this P.M. Mr. James called. Bro't a piece of meat.
24 Mr. and Mrs. N. N. Smith here to dinner. Think she will be a good neighbor.
28 This P.M. Treat had to go to Manhart's to summon him.
31 A heavy shower this P.M. I cut Bobbie's (R. C. Grout, Jr.) hair.
- June 1 Mr. Ball borrowed 28 pounds of flour. Treat planting corn.
4 Treat went to Franktown today. Bought a dress for Hattie. Baby has a tooth.
7 Treat went to Sunday School.
Father bought me ½ doz. lemons.
11 Father raised Mr. Ratcliff's house today.
Mrs. Ratcliff sent me 17 eggs to set in exchange for 13 I sent her; generous woman.
Treat in the mountains for poles.
Mr. Wells called and Father lent him \$900.
13 Treat is off to the round-up.
15 Treat went to an auction at Albion's, His brother, on the old Lapham place.
23 Paid Geo. Boone \$3.50 for hay.
25 Set my grey hen today.
28 Set my red biddy today.
- July 2 Our mail is changed so we will not get it until Friday hereafter.
4 Had green peas and new potatoes today.
5 Went to Sunday School with Albion and family. Mr. Clarke preached to us afterward.
6 Treat got his pay from Steele's estate.
8 Mr. Ball cultivated corn for us today.
12 Mr. and Mrs. Green stayed with us all night.
13 Treat mowing grain for Mr. Ball.
School meeting this P.M.
16 Mrs. James Smith's brother called and borrowed 15 pounds of flour.
A tremendous shower. Treat had to bring me across the creek on his shoulders.
26 I am 25 years old today.

- 29 Lizzie (Later Mrs. Wm. Dillon) and Pearley Ratcliff came at ten o'clock and stayed today.
- Aug. 1 Mrs. Ratcliff paid me \$4.00 for sewing.
2 John James called today.
7 Mrs. Ratcliff brought me cloth to make a suit for Dick.
22 Treat went to Plum Station; got a box to make a cheese hoop.
23 Went to Sunday School. Mr. Brooks came home with us. We like him.
29 Treat and I made cheese this afternoon.
- Sept. 8 Treat has been away to election all day.
12 Had a frost last night.
21 Went to Denver today. Left at six o'clock. Had our pictures taken. Stopped at the Western Hotel.
- Oct. 26 Treat went up to West's mill.
- Nov. 2 Hattie one year old today.
8 Today is the second anniversary of our marriage.
12 Mr. Will called to tell us that Mrs. Ball died this A.M.
14 Treat up to the Rock and got stone for the cellar.
23 Mr. Ball brought his boy (Howard) here today to stay 'till he goes East.
- Dec. 8 Two years ago today we arrived here.
25 Treat went to the mountains but came home for dinner. We had chicken and mince pie.
(Note: For some reason my Mother's diary was discontinued at this point until January 1876-)
Notes taken from my Mother's diary kept while at Perry Park, 1876
- 1876
- Jan. 2 Treat sold the white cow to Clark for \$20.00.
20 I read aloud from the *Colo. Farmer* tonight
22 We drove over to Newton's (N.S. Grout) this morning.
28 Mr. Grunden came in tonight and read us a description of the wedding.²
- Feb. 11 Treat went up on the divide for potatoes.
- Mch. 13 Treat went with Mr. Perry prospecting today.
- Apr. 25 They are all branding stock.
- Apr. 26 Mr. Smith is planting the garden.
- May 6 Lewis and Mr. Branden went hunting today and got a young buck.
- June 20 They brought home four grouse; I saved one for supper.
- July 2 Mr. Anthony Smith and wife and four children came for dinner today.
4 We had chicken, new potatoes and green peas for dinner.
8 Mr. Perry and Branddis went fishing, got 77.
18 Mr. Ratcliff brought some beef. I took 40 pounds of steak. Rather too much, I guess, for it is tough.
23 I rode old Ned over to Mr. Dakan's and stayed today.
26 Mr. B. had a party down to Nixon's tonight.
I am 27 years old today.
30 Treat went down to our ranch and salted the cows today.
- Aug. 4 The men are binding oats today; it is very warm.
7 Treat is cradeling oats today. I tried to keep the grasshoppers off the garden.
12 We left Perry Park today with all our things. Got home about six o'clock.

²This was the wedding of David Frances, later Governor of Missouri to Miss Jennie Perry, daughter of John D. Perry, owner of Perry Park, and for whom it was named.

- 19 We got up early and got started for Castle Rock before seven. Got back at noon.
20 Tidy and Fred Stevens called.
24 May Stevens came home for the flour this P.M. and brought me a mess of corn.
29 Albion came tonight and Treat and Mr. Davis.
I can't remember this date so will make a mark. Joe, Frank and Will O'Neil were here.
- Sept. 4. This P.M. we went to Sedalia to get Father (Robt. C. Grout, Sr.) I am glad to have him home again.
14 Treat went up to Mr. Wells and Newton called, had been over to Bloomfield's.
- Oct 11 I let Smith have six bars of soap.
14 Father and Treat went to mountain for poles today.
26 Treat is at work today helping Mr. Brannon thresh.
- Nov. 2 Hattie³ is three years old today.
15 Treat and Father went to Glen Grove P.O. today.
19 Annie Lapham came over this P.M. brought me Uncle Tom's.
24 Bobbie came over and got a gun.
28 Mr. Wells came today for a quarter of beef, 77 pounds. I made yeast today.
30 Today is Thanksgiving day. Treat came home. I am so glad.
- Dec. 22 Treat went to Larkspur to buy something for Hattie's stocking; got home late. It is a cold snow storm.
23 Nineteen below zero today.
25 Christmas; we are alone today. Father is as gloomy as a graveyard. Hattie is perfectly happy; her stocking was full. We have roast beef, tomatoes and corn and squash and plum sauce for dinner.
The following accounts were copied from the back of the foregoing diary. Probably 1876.

Bill at Wolff Londoner's	\$17.50
Boots and shoes	7.00
Harper's Weekly	4.15
Shoeing horse	2.
Wagon	22.50
Powder and fuse	.50
Harness	32.00
Flour, 100 pounds	3.50

FARM JOURNAL of Upton T. Smith
January 1, 1882 to Sept. 30, 1885

1882

- Jan. 1 The mildest and finest kind of winter to this date; very little snow.
8 I have been grubbing for Thomas Lapham at \$1.50 a day and board myself. I have been giving my stock a few feeds of hay.
18 Paid my taxes today at Castle Rock. \$25.75
21 Went to John Cantril's to get him to sign my Constable bond.
29 The pink-eye disease has been troubling a good many horses.
- Feb. 7 Sold ten head of steers this morning. Five two-year olds and five three-year olds at \$25.00 per head, cash in hand. Went to Ben Quick's this P.M. and paid him all I owed him, \$153.30.
3 Wife exchanged her old Florence sewing machine for a new Singer gave her \$35 to boot. New machine price \$50.
19 Eddie's birthday, four years old.
25 Went to Mr. Dakan's today to try our new light wagon; like it very much.

³Her daughter.

- 28 This has been the finest February I have ever known in Colorado.
- Mch. 1 Lizzie and I went to Castle Rock to take 24 doz. eggs. Got 25 cents a doz.
 5 Eddie had the croup last night. We had to be up with him all the time after 11 o'clock.
 9 Oiled the harness this forenoon.
 15 Started for the mill up Garber Creek but found so much ice we could not get up the Devil's Gap.
 28 We all went to Castle Rock. Mr. Grout made back the deed to me on the land I put into his name when I was bondsman for Albion: SE 4th S. 27 T. 8 R. 68 W. Douglas County.
- Apr. 8 Took butter and eggs to Sedalia. Got 40 cents for butter but brought eggs back rather than sell them for 15 cents. I bought me a whip.
 17 Rebuilt the fence east towards Bloomfield's. Sunday, this P.M. and I was out in the pasture hunting for a lost calf. I am in just the right humor for killing cats.
 26 We all went up to Bill Thompson's. Got some gooseberry plants. Called at Mrs. Robinson's.
- May 1 Went to school meeting about three o'clock.
 3 Went to Castle Rock. Got a sack of chop and a bale of wire. Killed a rattlesnake.
 11 Went up to Mrs. Robinson's and got a load of flat rocks for my cellar floor.
 15 Went to Castle Rock this morning for the school teacher. Got back with her about one o'clock.
 16 School commenced this morning. Miss Lida Riley the teacher boards with us.
 24 Planting corn. Hattie rode Prince horse to furrow out.
 26 Went to Castle Rock with the school teacher who had to take the examination. Brought Brother Walter back. He arrived at noon from the South, A.T.&S.F.
 30 Decoration day. The least observed of all the public holidays.
- June 14 Walter and I walked to the mountains to grub a patch for potatoes. On the way back we ran onto a rattlesnake. Walter shot him with his revolver three times. The first time he aimed at his head and shot off his rattles.
 16 Izett Stewart was up and engaged me to mow his rye.
 19 Mowed three acres of rye for Stewart.
 20 Mowed rye for O'Neils.
 25 We all went to the Divide. Walter and Miss Riley were with us. Called on Mr. Hopkins and saw his specimens.
- July 7 I went up to Watsons. Walter rode Fanny into the mountains to stop at Bob Grout's.
 20 School closed today. Hattie down with the measles.
 22 Went to Castle Rock with School teacher. Got board money \$40 for 10 weeks.
 24 Walter and I went to the mountains and fenced my potato patch.
- Aug. 4 Borrowed a six gallon jar of Stewart to pack butter in.
 15 Finished cutting Gott's oats, and got my pay for 7 acres, \$5.25.
 19 Finished cutting hay for Stevens and cut a little for Rolly Curtis.
- Sept. 8 Went to Ben Quick's and hired \$50.
 9 Attended County Convention. Had some pictures taken of the Children.
 13 Got 500 pounds of wheat for chicken feed from Stevens at 1½ cents a pound.

- 14 We all took in the Exposition at Denver. Went on the cars from Sedalia. The children enjoyed it very much, as did we all.
- Oct. 6 Walter and I went to Sedalia and a mile or two further on we found some very fine specimens of opalized and petrified wood, sections of large trees being found.
 17. Judge of election. Spent the day at the school house.
- Nov. 1 Got up about one o'clock and started for Denver about four o'clock. Went to D.S. Green's about 11 o'clock and stayed for dinner and then went out to sell some of our butter. Returned to Mrs. Riley's late in the afternoon.
 2 Hattie's birthday, her ninth. She is attending school. We sold some of our butter. Got 35 cents.
 3 Got home about eight o'clock this evening.
 7 At the school house today until nine o'clock. Took the election returns to Castle Rock.
- Dec. 4 Went to Castle Rock as a witness for L. G. Stevens. Court commenced today.
 7 Went to Sedalia for a syrup barrell to pack hams and shoulders in.
 26 Took Walter and school teacher Mr. Kingsbury to Sedalia.
- 1883
- Jan. 1 N. S. Grout came over on a sled to see Bob.
 10 Walter and I worked on a ditch in a six foot cut.
 11 Paid my taxes.
 13 Bob shot my beef. Walter and I dressed it. Traded some at the new store in Sedalia.
 20 Thirty degrees below zero this morning.
- Feb. 2 Sheriff Ad Smith came and supoened me as a witness in the case of the people vs. John James for killing cattle not his own. I had to go to Castle Rock as witness on John James and Bob Felton's cattle killing scrape. Case was dismissed for want of evidence.
 13 I had to go to Castle Rock as witness on John James and Bob Felton's cattle killing scrape. Case was dismissed for want of evidence.
 17 Up to Ben Quick's in the forenoon and to Castle Rock in the afternoon. Hired money and paid Mr. Grout \$250 got note and mortgage. Got mortgage released at County Seat on the 26th.
 19 Eddie's fifth birthday today.
 23 Sawed wood for Lapham at 15 cents per hour and boarded myself.
 26 Sold two steers and three heifers (3-year olds) at \$38 each to T. Lapham.
 27 Got check from Lapham \$190. School is finished.
- Mch. 19 Got my house insured for \$500.
 22 Left 1 A.M. for Denver, took butter and a couple of hides. Had to bring some of the butter back.
 27 Paid Quick \$50. square with him again.
- Apr. 7 Sewed one half acre of peas.
 18 Bob came over and moved his father over to Newton's bag and baggage.
 20 Lamed my shoulder working on the ditch throwing dirt six feet or more over my head.
 25 Took eggs and butter to Sedalia; got 25 cents a lb. and per dozen.
 28 Took a dozen hens to Sedalia and sold them for \$6. to a Mr. Hook.
 29 We all went down to the Church to hear Bishop Spalding. A good many were there.
- May 3 Called on May Stevens at her preemption.
 7 Finished the big cut on my ditch.
 9 Sold a little butter at C.R. for 20 cents.

- 16 Mrs. Lapham and girls over and brought home a ham which T. L. smoked for us with his.
- 30 Ground all covered with snow; wild fruit all killed.
- June 1 Eddie and I went to Geo. Upton's and got some seed potatoes.
2 We all went to the mountains. I planted my potatoes. Got frightened by the heavy thunder and lightening.
13 The freeze last night killed my corn, peas and tomato plants.
- July 2 Went to C.R. with Geo. Ratcliff and protested against the closing of our cross road to C. R.
4 All went to Sedalia to picnic. (I remember I got lost and Uncle Newt followed me. There was a very hard rain—)
14 I went to Watson's to see the logs he cut out for my log stable.
- Aug. 7 Hattie and I went to mountains horseback for raspberries. Got a gallon.
11 Wife and I went to berry patch; got about 30 pounds.
- Sept. 17 Heavy frost.
30 Mr. Ratcliff got my light wagon to go to Sedalia to meet John Dillon.⁴
- Oct. 4 Threshing today at N. S. Grout's.
6 Helped Stewart thresh.
10 Helped Ratcliff thresh.
15 School commenced. Frank Ball teacher.
16 Helped Bob Green thresh on the Wells place.
20 Sold butter at Sedalia.
20 Took a contract to plow nine acres for Lapham.
24 Got about 700 pounds of potatoes off the mountain patch; they are excellent.
- Nov. 2 Hattie's tenth birthday.
24 Grubbed for Lapham all day.
29 Thanksgiving day. Went to mts. for a load of stable logs.
- Dec. 3 Went to C. R. as witness for L. G. Stevens in his case with I. Stewart.
8 Commenced my stable today.
15 Helped Jas. O'Neil drive a bull to Jarre's by way of Sedalia.
25 L. G. Stevens and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley ate dinner with us.
29 Rode Don horse to C. R. to pay my taxes. Don slipped and threw me off. I had to walk home from C. R. I had paid my taxes and a note A. G. Webster.
- 1884
- Jan. 9 Took two jars of butter to Mrs. Ratcliff 32½ lbs. at 30 cents.
28 Went to C. R. on Prince. Qualified as constable.
- Feb. 9 Went to Lyceum in the evening; Hattie went also to our school house.
20 Went down to Mr. Stevens in the evening. Went into the tent where the men who were putting up the telephone⁵ line were camped in Steven's yard. Heard some of them talk with the operator in Pueblo 90 miles distant, also heard some of the boys play on the violin.
26 Smoked hams today.
- May 2 Went to Sedalia and got 340 pounds barbed wire.
3 Went to C. R. as a witness for Fred Kingsley who proved up on his preemption.
24 Sold 3 head of 2-years steers to Ratcliff for \$94.
Sold 3 heifers to Pete Brannan for \$35 ea.

⁴Brother of William Dillon. John Dillon was one of the great Irish agitators.
⁵This was the year the telephone line was strung between Denver and Pueblo via West Plum Creek.

- June 16 Alex McDonald was here and appointed me deputy Road Overseer.
20 Went to Fred Huxtable's and qualified as Road Overseer.
- July 4 We all went to C. R. to celebration.
18 Picked about three gal. of wild gooseberries in Jackson creek canyon.
21 Frank Gott helped me draw hay at \$1.00 a day.
23 Picked about 7 gals. of wild gooseberries on Jackson Creek today.
- 1884
- July 26 Wife's 35th birthday today. I picked three pounds of wild raspberries in the mts.
30 Sold my last two pigs to Bob at \$4.50 each.
- Aug. 14 Helped Stambaugh's cut down a bee tree. Got a pail full of honey to take home.
21 Went to C. R. as a delegate to the Co. Convention.
- Sept. 9 Our first frost last night.
- Oct. 11 Went to C. R. to attend Co. Convention. Heard Col. Chevington⁶ and others.
19 Bought a new grammar for Hattie. We have had school one week.
29 Got ballot boxes at C. R. today.
- Nov. 1 Went to Sedalia for flour shipped from Denver. Ten sacks at \$1.50 a sack and 13 cents a hundred freight.
22 Hattie's eleventh birthday today.
4 Served as Judge of election. Got home about 11 o'clock.
8 Twelfth anniversary of our wedding.
15 Drew a load of goods from Sedalia for our new neighbor on the Bloomfield place. Giems.
19 I called all the men in the district to work on the road next Monday
- Dec. 18 Sold a hind quarter of beef to Giems for 8 cents a lb.
- 1885
- Jan. 12 Went to the old mill on Jarre Creek and got a load of sawdust for the ice house.
31 Considerable excitement in the County about smallpox.
- Feb. 3 Spent the greater part of each day getting signers to a petition.
4 to have a law passed by our Legislature, now sitting, to regulate the manufacture and sale of bogus butter oleomargine etc.
5 This is the last day of school, Eddie's first term.
14 Built a fence between pasture and field so as to keep my stock in; outside range nearly all fenced.
- Mch. 4 Mrs. Lapham brought over a couple quills of vaxine to vaxinate Hattie and Eddie.
- Apr. 3 Went down to Mr. Kelley's below Sedalia to get nine broad-leaved cottonwoods to set around the house.
16 Sold Mr. Bowman two veal calves for \$12 apiece.
24 Helped dig grave for Mrs. Peter Brennan. Had to shovel snow drifts so they could get there.
- May 6 Uncle Fritz came in from the mts. today.
9 Helped C. S. Kingsbury put up a log cabin on his preemption between Allan Dakan's and the mountains.
26 Sold Mrs. Watson a pair of pigs at \$3.00 each.
- June 6 Sold 28 lbs. butter at 25 cents.

⁶Colonel J. M. Chivington.

- 18 Bob Grout gave two nice heifers, one to Hattie and one to Eddie.⁷
- July 1 Went to Sedalia to meet Miss Mary Riley who is going to board with us for a few weeks.
3 Mary Perry called this P. M.
4 Wife not very well, we did not celebrate.
10 Went to see Co. Commissioner Blunt about repairing a bridge.
11 Went to Sedalia to engage Christ Manhart to rebuild the bridge.
14 Helped A.H.M. Stevens move a building to his homestead.
20 Went to C. R. to get out subpoenas for witnesses and placed them in the hands of the Sheriff.
21 Worked on the bridge with Henry and John Manhart.
25 At Castle Rock all day attending suit as contestor against the final proof of homestead entered by Thomas Lapham
- Aug. 8 General Grant was buried today. Went to C. R. and got brand recorded.
31 Went to Bob Grout's place in the mountains as he wants me to be a witness when he proves up.
- Sept. 5 Mr. Watson and I went to C. R. as witnesses for Bob Grout.
19 Went to Mr. Bryant's place below Sedalia and picked 7 gals. of wild plums. Paid 10 cts a gal.
- Oct. 7 At five o'clock this morning a little boy was born to us.⁸
10 We have a good nurse, Mrs. Schafameyer.
19 School commenced today with Chas. Sumner Kingsbury teacher.
- Nov. 7 I branded all calves today.
- Dec. 19 Went to C. R. to a meeting of old soldiers who met to organize a G. A. R. Post.
22 Sold 7 head of cattle to J. P. Adams.
26 Went to C. R. to attend an old soldier's meeting.
31 Delivered cattle to J. P. Adams. He paid me in full and sent a napkin ring to baby Guy.
- 1886
- Jan. 2 Went to C. R. to old soldier's meeting and organized J. G. Blunt Post No. 25.⁹
20 Went to Sedalia and took train to Denver. Met Comrad Sam Dyer and we bought our G. A. R. Post uniforms and caps etc.
25 Went to C. R. and took the 3:20 train for Pueblo in company with Sam Dyer to attend a G. A. R. encampment. We stopped at the Fariss Hotel and had our meetings in the opera house.
27 This evening we had installation of officers.
- Feb. 16 We went to call on N. S. Grout's to see their new Valentine baby.¹⁰
19 Eddie's 8th birthday. Wife made him some sugar candy.
- Mch. 2 Went to Sedalia for Mrs. Maggie Murray who came up to live on her premtion.
23 Eddie and I went over to the old Boon house to see Uncle Fritz skin a beaver. He is trapping them out of the Well's place for ½ and his board.
26 Called on Miss May Stevens at her homestead. Miss Boon was with her. Also called on A. H. M. Stevens at his homestead and took dinner with him. Helped him plant a few potatoes.
30 Geo. S. Hill helped me on the ditch today.

⁷Edwin Smith says the increase from his helper helped put him through Colorado A. & M.

⁸Guy Watson Smith, now Dean of the mathematics department at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

⁹Upton T. Smith was elected the first commander. He also served as the last commander just before the post was disbanded a number of years later.

¹⁰Leo Grout now living in Littleton, Colorado.

- May 16 Been studying my part to say on Memorial Day.
30 We all went to C. R. to Memorial Day services at the School house and cemetery. G. A. R. boys were out and all passed off very well.
- June 5 I bought a Jersey bull from Geo. Triplett for \$75. Mr. William Dillon rode home with me from C. R.
20 Assisted Mr. Dakan in making out a school census report.
27 Took Hattie and Eddie up to Palmer Lake to witness an aquatic performance by Capt. Paul Beysngton.
- July 18 Mrs. Green gave baby Guy a gold dollar.
22 We all went to the Lake to see the English, Welsh, and Scotch clubs perform.
26 Robert Grout took wife and children up to his ranch at Devil's Head to pick berries.
- Aug. 8 Old Mr. Grout sick. Had Dr. Moore.
23 I helped Geo. Dunbar hay on the Wells place.
28 A witness for Fred Kingsley proving up on his place.
29 I read the oleomargine bill. It has just passed the Congress; I am interested as I am in the dairy business.
- Sept. 28 I worked on the road at the school house. This liquidated my road tax, \$3. or 2 day's tax.
- Oct. 4 School commenced today for a five month's term.
16 We all went to Denver to see the painting of the Battle of Gettysburg.¹¹ We got home about midnight.
18. Walter Smith went up to the top of Dawson Mts. and built a monument of stone.
20 Sold 3 two-year old steers for \$20 each.
- Nov. 3 Paid Old Mr. Grout \$118.52 the balance I owed him, and burned the note.
7 Anniversary of the battle of the Rappahannock where our Regiment, the Sixth Maine Infantry, got so fearfully cut up. So many killed and wounded. I will never forget it.
16 Nineteen degrees below zero last night.
23 In Denver. Got dinner with our old neighbors the Green's at 294 California Street. Paid \$1.85 a cwt. for 10 sacks of flour.
29 Found my two colts on the range east of Douglas Station.
- Dec. 6 Comrad Anderson made me Deputy Sheriff.
7 Went to the mts. to serve a notice on a witness. Found him at the fish pond in Bergen Park.
9 Arrested a Mrs. Amanda Todd and took her to C. R. [Castle Rock]
10 Sent to Rock Ridge this morning after one Fred Bourguin indicted for selling liquor on the Sabbath. He gave bond.
17 Mr. Dakan met me and notified me that I was selected as a third person to view a mountain road from Mr. Well's to Bergen Park. I stopped all night at the Watson place.
18 Met the other viewers near Thornton's hotel in Bergen Park. Mr. Bean and Mrs. Slocum were the other two viewers.
- 1887
- Jan. 12-14 Cutting ice. About 10 inches thick.
22 Helped organize a stock company for a creamery at C. R.
- Feb. 2 Mr. James Gott died today. N. S. Grout and I were obliged to lay him out and then went to C. R. and wired the Green's for coffin and a minister.
10 Attended G.A.R. encampment in Denver
19 Grandpa Grout's 72 birthday.

¹¹Upton T. Smith participated in the Battle of Gettysburg as a member of the Sixth Maine Infantry.

- Mch. 9 Went to Denver today with King Sweeney as witness in a contest case at the Land Office between Peter Brannan and W. A. Dakan.
- Apr. 16 May Stevens was up to get me as witness on final proof on her homestead.
- May 4 Went to Mrs. Gott's for her team. Wrote up an Article of Agreement between she and Bob Grout who is renting her ranch and stock—85 head.
29. We all went to C. R. to Memorial services. As a member of the Post I was invited to sit on the platform with Professor Matthews.
- June 11 Went to C. R. as a member of the executive committee of the Prohibition Party. We started the Prohibition ball rolling.
- Aug. 1 We went for raspberries. Found a bee tree and marked it.
3 Went to a stock holder's meeting of the creamery at C. R.
9 Drew a load of hay to Sedalia for Mr. Wells of the grading camp for the Santa Fe R.R. being built.
18 I was cradling oats this P. M.
30 We went to Garber Creek for berries; got plenty.
- Sept. 1 Went to Arthur White's for plums. Got 3 bu. free.
10 Attended Prohibition Mass Meeting at C. R.
11 Met H. M. Clay at Sedalia and we went as a duly appointed committee to inform C. T. Newmarch of his nomination as County Treasurer.
15 Peter Brannan's house was burned.
- Oct. 1 Post meeting at C. R. and we mustered in J. F. Gardner and L. Welty.
3 Another baby boy¹² was born to us about 10 o'clock this A.M.
9 Mr. Guard, applicant for the school called today.
- Nov. 9 School commenced today.
26 Sold 8 hogs to C. L. Richardson for \$19.15.
27 Eighteen degrees below zero last night.
28 Got a New Orleans molasses barrel at Sedalia. It had lots of sugar in the bottom so the children had a feast.
- Dec. 3 Sold a few hides at C. R. and bought me a pair of boots.
21 Twenty-eight below zero this morning.
31 Went to mts. for bee tree we found last summer. Got lots of honey.
- 1888
- Jan. 10 Sent a telegram to Daniel Witter, my Attorney in land case.
22 Went to meeting at school house. Sermon by Rev. Todd.
25 Got telegram from D. Witter informing me that the land case against Thos. Lapham was decided in my favor. E. half of N.W. fourth of N. half of S. W. fourth of Sec. 27, T. 8 s. of R. 68 W.
- Feb. 24. Last day of school.
- Mch. 10 I drew a load of posts up and took possession of my Timber Claim.
18 County Surveyor Wm. Lambert came and we ran boundaries on my Timber Claim land.
19 Bad felon on my 1st finger on right hand; could not write in diary. The end bone of my finger came out.
- July 11 Sold Dolly Mare to Geo. Dunbar for \$60.
- Aug. 18 Bought barbed wire at \$4.40 cwt.
- Sept. 15 Mr. and Mrs. Goss here tonight. They are campers whose horses are sick.

¹²Roger Putnam Smith now Secretary to the Chief of Police and Custodian of the Police Building, Denver.

- 30 Hattie went to Sunday School but Eddie could not go as he had no shoes to wear.
- Oct. 26 Sold a dressed hog at 7½ cts. a lb.
- Nov. 6 Geo. Ratcliff and I and H. H. McIntyre (Judge of Election) held an election at McIntyre's house.
7 I took returns to C. R.
- Dec. 21 Went to funeral of Thomas Lapham.
- 1889
- Feb. 16 Took a contract to dig a ditch for Geo. Ratcliff, 80 rods at \$1. a rod.
26 Mr. Watson died this morning.
- Mch. 30 Finished Ratcliff's ditch today.
- Apr. 13 A surprise party and dance at our house last night.
25 Sold three steers for \$17. each.
- May 19 Heard that my Brother Albion Smith died on 26 of Apr.
- June 11 Went with Geo. Ratcliff and others to Longhollow to see some cattle of Mr. R's that had apparently been poisoned. Took samples of their stomachs for analysis.
- July 4 James Ball and son stopped with us last night.
21 Howard Ball began working for his board today.
- Aug. 14 Bought 100 lbs. sugar for \$10.25.
- Sept. 22 Forty-six years old today.
- Oct. 30 About two feet snow today.
- Nov. 6 Acted as a witness for L. G. Stevens on his claim for reservoir water.
9 I filed a similar claim for water. The title to water is nearly as valuable as the title to land.
- Dec. 1 Hattie and Miss Dyer¹³ the teacher went riding.
14 Bought a barrel of apples of Hancock at C. R. pd. \$4.50.
21 Paid my taxes, \$31.07.
24 Annie Giem married E. E. Jacobs today.
- 1890
- Jan. 8 Paid for and stopped the *Palmer Lake Herald*.
- Feb. 11 School closed.
- Mch. 9 Attended Court at C. R. My Reservoir is No. 1 on the list.
15 Attended a board meeting at school house. Business to obtain a lease for the school house site and to take the steps to fence the same.
22 Attended an immigration convention at C. R.
29 School house site leased from Louisa Giem.
- Apr. 13 Tom Hall called to get some books to read.
- May 3 First Horse Fair held at C. R.
16 Qualified as Secretary of the School District (No. 17).
- June 6 Planted tree seeds on Timber Culture claim (Locust).
- July 9 Got Newt's cradle and cradled ½ acre of rye.
17 Nellie Lapham married Dr. Coffman at the Church.
- Oct. 12 Funeral of May Stevens Kingsburry today.
- Nov. 11 Sold a dressed hog, 244 lbs. at 5½ cts.
12 Fred Stevens accidentally shot and killed himself while hunting in the mts.
- Dec. 6 Had a picture of Guy and Put sitting together.

¹³Daughter of Sam Dyer.

- 1890
 Dec. 31 On business with Water Commissioner Couch in behalf of George Ratcliff.
- 1891
 Feb. 7 Went to Castle Rock. Attended a mass convention to remonstrate against the division of our County by the State Legislature.
 23 Went to Castle Rock with N. C. Grout to put in his application for a pension.
 Aug. 3-4 Went to Denver to be examined for a pension.
 10 Commenced cutting grass for Ratcliff at \$2.50 a day.
 24 Went to Castle Rock; got on the Jury.
 Sept. 5 Engaged Ella O'Brien to teach our school.
 8 School commenced.
 Nov. 5 J. P. Riley of Sedalia agrees to take all the butter I can supply at 25 cents a pound the year around.
 Dec. 24 School closed today.

- 1892
 Jan. 23 Took a load of corn on the cob to Cramer's to be ground.
 June 6-7 Worked with Fred Kingsley raising windmill tower.
 11 Erected an 80 barrel tank.
 25 Insured my buildings for \$1200.
 Aug. 2 Attended the funeral of Mrs. Izett Stewart.
 Sept. 13 School began today. Miss Griffin teacher.
 Oct. 7 The first County Fair at Castle Rock today.
 8 Bought an Esty organ for the children to take music lessons on.

TIMBER CULTURE RECORD

- 1890
 June 6 Fred Kingsley, Tom Hall and Fred Stevens helped me plant locust seed.
 July 5 A. M. Stevens went with me to see if the seeds had sprouted. Too dry.
 Sept. 9 Finished fencing around ten acres.
- 1891
 Apr. 24 Finished plowing all of my ten acres.
 May 26 Fred Kingsley, Bob Felton and Lou Stevens helped me plant tree seeds (catalpa).
- 1892
 31 A. H. M. Stevens helped me plant seeds.
 Apr. 30 A. H. M. Stevens helped me plant seeds.
 May 24 Finished plowing and planting corn.
- 1893
 Feb. 4 Made final proof on my Timber Culture. Witnesses Fred Kingsley and Lou Stevens.
 Mch. 30 Went to Perry Park to telephone to L. A. Watkins for 500 pounds of oil cake meal.
 May 8 Put in application to join A.O.U.W.
 30 Was initiated into the Lodge today.
 Sept. 11 School opened today. O. C. Otis today.
 22 Fifty years old today. Put was first to pull my ears.
 27 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Crosswell came from Maine to visit us. They are Mrs. Smith's Aunt and Uncle whom she has not seen for 21 years.

- Oct. 26 Had my cows dehorned by Elmer Hunt.
 Dec. 17 Sold a dressed hog, 396 lbs. at 6½ cents.
 29 School closed today.
- 1894
 Jan. 5 Eddie is going to school at Glen Grove. He rides his saddle pony Captain Jinks.
 July 2 Commenced taking our cream to Sedalia as the Castle Rock creamery ran the price down to 10 cents.
 Sept. 14 The horse shied and threw Hattie from the buggy. Hurt her hip. Geo. Stuart brought her home.
 23 We had Dr. Alexander examine Hattie today. Just a severe sprain. Mrs. Ida Davis came to take Mrs. Hall's place as teacher.
 Oct. 27 I took seven beaver skins to Denver and sold them for \$27.
- 1895
 Mch. 13 Ed received his shot gun from Montgomery Wards, ordered a short time ago.
 Feb. 10 Sold some pork to E. A. Von Winckler at 4½ cents.
- 1896
 Mch. 13 Mrs. Kingsley's funeral today.
 July 1 We took the two small children to Elitch's Gardens.
 16 Bought a two year old donkey for the little boy to ride.
 Aug. 29 I took Eddie to Sedalia to go to Fort Collins to school.
 Dec. 12 Met with the school Directors to take steps toward forming a Union High School at Castle Rock.
 23 E. W. came home from college for the Christmas vacation.
 26 Tom Hall, Eddie and I worked our assessments on some mining claims near Dakan's.
- 1897
 Jan. 3 Eddie started back to school.
 June 3 Ed came home from college today.
 23 Hattie and Tom Hall were married today.
 29 Tom and Hattie moved to the Quick place today.
 Sept. 25 I was delegate to the County Convention and received the nomination for County Treasurer. Got 40 out 55 votes cast.
 Oct. 16 Eddie shot old Prince horse to get rid of him. He was past 25 years old.
 20-31 Campaigning over the County.
 Nov. 4 I am elected with the balance of the ticket, Silver Republican and Democratic. My majority 253.
 (This is the end of the diary kept by my father.—E.S.)

My Forty-Two Years as a Sheep Shearer

By J. C. LOBATO*

In 1904, I began sheep shearing with the hope that I would make a fine shearer. That year from March 20 to July 18, I sheared 3,000 sheep. Shearing sheep is not an easy job. You have to be

*J. C. Lobato, one-time sheriff of Costilla County, is as proud of his record as an expert sheep shearer as he is of the fact that he caught bank robbers in record time and single-handed. "J. C." is now employed by the Capitol Commission in Denver.—Ed.

trained as in any other business. If a person is a good lawyer he still cannot shear sheep without instructions. I started out in Winnemucca, Nevada. After shearing ten days there our crew moved to McDermott, Nevada, where we sheared twenty days. Then we moved to Scald Spring, Oregon, for about thirty days.



J. C. LOBATO
Expert Sheep Shearer

I followed sheep shearing in 1905 and went over the same route as the year before. In 1906, I began on Battle Mountain, Nevada, under A. Garcia from Garcia, Colorado. We had one of the fastest crews at that time. Most of the men were from Colorado. Ben Duran from Garcia was the best shearer then. That year we sheared in Nevada, Utah and Wyoming, finishing in Glenrock. We were paid 8c a head and board.

The next year I began on my own at Thompson, Utah, on March 20, but in April joined Garcia's crews at Lost Cabin, Wyoming. We finished in about twenty days, ending at Glenrock on June 6. After we were through I went to Shoshoni, Wyoming, and sheared three weeks more.

I am not trying to give the picture that I was the sheep shearing champion, but think it would be interesting to put down these records to give an idea of how many sheep a man could shear.

The fastest man on the line in 1911 was E. Santistivan from Huerfano County, Colorado. Willie Garcia could just about keep up with him. I saw those fellows shear 150 head of sheep in nine hours.



SHEARING CREW, 1924, UNDER CAPTAIN J. C. LOBATO

There are a lot of sheep shearers on the line who claim to be real shearers. Some of them, however, are just "wool trompers." They shear sheep because they have a grip, but they do not know how to fix the sheep shears.

One of the best captains that ever stepped on the line in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana was John Quintana. He used to run the Bear Creek shearing pens for John Hay. He could turn out 3,000 head a day, with a crew of 30 shearers. Since Mr. Hay's sheep were very heavy, sometimes only 2,800 could be sheared.

In Rawlins, Wyoming, I ran the sheep shearing pens for Mr. Larson. In 1923 we sheared about 96,000 sheep there and in 1924, 100,000. Then I moved into Douglas, Wyoming, where I ran a crew for many years. In 1927 my crew at Arminto, Wyoming, was the fastest crew in the state.

In those days each fleece we sheared weighed about 11 pounds. My regular tally ran from 115 to 120. My high tally was in 1909 at Holyoke, Colorado, when I sheared 197 sheep in nine hours for the Standard Sheep Company. They were small Merino sheep. People can figure how many one man could do if he tried to. A sheep shearer's job is not easy. It is hard work. A shearer needs a strong back.

One of the best shearers I ever knew was Maclovio Gonzalez of Quest, New Mexico. I call him "best" because he broke in with one hundred sheep the first day he started.

In my forty-two years of shearing, from 1904 to 1948, I sheared 139,708 sheep. My biggest year was 5,700; my lowest was 900.

From 1920 to 1922, I was sheriff of Costilla County, being high man on the ballot. During those two years I had two outstanding experiences. One was when John Keenworth killed the night marshal from Monte Vista in 1922. He was a dangerous desperado from Texas. The case was committed to my county and I captured Keenworth and received the \$500 reward. Two United States marshals and two rangers were also on the case.

The second case was the robbery of the San Acacio Bank, which took place in December, 1922. I had been up in the mountains getting a load of fire wood and when I arrived home about four o'clock, the chairman of the bank, S. N. Smith, met me at my home with, "Sheriff, the bank has been robbed." At first I thought he was joking, but on finding out he wasn't, I told him to go home and I'd "get the birds before sundown tomorrow." So I did. I captured the bank robbers in a tiny village by the name of Sunshine Valley, on the New Mexico-Colorado line. The place no longer exists. I was able to locate the car of the robbers from information given me by a New Mexican bootlegger. The robber offered no resistance and confessed where he had hidden the loot. I found \$2,500 of the loot rolled up and hidden in a mitten underneath some sagebrush by the side of a road. The rest was hidden inside of an innertube secluded alongside of a ditch bank that was under construction.

When I came back to the Court House in San Luis, I suggested that Mr. Firesgold, Amos Rodriguez, and Frank LaComb search me and count the total money. It came to \$3,680, so the bank robbers had spent only \$5. This was said to have been one of the quickest jobs done by any of the sheriffs in Colorado, for in less than ten days after the robbery, the crooks were behind bars in Canon City. So you see a lowly sheep shearer became a gun-toting sheriff and carried out his duty.

Seventy-Five Years of Rodeo in Colorado

III. RODEO RIDES ON

By CLIFFORD P. WESTERMEIER*

At the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century, rodeo was firmly entrenched in Colorado as a cowboy contest, spectator sport, and entertainment. With a heritage of nearly fifty years many important gains were made during the establishment of



ROPERs WAITING THEIR TURN, BOULDER (COLO.) POW WOW RODEO

this typically western American sport; however, many changes were to come before it reached the position of prominence which it occupies today. Some of these changes and developments, significant of the cowboy sport as a whole, took place in Colorado, and much of the progress in the sport is due to people interested in its welfare.

By 1925, a great number of the present day rodeos in Colorado were already flourishing. Annual contests were held in Monte Vista, Gunnison, Greeley, Pueblo, Brush, Colorado Springs, Trinidad, Meeker, Durango and in many other towns and cities. Already the contests at Monte Vista, Colorado Springs and Gunni-

*Dr. Westermeyer, author of *Man, Beast, Dust*, is a Lecturer for the University of Colorado. This is the third and concluding article written by him for *The Colorado Magazine* on the history of Rodeo in Colorado.—Ed.

son received national notice and attracted contestants and fans from all parts of the country. While rodeo primarily had a western following, it had also invaded the East, in New York and Chicago in 1916, and Europe in London, England, in 1924, but it did not become an integral part of eastern entertainment until 1925.¹ The national and international notice and acceptance of rodeo as a form of western entertainment brought about the many developments of the past twenty-five years. However, before these new developments appeared, rodeo continued to retain its hold on the public and especially on the citizens of Colorado.

There is no doubt that the success of the great, annual cowboy contest, known as Frontier Days, held at Cheyenne, Wyoming, was the impetus for many of the Colorado contests, large and small. One of these smaller contests was planned for Sunday, August 15, 1926, at Martin's ranch, about six miles east of Boulder on the Valmont road. Several acres were fenced, and the arena was so constructed as to offer an excellent view to all spectators. The advertising notices for this contest promised fifteen of "Cheyenne's best bronc busters" and twenty head each of wild bucking horses and wild range cattle. Admission was twenty-five and fifty cents.² Later in the same month an American Legion Rodeo, scheduled for Boulder on Labor Day, was canceled because of conflict with the activities of the county fair at Longmont.³

Efforts to establish the cowboy contest in the State University town continued, and the following year the Boulder Post No. 10 of the American Legion contracted with Leonard Stroud to bring his show for three days during the middle of July. Stroud was at that time probably the most prominent contesting cowboy, and his high reputation, both as a producer and as a contestant, practically assured the success of this venture. In the pre-show publicity he commented on the stock and contestants:

We have some wild ones. Of the 45 riders in the Las Vegas show only one remained on a horse, the others being thrown or disqualified for holding on the saddle. The Brahma steers that we have in our organization are a cross between the sacred cow of India and Texas steers. They are the frightenest animal in the world. We have been forced to place knobs on their horns as a precautionary measure.

We are expecting winners from Estes Park, Greeley, Cheyenne, Casper, and other rodeos. Our prizes here are sufficient to bring the best of them. . . .⁴

¹Westermeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 46, 244-245, 303.

²*Boulder Daily Camera* (Boulder, Colorado), August 12; August 14, 1926

³"Rodeo Planned By Legion Abandoned As Courtesy Gesture," *Boulder Daily Camera*, August 18, 1926.

⁴"Leonard Stroud Champion Bronco Buster and Paper Is Here for the Big Rodeo," *Boulder Daily Camera*, July 11, 1927.

Probably more interesting than the preparations and advanced publicity for, and the actual staging of, the contest were protests by some members of the Protestant Churches, who criticized the American Legion for sponsoring a rodeo on Sunday. The Methodists offered a protest in the form of a resolution at their Sunday morning service, and on the evening of the same day, July 10, the union services of the Boulder Protestant Churches at the Congregational Church passed another resolution which read as follows:

While appreciating the service of the men of the American Legion in their devotion to our country in time of war; and being in sympathy with the purposes for which the organization exists in time of peace we wish to express our disappointment and regret that the local post has chosen to sponsor a rodeo at the very border of our city for Sunday, July 17.

We believe that such a type of amusement on Sunday is not in harmony with the spirit and ideals of our community. Altho we have no desire to foist "blue laws" on others who think differently than we do, we believe that the welfare of the community is not served by such shows on Sunday and they are not necessary for the happiness of the citizens or the financial needs of the organization promoting them.

We do not question the motives of the men of the Legion; in fact we believe their own best judgment will not sustain their action in this matter. We do think they have made a mistake and hope that if they can do so, the Sunday performance of the rodeo will be omitted.⁵

In the same issue of the *Camera*, the editor expressed his very emphatic opinion:

The Churches have no services on Sunday afternoons. The populace go out in search of pleasure in the afternoon. It is the idea of the Boulder post of the Legion that Sunday afternoon diversion is desirable for citizens and transients in Boulder.

So they have baseball outside the city since the city ordinances forbid it within. Others dance in Boulder canon Sunday nights.

A rodeo Sunday in their baseball park, they feel is not a disturbing element and would be entertainment of a harmless kind.

It ought to be. It is promised that it will be. The Legion officials say they hope those who protest against the diversion will feel that they are not bent on desecration of the day the larger portion of the population calls the Sabbath.

The boys say they have not instituted Sunday sports to make money for the post but feel it a civic duty they owe Boulder, and others protest that a rodeo is not proper on that particular day.

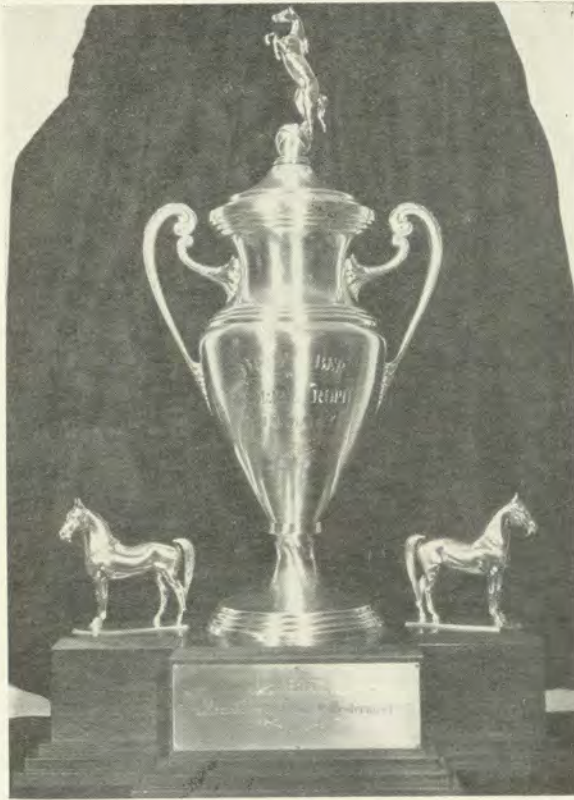
Maybe it isn't. But until resorts near to Boulder and at Denver are closed, why should Boulder suffer the taunt of being a dull place and our boys and girls be compelled to seek entertainment elsewhere? Think it over.⁶

All this publicity did not in any way deter the members of the Legion in the completion of their plans. However, in answer

⁵"Legion Urged to Cancel Date for Sunday Rodeo," *Boulder Daily Camera*, July 11, 1927.

⁶"A Sunday Rodeo," *Boulder Daily Camera*, July 11, 1927.

to the protest, the Legion sent a resolution to the Reverend Lucius Reed, pastor of the First Congregational Church. In a formal statement to the *Camera*, Commander Hubert Kaub said: "We feel that Boulder people are entitled to some entertainment Sundays. The rodeo will provide wholesome entertainment at reasonable prices."⁷ A *Camera* journalist added: "Church people who



DOFF ABER MEMORIAL TROPHY

sympathize with the church resolution are invited to attend the rodeo Sunday afternoon if they cannot play golf or lack the money to drive to Denver."⁸ This same wag also commented on the conclusion of this very serious Legion meeting: "After which the Legion members disported themselves over sinkers and beer—very, very Christian beer."⁹

⁷"Boulder Post of Legion Voted to Hold Rodeo on Sunday," *Boulder Daily Camera*, July 13, 1927.

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹*Ibid.* For a more recent controversy see "Opposes Sunday Rodeo in Boulder," *Boulder Daily Camera*, November 19, 1946; "Pow Wow On Sunday Gets Approval," *Boulder Daily Camera*, November 22, 1946.

The total attendance at this contest, after much juggling of figures, was about 3,000 for the three days, and a complete itemized list of the losses appeared in the *Camera* for July 19. E. C. King of La Junta, who managed the show for Stroud, said: "Tho we lost money, we think we have paved the way for a successful rodeo next year. At least we tried our best to give Boulder a good show and to please with our program."¹⁰

The following year another rodeo was held at Boulder, and even without controversies the show, in spite of outstanding contestants and prominent people, proved to be a financial failure. According to the *Rocky Mountain News*, after a check of the finances of the contest, each member of the Legion had to stand a loss of \$75 to \$150. A deficit of \$80, incurred from the previous shows, caused the leaders to abandon the annual contest and to sell the equipment which originally had cost \$2,000.¹¹

Some years later, rodeo returned to Boulder to stay. In 1939, it was incorporated, as a special attraction, in the annual Boulder Pow Wow celebration (primarily a rock drilling contest¹² for the world's championship), and almost immediately overshadowed all other features of the celebration. The Pow Wow begins on the final day of the Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration, and the rodeo opens the following day. Boulder attracts to its rodeo most of the best cowboys who are moving southward to the late summer contests of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

The two-day contest, one of which is now an evening show, has many attractive features for fans and contestants. The arena, with a comfortable seating arrangement, is not too large and thus affords a fine opportunity for viewing the various events and contestants at their best. The cowboys find it a show "easy to work," with pleasant associations and worth-while prize money. One of the big attractions is the five hundred dollar silver cup, the Doff Aber Memorial Trophy,¹³ second in the country only to the Sam Jackson Trophy of the Pendleton Round-Up. This trophy must be won three times for permanent possession; however, a prize of one hundred dollars, donated by the Rodeo Committee of the Pow Wow, is awarded annually to the winner.

¹⁰"Total Attendance at Legion Rodeo Announced as 3500," *Boulder Daily Camera*, July 18, 1927.

¹¹"Champion Trick Rope Artist Limbers Up For Legion Rodeo," *Rocky Mountain News*, August 10, 1928; "Adams Here Sees Rodeo; 1000 Attend," *Boulder Daily Camera*, August 11, 1928; "Legion Probably Will Discontinue Costly Rodeo Show," *Boulder Daily Camera*, August 15, 1928; "Legion Rodeo Fails to Pay Expenses," *Rocky Mountain News*, August 16, 1928.

¹²"Hard Rock Drilling Contests in Colorado," *Colorado Magazine* XI, pp. 81-85.

¹³The Doff Aber Memorial Trophy was a gift of Dr. and Mrs. Clifford P. Westermeier in 1948, to the Boulder Pow Wow Rodeo in memory of their close friend, the late Doff Aber, who was world champion saddle bronc rider in 1941 and 1942.

The Boulder Pow Wow Rodeo is a fine example of a small community contest which has grown steadily each year to become one of the chief attractions of the state. Since it is staged at a most opportune time, immediately after the Cheyenne show, it draws some of the best contestants in the country and is really a "top-notch" show.

Twenty-five years ago rodeo progressed rapidly and received much publicity as an attraction and entertainment feature. Since the Fourth of July was still the single great day for cowboy contests, the *Rocky Mountain News* listed such events in its Sunday edition for July 3, 1927, and commented: "Rodeos will be numerous tomorrow thru out Colorado. Practically every section is offering its best example of this time-honored outdoors show of the West."¹⁴ Contests were scheduled at Greeley, Estes Park, Brush, Evergreen, Colorado Springs, Canon City and Steamboat Springs.¹⁵

At this time, as earlier, there were several protests against rodeo from humane organizations. In 1926, the General Federation of Women's Clubs protested the cruelty to cattle on the ranges as well as the means of their transportation and the manner of their slaughter. Minnie Madden Fiske of New York at the Bien-nial Convention said:

Great cruelties persist in the rodeo more or less unobserved by spectators. Some of its scenes have a picturesque and historic value, but the drawing power of the show depends upon acts that terrorize and torment dazed, helpless animals, and in many rodeos we have discovered cruelties very slightly less barbarous than those of the bull fight. The rodeo is certainly demoralizing entertainment for children who are taken by the thousands to witness the terrorizing and tormenting of helpless living creatures and encouraged to believe it is worthy sport.¹⁶

More specific protests directed at the immediate contests of Colorado came from the state humane society. W. B. Wheeler, state humane officer, protested that, "hooley-handling"¹⁷—the practice of digging a steer's horn into the ground in bulldogging—must be stopped at Colorado rodeos.¹⁸ This custom often caused the horn to break, resulting in pain and loss of blood for the animal. On another occasion the society protested a rodeo scheduled to be held during the Eastern Star Convention. Edwin K. Whitehead, the secretary of the State Bureau of Child and Animal

¹⁴"Rodeos Mark States' Fourth," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 3, 1927.

¹⁵*Ibid.* See "Springs Starts to Celebrate," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 4, 1927; "Visitors Flock to Greeley For Big Two-Day Spud Rodeo," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 4, 1927.

¹⁶"Woman Flays Rodeo and Steel Trap at Federation Meeting," *Rocky Mountain News*, June 3, 1926.

¹⁷The term is hoolibaning or pegging.

¹⁸"Bull Doggers' Trick Frowned On By Officials," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 22, 1927.

Protection, officially advised the organization that rodeo was in violation of Colorado law, and the contest was canceled.¹⁹

Titles of news items and feature articles which appeared in these years give evidence to the fact that rodeo was making a big bid for attention and was gaining firm ground as an entertainment attraction:

Rodeo Gives Thrill To Rotarians In Big Show at Overland²⁰
 Cloudburst Halts Spud Rodeo As 25,000 Gather In Greeley²¹
 Cowboy Saves Daughter of Calles From Broncho²²
 15,000 Roar Welcome To Dawes At Monte Vista Ski-Hi Rodeo²³

Animals And Riders Troop Into Springs For Annual Rodeo²⁴
 Cowboy Gored By Steer Near Death In Cheyenne²⁵
 Kit Carson Rodeo Wildest In West, Assert Officials²⁶
 Rodeo Champions Cashing In At Picture Studios²⁷

A headline which caused great interest appeared in the *News* in January, 1931: "Wild Bronchos Share Honors With Stock Show Aristocrats."²⁸ Rodeo had arrived! According to Courtland R. Jones, manager of the National Western Stock Show: "This will be the first time in the history of the stock show that rodeo events will be sprinkled thru the horse exhibition program."²⁹ In the days which followed, during this Silver Jubilee celebration, the newspapers carried many stories about the rodeo events of the horse show, and the most encouraging news was that the attendance surpassed all records of previous shows. The manager commented: "Quite naturally, there must be some source of revenue and the horse show and rodeo are the financial means." "True," he said, "This feature does not defray the cost of the show, but it cares for approximately 50 per cent of the bill."³⁰ Later, statistics showed that approximately 75,000 people attended the show that week, while during a 10-year average the attendance during the week of the show had been about 30,000.³¹ Since 1931, rodeo has been an important feature of the National West-

¹⁹"Eastern Star Cancels Rodeo As Humane Officer Protests," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 24, 1928.

²⁰*Rocky Mountain News*, June 18, 1926.

²¹*Ibid.*, July 6, 1926.

²²*Ibid.*, July 22, 1926.

²³*Ibid.*, August 6, 1926.

²⁴*Ibid.*, August 7, 1927.

²⁵*Ibid.*, August 9, 1927.

²⁶*Ibid.*, August 3, 1929.

²⁷*Ibid.*, September 5, 1929.

²⁸*Ibid.*, January 15, 1931.

²⁹*Ibid.*

³⁰"Stock Show Promises to Beat Records," *Rocky Mountain News*, January 20, 1931.

³¹"50,000 Persons Have Attended '31 Horse Show," *Rocky Mountain News*, January 23, 1931; "Jubilee Stock Show Ends With Old Records Broken," *Rocky Mountain News*, January 25, 1931.

ern Stock Show. It has grown in size and prize money and without a doubt has drawn the leading rodeo contestants of the nation. Since it is the first contest of the annual circuit, it has the unique distinction of opening the rodeo season. The 1952 season will find the National Western Stock Show and Rodeo staged in a magnificent new coliseum, a project which has been encouraged and undertaken through the tireless leadership of John T. Caine, III, general manager of the show and rodeo.³²

The potentialities of rodeo were at last fully realized, and the many pleas by far-seeing individuals in the past were beginning to bear fruit. On several occasions Denver failed to accept its responsibility as the center for one of the greatest cowboy contests in the state if not in the entire Rocky Mountain Empire. It accepted the challenge and for the past two decades has occupied an enviable position in rodeo contests. An interesting editorial, "A Tip for Colorado," which appeared in the *News* during the summer of 1931, again spurred this idea:

With the opening of Frontier Days at Cheyenne today, the season for the recreation of the Old West officially begins.

The "Daddy of 'em All" is more than a great show. It is a remarkable example of what can be done thru statewide enthusiasm and cooperation.

Therein lies the success of Cheyenne's spectacular exhibit.

But Colorado has more romance in its history than any other Western state. The trouble is that Colorado has not always taken full advantage of the attraction which this romance has for residents and for visitors.

Thousands of Denver residents and Denver visitors will go to Cheyenne this week. It is right that they should. They will get their money's worth—and more.

At the same time, Colorado has never quite realized what it has in this same field within its own borders. And it has never made its visitors realize this.

For example, the State Fair at Pueblo, like the Frontier Days at Cheyenne, is a good show. Many of the same riders who appear at Cheyenne will appear later at Pueblo. But the fair has never had the general and unified support to which it is entitled. And that, despite the fact that the fair is supported in part by direct taxation.

Colorado should not be jealous of, but should congratulate Cheyenne and Wyoming for the attractions which Frontier Days offer. At the same time, Colorado should take a leaf from Wyoming's book, and should develop one of its rodeos or the State Fair as an outstanding attraction.³³

Although much state wide progress was made in the advancement of the sport, the greatest impetus toward some system of organization was the establishment of the Rodeo Association of America in 1929, as a guiding influence in the regulation of rodeo.

³²Patterson, Phil, "Stock Show Plans Are Changed," *Western Farm Life*, April 15, 1947, pp. 32-42; Moore, Richard A., "Stock Showman," *Rocky Mountain Empire Magazine*, January 8, 1950, p. 2.

³³"A Tip for Colorado," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 21, 1931.

The association was organized

in order to insure harmony among rodeos and to perpetuate traditions connected with the livestock industry and the cowboy sports incident thereto; to standardize the same and adopt rules looking forward towards the holding of contests upon uniform basis; to minimize so far as practicable conflict in dates of contests; and to place such sports so nearly as may be possible on par with amateur athletic events. . . .³⁴

The Association divided the country into fifteen districts, of which Colorado is one. Each district is governed by a vice-president, and these officers are the law-making body of the organization. This Board of Directors did much to establish rodeo as a sport, and for the first time at the end of that year they officially recognized champion cowboys in the various events.³⁵

Some time earlier, two efforts had been made to unionize the cowboys in Colorado; however, they were merely attempts and were local in character.³⁶ Again in 1932, during the National Western Stock Show in Denver, another effort was made to organize the cowboys into a protective association. The *News* printed the following:

Rodeo cowboying now goes on a basis similar to decathlon events.

With the formation here yesterday by riders entered in the National Western rodeo, of a protective association, announcement was made the new organization will pick a champion each year based on his performance in all events including bronc busting, calf roping, bulldogging, etc.

The purpose of the new organization is to protect members from unfair treatment and raise the standard of rodeo personnel.³⁷

Nothing more is heard of this proposed organization, but it can be assumed that it was the germ of the idea which developed into the Cowboys' Turtle Association which was formed in the fall of 1936 at Boston, Massachusetts.³⁸

In the summer following the formation of the Turtle Association, during the State Fair at Pueblo, Colorado had its first experience with the demands of the "newly-formed buckaroo Union." The association demanded more "bucks in the pay check and presumably fewer from the horses." Leonard Stroud, who promoted the rodeo, said he would "tolerate no 'cowboy strike' at the state fair," and added, "They [cowboys] want their entry fees

³⁴*Constitution and By-Laws and Rules of the Rodeo Association of America*, 1941, p. 3.

³⁵See Westermeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 183-188. Clay Carr, the All-Around Champion Cowboy, 1930, was the first cowboy to receive national publicity under these rules, although Earl Thode was the first to hold the honor in 1929.

³⁶See Westermeier, "Seventy-Five Years of Rodeo in Colorado, II. Gaining Ground," *Colorado Magazine* 28, April, 1951, pp. 138-139.

³⁷"Rodeo Experts Organized Now," *Rocky Mountain News*, January 21, 1932.

³⁸See Westermeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 94-130; "Boots and Saddle and a Union Button," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 19, 1947.

added to the purses and they have demanded active contestants for judges and flagmen."³⁹

As a result no members of the Cowboys' Turtle Association participated in the show because their demands were refused. The members of the fair commission told the Turtles: "We will tolerate no interference from your group." Earlier that summer similar demands had been made at the Kit Carson Round-Up in Trinidad and had been refused.⁴⁰

During the years which followed there is evidence of many such strikes and demands, and after much compromising on both sides, most of these difficulties were settled. However, the lot of the cowboy contestant was much improved, and fair treatment on both sides became the basis of the prevailing good relationship which exists at the present time.⁴¹

These two national organizations have been the guiding influences of rodeo and have naturally affected the sport in Colorado. Now, however, both groups have reorganized—in April, 1946, the Rodeo Association of America merged with the National Rodeo Association⁴² to form the International Rodeo Association; in March, 1945, the Cowboys' Turtle Association reorganized as the Rodeo Cowboys' Association.⁴³

It is obvious that Colorado played a prominent part in molding the cowboy contests into a great national sport. It promoted some of the first large contests held in this country and, through advertising, publicity and actual attendance, gave encouragement and support to neighboring events. Many natives became prominent contestants. Thirty years ago there was no name more famous among the rodeo cowboys than that of Leonard Stroud. He was such a capable and versatile performer that he entered all events of the shows, and on some occasions it was necessary to rearrange the program in order to permit him to perform.⁴⁴

³⁹"Rodeo Riders In State Fair Form Union," *Rocky Mountain News*, July 25, 1937.

⁴⁰Pitman, Frank W., "Gov. Ammons Will Visit Colorado Exposition," *Rocky Mountain News*, August 25, 1937.

⁴¹See Westemeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 103-124. The most recent threat to call a strike and boycott a show was the Rodeo Cowboys' Association demands for a raise in the daily purses at the 1950 Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration. "Frontier Days Body, Rodeo 'Pokes' Fail on Pay Pact—Show Open to All," *Denver Post*, April 20, 1950; "Professional Rodeo Cowboys Threaten to Boycott Frontier Days," *Boulder Daily Camera*, April 21, 1950; "Rodeo Group Won't Abide Any Blacklist," *Denver Post*, April 28, 1950; "Rodeo Cowboys Settle Differences With Cheyenne," *Boulder Daily Camera*, July 15, 1950.

⁴²"Colorado May Be Headquarters of Merged Rodeo Association," *Rocky Mountain News*, April 29, 1946; Westemeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 340-342.

⁴³"Cowboy Organization Makes Change," *Hoofs and Horns* 7, May 1945, p. 16. The Rodeo Cowboys' Association moved its headquarters from Fort Worth to Denver in January, 1951. "As Heard Over the Mike," *Buckboard* 6, December, 1950, p. 4.

⁴⁴See Westemeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 46-48.

Since his day other prominent cowboys have come from the mountain and plain ranches to bring national fame to themselves and their home state. The Mills brothers, Hank and George, have thrilled spectators the nation over. More recently George Mills gained further national recognition through a feature story in *Saturday Evening Post* by George S. Perry entitled "He Loves to Tease Wild Bulls."⁴⁵ A daring bareback brone rider and bulldogger, George was named World Champion Cowboy for 1941 in the former event. The names of Jess and Jim Like, Ward Watkins, Shorty Creed, Kid Fletcher, Hugh Bennett, Fred Badsy, Bill Lawrence, and the late Wayne Louks are written in the annals of rodeo in Colorado. Bill Lawrence, a native of Boulder, made a rapid rise to prominence from a teen-age calf rider at the first Boulder rodeo to a spectacular rider of brones and bulls at the present time. Only last year he received national recognition in *Life* for his "acrobatic" ride on a sorrel saddle brone named Phillips 66 at the Fiesta De Los Vaqueros at Tucson, Arizona.⁴⁶

Colorado has another native son, of whom she may be justly proud, Verne Elliot of Platteville, one of rodeo's top stock contractors. Early in the century he engaged in riding and roping contests, but following an injury in 1910 he retired from active contesting. Shortly after World War I he joined forces with Ed McCarty, formerly of Loveland, and bought the rodeo stock used at the 1919 Cheyenne Frontier Days celebration. Elliott and McCarty were the first to realize the spectator appeal which the dangerous and vicious hump-backed Brahman bulls possessed, and in 1920 this unusual appearing beast was used for the bull riding contest in their shows. With Tex Austin, they staged rodeos in Madison Square Garden in 1922, and on two occasions in London, England.

After Ed McCarty retired in 1941, Don Nesbitt, a prominent rodeo contestant, became Verne's partner. Upon Nesbitt's retirement two years later, Elliott formed a corporation in which he and several prominent cowboy contestants hold stock.⁴⁷

Probably as famous as Verne Elliott and his organization were two of his renowned bucking horses, "Midnight" and "Five Minutes to Midnight." Wherever the sport is known, these two great bucking horses are legendary. They thrilled rodeo fans for many years throughout the West and won the respect of every cowboy

⁴⁵See Perry, George S., "He Loves to Tease Wild Bulls," *Saturday Evening Post*, March 17, 1951, p. 33+.

⁴⁶"Rodeo Acrobat," *Life*, May 15, 1950, p. 115.

⁴⁷Westemeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 261-266; Pomeroy, Earl N., "Mr. Head Cowboy," *Rocky Mountain Empire Magazine*, July 23, 1950, pp. 2, 7; "Rodeo Stock's His Life," *Denver Post*, January 15, 1948; "Verne Elliott, One of Rodeo's Top Stockmen, Supplies County Fair String," *Boulder Daily Camera*, August 10, 1950.

who rode them. Both horses are buried on the Platteville ranch and stones with appropriate inscriptions eulogize them.⁴⁸

"Squaw Man" is now considered the top horse of the Elliott string, and concerning his bucking ability, Verne commented: "I can't tell yet whether he's as good as Midnight or Five Minutes to Midnight, but he's easily the best horse in the country now."⁴⁹ On another occasion he said: "Squaw Man is one of the smartest horses I've ever had in my string."⁵⁰ Among his best bucking horses he lists Screaming Hi Ki, T. Joe, Wildfire, Twelve Bells, Yellow Cat, Pomeroy, Jersey Joe, Ten Below, Frontier Day and He'll Do.⁵¹

In these years rodeo also invaded western college campuses as an intercollegiate sport, and especially in the last few years the collegiate cowboys have made great strides in their contests. Colorado A. & M. was an early advocate of rodeo on the campus. In May, 1926, a rodeo was staged as a feature of the College Carnival,⁵² and again in May, 1932, the *News* mentioned the Annual College Day with a rodeo, parades and games.⁵³ Since then rodeo has been, more or less, an annual affair, and Aggie cowboys "hold their own" in these intercollegiate contests.

In 1948, upon request of the editor of *Western Horseman*,⁵⁴ who was keenly aware of the growing enthusiasm for intercollegiate rodeo, the author wrote an article for that publication, "Roping and Riding a School Sport."⁵⁵ Since then the collegiate cowboys have organized the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and in 1949 and 1950 were invited to hold their finals contests at the Cow Palace in San Francisco during the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition.⁵⁶ This type of rodeo and particularly the cowboys of Colorado A. & M. received their greatest publicity boost in a feature article, "Cowboys on the Campus,"⁵⁷ which appeared recently in *Saturday Evening Post*.⁵⁷

⁴⁸Midnight and Five Minutes to Midnight died in 1936 and 1947 respectively. "Famed Bucking Horse is Dead," *Rocky Mountain News*, November 9, 1936; "Five Minutes to Midnight, Famed Rodeo Bronc, Dies," *Rocky Mountain News*, August 1, 1947. See Westermeier, *Man, Beast, Dust, etc.*, pp. 265-266; "Nation's Smartest Bucking Horses to Exhibit Skill At National Western Rodeo," *Boulder Daily Camera*, January 12, 1951.

⁴⁹"Squaw Man" Is Top Bronc," *Denver Post*, January 25, 1948.

⁵⁰"Squaw Man, Genius Gone Wrong, Top Bronc In Elliott String," *Denver Post*, January 19, 1949; "Elliott Rates Squaw Man Rodeo's Toughest Bronc," *Denver Post*, January 14, 1950.

⁵¹*Ibid.*

⁵²"Aggies Hold Parade and Rodeo in Carnival," *Rocky Mountain News*, May 8, 1926.

⁵³"Parades, Rodeos, Games, Dancing At Aggies Today," *Rocky Mountain News*, May 6, 1932.

⁵⁴The offices of *Western Horseman* moved from Reno to Colorado Springs in the summer of 1948.

⁵⁵Westermeier, Clifford P., "Roping and Riding a School Sport," *Western Horseman* 13, March-April, 1948.

⁵⁶"Intercollegiate Rodeo Finals Go to Cow Palace, San Francisco, Calif.," *Buckboard* 5, March, 1950, p. 5.

⁵⁷Muir, Jean, "Cowboys On the Campus," *Saturday Evening Post*, February 10, 1951, p. 33.

There are innumerable accounts of rodeos, of the personalities of rodeo, and of events associated with the cowboy sport which affect Colorado alone and are stories in themselves. Among these, to mention briefly a few, are: the annual Kid's rodeo at La Junta, the tragic deaths of Clyde Burk, Wayne Louks and Doff Aber, the Monte Vista Ski-Hi Stampede \$11,000 Jackpot Bulldogging Contest of 1949, Bernard De Voto's appraisal of rodeo, accidents suffered by contestants, fans and animals, the successful rodeos and failures, the appearance of new contests, rodeo as a theme for the comic strip, "Bronc Saddler," and an All-Girl Rodeo at Colorado Springs.

As important as any of the above stories—tragic, humorous, daring, exciting or otherwise—are some of the plain facts and statistics regarding the sport in Colorado. According to the calendar of events some thirty-five or forty contests are scheduled during the months of July and August. Twenty-three of these rodeos, including the one in Denver during the National Western Stock Show, paid over \$60,000 in prize money which did not include the entry fees which are also added in contests recognized by the Rodeo Cowboys' Association. These rodeos range from strictly one-day events to shows of several days' duration; the total number of actual contesting days runs well over eighty.⁵⁸ Of these contests, twenty-six belong to the point award system of the Rodeo Cowboys' Association, which lists over 350 shows throughout the nation.⁵⁹ A recent survey indicates that rodeo rates third with football in what is called "recreational box-office," draws 45,000,000 fans⁶⁰ and pays out a total of almost \$1,500,000 in prize money.⁶¹ Unfortunately there are no accurate statements available that indicate what per cent Colorado contributes to the above figures.

It is also unfortunate that space does not permit a detailed account of all the contests which have furthered the growth of the sport in Colorado, and also of the numerous individuals who have contributed not only financial support but also endless efforts and time for its development.

In seventy-five years rodeo has made great strides from those early days when the men used the activities of their daily work as cow camp entertainment and inter-camp competition. The basic activities of riding and roping developed through the years into various contests, such as saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, wild horse racing, bull riding, steer roping, calf roping, various steer tying contests, wild cow milking, as well as the spectacular

⁵⁸"Calendar of Events in Colorado," *Colorado Wonderland*, July 1950, p. 24.

⁵⁹"Following 1950 Shows Have Paid Fee to R. C. A. Point Award System," *Buckboard* 6, January, 1951, pp. 10-11.

⁶⁰Flagg, Cap'n, "Ridin' Herd," *Bit and Spur*, January, 1950, p. 4.

⁶¹"Ride 'Em Cowboy!" *People and Places* 7, March, 1950, p. 1.

contest of bulldogging. Some of these competitive events grew directly out of the early work and daily life of the cowboy, while others show the creative spirit of these men and their originality in devising kindred contests.

The inter-camp contests developed into cowboy tournaments, attended chiefly by cowboys and cattlemen. Out of these tournaments grew numerous celebrations, paying homage to frontier and pioneer life, with nation wide spectator appeal. Once an audience had been reached beyond that of the natural environment of the sport, the growth of such contests was spectacular, and soon the financial possibilities and popular appeal of this type of entertainment were realized. The problems involved were not unlike those of any other growing sport activity: standardization of rules and conduct, fair treatment of personnel, selection of champions and so forth. Since rodeo is a vital and progressive sport which verges on big business, many of these problems are not yet completely solved; however, a firm foundation has been reached on which the sport may continue to develop.

Colorado has contributed vastly to this growth within the state and on a nation-wide basis. Her early background provided a natural environment for nurturing the growth of this vigorous sport and, although not always appreciative of the implications, Colorado did play a great part in keeping alive, promoting and later developing rodeo. Few states have any better record of such persistence and aggressive action on the part of certain communities and citizens.

Today rodeo is a natural and very popular phase of summer entertainment in the state; in fact, in the months of July and August, with some forty rodeos scheduled, "Colorado" might well be called "Colorodeo"! And, as "rodeo rides on," Colorado, conscious of her leadership in promoting it, will ride along and continue to cherish and to foster this typical western American sport.
