

BRIEF FACTS ABOUT GENERAL PALMER AND HIS WIFE QUEEN

In February, 1872 the wooden mansion at Glenn Eyrie was finished. Late in that year the General's first child, Elsie, was born. In 1880 a second daughter, Dorothy was born to the Palmer's. By this time though, the strain of the Royal Gorge troubles was too much for Queen. As time passed her health did not improve and doctors said she must move to a lower altitude because of a weak valve in her heart.

Queen was the daughter of W. P. Mellen a solicitor of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway company, president of the Central Colorado Improvement Company, and of the Colorado Springs Company. He was also intimately associated with General Palmer in all his enterprises. After she left Colorado Springs, Queen, resided chiefly in New York and England. She visited Colorado Springs twice, the second one lasting four months in 1885. Queen's third daughter, Marjorie, was born in England in 1881.

Mrs. Wilcox wrote that Queen died in 1894. The best that I can determine though, Queen died on January 2, 1895, as it states in the January 3, 1895 Gazette. The General brought his daughters and their governess back to live in the valley at Glenn Eyrie. At that time Elsie was 23, Dorothy was 15, and Marjorie was 14. Often General Palmer returned with them to England for extended visits to ease their homesickness.

On a night in October, 1898, a cable reached General Palmer in London saying his Antlers Hotel was burning. The fire started at

the freight depot. It spread quickly to freight cars on nearby tracks, exploding one filled with black powder. Sparks jumped to the Antlers and fire fighters were unable to extinguish the blaze. In 1901 the second Antlers was finished.

In 1903 the Tudor mansion was partly torn down and construction began on the stone castle in Glenn Eyrie. It was finished in 1905 at a cost of \$525,000, exclusive of furnishings.