

## FACTS ABOUT GENERAL WILLIAM J. PALMER

July 1988

Sept. 17, 1836 Palmer was born near Kinsdale, Kent County, Delaware to Quaker parents, John and Matilda (Jackson) Palmer.

Two years later the family moved to Philadelphia, PA.

1853 After grammar schooling and a rather unhealthy youth, Palmer joined an engineering corps (age 17) assisting those who designed rail lines and bridges.

1855-6 Palmer traveled to England to study rail development. Financed his way with newsarticles. Spent a brief time in Paris.

1861 Joined the Civil War, raised his own 15th PA Cavalry. Mustered Sept. 8 and attached to Anderson's Troop. Saw action in all but 2 of the rebel states. Spy work, captured and held 6 months in Confederate prison. Troop reorganized and ready by early July.

1865 In St. Louis with rail work

1867-68 Surveyed western rail routes. Book appeared 1869.

1869-71 Working with Kansas Pacific RR and reached Denver.

1870 Married Nov. 7, trip to Eng. and Holland to raise funds

1871 Formed own rail line, founded Colorado Springs

1872 Daughter Elsie born (October 30, 1872- d. 1955)

1873 William Proctor Mellen died in St. Louis. His wife Ellen Clarke, sister of Isabel his first wife, came to live at Glen Eyrie.

Serious financial depression in America

1878 `War` over Raton Pass and the Royal Gorge rights of way

1880 Queen's first heart attack

Dorothy born (?d. 1925)

1881 Founding of the Rio Grande and Western company; building track at \$16,000 a mile including telegraph

Marjory born in England (d.1961?)

1883 Resigned as Denver and Rio Grande president, line reached Salt Lake City

1894 Queen died in England, Dec. 27. (b. March 26, 1850)

1901 Sold D&RG to George J. Gould

1902 Asked to run for Gov. of Colo. Refused as unsuited Mexican National Railway became standard. Nationalized in 1908. He had begun working on the project in 1872.

1906 October 26 Palmer's accident.

1907 Reunion of the 15th PA at Glen Eyrie. 280 people gathered and feted at the General's expense.

1908 Elsie married Dr. L.H. Myers at Glen Eyrie and moved to Eng. From June to Nov. Palmer abroad for Marjory's intended marriage and post-break up recovery trip.

d. Mr. 13, 1909, buried Mr. 17 in Evergreen Cemetery