

COLORADO TERRITORY AND COLORADO CITY

With the famous cry of "Pikes Peak or Bust!" the mining supply camp of Colorado City was born.¹ The site of Colorado City was first reached by the John Turney exploring party in 1858. The town itself, however, was not actually founded until 1859 when the town company was organized by a group of ~~XXXXXX~~ Denver-Auroria men.² The original intent in the founding of the city was as a "supply" city to the mining camps of South Park.³ Ute Pass gave easy access to the mountain mining camps which were a major factor in founding Colorado City as a supply point.⁴

On 26 February, 1861, Congress created the territory of Colorado.⁵ This was two years after the establishment of Colorado City. From 1861 to 1876 Colorado was a colony of the United States.⁶ (Another interesting fact about Colorado is that the territory was the same size as the state is now: 300 miles wide by 400 miles in length.⁷) For 15 years Colorado was a territory before being admitted to the Union as a state. For six of those 15 years the meeting place of the Colorado territorial legislative assembly was not permanently fixed. This situation resulted in a tremendous rivalry among Denver, Golden and Colorado City.⁸ Each one hoped to become the biggest, the best, and--~~to~~ its merchants and speculators-- the richest. Nothing could possibly insure success like getting a railroad connection or serving as the territorial capital.⁹

Colorado City was not very large and never very prominent; however, it did serve as territorial capital for a single season.¹⁰ In 1861, Colorado's first territorial governor, William Gilpin, designated Denver as the site for the first territorial assembly; Colorado City was chosen as the second site. Thus Colorado City served as the territorial capital for a single season in 1862.¹¹

The second session of the territorial legislature convened at Colorado City on Monday, 7 July, 1862.¹² When the members of the legislature arrived they could not find a place to spend the night as there was no hotel in the city (which ~~was the only place in the city~~

had a population of 1,000). Finally, however, the legislators did find a three-room log cabin. One room served as a lobby, one for the bedroom, and a third room for the convening assembly. Finding these accommodations unsatisfactory, the members of the legislature decided to adjourn back to Denver, and three days later on 11 July, 1862, the territorial legislative assembly left Colorado City. Although the territorial legislature only stayed in ~~the~~ Colorado City for three days, it was designated the capital of the territory for the entire second session of that assembly.¹⁴

However, Colorado City was not to be discouraged from vying for the capital just because of this turn of events. As a result~~x~~, the competition for the state house kept Denver, Golden, and Colorado City ~~at odds~~ at odds for years.¹⁵ Furthermore, Denver and Golden shared the status of territorial capital until 1867 when Denver was designated the permanent ~~EX~~ capital of the Territory of Colorado.¹⁶ "Thus went out in darkness the glory of Colorado City as capital of the Territory of Colorado."¹⁷ As can be seen, Denver managed to keep the seat of territorial government despite attempts made by Golden and Colorado City. In the end, Denver triumphed over both her rivals by becoming not only the territorial capital but also the state capital.¹⁸

Colorado Territory had a struggle in its attempt to gain statehood. In 1864 Colorado voters turned down statehood ~~because~~ for fear of taxes and military conscription. Congress then denied statehood to Colorado in 1865 and 1866.¹⁹ Governor Evans, the second territorial governor of Colorado, made one more attempt ~~for~~ ~~statehood~~ in 1868 and he failed, due to the treachery of Henry Moore ~~Teller~~ Teller, a lawyer from Central City. Henry Moore ~~Teller~~ Teller wanted to be a senator and since he did not obtain the position he opposed Governor Evans and lied to Congress, stating that Colorado did not have 75,000 in population (the statehood requirements). Needless to say, Congress believed ^{Moore} Teller and not the governor. After this crushing defeat, the statehood of Colorado was a dead issue for several years.²⁰

It was purely by chance that Colorado came into the Union while the nation was celebrating its one hundredth birthday. Colorado was declared the thirty-eighth state on 1 August, 1876.²¹ Governor Routt, the first state governor, designated July 4 as Colorado Statehood Day.²²

The original state constitution did not give women the right to vote ~~because~~^{because} Colorado feared it was too controversial for admission as a state. Therefore, a compromise was made in the original constitution which gave women equal voting rights in all school districts and further^{stated} that a women's suffrage law would be put to a popular vote the following session. Not to be discouraged, the women of Colorado obtained their right to vote in 1893. Colorado was the second state to give women the right to vote, the first being Wyoming.²³

Back to Colorado City, which always maintained a "Never admit defeat" attitude. Colorado City was the site of the first transcontinental telegraph, built in 1861. It served as county seat until 1872. It had its own railroad, the Midland, and by the turn of the century had its own reduction mills for Cripple Creek gold.²⁴

Actually, Colorado City had four reduction mills for the mines of Cripple Creek. In 1903-1904, it again came into prominence with the mill workers' strike. The mill workers went on strike for \$3.00 a day wage. This strike made headlines across the state because of how it affected Colorado's mining industry.²⁵ The final outcome of the strike is not important; what is paramount is Colorado City's contribution to the mining industry and to the state of Colorado. Colorado City was a frontier town that strove for first place and never settled for second best.

Colorado City fought for its own existence against Colorado Springs. As the gold production in Cripple Creek began to drop in 1913, so did the dust begin to settle on the glory and aspirations of Colorado City. In 1914 a joint commission was appointed to investigate the possibilities of annexing Colorado City to Colorado

APPENDIX A

Mayors of Colorado City
(Taken from Ordinances
of Colorado City)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PRESIDENT or MAYOR</u>
1871	Adam G. Hill
1872	A.G. Hill
1873	Emile Gehring
1874	A.G. Hill
1875	A. Bott
1876	"
1877	"
1878	A. Everhart
1879	"
1880	R. Quimby
1881	Oscar Everhart
1882	Chas. Stockbridge
1883	"
1884	A.G. Hill
1885	Chas. Stockbridge
1886	"
1887	M.A. Mahany
28 June, 1887 *	Chas. Stockbridge
1888	A.J. Brazelton
1889	Chas. Stockbridge
1890	C.R. Ammerman
1891	Chas. Stockbridge.
1892	J.D. Faulkner
1893	"
1894	O.F. Ingraham
1895	Squire Pond
1896	Henry D.L. Morse

* called Mayor instead of President of Trustees

FOOTNOTES

1. Hafen, Our State Colorado, p. 118.
2. Griswold, Colorado's Century of Cities, p. 44.
3. Sprague, Newport in the Rockies, p. 15
4. Griswold, op. cit., p. 45.
5. Craig, Craig's Brief History of Colorado, p. 66.
6. Sprague, A Colorado History, p. 139.
7. Ibid, p. 31.
8. Athearn, Centennial Colorado, p. 45.
9. Ibid.
10. Ubbelohde, A Colorado History, p. 181.
11. Ibid.
12. Hull, History of the State of Colorado, p. 292.
13. Fritz, Colorado the Centennial State, p. 100.
14. Hull, op. cit., p. 203.
15. KK Athearn, ibid.
16. Sprague, op.cit., p. 47.
17. Hull, ibid.
18. Athearn, ibid.
19. Sprague, op. cit., p. 45.
20. Ibid, p. 147.
21. Ibid, p. ~~147~~ 45.
22. Ibid.
23. Chapman, The Story of Colorado, p. 112.
24. Sprague, Newport in the Rockies, p. 48.
25. Athearn, op.cit., p. 46.
26. Gazette Telegraph, 21 Feb., 1914.
27. Ibid, 10 Dec., 1914.
28. Ibid, 24 Jan., 1915.
29. Ibid, 26 Feb., 1915.
30. Ibid, 25 Feb., 1915.
31. Ibid, 1 April, 1917.
32. Ibid, K 4 April, 1917.

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