

Freemasonry in 'Pike's Peak Country'

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Illustrative of the American character, it has been said that if a dozen were gathered anywhere, even at the most distant portion of the globe, that they would be found at the earliest possible moment framing a constitution and making laws for self-government.

— 'Historical Colorado: Twenty-Eight Years of Progress,'
The Magazine of American History, Vol. XV (1886), 435.

It was an uncontrollable eruption – a great river of human life rolling toward the setting sun – at once a triumph and a prophecy.

— A. D. Richardson, *Beyond the Mississippi* (Hartford, CT:
American Publishing Co., 1867), 158.

BY THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY, THE REGION NOW KNOWN AS COLORADO was still unsettled. The Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Ute, Navajo, and the fearsome Comanche, among other tribes, remained active in the region, covering an area from modern-day Texas to Nebraska and beyond: Indian country, vast, disorienting prairies beneath unpredictable mountains where the sky swallowed everything and men disappeared.

By the latter 1850s, tales of gold excited exploration, and ultimately settlement, of the eastern plains just shy of the continental divide. They came from Georgia, Kansas,



Fig. 1. The westward expansion of the United States showing the area of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Courtesy of the National Atlas of the United States

Nebraska, Missouri, California, from as far afield as destiny could reach, to pan the stre-ambeds and stake their claims. Municipality inevitably followed, felling the forests and carving up the land into the exacting patterns settlement required. With development came administration, with adjudication came law. And alongside the constitutions self-assembly necessarily enumerated, in the very elections that stratified the unruly crowd into self-governable units – in the tempering of passions that imposed will like a wedge – the great light of Masonry shone, stringing lamps along the placer, up into the shadow of the mountains.

In 1806, by order of President Jefferson, Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1779 – 1813),¹ member of Lodge No. 3 in Philadelphia, PA, set out to map the Louisiana Purchase, a roughly 828,000 square-mile swath stretching north-northwest from the Gulf of Mexico up into Canada. His name still adorns Pike’s Peak outside of modern-day Colorado Springs and, until statehood was attained in 1876, the region now known as Colorado

¹ Zebulon Pike was a distant cousin of the famed Freemason, Albert Pike (1809–91). Both were descendants of John Pike (1613–88/89) who founded Woodbridge Township in New Jersey. His father, also John Pike (1572–1654), was part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony of 1635. Zebulon fell fighting the British at the Battle of York in 1813.

was widely referred to by his eponym, 'Pike's Peak country.' Pike also recorded one of the earliest reports of gold discovered in the region.²

By the early 1850s, prospectors were turning away from California. Rumors of 'the colour' in the Rockies drew some explorers from the beaten track, down from Fort Laramie, WY, to the north, and from the Santa Fe Trail to the south, to brave the granite-tipped high-ground of the Rockies, but reports were faltering. Two such occasions, however, are important for our purposes here. The first concerns discoveries made by a band of Cherokees emigrating west, whose reports of 'flake' discovered in the streambeds around modern-day Denver reached certain contacts in Georgia. The second was an expedition by the War Department in 1857, sent to hunt down the Cheyenne. Robert Morris Peck, a member of *E* and *K* Companies of the First Calvary, reported meeting a group of Missourians who had discovered ample gold in 1856–7.³ One of the scouts working with his expedition, a Delaware Indian known as Fall Leaf, brought flake and a few ingots back with him when he returned to his reservation in eastern Kansas. Both these reports stirred inspiration, which motivated action.

In 1858, on reports from Cherokee contacts, William Green Russell, member of Blue Mountain Lodge No. 38, of Dahlonega, GA,⁴ organized a party to search for gold in Pike's Peak country.

My opinion that rich mineral treasures lay concealed in the Rocky Mountains had been strengthened in the meantime by numerous letters written by natives of Georgia, who had emigrated to Western Arkansas and the Indian Territory. They stated that some of the Cherokees had found gold at different points in the South Platte Valley, in 1850 and 1852.

When I left Eastern Kansas on the Southern or Arkansas route, my company numbered eighteen. But on the way we fell in with a party of Cherokees, and a company

² After his capture by Mexican soldiers, Pike met trapper James Purcell in Santa Fe. Pike claims Purcell presented ingots of gold discovered in what is now Colorado as early as 1804. Bespeaking the latent tenet of 'Manifest Destiny,' Pike recorded the following entry in his diary regarding Purcell: '[He was] the first American who ever penetrated the immense wilds of Louisiana [Territory] and showed the Spaniards of New Mexico that neither the savages who surrounded the deserts which divide them from the habitable world, nor the jealous tyranny of their rulers, was sufficient to prevent the enterprising spirit of the Americans from penetrating the arcanum of their rich establishments in the New World.'

³ R. M. Peck, 'Recollections of Early Times in Kansas Territory', *Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society* (Topeka: Geo. Clark, 1904), Vol. VIII, 484–507. As recorded by A. W. Spring, 'Rush to the Rockies, 1859: Colorado's Gold Rush of 1859', *Colorado Magazine* Vol. 36, No. 2. (Denver: State Historical Society of Colorado, April 1959), 85–86. Note, this party has disappeared into the annals of history. Peck reports they were beset by Indians, had had their cattle driven away, and were nursing one of their party who had accidentally shot himself in the hand when removing a rifle by the barrel. What ultimately became of these 'Missourians' is unknown.

⁴ See the *Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia for the Years 5854–5859* (Macon: S. Rose & Co., 1854–59). Also of note, the name 'Dahlonega,' the seat of Lumpkin County, Geo., is an anglicized form of the Cherokee word *tau-lau-ne-ca*, meaning 'yellow money'.



Fig. 2. J. Oliver Russell, the youngest of the Russell brothers.
Courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Colorado

of Missourians, who were also in search of the supposed gold, so that we numbered one hundred and one males when we reached the base of the Rocky Mountains.⁵

The Russell party arrived at the confluence of Cherry Creek and the Platte River on 23 Jun 1858,⁶ prospecting the vicinity until 6 July, when the group broke, leaving only thirteen to continue the search. Among those who stayed were Levi Jasper Russell and William McFadding, both Masons.⁷ Small placer deposits incentivized continued exertions, and the party panned up into the mountains, to the west and the north, returning

⁵ *Leavenworth Times* (Daily), Oct. 19, 1859. See *Colorado Magazine*, 88–89. Note, some sources state that the party was 104 strong. See *Colorado Magazine*, 88.

⁶ *Colorado Magazine*, 88. Interestingly, in his *History of Denver*, Smiley recorded 24 June (St John's Day). See J. C. Smiley (Ed.), *History of Denver with Outlines of the Earlier History of the Rocky Mountain Country* (Denver: Times-Sun Publishing Co., 1901), 185.

⁷ *Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia for the Years 5854–5859* (Macon: S. Rose & Co., 1854–59). W. G. Russell and L. J. Russell both appear as members in 1854. From 1855–59 W. G. Russell is still listed as a member. After 1859 both have disappeared from the rolls, but Levi remained active in Colorado.

to the confluence of Cherry Creek and the Platte River in August and again in September of that year.⁸

By early October, 1858, W. Green Russell had around \$300 to \$400 worth of gold.⁹ With his youngest brother, J. Oliver, Russell set out for Georgia on 15 Oct 1858 to raise funds for expanded operations come the spring thaw.¹⁰ Levi stayed behind, along with the remainder of the party (including Masons William McFadding and R. J. Pierce), to build a cabin and survive the winter months. This cabin, the 'Russell-Smith' cabin, was likely the first tiled recess where the gentle light of Masonry was caused to shine.

Others had already arrived. Fall Leaf's discoveries had made the news around Kansas. In earnest, John Easter had organized the Lawrence party motivated by Fall Leaf's displays. They had set out to Pike's Peak country in the spring, directing their exertions south, around the Sangre de Christo mountains, and turned north after reports of the Russell party's successes – though menial – reached them, arriving on 4 September.¹¹ The Lawrence Party was the first to incorporate a township, laying out a surveyed plat north of modern-day Denver which they called 'Montana City.' On 7 September they elected Josiah Himman president of the Montana Town Company.¹² Within a few weeks fifteen to twenty small wood cabins were seen strewn between the burrow holes and the makeshift sluices churning the placer of Montana City about a mile north of where the Russell party had made their discoveries around Dry Creek and Ralston Creek. But Montana City would prove short-lived. Settlement began in earnest down by the Russell-Smith cabin, at the confluence of Cherry Creek and the Platte River.

On 10 Oct 1858, a party arrived from Iowa, under the leadership of D. C. Oakes.¹³ Then, on 20 October, a third party from Omaha. On 24 October, a party of fifty-eight arrived. Consolidated at Fort Kearney, it included men from Kansas Territory, Missouri, and Nebraska, and one woman. With them was William M. Slaughter, a Mason. On 27 October, the merchant C. H. Blake arrived with his partner, A. J. Williams, bringing a

⁸ *Colorado Magazine*, 88.

⁹ *Colorado Magazine*, 89.

¹⁰ *Colorado Magazine*, 89. Smiley says the journey was undertaken 'about October.' But the *Colorado Magazine* entry records Green Russell's own testimony, as reported in the *Leavenworth Times*, 19 Oct 1859. Note, I have not been able to ascertain J. Oliver's Masonic affiliation – at least, there is no record of his membership in his home state of Georgia. It does seem likely, though, that he was or at least became a member, because lodge meetings were regularly held in the cabin he shared with his brothers, at least until Auraria Lodge was caused to meet at Buddee & Jacobs store in Oct 1859.

¹¹ J. C. Smiley (Ed.), *History of Denver with Outlines of the Earlier History of the Rocky Mountain Country* (Denver: Times-Sun Publishing Co., 1901), 190.

¹² H. E. Bromwell, *Fiftyminers' Directory, Colorado Argonauts of 1858–1859* (Denver, 1926), Vol. 1.

¹³ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 192. Note that Bromwell states 'Daniel C. Oakes (or a close relative with the same initials) appears in the *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Iowa* in 1853. If he was a Mason, though, he does not appear on the record in Colorado. Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'Oakes, Daniel C.' entry.

‘considerable stock of mining-camp merchandise.’¹⁴ Blake was a Mason (after whom Blake St in present-day Denver is named), and would become the Senior Warden of the first lawfully constituted lodge, under dispensation, in 1859. By the end of the month more had come in, including Henry Allen, leader of a party from Council Bluffs, IA, Junior Warden of Bluff City Lodge No. 71.¹⁵ Henry Allen appears to have been very active in formalizing Freemasonry among the frontiersmen and was a principal force behind the move to statehood (albeit preferring the name ‘Jefferson’ to what would become ‘Colorado’). Allen would be appointed the first Master of Auraria Lodge under dispensation, 15 Aug 1859. He also appears to have served as Master of Arapahoe Lodge, operating a time immemorial right before dispensation was received and the name changed.

Levi Russell, the first prospector to settle in the area, records the dramatic change come the autumn of 1858. In early October, he was returning from Fort Garland¹⁶ with supplies for the winter. Upon his return he recalled the following:¹⁷

When I got back from Fort Garland – having gone on ahead of the others – past the middle of October, I found the [Russell] cabin finished except the Chimney, and occupied by the builders, with some Arapahoe Indians camped nearby. . . . I also found that during my absence a considerable party headed by D. C. Oakes had come up the Platte from Omaha and joined our camp. Other parties soon came in, among them being Henry Allen, William Slaughter and – I think – Andrew Sagendorf. Upon my return our double cabin was the only structure on either side of Cherry Creek, and no other was begun until we started to organize a town company, which we did in a few days.

It is exemplary that the three names he recalls – Henry Allen, William Slaughter, and Andrew Sagendorf – were Masons.¹⁸

¹⁴ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 193.

¹⁵ See *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Iowa of the Most Ancient and Right honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, at its Several Grand Annual Communications, From A. L. 5859 to A. L. 5863, Inclusive* (Iowa City: Grand Lodge of Iowa, 1863), Vol. 111, 96. Henry Allen is listed as Junior Warden of Bluff City Lodge No. 71 as part of the Returns of Subordinate Lodges, dated 7 Jun 1859. Thus, Henry Allen was most probably Junior Warden when he arrived at ‘Cherry Creek.’ Note, George Buyers Clark has his home lodge as Chariton Lodge No. 63, in Chariton Iowa, with a date of initiation of 1855. See G. B. Clarke. *Masonry Came to Colorado 1858–1956* (Denver: Grand Lodge of Colo., 1961), 5.

¹⁶ Fort Garland was an outpost in the Sangre de Cristo mountains near the New Mexico border, about 25 miles east of present-day Alamosa, Colo. In 1868, Fort Garland was briefly under the command of the famous frontiersman, Christopher Houston ‘Kit’ Carson, member of Bent Lodge No. 42, in Taos, New Mex., shortly before his death, 23 May 23 1868 at Fort Lyon, Colo.

¹⁷ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 192.

¹⁸ ‘D. C. Oakes’ is listed as ‘tyler’ for Dewitt Lodge U. D., Dewitt, Iowa, in the *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Iowa in 1852. Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Iowa of the Most Ancient and Right Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons at its Several Grand Annual Communications From A. L. 5844 to A. L. 5853, Inclusive* (Muscatine: Raymond, Foster & Eystra, 1858), 437. If this is the same Daniel C. Oakes, then his involvement with the fraternity appears short-lived. There is no further record of him in either the Grand Lodge of Iowa or Colorado.

By early December 1858, it is estimated 250 to 300 people had taken up settlement at the confluence of Cherry Creek and the Platte River. Masonic communication arose almost contemporaneously. Probably by early November, a group of Masons had established the requisite number and a regularity of proceeding (if not a regularity in recognition), operating a 'time immemorial' right. History records three accounts of the first meeting of Masons in what would become Colorado.¹⁹ The first is recorded by George Buyers Clarke, the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, and published from testimony given by the watchmaker, J. D. Ramage (member of Catarauqui Lodge, at Kingston, Canada)²⁰ who, according to his recollection, arrived at 'Cherry Creek' on 3 Nov 1858:²¹

After retiring that evening, we heard someone calling out, 'Ho, that tent there.' One of the boys got up and asked if he were calling to us and he replied that there was a man in the tent whom he would like to see, and at the same time making use of a Masonic expression. I then arose and went out. Our caller proved to be Bro. Henry Allen, afterwards Master of [Denver] No. 5. He told us that there were five Masons meeting in his cabin that evening and, having heard that I was a Mason, they invited me to attend.

I accompanied Bro. Allen to his abode, and there found Bros. W. M. Slaughter, Charles Blake, Dr. [Levi] Russell, Andrew Sagendorf and, I think, George Lehow.²² These brethren, together with Bro. Allen and myself, made the first seven Masons, according to my knowledge and my belief, who ever met in Colorado, having in contemplation the application for a Charter, and a seven who stuck together, as Masons should, through thick and thin.

The second account was recorded in a letter by Andrew Sagendorf which was relayed by H. W. Woodward, Grand Master, in his address 'Conditions of the Craft,' given at the fifty-second Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado in 1912:²³

In the early settlement of what is known as Denver, the Masonic Brethren frequently came together and held informal meetings. These meetings, of course, were without warrant or authority of any Grand Lodge claiming jurisdiction over the then Terri-

¹⁹ Bromwell relays a fourth account: 'The [Rocky Mountain News] Apr 8, 1889, states that [McFadding], with D. D. Hoage, Mr. Green, James Winchester, Henry Allen, Robert B. Willis, Andrew Sagendorf, met at the cabin of Dr. L. J. Russell in Auraria on Ferry Street, just below Blake, on an evening in Dec 1858 when for the first time Masons met together in solemn council in the Pike's Peak Region.' See Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'McFadding' entry. However, at the time of press, I have yet been unable to corroborate this source.

²⁰ Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'Ramage' entry.

²¹ Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 2.

²² Geo. Byers Clark suggests this is an error, and that Ramage meant Oscar E. Lehow. Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 3.

²³ 'Report of Committee on Proceedings of Grand Lodges 1913', *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky F. and A.M., One Hundred and Thirteenth Annual Communication held in Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 21, 22, and 23, 1913* (Louisville: Ky. Masonic Home Printing Office. 1913), 11–12.

tory, known as 'Pike's Peak' county; but all the safeguards of the Fraternity were as vigilantly observed as they are today.

In answer to a personal inquiry upon the subject, Brother Andrew Sagendorf, Past Grand Master of Colorado, writes as follows concerning the first inception of Masonry in the Rocky Mountain region:

'The first meeting of Masonry in Denver was held in W. G. Russell's cabin on Perry Street, near the site of the first bridge, early in November, 1858. The exact date I cannot give. Of those present I remember Jim Winchester, Bob Willis, Henry Allen, Judge Slaughter, Samuel Bates, W. G. Russell,²⁴ C. H. Blake, O. E. Lehow, J. D. Ramage and myself. Doubtless there were others present, whose names I am now unable to recall. Brother Winchester presided at that meeting; but as he was absent much of the time, Bro. Henry Allen generally occupied the Worshipful Master's station. No stated time or place of meeting was observed; it was generally once a week and at the most secure and convenient cabin.'

The third account of the historic beginnings of formalized Masonry in Colorado was given by A. E. Pearce at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Colorado Pioneers, in Denver, 13 Dec 1898:²⁵

It may be of interest to some to note that the first Masonic meeting was held in a log cabin owned by Sagendorf & Lehow, December 10, 1858. In the same place a banquet was served to commemorate St John's day. There were present at this meeting Andrew Sagendorf, O. E. Lehow, 'Jim' Winchester, 'Bob' Willis, James Ramage, Dr. L. J. Russell and 'Jim' Pierce. Possibly one or two others whose names I have not obtained.

It is probable that the early November date is the more accurate, since J. D. Ramage is recorded as opening his shop, a wood cabin where he also dwelt, in 'early December,' which would take time to construct despite the ample timber available, and his memory records him being hailed from his tent.²⁶ (Since something like a St John's Day 'banquet' would likely be a memorable event upon the frontier, it's possible that A. E. Pearce relayed the first meeting of which he was a part or of which he had heard.)²⁷ Among these names listed in all three accounts of the meeting, we note a good proportion of Masons who were part of the Russell Party and were integral to the founding of Auraria. The first meeting of the Auraria Town Company would be held just three days later, on 6 Nov 1858.

²⁴ This probably should be Dr Levi J. Russell, as reported by J. D. Ramage, since W. G. Russell was bound for Georgia with his other brother, Oliver, in early November.

²⁵ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 233.

²⁶ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 193.

²⁷ The St John's Day Feast is also recorded by Geo. Byers Clark: 'When December 27 of 1858 came, there arose in the little Auraria group the true Masonic desire to celebrate St John's Day in fitting manner. A sumptuous dinner was prepared for the twenty-six Masons who had now arrived. The story of this banquet has become a classic in Colorado Masonic history. The room – a sixteen-by-sixteen-foot cabin; tablecloth – a clean sheet borrowed from a Mormon family recently arrived; chairs – none; menu – pork, beans, biscuits, coffee, wild game. But it was a St John's Day Feast, regularly celebrated for the first time in this prairie wilderness.' Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 4.

Table 1. Three Accounts of the Attendees and Date of the First Masonic Meeting in 'Auraria', now Denver, CO.

J. D. RAMAGE <i>3 November 1858</i>	ANDREW SAGENDORF <i>Early November 1858</i>	A. E. PEARCE <i>10 December 1858</i>
W. M. Slaughter	Jim Winchester, WM	Andrew Sagendorf
Charles Blake	Bob Willis	O. E. Lehow
Dr Russell	Henry Allen	'Jim' Winchester
Andrew Sagendorf	Judge Slaughter	'Bob' Willis
George Lehow*	Samuel Bates	James Ramage
J. D. Ramage	W. G. Russell**	Dr L. J. Russell
Henry Allen	C. H. Blake	'Jim' Pierce
	O. E. Lehow	('Possibly one or two others')
	J. D. Ramage	
	Andrew Sagendorf	
	(and doubtless others')	

*This is probably an error. George Buyers Clark states that it should be Oscar Lehow, not George, consonant with Sagendorf's recollection. See Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 3.

**This must be an error. W. G. Russell was already en route back to Georgia with J. Oliver Russell to commandeer supplies. By his own account he left 15 Oct 1858. It is most likely that Sagendorf meant Levi Russell.

St Charles and Auraria Townships

By late October 1858 two townships had been incorporated at the confluence of Cherry Creek and the Platte River.²⁸ The first was St Charles, founded by men from the Lawrence Party who determined that the location east of Cherry Creek would be more suitable than the small settlement they had begun at 'Montana' for their new enterprise. This area was rich with silt and sheltered by a good stand of cottonwoods.²⁹

The first record shows 24 Sept 1858 as the date of incorporation of St Charles.³⁰ By 2 October they had succeeded in surveying a 640-acre parcel. They staked their claim (near the corner of what is now 14th and Larimer Streets), marked the 'city' with a four log 'improvement,' adopted bylaws and elected their officers. There were nine initial

²⁸ The first town proper in the area was 'Montana City,' situated north of the confluence, and about a mile north of the placer camp originally undertaken by the Russell Party. But Montana was short-lived. Its main proponents, recognizing the confluence as a better place for a township, staked their claim for St Charles there and used verbatim the same constitution they had in originating Montana.

²⁹ This location is mentioned in numerous sources of the period due to the large cottonwoods there. Apparently, it was a favoured camping ground for trappers, traders, and Indians.

³⁰ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 199.

stockholders of the town (none of whom are known to be Masons), including two trappers who had resided as traders in the region, William McGaa (aka Jack Jones) and John Simpson Smith. McGaa and Smith were 'squaw men';³¹ both had taken Cheyanne brides and lived by trading in the region – their participation was deemed essential to stave off incursions by the Cheyanne and Arapahoe. But their self-interest should not be underestimated – both McGaa and Smith appear prominent in all three townships incorporated in the region of modern-day Denver.

The seven Lawrence men elected to head back to Kansas, to return in Spring (and thus avoid the harsh winter on the frontier). Their reasoning included acquiring a formal charter for their township from the Governor.³² They left 'St Charles,' a fledgling claim, in the hands of McGaa and Smith. This was a mistake: Both Smith and McGaa were active with the Russell party which had settled on the western side of Cherry Creek. Smith and McGaa would become equally active with the Denver City Town Company in short order.³³

En route to Lawrence, Kansas, the Lawrence Party passed by a multitude of other parties traveling the Arkansas river, heading for Pike's Peak country. Perhaps realizing the danger, they sent back Charles Nichols to build a dwelling upon their claim and encourage settlement within its borders. But, upon his arrival, Nichols' efforts were unfruitful. Without the benefit of a network to familiarize himself he remained a stranger and

³¹ A contemptuous term used to refer to a white or other non-Indian man married to a North American Indian woman.

³² In 1855 Kansas Territory had recognized 'Pike's Peak country' as 'Arapahoe County.' However, this was nonetheless Indian land. There was no real legal claim to the land at all. It wasn't until the signing of the Treaty of Fort Wise at Bent's Fort in 1861 that the Cheyanne and Arapahoe would formally cede their lands. Thus, it is unclear why a charter from the Governor of Kansas would really aid their claim, other than perhaps as added ethos to stave off competition, and, perhaps, as a ready reason to vacate the frontier in winter for more commodious and orderly surroundings back in the 'States.'

³³ There is an enjoyable account of these two figures preserved on the record by E. P. Stout (after whom Stout St in Denver takes its name) who arrived at 'the mouth of the Creek' on 26 October 1858: 'We were met by "Jack Jones" [William McGaa] and John Smith, traders with the Cheyanne and Arapahoe Indians, who were living on the site of Denver. That evening these two traders invited us to visit them and feast with them. We did so, and were treated to a good meal provided by Jones' squaw "wife." It would start off with a hot whiskey stew made from whiskey distilled from wheat, and called "Taos Lightning." From the effect it produced on Jones and Smith, one would readily have concluded that it was a genuine article of fighting whiskey. When it began to take effect those two gentlemen seemed to be seized with a fiendish desire to slaughter one another; and with their Colt's revolvers commenced a rapid fusillade upon each other. As that kind of entertainment was rather too vigorous for us "tender-feet", we managed to slide out through the darkness, making our way to our own tents, leaving our hosts to the tender mercies of each other, and expecting to find next morning both of them riddled with bullets. On the contrary, before the sun was fairly up both of these gentlemen came over to our tents to apologize in the most humble and contrite manner for the disgraceful and humiliating spectacle they had made of themselves before their invited guests. We came to the conclusion that it had been merely an effort on their part to impress us innocents abroad with their wonderful bravery.' See Smiley, *History of Denver*, 193. McGaa is something of a tragic figure. The street named after him would be renamed and he would perish in the city jail while locked up for public drunkenness in 1867.

proved unable to secure assistance in building a cabin (the four log improvement was not sufficient to ward off claim jumpers) and ultimately failed to commandeer necessary resources. In the several months of the St Charles stockholders' absence, the entire interest of St Charles was subsumed – 'jumped' by zealous promoters under the leadership of General William Larimer, Jr., after whom Larimer St in Denver is presently named.

Our Masonic brethren, however, were more successful on the other side of Cherry Creek. While their incorporation of Auraria was second to St Charles, the records preserved show a more practiced hand at administration of the social contract. In his *History of Denver*, Smiley specifically notes this distinction, writing that '[t]he record of the Auraria Town Company is well-kept, in neat, legible handwriting and in good form. It affords evidence of systematic, business-like methods, and of an intention to promote the common welfare by affording all who were then here an opportunity to unite in common action. In these features there is a marked contrast to some of those appearing in the record of the "St Charles" enterprise.'³⁴

On 30 October 1858, the parties camped on the west side of Cherry Creek met and formed the Auraria Town Company, choosing the name 'Auraria' from the Latin word for gold. Bro. William McFadding was elected to chair the meeting. The well-kept Minutes were the product of A. J. Smith.³⁵

McFadding and Dr. Russell were members of the committee charged with drafting the bylaws of the corporation.³⁶ One wonders if their ready recitals of the officers' duties may have assisted in their drafting the terms. (The 'Constitution of the Auraria Town Company' stated, in Article 4, that '[i]t shall be the duty of the President to preside over the meetings of the Board, to preserve order, and likewise to sign all certificates of shares, and to discharge all duties usually devolving upon the President of meetings and companies.' And the duties of the Secretary included, *inter alia*: 'Keep a record of all documents and papers relating to Town property, and to notify stockholders of all assessments and when to be paid.')

It is interesting to note that McGaa and Smith, who were meant to be tending to the St Charles interests, also became immediate stockholders in the Auraria Town Company. Of course, their relations with the Arapahoe Indians were deemed essential in maintaining the claims to the land.³⁷

At the first election of officers for the Auraria Town Company, held on 6 Nov 1858, just three days after Ramage's account of the first meeting of Masons in the region, McFad-

³⁴ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 206.

³⁵ Note, this is not the same Smith who was Secretary of Auraria Lodge, H. P. A. Smith, who was a Judge who also served as Secretary for the Denver City Town Corporation.

³⁶ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 206.

³⁷ Legally speaking, there was no right to the land that could be levied without the consent of the tribes. Treaty had divested any European claim to the region.

ding was voted in as president (with 84 votes), Dr. Levi Russell was voted in as Secretary (with 84 votes), and Henry Allen was voted in as Director (with 84 votes). J. H. Dudley, voted in as Vice President, may have been a Mason, too, although I have not been able to confirm this. However, he did share a cabin with Andrew Sagendorf, who was a Mason. Sagendorf's cabin was regularly used for the early meetings of Auraria Lodge (then 'Arapahoe Lodge'). Thus, if Dudley were not a Mason, such use of his home might have been inconvenient, requiring his absence whenever the weekly meetings happened to be called there.³⁸ The 'Judge of the Election' was William Slaughter, also a founding member of Auraria Lodge. Thus, we see Masons organizing the first lodge as well as the first township proper, contemporaneously.

In 1860 the most valuable land in the region was located in Auraria, valued at \$1,500 to \$2,000 a lot.³⁹ It is interesting to note an entry in Smiley's *History of Denver* regarding the emergence of the rival 'Denver City' that would be established over the St Charles claim across Cherry Creek. Smiley notes, "Denver City" was in fact, a little frontier business enterprise in real estate, and was the first distinctive, successful movement of that kind on the South Platte; the Aurarian proceedings having had more of the brotherly love element in them.⁴⁰

It is probable that several more members and residents in Auraria were members of the Fraternity. Henry Allen, for example, a principal organizer of the early Craft in Colorado, is not recorded on the rolls of the Grand Lodge upon its first annual communication, having already left the area. L. J. Winchester is also conspicuously absent. There is no record of Albert Buddee or Abraham Jacobs extant, either. Records were not well preserved before the formal chartering of the Grand Lodge in 1861. And those records of Auraria Lodge's earliest days were lost when 3 Mar 1864 when an arsonist set 1614 Welton Street ablaze. It seems likely, then, others who were no longer active after these early days were not recorded among the formalized entries during the 1861 constitution of the Grand Lodge.

Denver City

The interests of St Charles were left in the hands of a man who sold out to the 'Denver Town Company.' Hollister, *Mines of Colorado*.⁴¹

³⁸ The Russell and Allen cabins are also recorded as meeting places in these early days. See e.g. Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 3.

³⁹ Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'Auraria, or Auraria City' entry.

⁴⁰ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 218.

⁴¹ O. J. Hollister, *The Mines of Colorado* (Springfield, MA: Samuel Bowles & Co. 1867), 21.

Table 2. List of Stockholders of the Auraria T. Co., Nov. 1, A.D. 1858

Henry Allen*	Theodore Herring	James B. Reed
John D. Baker	D. D. Hoag*	Wm. Regan
A. H. Barker*	Roswell Hutchins*	Jarvis Richardson
F. Bartrof	Charles Johnson*	Solomon Roe
Samuel Bates*	John Kane	Wm. Roland
E. W. Bigelow	Frank K. Kast	S. M. Rooker
Charles Blake*	Christian Kelber	L. J. Russell*
Giles Blood	John Kinna	W. J. Russell*
W. R. Blore	Noel Lajueneese	J. O. Russell**
Joseph Brown	James Lee	A. Sagendorf*
Hayman Chapman	Oscar E. Lehow*	James C. Sanders
H. B. Chubbuck	W. H. Longsdorf	Philip Scheerer
W. H. Clarke	James Lowry	E. B. Shorpe
J. H. Clarke**	J. F. Masterson	W. M. Slaughter*
J. N. Cochran	George Maus	W. A. Smith
G. W. Coffman	— McCaslin	Andrew J. Smith**
Wm. Cole	Wm. A. McFadding*	John S. Smith‡
James R. Compton	Wm. McGaw [McGaa]‡	Henry Springer
E. H. Conart	Wm. McKimmons	John J. Stanley
J. Conner	Wm. D. McLain	W. Starring
J. C. Cotton	Nicholas Migel	Charles M. Steinberger
Judson H. Dudley	Austin R. Mills	F. B. Steinberger
H. Earl	J. D. O'Connell	Moses Stocking
John Easter	John F. Palmer	E. P. Stout
W. R. English	John Pander	Matthew Teed
Theodore Fetts	J. T. Parkinson	Luke D. Tierney
Wm S. Foster	Phillip E. Peers	H. Tozier
Geo. Fuller	J. H. Pierce**	A. Viele
James Gordon	R. J. Pierce**	James F. White
A. F. Graeter	Louis Pilcher	A. J. Williams**
Hiram J. Graham	Thomas Pollock	A. C. Wright
John Granfred	Michel Leo Prance	V. W. Young
John Graves*	A. H. Ramsdale	
Fred Grider	J. W. Reed	

‡ denotes St Charles stockholder * denotes known Mason ** denotes potential Mason

From Smiley, *History of Denver*, 208

St Charles received incorporation by Act of the Kansas Territorial Legislature on 11 February 1859. In so doing, it became the only township lawfully incorporated in the region.⁴² Ironically, it is also the only township never to exist.

A day after the Leavenworth Party arrived at Cherry Creek on 16 Nov 1858, having spent the night with William McGaa and John Smith (who were meant to be protecting the St Charles' interest), and after indulging in a pot of frontier whisky brewed by their hosts, all the secrets of the St Charles enterprise were liberally shared and the St Charles claim, lacking any substantial building to warrant its existence, was unceremoniously 'jumped.'⁴³ Concurrently, the Denver City Town Company sprang into existence. Attempts by Charles Nichols, sent back to protect the St Charles interest from such a situation, were faltering. E. P. Stout relays that, 'Nichols was notified that at his next attempt to make trouble a rope and noose would be used on him.'⁴⁴ In such recollection, we see the distinction in noting the 'brotherly love element' across the river, cited above.

The Denver City Town Company records are a hodgepodge of entries, unsystematic and undated in many instances, 'not so systematically kept as that of the Aurarians and there is considerable confusion in the entries.'⁴⁵ Of the forty-one original stockholders recorded in Book A of the Arapahoe County Records of Deeds,⁴⁶ Charles Blake, H. P. A. Smith, and L. J. Winchester are known to have been Freemasons.

The Leavenworth Party had arrived with members deputized by the Kansas Territory to organize Arapahoe County, including H. P. A. Smith, appointed as Probate Judge.⁴⁷ The Party included men practiced in real estate speculation, including General William Larimer, Jr., an 'experienced town promotor.'⁴⁸ Their mission was clear. They had decided to name their settlement after the Governor of Kansas Territory, General James William Denver, perhaps as an inspiration to validate recognition of their claim by the legislature of Kansas Territory.⁴⁹ E. W. Wynkoop, the Arapahoe County Sherriff, after whom Wynkoop St in Denver is presently named, was deployed to Lawrence Kansas in hopes of obtaining an official charter for the newly plotted Denver City and to print the stock certificates necessary for transacting the interests among the members. However, he was

⁴² Technically speaking, in light of Indian claims to the land and outstanding treaties, there was probably no lawful incorporation in any of it.

⁴³ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 214.

⁴⁴ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 213.

⁴⁵ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 214.

⁴⁶ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 215.

⁴⁷ 'An Inventory of the Records of The Auraria Town Company', Collection Mss. 00023 (Library of the Colorado Historical Society: Feb. 1993), 7.

⁴⁸ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 215.

⁴⁹ Denver resigned as Governor on 10 Oct 1859 during the Bloody Kansas Border Wars over the question of Kansas becoming a slave state (Denver fought for the Union in the ensuing Civil War). One of his last acts was to commission the three officers of 'Arapahoe County' dispatched to organize the region.

Table 3. Denver City Town Company Stockholders, Autumn 1858

Bassett, P. T.	Hemmenway, S. O.	Reed, J. B.
Blake, Chas. A.*	Jewett, M. M.	Rodgers, H.
Brindell, W.	Kunkel, A. S.	Russell, Wm. H. ³
Churchill, John A.‡	Latimer, Wm., Jr.	Smith, H. P. A.*
Clancey, William	Latimer, W. H. H.	Smith, John S.‡
Cobb, F. M.	Lawrence, Chas A.	Stevens, R. S.
Courtwright, Richard	McCubben, J. L.	Stout, E. P.
Curtis, Samuel S.	McDugall, George	Totten, O. B.
Dickson, T. C.‡	McGaa, William‡	Walsh, H. S.
Dorsett, Folsom	McGargill, James	Welton, N. H.
Dudley, J. H.	Mitchell, David	Whittsitt, R. E.
Ferguson, Levi	Nicholls, Chas.‡	Winchester, L. J.*
French, A.‡	Parkinson, J. T.	Wynkoop, E. W.
Fuller, Geor. W.	Peers, Phillip E.	

‡ denotes St Charles stockholder * denotes Mason

Notes for the above table: 1) 'Blake, Chas. A.' This is probably a transcription or original error in the handwritten notes, and should read 'Chas. H. Blake'; 2) 'Russell, Wm. H.' This is a different Wm. Russell – Wm. H. Russell (1812–1872) ran the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company, a stagecoach.

unable to exert precedence over the charter already submitted by Adnah French and the St Charles men who had petitioned the legislature previously; which petition, winding through the bureaucracy of the age, would issue by act of the Territorial Legislature on 11 Feb 1859. Signed by A. Larzalere, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and C. W. Babcock, President of the Council, St Charles was the first and only lawfully constituted township to exist in the region.

His official determination thwarted, Wynkoop dissembled. He vied to position himself, General Larimer, Jr., and Charles Lawrence in the St Charles's corporation. The agreement entered with French, President of the St Charles Town Company, stipulated no further action would be taken on the plotted land until the St Charles contingent returned later in the coming Spring. With the St Charles men palliated, Wynkoop returned to Cherry Creek. If in fact Wynkoop did make any representations to the Denver City enterprise regarding St Charles' soon-to-be lawful incorporation and senior claim to the land, he must have been ignored. When French and his associates returned in June 1859, they found a bustling township already in place. Despite their senior claim to the land and a lawful warrant, there was deemed no actionable remedy available: innocent third-party

transactions had already occurred. The St Charles men's protestations ultimately yielded. The last entry in the corporate records of the St Charles Company denotes the resignation of French as President on 24 Oct 1859.

It should be noted that while H. P. A. Smith served as secretary for the Denver City Town Company, his position was somewhat redundant to the Secretary for the board, William Larimer, Jr., who appears to have made most (if not all) of the pertinent corporate record.⁵⁰ H. P. A. Smith would nonetheless become an early member of Arapahoe Lodge, serving as its Secretary.

'Arapahoe' Lodge

On 17 Jan 1859, the Directors of the Auraria Town Company (comprising at least a quorum of Masons) decided to donate land to the Fraternity, and resolved that 'there be and is hereby Donated to the Masonic and Odd Fellows' Associations one lot each.'⁵¹ They also resolved to give one lot each to the first four religious societies that built churches in Auraria. Meeting in various log cabins roundabout, the first lodge was located on Cherry Street, between 2nd and 3rd Streets, until it was moved to the second story of the Buddee & Jacobs store in the Autumn of 1859,⁵² following dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory, issued 15 Aug 1859, to form Auraria Lodge U. D.

From mid-1859, in the codification of the town alongside Masonry, the historic record arrived. The first issue of the *Rocky Mountain News* was published 23 April 1859. At the top of the classified section, on page 2, an advertisement read:

MASONIC.

THE Arapahoe Lodge of F. & A. Masons meets every Saturday night at their Lodge on Cherry street Auraria. H. A. SMITH Sec, H. ALLEN, W. M. N.B. visiting brethren are respectfully invited to attend.

Organization of the Craft was represented alongside the early Auraria township, with Henry Allen serving as Master. H. A. Smith, serving as Secretary of the Denver City Town Company (if nominal to the Secretary of the Board, Wm. Larimer, Jr.), suggests that the stockholders of the rival corporations must have enjoyed some fraternal affection. Freemasonry must have provided common ground. Indeed, in his recollections of the time,

⁵⁰ Smiley specifically notes that 'All subsequent entries in the record are those of the Secretary of the Board of Directors; and Secretary H. P. A. Smith, of the Town Company proper, appears to have had nothing to do.' Smiley, *History of Denver*, 214.

⁵¹ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 249. The lodge might have been constructed quickly. Barbot claims a 'Masonic Lodge was instituted in January 1859' by Henry Allen. *Barbot's Illustrated Guide of Denver*, 34.

⁵² Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'Henry Allen' entry. Note, the entry records the lodge on Cherry St being founded on 15 Aug, but this must be an error. If 15 Aug 1858, it would precede the first meeting(s) in Allen, Russell, or Sagen-dorf's cabin. If 1859, it post-dates the ad.

J. D. Ramage stated that, 'We agreed to meet every Saturday night and as our object in locating in Colorado was to get gold (we were supposed to be out prospecting during the week) we decided that any ideas concerning the country we were in, which might come to us, news of any mines we might discover, or any information which might be beneficial to the brethren, Masonically or financially, would, at the next meeting, be given to the Masons there assembled. We had some very pleasant meetings.'⁵³ Such mutual support must have been well proved.

In addition to the prominent advertisement for 'Arapahoe Lodge' on page 2, we find at least two letters to the editor from Masons, one by H. [P.] A. Smith (about remaining hearty in the face of adversity while searching for gold) and the other by W. M. Slaughter (regarding the results of prospecting south of the city now known as Auraria). Both hinted in subtext at the reward of continued exertion and to remain in the vicinity therefor.

The press had been brought by oxcart from Omaha by William Newton Byers, who, having left 8 March 1859 with the thawing frosts, arrived forty days later, on 17 April 1859.⁵⁴ Byers was an important Nebraskan as well as Coloradoan, having surveyed and founded Omaha City. Byers was likely already a Freemason at this time (although he did not formally join Auraria Lodge until 2 February 1861.)⁵⁵ Clarke, in his *Masonry Came to Colorado*, states that Byers 'attended a meeting of the Masonic group the first night he was here.'⁵⁶

Several additional clues to Byers' affiliation are suggested in the first issue of the *Rocky Mountain News* – not least the letters to the editor from fellow Masons (that helped fill up the space) and the prominent advertisement for Arapahoe Lodge on page 2, but also perhaps among the 'Alphabetical Conundrums' he authored on page 1, a few of which may be of interest to Masons:

Why is the letter A like a meridian?
Because it is the middle of day.

... Why is the letter G like wisdom?
Because it is the beginning of greatness and goodness.

Why is the letter H, like the dying words of John Quincy Adams?
This is the end of earth.⁵⁷

⁵³ Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 3.

⁵⁴ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 247.

⁵⁵ Bromwell, *Fifty Niners*, 'William Byers' entry.

⁵⁶ Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 4.

⁵⁷ Note that in substantiating his political aspirations, John Quincy Adams had ridden the Anti-Masonic Party ticket in the 1830s and lost the Presidential bid to Andrew Jackson, a Past Grand Master of Tennessee. Adams died in 1848.

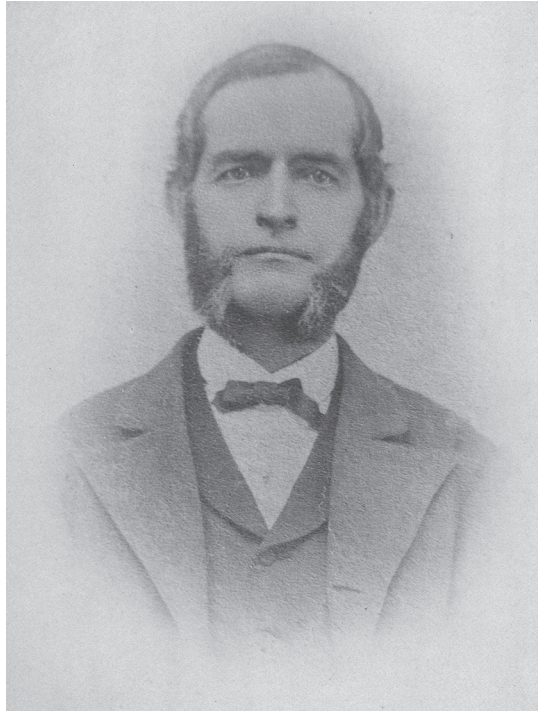


Fig. 3. Henry Allen, first Master of Arapahoe Lodge, was instrumental in formalizing Masonry along the frontier. Courtesy of Council Bluffs Public Library

Byers' Masonic affiliation likely assisted him complete the first newspaper to be distributed in the mining camp (it certainly helped fill up the second page), narrowly beating out rival publisher, Jack Merrick, by as little as twenty Minutes to circulation.⁵⁸ Recognizing the importance of primacy in establishing a paper in a new town, Byers had arrived with the type set for the first page, which further reduced his production time considerably. However, without the substantial letters to the editor on page 2, the Masonic ad in the classifieds to show establishment and, perhaps, some much needed revenue, as well as a place to set up his press,⁵⁹ all of which his Masonic membership expediently resolved, it is unlikely his exertions would have been as well met.

⁵⁸ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 249.

⁵⁹ In his rush to get the first paper printed, Byers first set up his press in the upper story of Wooton's Building. He strung a canvas sheet to protect the press from leaks in the roof and the printers slept on boards during production. There was a saloon underneath, and the occasional stray gunshot posed a ready enough threat to warrant the concern. Wooton himself records one of Byers's first questions of his hires was 'whether he could handle a gun to good advantage.' See Smiley, *History of Denver*, 249.

Merrick had arrived on 13 April, four days previous to Byers. But Byers was connected. On 22 April 1859, just five days after his arrival, the Auraria Board of Directors granted Byers shares in the town to set up shop immediately.⁶⁰ This was contrary to a resolution forwarded by John Smith and adopted by the Town Company on 8 November 1858, which offered a donation of four shares of stock 'to the person or persons who will first establish a printing Press in the Town of Auraria, and maintain the same for one year.'⁶¹ Each share consisted of four lots. The fact that at least three of the five members of the Auraria Board of Directors were Masons, including its president William A. McFadding (the other two members being Levi Russell and Henry Allen) is of interest here.⁶² Byer's narrow victory to produce the first paper was seminal: Merrick resigned as publisher after producing but one issue of the *Cherry Creek Pioneer*, purportedly sold his equipment to Byers for 'some flour and bacon,' and took up prospecting instead.⁶³ Byers, and the *Rocky Mountain News*, would become an important tool in the administration of society in the fledgling city. The influence of Freemasonry in its establishment should not be understated.⁶⁴

Gold in Gregory Gulch

On 6 May 1859 John Gregory discovered gold at the headwaters of Clear Creek approximately forty miles west of Denver. This brought settlement in earnest to Black Hawk, Central City, and Nevadaville, clinging to the alpine valleys, and at the lower elevation of Golden City, about 15 miles west of Denver. The exodus from the plains and the multitude that was forming in the region had, by June 1859, just a year or so after the Russell Party first began its exertions in the region, burgeoned to approximately twenty-thousand.⁶⁵ Among the seekers of manifest destiny evanescent in the mountain peaks, Masons found companionship and support. The suddenness of the situation, and the network

⁶⁰ 'Resolved, That there be donated to Byers & Co. four Shares in the Auraria Town company for the establishment of a Printing Press; also that there be donated to Messrs. R. L. Sumner, E. C. Sumner, Thos. Gibson, and E. M. Byers [Mrs. W. N. Byers] one share each.' Smiley, *History of Denver*, 248.

⁶¹ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 208. The resolution for the donation was by John Smith, the trapper trader.

⁶² 'An inventory of the Records of the Auraria Town Company,' Collection Mss.00023 (Library of the Colorado Historical Society Denver, Colorado, 1993).

⁶³ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 249. Merrick ended up as a 'composer' for the *Rocky Mountain News*, however, up until the Civil War.

⁶⁴ The *Rocky Mountain News* was published up until 27 Feb 2009. Note that, of the impact of a press operative on the frontier, Smiley writes, 'It is to be said that none of the agencies at work in laying the foundations of this city and State were more potent in results, more effective in forwarding and sustaining the welfare of the people, and in leading the way to better material and social conditions, than the Rocky Mountain News.' *History of Denver*, 294.

⁶⁵ Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 5. It was estimated that 150,000 people left the Missouri river for 'Pike's Peak Country' in the Spring/Summer of 1859, about 50,000 turning back. See Smiley, *History of Denver*, 255.

Masonry enabled, is well synopsised by W. M. Slaughter regarding the first meeting held in Central City sometime in late Spring, 1859:⁶⁶

About the first day of June, 1859, there had assembled in and around 'Gregory Gulch' (where Central City and Black Hawk now stand) fully twenty thousand men, and it was decided that there ought to be a rallying place for Masons, hundreds of whom were to be found among this vast crowd. A consultation of those known to each other as Masons was held at Slaughter and Sopris' cabin, and it was resolved to 'build a Lodge room.' The word was passed about among all those claiming to be Masons, and about the 15th of June a site was selected for the lodge room, which was on the south side of Gregory Gulch, and about three hundred feet southwest of where the old Kip & Buell mill was afterward built. Work was begun immediately, and the ground leveled for the building, and from fifty to one hundred men with horses and ox-teams were cutting and dragging logs for the new 'Temple,' which as near as I now remember, was about thirty feet square ... Within two or three days the walls were up and chinked and plastered with mud inside and out. A pole roof, covered with pine boughs, and this covered with several inches of earth, completed the 'Lodge room' building. The three stations were made of pine logs, sawed the proper height, hewed and sunk in the ground, with a shorter block of the same material planted by it for a seat. The Secretary's desk was the endgate of a wagon box, nailed on top of a post set in the ground, and covered with a piece of wagon cover canvas, with a block of wood for a seat. I do not remember the exact date of the first meeting in the new Lodge room, but I think it was about the twentieth of June, 1859. I shall never forget that first meeting 'on the mountain side.'

Word had been passed out among the Masons of the several camps that a Masonic meeting would be held that night at dusk, and as the hour arrived the trails and paths leading toward 'the Temple' began to be lined with Masons gathering together to meet each other from distant states and countries for the first time in this wild place amid the pine woods on a lone mountain side. Four men (Masons) armed with rifles and revolvers stood on guard, one at each corner of the Temple and one at the outer door also. At the outer door there was a receiving committee to whom each visitor was introduced or made himself known if he were unacquainted with anyone. If he desired examination as to his standing as a mason, he was at once placed in charge of an examining committee of whom there were not less than ten or more appointed to wait on the visiting brethren who were unknown to any known Mason. There were over 200 visiting brethren whose names were entered upon the 'Journal' or 'Roll of Visitors' as it was called at that first meeting. A meeting was held once a week for over three months. These meetings were of course informal, and were held for the purpose of forming acquaintance with each other.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ W. C. Matthews and P. R. Alsdorf (Eds.), *The Laying of the Corner Stone of Masonry in Colorado* (Central City: Central [City] Lodge No. 6, 1945), 3-4.

⁶⁷ In this letter, W. M. Slaughter further states that 'Before Auraria was surveyed and laid out as a townsite, Masons met at Bro. Allen's cabin; and forty-five days after the discovery of gold, a Masonic Temple was built at Gregory Diggins. This rough log building at Mountain City, in what is now Gilpin County, was the first Masonic



Fig. 4. Central City c.1860. Courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Colorado

As the winter months closed in and the multitude returned to the lower elevations, Auraria and Denver City once again swelled. The flux in populations, responding even to the merest hint of the 'colour,' seems to have created an instability in the regularity of Auraria Lodge's proceedings. This population flux, along with the vagaries of navigation over unpredictable streams and clashes with the surrounding tribes on the route to Kansas Territory, may have been an important factor in Auraria Lodge failing to secure its charter until after the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Colorado in 1861.

Dispensation of Auraria, Denver City, and Golden City Lodges

Auraria Lodge is the first advance of Masonry, this far North, into the confines of the Rocky Mountains. . . . Truly, this is an age of penetration and progression, and the genial influence of Masonry, cementing and warming the hearts of its members, keep pace with the march of civilization.

Richard R. Rees, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory, 1859.⁶⁸

"Temple" in Colorado.' But this must be in error, since the advertisement in the *Rocky Mountain News* ran on 23 April 1859, advertising the lodge on Cherry St in Auraria.

⁶⁸ *Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Kansas, a Reprint of the Original Minutes* (Leaven-

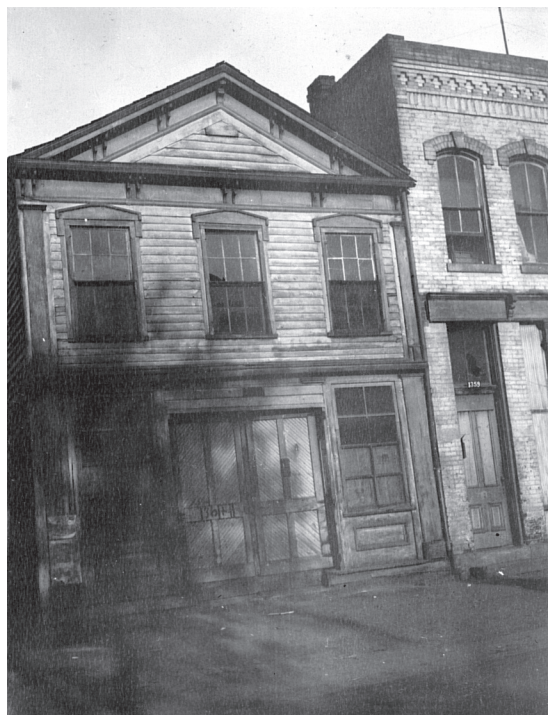


Fig. 5. The Buddee & Jacobs store. Built in 1859, the building was the home of the first lodge room in Denver, Colorado. Courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Colorado

On 15 Aug 1859, Richard R. Rees, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory (est. 17 Mar. 1856)⁶⁹ issued dispensation for Auraria Lodge. The petition was entered by Geo. H. Bryant, John Hughes, A. W. Dodge, and other 'sundry Brethren,' the three of which appear to have been members of Leavenworth Lodge No. 150 in Kansas Territory. Henry Allen was appointed Master.⁷⁰ The first meeting under dispensation was held on 1 Oct 1859 on the upper floor of the newly erected Buddee & Jacobs building. More than forty Masons are said to have been in attendance.⁷¹ The Minutes record twenty-seven visitors. The Minutes also record the dispensation received (written out in long-

worth, KS: Grand Lodge of Kansas, 1889), 105.

⁶⁹ Formed by Leavenworth Lodge No. 150 (Missouri Charter), Smithson Lodge No. 140, and Kansas Lodge No. 153. Note that Kansas didn't achieve statehood until 29 January 1861.

⁷⁰ *50th Anniversary of Denver Lodge No. 5 A. F. & A. M., 1859 - October 1st - 1909* (Denver: Denver Lodge No. 5, 1909), 12.

⁷¹ *50th Anniversary of Denver Lodge*, 9. Return submitted to the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory by Auraria Lodge U. D. shows 57 members in 1861. *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kansas*, 231. Recall that no return was received from Auraria Lodge in 1860.

hand), and delivered by the Past Deputy Grand Master of Missouri, D. P. Wallingford, who presided.⁷² A photograph of the Minutes of this historic meeting is preserved in the *Fiftieth Anniversary of Denver Lodge No. 5 A. F. & A. M. 1859 – October 1st – 1909, Historical Notes, Dispensations, Charter and Roll of Membership*, produced by Denver Lodge No. 5 at the semicentennial observance.⁷³ I have reproduced the relevant entries below.

Whereas there has congregated a large number of masons in the New Gold Regions of the South Platt [*sic*] waters of Kansas Territory and particularly in the vicinity of the City of Auraria; and feeling the necessity of an organization of the Brethren members of the fraternity for the purpose of Building up Early a grand Masonic Structure in this second "Ophir"; as well as effecting those great aims of Ancient and Modern masons through all ages of the world; and the better diffusion of that light which radiates from the chambers of the Masonic temple throughout the Earth;

Therefore they have petitioned the R.W. Grand Lodge of the Territory of Kansas and have received from them a Dispensation authorizing them to work signed by the hand of R. W. Grand Master of the Territory of Kansas, Bro Reece [*sic*] as follows:

To all good Masons wheresoever dispersed:

I, Richard R. Rees, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons send greeting;

Whereas, a petition has been presented to me by sundry Brethren, to wit; Geo. H. Bryant, John Hughes, A. W. Dodge, and others, residing in, and in the vicinity of the town of Auraria, in the County of Arapahoe, in the Territory of Kansas, praying to be constituted into a regular Lodge, and promising to render obedience to the ancient usages and landmarks of the fraternity, and the laws and edicts of the Grand Lodge, and whereas said petitioners have been recommended to me as master masons in good standing by Leavenworth Lodge under this jurisdiction:

Now therefore, I, Richard R. Rees, Grand Master of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Kansas, reposing full confidence in the recommendation aforesaid, and in the Masonic integrity and ability of the petitioners, do, by virtue of the authority in me vested, hereby grant this

Dispensation, empowering and authorizing our trusty and well beloved brethren, aforesaid, to open and form a Lodge, after the manner of the Ancient Free and Accepted masons, and therein to admit and make Free Masons, according to the Ancient custom and not otherwise: said Lodge to be known and hailed as Auraria Lodge U. D.

This Dispensation is to continue in force until the next regular communication of the Grand Lodge of Kansas, unless sooner revoked by me.

⁷² The Minutes of the first meeting of Auraria Lodge U. D. erroneously record D. P. Wallingford as the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Kansas. (Rees himself refers to Wallingford as 'P[ast]. D[eputy]. Grand Master of Missouri' in his report to the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory in 1859. See *Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Kansas, a Reprint of the Original Minutes* (Leavenworth, KS: Grand Lodge of Kansas, 1889), 105.

⁷³ The author is grateful to Bro. Patrick Dey, WM of the Research Lodge of Colorado, for furnishing a scanned copy of his personal copy of the *Fiftieth Anniversary* booklet, which is now quite rare.

And, I do hereby appoint Bro. Henry Allen, to be the first Master, Bro. Charles Johnson to be the first Senior Warden and Bro. Chas. H. Blake to be the first Junior Warden of said new Lodge, and it shall be their duty and they are hereby expected to return this Dispensation with a correct transcript of their proceedings had under the authority of the same, together with an attested copy of their By-Laws, to our Grand Lodge aforesaid, at the expiration of the time herein specified, for examination and such further action in the premises as shall be deemed wise and proper.

Given under our hand and the seal of our Grand Lodge, at Leavenworth, this 15th day of August, A.L. 5859 A.D 1859.

[SEAL]

/signed/ Richard R. Rees

Albert Buddee had arrived in Denver City and Auraria sometime in mid-1859. He was a member of Herman Lodge No. 37, in Quincy, Illinois. His partner, Abraham Jacobs, a Bavarian jew, was a member of Capitol Lodge No. 3 in Nebraska Territory. Commission merchants, they built their grocery store in early October 1859 on the corner of Ferry Street and 4th (now Walnut), as an auction house and Stage line.⁷⁴

Several of the Brethren present at the first meeting of Auraria Lodge (including Cobb, Gerrish, and Goldschmidt), are included in a subsequent petition for a charter for Denver City Lodge, adopted for recommendation by Auraria Lodge on 5 Nov 1859. The Minutes record:

Petition of L. J. Winchester and nine others asking a recommendation for the establishment of a Lodge in the City of Denver was presented, signed as follows, to the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory:

L. J. Winchester, W. M.
 J. J. Seville, S. W.
 J. H. Gerrish, J. W.
 R. B. Bradford
 S. W. Cook
 F. F. Brumed
 E. W. Cobb
 Thos. P. Porter
 Simeon L. Wells
 A. S. Goldschmidt
 H. Collins

Which said petition was recommended by this Lodge.⁷⁵

Then, on 26 Nov 1859, the Minutes of Auraria Lodge include the following entry:

⁷⁴ Bromwell, *Fiftyniners*, 'Buddee' entry.

⁷⁵ *50th Anniversary of Denver Lodge No. 5*, 15.

Petition of J. E. Hardy and others of Golden City, K. T., praying a recommendation of this Lodge to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Kansas for a Dispensation authorizing and empowering them to work, was presented and recommended by the Lodge.⁷⁶

Thus we see Auraria Lodge principally involved in the chartering of other lodges in the region, the first hub upon which regularity would turn. Denver City Lodge opted to return its dispensation to the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory because Denver City Lodge was 'situated so near to [Auraria Lodge] that it was deemed the interests of the Fraternity were fully supplied by the older Lodge.'⁷⁷

Golden City Lodge received its charter via the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory on 17 Oct 1860.⁷⁸ Auraria Lodge would become Denver Lodge after its merger with Denver City Lodge. However, as a result of 'a series of most unfortunate events caused by Indian deprivations, swollen streams and the many other difficulties attendant upon travel,'⁷⁹ Denver Lodge remained under dispensation through 1861.⁸⁰ Despite being the oldest bastion of the Masonic light in the region, Denver Lodge would be instituted as 'No. 5,' receiving its charter at the first annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado on 10 Dec 1861, succedent to Golden City Lodge No. 1 (est. 17 Oct 1860, as Golden City Lodge No. 34, Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory), Summit No. Lodge No. 2 (est. 5 Jun 1861, as Summit Lodge No. 7, Grand Lodge of Nebraska), Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 3 (est. 5 Jun 1861, Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 8, Grand Lodge Nebraska), and Nevada Lodge No. 4. (est. 15 Oct 1861, Nevada Lodge No. 36, Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory).⁸¹

The Grand Lodge of Colorado

A liberal charter for our Grand Lodge was passed by the recent session of our Territorial Legislature, and all that we have to do is henceforth to be temperate, discreet, vigilant, aye, jealous and zealous for the honor and reputation of the craft, guarding

⁷⁶ *50th Anniversary of Denver Lodge No. 5*, 15.

⁷⁷ *The Annual Proceedings of the M. W. Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Kansas* (Leavenworth: Grand Lodge of Kansas, 1889), 154.

⁷⁸ Golden City Lodge received its dispensation 21 Jan 1860. Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 10.

⁷⁹ *50th Anniversary of Denver Lodge No. 5*, 15.

⁸⁰ Geo. H. Fairchild Grand Master of Kans. Terr., reporting to the fifth annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Kans. Terr., 15 Oct. 1861, reported that 'upon proper representation made to me, I continued Auraria Lodge U. D., at Denver City, until this session.' *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kansas*, 203. Note also the Committee on Dispensations entry: 'Your committee would further report that no returns have been received from Auraria Lodge U. D., at Denver City, but they have reason to believe that they have been forwarded to the Grand Secretary and have been delayed, as was the case at the last Annual Communication. Your committee, having confidence in the skill and ability of their brothers of Auraria Lodge, would therefore recommend that a charter be granted to Auraria Lodge as No. 37, on the receipt by the Grand Secretary of their dispensation, returns, By-Laws, etc., he finding them correct.' *Ibid*, 207.

⁸¹ Summit Lodge received its dispensation 6 May 186; Rocky Mountain Lodge received its dispensation 21 May 1861; and Nevada Lodge received its dispensation 22 Dec 1860, with Andrew Mason as W.M. See Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 10.

well the door of admission to her sacred temples, to which, if we do, we have a future as bright in prospect as it will be glorious in reality. – J. M. Chivington, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, 1861.⁸²

The Colorado Territory had been formally created 28 Feb 1861, removing the jurisdiction from Kansas Territory. Consequently, a Masonic convention was held in Golden City on 2 Aug 1861 for the purposes of forming a Grand Lodge for the Territory of Colorado, with representatives from Golden City Lodge No. 34, Summit Lodge No. 7, and Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 8 present. The charters of the aforesaid lodges examined and found in good stead, balloting was cast for the Grand Officers, resulting in election of the following:

J. M. Chivington, Grand Master
 S. M. Robbins, Deputy Grand Master
 Jas. Ewing, Senior Grand Warden
 J. M. Holt, Junior Grand Warden
 Eli Carter, Grand Treasurer
 O. A. Whittemore, Grand Secretary⁸³

The lodges were renumbered, Golden City Lodge No. 1, Summit Lodge No. 2, and Rocky Mountain No. 3. The constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations were presented and adopted.

The first annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado was held in Golden City on 10 Dec 1861. Interestingly, of the originally elected and appointed officers, only the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary were present, the rest filled in by Brethren pro tem. This seems indicative of some expediency in organization – not just of the first annual communication, but of the organizing of the Grand Lodge proper just four months previously. Auraria Lodge (still under dispensation) is conspicuously absent, although they submitted their request for recognition at this meeting. Grand Master Chivington stated in his Annual Address:

Two dispensations have been granted by me for new lodges, one to Bro. Allyn Weston and others, at Central City, whose petition came recommended by Golden City Lodge No. 1.⁸⁴ The other was from Bro. Blake, and the members of the old Auraria Lodge, U. D. from the Grand Lodge of Kansas, who in the true spirit of fraternal brotherhood, surrendered their authority to the M. W. Grand Lodge of Kansas, and asked for a dispensation from your jurisdiction until your present meeting.⁸⁵

⁸² *Proceedings of the First Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado*, held in Denver, 10 December 1861: Extract from the Address of the Grand Master.

⁸³ *Masonic Convention to Organize The Grand Lodge of the Territory of Colorado, Held in Golden City, August 2, A. L., A. L. 5861*, 5.

⁸⁴ This lodge would issue as Chivington Lodge No. 6 in 1862.

⁸⁵ *Proceedings of the First Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado, Held in Denver, December 10,*



Fig. 6. Officers of the Grand Lodge of Colorado in 1863. Past Grand Master J. M. Chivington is back row, second from the left. Courtesy of the Grand Lodge of Colorado

Of the three constituted lodges under the Grand Lodge of Colorado, only Summit No. 2 presented a return. Discussion was had as to the chartering of Nevada Lodge No. 36 by the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory, deemed an erroneous incursion of the new sovereignty:

I learn that there has been a lodge chartered at Nevada City by our sister, the M. W. Grand Lodge of Kansas. This would seem to be an anomaly in Masonry, but when it is known that the Grand Lodge of Kansas were not advised of our existence as a grand body, the matter is sufficiently explained. I will here state, however, that at an early day after the adjournment of the Grand Lodge at Golden City, I wrote to Grand Master Fairchild at Atchison, Kansas. I presume that he either did not receive my letter, or inadvertently neglected to lay the matter before the Grand Lodge of Kansas, for I cannot believe that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Kansas, (or any other Grand Lodge of Masons), would, knowing of our existence, interfere in our jurisdic-

A. L. 5861, 34.

tion; such a course would be subversive of every principle held sacred by Masonry, and destructive of that 'peace and harmony' which is the 'strength and support of all institutions, especially this of ours.'⁸⁶

In fact, the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory proceedings show that it learned of the Grand Lodge of Colorado's existence only through communications from Auraria Lodge, when Auraria Lodge submitted its return in 1861, rather than via any formal communication from the Grand Lodge of Colorado: E. T. Carr, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory, writes:

Shortly after the close of the last Communication, I received the dispensation, together with returns, By-laws and annual dues of Auraria Lodge, U. D. This Lodge, by resolution, decided to return its dispensation to this Grand Lodge, and apply to the Grand Lodge of Colorado for a new dispensation. This was the only information we had received of the formation of the Grand Lodge for Colorado, and previous to this we had forwarded a charter to Nevada Lodge in that jurisdiction.⁸⁷

Such vagaries illustrate the shifting moments that comprised the frontier.

By 1862, the first year returns from the subordinate lodges as recorded in the Proceedings show a total of 154 members on the rolls (including Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts).⁸⁸ Come 1863, this has doubled to 300, with 49 members recorded as now living out of the Territory. In 1864 the reported membership was almost 400, with 84 then living out of state. See Table 4.

Over the first decade of Masonry in the Kansas and, then Colorado Territory, we see lodges springing up and disappearing alongside the boom and bust mining communities that marked the era, fueled by ephemeral fortune. Of the three lodges that founded the Grand Lodge of Colorado in 1861, only Golden City Lodge No. 1 survives. Summit and Rocky Mountain Lodge ceased filing annual returns almost immediately, Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 3 surrendered its charter in November 1862. Summit Lodge No. 2 surrendered its charter in 1865. Of the first active lodges in the region, Central City No. 6,⁸⁹ Denver Lodge No. 5, Nevada Lodge No. 4, and Golden City Lodge No. 1 still exist today (Nevada City (now 'Nevadaville') is a ghost town, but the lodge still meets in their building there). See Table 5.

⁸⁶ *Proceedings of the First Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Colorado*, 34.

⁸⁷ *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Kansas*, 269.

⁸⁸ Note that Golden City Lodge No. 1 and Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 3 did not submit returns in 1862, so membership is clearly higher than what is of record.

⁸⁹ Chartered as Chivington Lodge No. 6, formerly changed its name in 1868, four years after the Sand Creek Massacre and Chivington's fall from grace.

Conclusion

We make assertion, and facts will prove it, that Denver has a larger membership, in proportion to population, in secret, benevolent and social organizations than any city in the United States. Almost every secret and social order has a local representation.⁹⁰

Freemasonry is salient in the history of Denver and the founding of Colorado. No doubt partly due to the diverse population drawn to the region by the allure of gold, Masonry's role in uniting those who would 'otherwise remain at a perpetual distance' seems particularly notable to good effect on the American frontier. The Minutes of Denver Lodge No. 5, for example, show that in the first few years of its existence Auraria Lodge entertained visitors from 30 states and four foreign countries.⁹¹ The fraternity must have served as an important focal point, bringing together strangers united by common experience. It is inevitable that Masonry, as a source of self-governance in assembly for the peaceable transaction of business, would furnish community leaders.

Organization of the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Colorado occurred concurrently with move to statehood and organization of the region. Amid the backdrop of the American Civil War, the statehood would be delayed. When Colorado would emerge as a new State of the Union, fifteen years after the formation of its Grand Lodge in 1876, it would adopt boundaries common with the Masonic jurisdiction.

Nonetheless, Masons were principal in framing the laws of self-governance that arose in the quest for law and order on the frontier. William Slaughter writes in his diary, 'Just to think that within two weeks of the arrival of a few dozen Americans in a wilderness, they set to work to elect a delegate to the United States Congress, and ask to be set apart as a new Territory! But we are a fast age, and must prod along!'⁹² The first movement to establishing a definite civil government of sovereign powers is recorded in the first issue of the *Rocky Mountain News*, 23 April 1859. Masons are salient.

Public Meetings

At a meeting of the citizens of Auraria and Denver City held at Wooton's Hall on the evening of the 11th inst., on motion of L. J. Winchester [Mason], Dr. L. J. Russell [Mason] was called to the chair, and Andrew Sagendorf [Mason] appointed Secretary; when the object of the meeting was stated by H. McCoy, Esq., followed by Gen. Larimer in a few general remarks, Mr. Collier [Mason] introduced the following resolution:

⁹⁰ W. A. Barbot and W. H. Montgomery, *Barbot's Illustrated Guide to Denver* (Denver: Collier & Cleveland Litho. Co., 1891), 58.

⁹¹ Clark, *Masonry Came to Colorado*, 13.

⁹² Smiley, *History of Denver*, 305.



Fig. 7. Denver, 1898. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Resolved, That on account of our distance from, and difficulty of communicating with, the proper authorities, we the people who are the power here, authorize the late county officers-elect to enter at once upon the discharge of their respective duties, without waiting for their commissions from the Governor, after having received their certificates of election from the Commissioners and having given the proper bonds.

Gen. Larimer, Hon. Wm. Clancy, Judge Wagoner and others spoke at length in favor of the resolution, and were opposed by Hon. Henry Allen [Mason]. The resolution was lost. On motion of E. P. Stout, Esq., it was –

Resolved, That the different precincts be requested to appoint delegates to meet in convention on the 15th inst. to take into consideration the propriety of organizing a new State Territory.

Which was carried unanimously. On motion adjourned.

L. J. Russel, Pres.

A. Sagendorf, Secretary.⁹³

At the next meeting held three days later, 14 April 1859, to appoint delegates to attend a convention representing the interests in the region in pursuit of statehood, Henry Allen was called to preside. A committee of three was formed to appoint six persons to serve as delegates. The committee appointed by the chair did not include any known

⁹³ *Rocky Mountain News*, 23 April 1859, 3. See also Smiley, *History of Denver*, 307.



Fig. 8. Denver, 1898. Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Masons, however the delegates the committee nominated included Masons H. Allen, L. J. Russell, W. M. Slaughter. Of the six delegates representing Denver City, recorded at the convention held 15 April 1859, Masons H. P. A. Smith and C. H. Blake are notable. L. J. Winchester is recorded as a delegate for El Dorado. A committee to prepare an address to the people of the territory was appointed, and included L. J. Russell, H. P. A. Smith, and L. J. Winchester.⁹⁴

The first trading house in Denver was opened by C. H. Blake and A. J. Williams.⁹⁵ C. A. Cook, Denver's second mayor elected 1861, was a member of Denver Lodge No. 5 by 1863.⁹⁶ Masons fill out the committees appointed to determine the metes and bounds of self-governance: W. N. Byers, on 'Boundaries and Bill of Rights'; W. M. Slaughter, 'Suffrage and Distribution'; Henry Allen, 'Judiciary'; L. J. Russell, 'Education and School Funds'; and L. J. Winchester and H. P. A. Smith on 'Schedule.'⁹⁷ Henry Allen, a delegate to the first Constitutional Convention to form the State of Jefferson, served as President

⁹⁴ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 309. Smiley notes, 'the handiwork of Dr L. J. Russell is apparent' in the address, suggesting his role as principal author.

⁹⁵ *Barbot's Illustrated Guide*, 34.

⁹⁶ *Proceedings of Grand Lodge of Colorado for 1863*, 112.

⁹⁷ Smiley, *History of Denver*, 310.

of the Territorial Council of the Territory in Jefferson.⁹⁸ His name appends the laws adopted in December 1859.⁹⁹

Other known Masons present from the earliest days (c. 1858/9) include the gunsmith W. A. Adams, member of Bodley Lodge No. 1, Quincy, Illinois; Gov. S. W. Beall (also, Beal), member Madison Lodge No. 1, Madison, Wisconsin (and founding member of Auraria Lodge), Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin 1850–1852; Lucien W. Bliss, Secretary of the State Provisional Government in 1859 and Secretary of the Council, served as Secretary pro tem for Golden City Lodge in 1860; R. B. Bradford, Brigadier General of Governor's staff under Governor Steele of the Provisional Government of Jefferson Territory, member of Denver City Lodge; S. M. Breath, member of Golden City Lodge in 1860; George P. Chase, promotor and originator of the Central City Toll Road; David C. Collier, one of the first practicing Attorneys arriving in December 1858, became managing editor of Tri-Weekly Mining Register of Central City (erecting its building and hosting Chivington Lodge (later Central City Lodge) No. 6 in the upper story), superintendent of schools for Gilpin County in 1862, and president of Gilpin County Pioneers' Association; Albert J. Crook, first man raised by Auraria Lodge on 6 Feb 1860; Fox Diefendorf, one of the founders of Golden City in 1859, member of Golden City Lodge in 1860; George Ewing, buried with full Masonic honors by Auraria Lodge, 26 Oct 1859; John M. Ferrell, member of Golden City Town Company, delegate from Golden City for first Constitutional Convention, correspondent for the *Rocky Mountain News* in Golden (under alias 'Toughcuss'), member of Golden City Lodge in 1860 (his wife helped prepare the regalia); Hiram Ford, Golden City in 1859, signed petition to Grand Lodge of Kansas Territory for establishment of Golden City Lodge; Thomas Freeman, murdered 30 Nov 1860, buried with Masonic honors and resolutions of respect and condolences (printed in the *Rocky Mountain News* 26 Dec 1860); F. Gambell, founding member of Auraria Lodge (member of Unity Lodge No. 12, Ravenna, OH); John H. Gerrish, merchant and owner operator of Gerrish & Co., founding member of Auraria Lodge and petitioner for Denver Lodge; John Y. Glendinan (also, Glendinning), artist who painted the interior of Central City Lodge; John Graves, Auraria Justice of the Peace in 1859, founding member of Auraria Lodge, member of Bluff City Lodge No. 71 in Council Bluffs, IA (Henry Allen's home lodge); Dr. Issac E. Hardy, physician and surgeon (and businessman), charter member of Golden City Lodge (and first Master); W. J. Hauerstein, a Prussian immigrant; John Hughes, Tyler pro tem for Auraria Lodge in 1859; Roswell Hutchins, member of the Lawrence Party, hosted meetings of Arapahoe Lodge in his cabin in 1858, elected County Assessor, March 1859; Col. David J. Johnson, Past Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Geor-

⁹⁸ Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'Allen' entry.

⁹⁹ Bromwell, *Fiftyminers*, 'Allen' entry.

gia; Mazerve __, bylaws committee of Auraria Lodge; William M. McConnell, founding member of Auraria Lodge, member of Mount Pelia Lodge No. 177, Paris, Tennessee; John A. Nye, proprietor of Kinna & Nye outfitters, member of Nebraska Lodge No. 1 and Auraria Lodge in 1859; E. H. N. Patterson, delegate from Left Hand Diggings to first Constitutional Convention in 1859, editor of the Georgetown Miner, and buried with Masonic honors in Georgetown, Colorado; Miles Patton (also Paton), merchant in Mountain City, Gregory Diggings (Gulch), elected from 4th District to first Territorial Council under the Provisional Government, Jefferson Territory, buried in Masonic cemetery in Central City; Fred Z. Salomon, Polish emigré, member of Santa Fe Lodge No. 109, Treasurer of Auraria Lodge 1859 and member of the Auraria chess club; T. H. Simmons, candidate at Golden City Lodge, left Golden in 1860, apparently with the important mission to 'increase the number of ladies of golden on his return'; Richard Sopris, delegate for the Gregory Diggings (Mountain City) at first Constitutional Convention, President of the Gregory Association of Miners, Past Master of Auraria Lodge (Bromwell, in her *Fiftyiners*, has him as Master of a lodge in Mountain City, from an ad apparently run in the *Rocky Mountain News* in June 1859); Mathew Teed, carpenter and owner of a carpentry store, recorded as a member of Auraria Lodge in 1861; James Tynon, real estate owner and developer; Hon. Archibald J. Van Deren, Grand Master of Masons of Colorado in 1865 (and Grand Lecturer 1863), Past Master of Nevada No. 4, appointed Commissioner to organize Gilpin County in 1861, elected 1863 to the Legislative Council; D. P. Wallingford, Past Deputy Grand Master of Missouri, store owner of Wallingford & Murphy at Larimer and H (first store with a wooden floor), insurer and banker; Hon. James M. Wood, member first Provisional Legislature, Superintendent of the Consolidated Ditch Company, and member of Auraria Lodge (donated \$20.00 'for the good of Masonry' on 25 Nov 1859; and J. H. Alden, John C. Guy, Willia, M. McConnell, W. Sowash, Simeon L. Wells, T. A. Wilhite, John Tallman, William West, Paul Willett, who appear on the record as men of some consequence, among many more lost to time.¹⁰⁰

By 1862, with the arrival of John Evans as the second Governor of Colorado Territory, appointed by Abraham Lincoln (a personal friend of Evans), Masonry would occupy the highest office in the Rockies. Evans, affiliated in Attica, Ohio, in the early 1840s, was a charter member of Union Lodge No. 7, which separated from Denver No. 5 in 1863, due to the irreconcilable division between the Unionist members (including Evans and Chivington) and sympathizers with the Confederacy. (It is ironic that Evans (and Chivington), staunchly anti-slavery, who fought for the equal rights of all citizens under the law, would become remembered for their unfortunate role in the massacre of Arapahoe and Cheyenne camped at Sand Creek in 1864.)

¹⁰⁰ Bromwell, *Fiftyiners*.

It seems inevitable, that wherever present, Freemasonry serves as a construct for social and moral instruction; as a blueprint for organization and municipal incorporation; as a nexus for management, administration and the dissemination of information across an illiterate population. Freemasonry unites disparate parties under a common identity, allied in purpose. It provides the meeting ground and example for tested self-governance and offers the forum where such administration may be practiced. And, perhaps most importantly, it offers a network of necessary relief. Freemasonry carried these precepts with it into the western United States, riding the winds of manifest destiny like seeds of civility to yield law and order into the chasm of cultural controversy.

Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the settling of the American West.

APPENDIX

Table 4: Members of the Grand Lodge of Colorado Territory

M.W. GRAND LODGE OF COLORADO TERRITORY, RETURNS 1862

Lodge	Mem	EA	FC	I	P	R	Rej	Demit	Susp	Exp	Death
Summit No. 2	31	5	1	13	11	13	3	14	1	0	1
Nevada No. 4	42	4	0	23	19	19	4	1	0	0	1
Denver No. 5	51	5	1	18	17	19	1	2	0	0	0
Chivington No. 6	30	6	3	24	18	15	14	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	154	20	5	78	65	66	22	18	1	0	2

N.B. no returns received by Golden City No. 1 or Rocky Mountain No. 3.

M.W. GRAND LODGE OF COLORADO TERRITORY, RETURNS 1863

Lodge	Mem	EA	FC	I	P	R	Rej	Demit	Susp	Exp	Death	Out of State	
Golden City No. 1	48	10	2						1	0	0	0	6
Summit No. 2	38	3	1						12	0	0	1	9
Nevada No. 4	70	11	2						4	0	1	1	16
Denver No. 5	69	3	5						12	0	0	2	12
Chivington No. 6	64	10	1						1	0	0	0	6
Montana U.D.	11	1	0						0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	300	38	11	0	0	0	0	30	0	1	4	4	49

M.W. GRAND LODGE OF COLORADO TERRITORY, RETURNS 1864

Lodge	Mem	EA	FC	I	P	R	Rej	Demit	Susp	Exp	Death	Out of State	
Golden City No. 1	64	9	1						4	0	0	0	24
Summit No. 2	28	2	0						6	0	0	0	7
Nevada No. 4	59	11	2						7	0	0	2	23
Denver No. 5	99	11	1						3	0	0	2	24
Chivington No. 6	95	14	6						6	0	0	1	6
Union No. 7	47	13	2						0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	392	60	12	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	5	5	84

Table 5. Time Line of Lodges in Colorado Territory, 1858–1869

1858	Informal meetings of 'Arapahoe Lodge', Auraria	1864	Golden No. 1 Summit No. 2† Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Chivington No. 6 Union No. 72 Montana U. D.	1868	Golden City No. 1 Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Central City No. 63 Union No. 7 Empire No. 8 Montana City No. 9, MT Helena Lodge No. 10, MT Black Hawk No. 11 Washington No. 12, Georgetown El Paso No. 13 Columbia No. 14 Cañon U. D. Pueblo U. D. Cheyenne U. D., WY Valmont U. D., Valmont Germania U. D., Denver (<i>German language, dispensation surrendered Nov 1868</i>)
1859	Arapahoe, then Auraria U. D., Auraria Mountain City Masonic 'Temple', Central City	1865	Golden No. 1 Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Chivington No. 6 Union No. 7 Empire U. D., Empire Montana U. D., Virginia City, MT Helena City U. D., Helena City, MT <i>Summit No. 2 surrenders charter</i>	1869	Golden City No. 1 Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Central City No. 6 Union No. 7 Empire No. 8 Black Hawk No. 11 Washington No. 12 El Paso No. 13 Columbia No. 14 Mount Moriah No. 15‡ (changed name from Cañon City) Cheyenne No. 16, WY Pueblo No. 17
1860	Auraria U. D. Denver U. D. Golden Lodge U. D., Golden City Summit U. D, Parkville Rocky Mountain U. D., Gold Hill Nevada U. D., Nevada City (King Solomon, Denver?) ¹	1866	Golden No. 1 Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Chivington No. 6 Union No. 7 Empire No. 8 Black Hawk U. D. El Paso U. D.		
1861	Golden City No. 1 Summit No. 2† Rocky Mountain No. 3 Auraria U. D. Grand Lodge of Colorado formed	1867	Golden No. 1 Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Chivington No. 6 Union No. 7 Empire No. 8 Black Hawk No. 11 El Paso U. D., Colorado City Columbia U. D., Colum- bia City		
1862	Golden City No. 1 Summit No. 2† Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 (Auraria Lodge and Denver Lodge) Chivington No. 6, Central City <i>Rocky Mountain Lodge No. 3 surrenders charter</i>				
1863	Golden City No. 1 Summit No. 2 Nevada No. 4 Denver No. 5 Chivington No. 6 Montana City U. D., Central City				

¹ Mentioned in the Denver Lodge No. 5 Fiftieth Anniversary as seeking dispensation. Perhaps lost with the earliest minutes of Auraria Lodge in the fire at 1614 Welton Street in 1984, I have been unable to find any other mention of this lodge.

² Formed from membership of Denver No. 5 due to irreconcilable divide between Union and Confederate sympathizers.

³ Name changed from Chivington No. 6.
‡ Lunar Lodge

TABLE 6. Colorado Masonic Lodges (Adapted from Research Lodge of Colorado)

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
1	Golden City	Golden	Oct 17, 1860	
*2	Summit	Parkville	Jun 5, 1861	Charter surrendered 1865
*3	Rocky Mtn	Gold Hill	Jun 5, 1861	Charter surrendered Nov 1862
4	Nevada	Nevadaville	Dec 11, 1861	
5	Denver	Denver	Dec 11, 1861	
6	Central	Central City	Dec 11, 1861	Chartered as Chivington, name changed in 1868
7	Union	Denver	Nov 3, 1863	
*8	Empire	Empire	Nov 6, 1865	Charter surrendered Nov 3, 1874
*9	Montana	Virginia Cty, MT	Nov 7, 1865	Now Montana #2, Ennis, MT
*10	Helena City	Helena City, MT	Nov 7, 1865	Now Helena #3, Helena, MT
11	Black Hawk	Black Hawk	Oct 1, 1866	
#12	Washington	Georgetown	Oct 7, 1867	Consolidated with Georgetown #48 in 1915, name changed to Georgetown
13	El Paso	Colorado Springs	Oct 8, 1867	
14	Columbia	Boulder	Oct 8, 1867	
15	Mt Moriah	Canon City	Oct 6, 1868	
*16	Wyoming	Cheyenne, WY	Oct 6, 1868	Now Cheyenne #1, Cheyenne, WY
17	Pueblo	Pueblo	Oct 6, 1868	
*18	Laramie	Laramie, WY	Sep 28, 1870	Now Laramie #3, Laramie, WY
19	Collins	Ft Collins	Sep 28, 1870	
10	Occidental	Greeley	Sep 26, 1871	
*21	Argenta	Salt Lake City, UT	Sep 26, 1871	Now Argenta #3, Salt Lake City, UT
22	Weston	Littleton	Sep 24, 1872	
23	St Vrain	Longmont	Sep 24, 1872	
*24	Evanston	Evanston, WY	Sep 30, 1872	Now Evanston #4, Evanston, WY
25	Doric	Fairplay	Sep 30, 1874	
26	Idaho Spgs	Idaho Spgs	Sep 21, 1875	

BEN WILLIAMS

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
27	Huerfano	Walsenburg	Sep 21, 1875	
28	Las Animas	Trinidad	Sep 21, 1875	
*29	Del Norte	Del Norte	Sep 20, 187	Charter arrested by Grand Master Sep 21, 1897
30	King Solomon	Las Animas	Sep 20, 1876	
31	South Pueblo	Pueblo	Sep 20, 1876	
32	Olive Branch	Saguache	Sep 18, 1877	
33	San Juan	Silverton	Sep 18, 1878	
34	Crystal Lake	Lake City	Sep 18, 1878	
*35	Ionic	Leadville	Oct 26, 1878	Consolidated with Leadville #51 in 1931, changed name to Leadville, later consolidated with Corinthian #42 in ?? and took name of Corinthian
*36	Rosita	Rosita	Sep 17, 1879	Consolidated with Silver Cliff #38 in 1907
37	Ouray	Ouray	Sep 17, 1879	
38	Silver Cliff	Westcliffe	Sep 22, 1880	
39	Gunnison Valley	Gunnison	Sep 21, 1881	
*40	Pitkin	Pitkin	Sep 21, 1881	Consolidated with Crested Butte #58 in ?? Charter surrendered Dec 10, 1898
41	Schiller	Denver	Sep 21, 1881	
*42	Corinthian	Kokomo	Sep 21, 1881	Consolidated with Ionic in Leadville in ??, kept name
*43	Eagle	Minturn	Sep 21, 1881	Consolidated with #35 in ??
44	Alamosa	Alamosa	Sep 21, 1881	
45	Boulder	Boulder	Sep 21, 1881	
46	Durango	Durango	Nov 2, 1881	
47	Breckenridge	Breckenridge	Sep 20, 1882	
*48	Georgetown	Georgetown	Sep 20, 1882	Consolidated with Washington #12 in 1915, name changed to Georgetown
49	Mount Princeton	Buena Vista	Sep 20, 1882	

FREEMASONRY IN 'PIKE'S PEAK COUNTRY'

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
50	Garfield	Longmont	Sep 20, 1882	
*51	Leadville	Leadville	Sep 20, 1882	
*52	Tin Cup	Tin Cup	Sep 18, 1883	Consolidated with Ionic #35 in 1931, kept Leadville name Charter surrendered Oct 20, 1894
53	Loveland	Loveland	Sep 18, 1883	
54	Sterling	Sterling	Sep 18, 1883	
55	Mesa	Grand Junction	Sep 18, 1883	
56	Telluride	Telluride	Sep 17, 1884	
57	Salida	Salida	Sep 17, 1884	
*58	Crested Butte	Crested Butte	Sep 17, 1884	Consolidated with Gunnison Valley #39 in ??
59	La Veta	La Veta	Sep 17, 1884	
*60	Spar	Aspen	Sep 17, 1884	Consolidated with Hiram #98 in 1906 as Hiram #98, later consolidated with Carbondale #82
61	Harmony	Denver	Sep 17, 1884	
62	Delta	Delta	Sep 16, 1885	
63	Montrose	Montrose	Sep 16, 1885	
64	Euclid	LaJunta	Sep 16, 1885	
65	Glenwood	Glenwood	Sep 21, 1887	
66	Eureka	Coal Creek	Sep 21, 1887	
67	Oasis	Fort Morgan	Sep 21, 1887	
68	Manitou	Manitou Springs	Sep 21, 1887	
*69	Windsor	Windsor	Sep 21, 1887	Consolidated with Occidental #20 in ??
*70	Logan	Julesburg	Sep 18, 1888	Consolidated with Holyoke #81 in ??
71	Wray	Wray	Sep 18, 1888	
72	Granada	Granada	Sep 18, 1888	
73	Monte Vista	Monte Vista	Sep 18, 1888	
74	Akron	Akron	Sep 18, 1889	
75	St John's	Rocky Ford	Sep 18, 1889	

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NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
76	Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs	Sep 18, 1889	
77	Burlington	Burlington	Sep 18, 1889	
78	Brighton	Brighton	Sep 16, 1890	
79	Rico	Rico	Sep 16, 1890	
80	Rio Blanco	Meeker	Sep 16, 1890	
81	Holyoke	Holyoke	Sep 16, 1890	
82	Carbondale	Carbondale	Sep 16, 1890	
83	Berthoud	Berthoud	Sep 16, 1890	
#84	Temple	Denver	Sep 16, 1890	Consolidated with Emulation #154 in 1993, name changed to Emulation
*85	Acacia	Colorado Springs	Sep 15, 1891	
86	Highlands	Denver	Sep 15, 1891	Charter arrested by Grand Master Sep 21, 1897
87	Oriental	Denver	Sep 15, 1891	
88	Yampa	Craig	Sep 16, 1891	
89	Trinidad	Trinidad	Sep 20, 1892	
90	Lamar	Lamar	Sep 20, 1892	
91	Lafayette	Lafayette	Sep 20, 1892	
92	Rob Morris	Denver	Sep 20, 1893	
93	South Denver	Denver	Sep 20, 1893	
94	Amethyst	Creede	Sep 20, 1893	
95	Silver State	Pueblo	Sep 20, 1893	
#96	Mt Pisgah	Cripple Creek	Sep 20, 1893	Consolidated with Cripple Creek #110 in ??, name changed to Cripple Creek
97	Fremont	Florence	Sep 19, 1894	
*98	Hiram	Aspen	Sep 18, 1895	Consolidated with Carbondale #82 in ??
99	Victor	Victor	Sep 18, 1895	
100	Mancos	Mancos	Sep 16, 1896	
101	Plateau	Mesa	Sep 16, 1896	
102	Mt Lamborn	Hotchkiss	Sep 22, 1897	

FREEMASONRY IN 'PIKE'S PEAK COUNTRY'

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
103	Vulcan	Hooper	Sep 22, 1897	
104	Tejon	Colorado Springs	Sep 21, 1898	
105	Del Norte	Del Norte	Sep 20, 1899	
106	Egeria	Yampa	Sep 20, 1899	
*107	Mt Audubon	Ward	Sep 20, 1899	Consolidated with Columbia #14 in 1925
*108	Goldfield	Goldfield	Sep 19, 1900	Consolidated with Victor #99 in 1925
*109	Eaton	Eaton	Sep 19, 1900	Consolidated with Occidental #20 in 1993
*110	Cripple Creek	Cripple Creek	Sep 19, 1900	Consolidated with Mt Pisgah #96 in 1918, kept Cripple Creek name
111	Norwood	Nucla	Sep 19, 1900	
*112	Crestone	Crestone	Sep 17, 1901	Charter surrendered Aug 22, 1912
113	East Gate	Holly	Sep 17, 1901	
114	Pagosa	Pagosa Springs	Sep 16, 1902	
*115	Ashler	Fowler	Sep 16, 1903	Consolidated with Silver State #95 in
116	Kiowa	Kiowa	Sep 16, 1903	
117	Albert Pike	Denver	Sep 16, 1903	
118	Elk Mountain	Steamboat Springs	Sep 21, 1904	
119	Lupton	Ft Lupton	Sep 21, 1904	
120	Hesperia	Fruita	Sep 21, 1904	
121	Paonia	Paonia	Sep 18, 1906	
122	Castle	Eagle	Sep 18, 1906	
123	Brush	Brush	Sep 18, 1906	
*124	Manzanola	Manzanola	Sep 17, 1907	Consolidated with Ashler #115 in
125	Palisade	Palisade	Sep 17, 1907	
126	Hayden Valley	Hayden	Sep 17, 1907	
*127	Kit Carson	Flagler	Sep 17, 1907	Consolidated with Burlington #77 in ??

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NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
128	Temple Gate	Center	Sep 17, 1907	
129	Rifle	Rifle	Sep 22, 1908	
130	Arapahoe	Denver	Sep 22, 1908	
*131	Tuscan	Colbran	Sep 22, 1908	Charter surrendered in 1991
132	Cheyenne Wells	Cheyenne Wells	Sep 21, 1909	
133	Cortez	Cortez	Sep 21, 1909	
134	Berkeley	Denver	Sep 20, 1910	
*135	Ordway	Ordway	Sep 20, 1910	Consolidated with St John's in ??
136	Eckert	Cedaredge	Sep 20, 1910	
*137	Marble	Marble	Sep 20, 1910	Charter surrendered Sep 9, 1918
138	South Gate	Denver	Sep 20, 1910	
*139	Hugo	Hugo	Sep 19, 1911	Consolidated with Lincoln #146 in ??
*140	Johnstown	Johnstown	Sep 17, 1912	Consolidated with Century #190 in ??
141	Arvada	Arvada	Sep 17, 1912	
142	Unity	Eads	Sep 17, 1912	
143	Inspiration	Denver	Sep 15, 1914	
144	Henry M Teller	Denver	Sep 15, 1914	
145	Montezuma	Delores	Sep 15, 1914	
146	Lincoln	Limon	Sep 21, 1915	
147	Columbine	Denver	Sep 19, 1916	
148	Park Hill	Denver	Sep 19, 1916	
149	Yuma	Yuma	Sep 19, 1916	
150	Liberty	Denver	Sep 18, 1918	
151	Palestine	Denver	Sep 18, 1918	
152	Byers	Byers	Oct 8, 1919	
153	Douglas	Castle Rock	Oct 8, 1919	
*154	Emulation	Denver	Sep 21, 1921	Consolidated with Temple #84 in 1993, name retained
*155	San Acacio	San Acacio	Sep 21, 1921	
156	Aurora	Aurora	Sep 20, 1922	Consolidated with Alamosa #44 in ??

FREEMASONRY IN 'PIKE'S PEAK COUNTRY'

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
157	Olathe	Olathe	Sep 20, 1922	
158	Springfield	Springfield	Sep 20, 1922	
159	Edgewater	Edgewater	Sep 17, 1924	
160	East Denver	Denver	Sep 17, 1924	
161	George Washington	Denver	Sep 16, 1925	
162	Paul Revere	Denver	Sep 16, 1925	
163	Mount Wolford	Kremmling	Sep 16, 1925	
164	Haxtun	Haxtun	Sep 16, 1925	
165	Ramah	Ramah	Sep 22, 1926	
166	Englewood	Englewood	Sep 22, 1926	
167	Oak Creek	Oak Creek	Sep 22, 1926	
*168	Hudson	Keenesburg	Sep 22, 1926	Consolidated with Brighton #78 in ??
169	L N Greenleaf	Denver	Sep 18, 1928	
170	Lakewood	Lakewood	Sep 17, 1946	
171	Jacques DeMolay	Denver	Sep 14, 1949	
*172	W W Cooper	Denver	Sep 14, 1949	Consolidated with Park Hill #148 in January 1994
173	Grand Junction	Grand Junction	Jan 23, 1952	
174	Joppa	Denver	Jan 23, 1952	
175	Rangely	Rangely	Jan 23, 1952	
176	Westminster	Westminster	Jan 23, 1952	
*177	Charles L Young	Dove Creek	Jan 23, 1952	Consolidated with Cortez #133 in January 1994
#178	Malta	Denver	Jan 27, 1953	Consolidated with Cherry Point #186 in 1982, name changed to Cherry Point
*179	Evergreen	Evergreen	Jan 27, 1954	Consolidated with Idaho Springs #26 in _____
180	Revelation	Aurora	Jan 26, 1955	
181	High Country	Grandby	Jan 28, 1959	
182	Miracle	Eastlake	Jan 28, 1959	
183	Estes Park	Estes Park	Jan 28, 1959	

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NO.	NAME	LOCATION	CHARTERED	COMMENTS
184	Mosaic	Eastlake	Jan 27, 1960	
185	Friendship	Denver	Jan 27, 1960	
*186	Cherry Point	Denver	Jan 27, 1960	Consolidated with Malta #178, kept name
187	Wheat Ridge	Wheat Ridge	Jan 27, 1960	
188	Ute Pass	Woodland Park	Jan 25, 1961	
189	Tri-Lunima	Commerce City	Jan 25, 1961	
190	Century	Greeley	Jan 23, 1962	
191	Fountain Valley	Fountain	Jan 28, 1964	
192	Fidelity	Ft Collins	Jan 29, 1965	
193	Perfection	Denver	Jan 24, 1968	
194	Northglenn	Eastlake	Jan 28, 1974	
195	Centurion Daylight	Monument	Jan 22, 1979	
196	Greenhorn Valley	Colorado City	Jan 22, 1983	
197	Longs Peak	Loveland	Jan 25, 2002	
198	Enlightenment	Colorado Springs	Jan 26, 2008	
199	Lumen Artis	Loveland	Jan 24, 2020	

Research Lodge Denver Jan 27, 1953
 Memorial No. 1 Denver Jan 25, 1961
 Memorial No. 2 Colorado Springs Jan 23, 1962
 Memorial No. 3 Grand Junction Jan 26, 1982

Legend

- * Number no longer in use
- # Name change

Rare Jewels: Early New York City Mark Medals

Hilary Anderson Stelling

IN THE 1790S AND EARLY 1800S FREEMASONS IN NEW YORK CITY WERE AT THE vanguard of working the Mark Master Degree in the United States. Before the founding of the Grand Chapter of New York in 1798 several New York City Craft lodges had established Mark Lodges, ostensibly governed under the authority of the Grand Lodge of New York. These early New York City Mark Lodges, operating without specific warrants, were annexed to, or associated with, a handful of city lodges. The history of these independent Mark Lodges is elusive, but traces of information about their activities and membership can be gleaned from city directories, published lodge histories, and lodge records. Material culture also helps tell their story. Surviving examples of Mark medals made for members of these lodges show that these brethren brought taste, money, and enthusiasm to the Mark Degree.

Precisely how and when Royal Arch Freemasonry came to be practised in New York is not clear. One scholar described this history as ‘Hopelessly lost in the limbo of forgotten things.’ He went on to note that that British, Scottish, and Irish soldiers working in military lodges probably brought Royal Arch Freemasonry to New York City in the 1770s

and early 1780s. Mixing among civilian Freemasons who lived in the city and Masons in the military is thought to have fuelled interest in the Royal Arch degrees. By tradition Ancient Chapter No. 1 was the longest-established of the New York City chapters, working by at least 1783.¹ Records held by Holland Lodge No. 8 in New York City show that Holland Mark Lodge started operating in April 1788. When the group first convened, five brethren took the degree and registered their marks.² A few years later, in 1793, a directory listed Holland Mark Lodge alongside other Masonic groups in the city – seven Craft lodges and Washington Chapter.³ From the late 1790s through 1810 Mark Lodges grew in popularity in New York City. From one in 1788, by 1810 the city directory included fourteen Mark Lodges, noted along with twenty Craft lodges and seven chapters.⁴

Looking back, historians have stated that Craft lodges with associated Mark Lodges that did not have specific warrants held ‘the privilege of conferring the Mark Master’s Degree’ on the strength of their charters from the Grand Lodge of New York.⁵ At times the Secretaries of Holland Mark Lodge headed the Minutes with the statement, ‘Mark Lodge held under the Warrant of Holland Lodge.’⁶ It is difficult to ascertain how or whether the Grand Lodge specifically granted this permission. Often these lodge charters, along with many lodge records of the late 1700s and early 1800s, do not survive or are not accessible.⁷ The *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New York* during this time make no substantive mention of Mark Lodges, suggesting that organization did not actively govern Mark Lodges. In 1803 the Grand Chapter of New York acknowledged that Mark Lodges had been meeting within their jurisdiction before 1798. The Grand Chapter resolved that these established independent Mark Lodges would be allowed to receive a warrant ‘confirming them in their rights and privileges as M. M. Lodges ...’ upon ‘proper application’ and payment of \$10.⁸ By 1809 at least seven city Mark Lodges had requested and received warrants. Six city Mark Lodges – several of them in opera-

¹ E. R. Turnbull and R. V. Denslow, eds., *A History of Royal Arch Masonry*, Vol. II (General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, 1956), 1059–1060, 1063.

² F. H. Tows, ‘The Holland Mark Lodge Book’, *Transactions of the American Lodge of Research*, Vol. III. No. 2 (1939), 404. I am grateful to William Moore of Boston University for sharing this reference with me.

³ W. Duncan, *The New-York Directory and Register for the Year 1793* (New York, NY: T. J. Swords, 1793), 218–220.

⁴ The first New York City directory was published in 1786 and included a listing of the officers of the Grand Lodge of New York. In 1789, the city directory featured a list of the officers of seven Masonic lodges. Starting around 1795, directory publishers began collecting information in May and issued their new edition on July 4th. Kenneth T. Jackson, ed., *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 1995), 230.

⁵ *The Sesquicentennial Commemorative Volume of Holland Lodge No. 8* (New York, NY: The Lodge, 1938), 21.

⁶ *The Sesquicentennial Commemorative Volume of Holland Lodge No. 8*, 21.

⁷ As examples, the 1787 charter issued by the Grand Lodge of New York to Holland Lodge has been lost for many years. *The Sesquicentennial Commemorative Volume of Holland Lodge No. 8*, 21. The 1760 warrant for Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2, issued by an unknown authority, is also lost. William J. Duncan, *History of Independent Royal Arch Lodge No. 2 F. & A. M. of the State of New York* (New York, NY: Charles F. Bloom, 1904), 14–15.

⁸ *Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of New York Vol. 1, 1798–1853* (Buffalo, NY: The Grand Chapter, 1871), 31.