

**CHAPTER 3**



**WILLIAM FREDERICK SLOCUM:  
THE "BUILDER" PRESIDENT**

On one of his fund-raising trips to the East Coast, Professor George N. Marden stopped in Baltimore, Maryland, and visited the First Congregational Church. There he met the Pastor, the Reverend William Frederick Slocum, and the two men formed an immediate and warm acquaintance. They came to know each other well enough that Professor Marden stayed as a guest in Pastor Slocum's Baltimore home. Upon returning to Colorado Springs, Professor Marden placed Slocum's name before the Board of Trustees as a promising possibility for President of Colorado College.

The Board inquired of a number of well-known persons on the East Coast and found that Professor Marden's high opinion of Slocum was widely shared. Among his endorsers was John Greenleaf Whittier, the celebrated American poet. The Board offered Reverend Slocum the job of President at a salary of \$3,000 per year. Slocum accepted, and he and his wife, Mary Montgomery Slocum, came out to Colorado Springs to see what could be done to revive and reenergize Colorado College.

William Frederick Slocum was born on July 29, 1851, in Grafton, Massachusetts, a small town west of Boston near Worcester. His more distant ancestors were Quakers from Rhode Island, but his parents were Congregationalists from Massachusetts. His father was a lawyer, as were two of his brothers. His father was a deacon in the Congregational Church and went to Sunday services regularly, so William Frederick Slocum naturally gravitated to the Congregational Church when he chose the ministry as his life's calling.

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### **AMHERST, ANDOVER, AND AMESBURY**

Slocum and his brothers all attended Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. In the early 1870s Amherst College was the very embodiment of what later became known as the small liberal arts college. The central building on the campus, Johnson Chapel, sat on a high hill overlooking the village green and the prim houses of the town of Amherst. Johnson Chapel, similar to the other major buildings at Amherst College, was built of red brick with white wooden trim. This chapel, equipped with a high clock tower, was surrounded on both sides and behind by a quadrangle of dormitories and other campus buildings.

In one of those dormitories, East College, the young William Slocum developed a reputation as a "reader" because of his habit of studying his books late into the night.<sup>1</sup> One story reported that he became so engaged in his reading one night that he was still hard at it when bright sunlight penetrated his dormitory window the next morning. When not with his books, Slocum participated in a literary society at Amherst and was a leading debater. In his spare time he enjoyed hiking the nearby hills and searching out places of historical interest in the Connecticut River valley.<sup>2</sup>

Following his graduation from Amherst College in 1874, Slocum spent a year traveling in England and Europe. He developed a particular interest in educational institutions in Germany. Upon his return to the United States, he went to Andover Theological Seminary to prepare for the ministry. For two years he pursued his religious studies with an emphasis on the church and its relationship to solving social problems. Upon graduating from Andover, Slocum became the Pastor of the Congregational Church in Amesbury, Massachusetts, a classic New England mill town afflicted with many of the social and economic problems that Slocum had been studying.

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<sup>1</sup> The East College which Slocum lived and studied in was torn down, but a similar building with the same name was erected at the same location. Johnson Chapel stands on the Amherst campus in the same form that Slocum knew it as an undergraduate.

<sup>2</sup> For a description of Amherst College at the time William F. Slocum was a student there, see Claude Moore Fuess, *Amherst: The Story Of A New England College* (Boston, MA: Little, Brown, and Co., 1935) 149-207. In 1914, while he was President of Colorado College, Slocum was elected the first President of the Amherst Alumni Council, which had just been formed. Fuess, *Amherst*, 345.

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While attending Andover Theological Seminary, William Slocum made the acquaintance of Mary Goodale Montgomery. She was a young woman teaching at Abbott Academy, a preparatory school for women located across the road from the Seminary.<sup>3</sup> Their friendship continued after Slocum took up his ministerial duties in Amesbury. On July 29, 1881, William Slocum's 30th birthday, they were married.

Mary Slocum joined her husband in ministering to the social needs of the Amesbury community. Working conditions were highly unsatisfactory in the large red brick factory buildings that characterized Amesbury and so many other 19th Century New England industrial towns.<sup>4</sup> William Slocum never abandoned the moralistic concern for the social and economic health of the working classes that he first exhibited at Amesbury.

### THE JOHNS HOPKINS CONNECTION

Successful ministers often move from small town parishes to larger congregations in big cities. William Slocum made such a move in 1883, when he became Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Baltimore. The church was located in a historic part of Baltimore near Mount Vernon Place, a cross-shaped public park with a tall, shaft-like monument topped by a statue of George Washington, the first President of the United States. Close by Slocum's church were the early buildings of Johns Hopkins University, which had been founded in 1876, only seven years earlier, with a \$3 million gift from Johns Hopkins, a successful Baltimore merchant.

At that time Johns Hopkins University lacked a campus with broad lawns and picturesque buildings. The University occupied a number of row houses grouped around the intersection of Howard and Centre streets in downtown Baltimore. Because many of the students attended services at Slocum's First Congregational Church, Hopkins President Daniel Coit Gilman referred to it unofficially as the "University Church." Slocum's pastoral work with the students and faculty at Hopkins resulted in President

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<sup>3</sup> Phillips Academy, originally a men's preparatory school, merged with Abbott Academy and became coeducational. The Abbott name was dropped. Some of the Abbott campus was converted to non-educational uses.

<sup>4</sup> The red brick factory buildings of Amesbury still stood in the 1990s. Many of them had been preserved and turned to other uses as part of an industrial historical park.

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Gilman granting Slocum the free use of the University's library for Slocum's own studies.

Although now in a much different setting, William Slocum continued the social ministry that he first took up in Amesbury. He joined with President Gilman of Johns Hopkins and other Baltimore civic leaders in organizing the Associated Charities, a unified charity appeal to support local social services. Slocum also showed concern for the needs of African-Americans. He spoke to a student intellectual society at Johns Hopkins on the topic of "The Education of the Negro in the South."<sup>5</sup>

During his five years in Baltimore, William Slocum was thoroughly exposed to higher education in the United States as represented by Johns Hopkins University and its President, Daniel Coit Gilman. When the call came to become President of Colorado College, Slocum knew what he was getting into and also knew he had a love and a talent for academic life. "At the age of thirty-seven he cast his lot with the College, and from that time forth, for almost a third of a century, the story of William Frederick Slocum and the story of Colorado College are one story."<sup>6</sup>

### **FIRST EFFORTS**

When they arrived in Colorado Springs in the fall of 1888, William and Mary Slocum found Colorado College in dire straits. There was but one College building – the building later known as Cutler Hall. There were fewer than 50 students in both the College and the preparatory division. There were only four faculty members, three men and one woman. The woman, Eloise Wickard, taught History and English in the preparatory school.

President Slocum made some immediate changes. The College calendar had consisted of three unequal terms. Slocum instituted the standard two-semester calendar found at many other colleges and universities. As for the preparatory school, Slocum separated it from the College and

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<sup>5</sup> Hugh Hawkins, *Pioneer: A History Of Johns Hopkins University, 1874-1889* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1960), 279.

<sup>6</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 64.

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named it Cutler Academy, in honor of Henry Cutler, the College's early and longtime benefactor. To provide housing for himself and his wife, the new President had the College buy Edward Tenney's former house located to the north of Cutler Hall. Although the College owned the structure, Slocum had to raise the \$2,000 down payment himself and personally guarantee the \$6,000 mortgage.

Slocum became the religious and moral leader of Colorado College as well as its President. He became famous among the students for his Friday morning chapel sermons, which were called "Ethicals." He referred to the "higher plane" so frequently that it became a campus saying and inside joke to the students. Clearly, William Frederick Slocum intended to continue at Colorado College the New England moralism that had characterized and inspired his predecessors at the institution.<sup>7</sup>

Although Slocum's contract with the College did not require him to raise funds, he sized up the financial situation and soon set out on a 6,000 mile trip to the East to raise money for a new men's residence hall.

### **HAGERMAN HALL**

Slocum's fund-raising, combined with the continuing work of George Marden, garnered sufficient funds to begin the construction of a substantial and permanent dormitory for men. The large stone building was three-stories high and included electricity, indoor plumbing, and a dining room for men students in the basement. It was located at the northwest corner of Cascade Avenue and Cache La Poudre Street.

The project ran out of money and the third floor could not be completed. Two members of the Board of Trustees, James J. Hagerman and William S. Jackson, eventually supplied the funds to finish the structure. Jackson insisted that the new dormitory be named Hagerman Hall in honor of Hagerman's substantial contribution.

The former head of the Milwaukee Iron Company, James John Hagerman amassed a substantial fortune in the iron ore and steel business. He came down with a bad case of consumption and, late in 1884, moved to Colorado Springs in hopes the high altitude and dry climate would cure him.

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<sup>7</sup> For a full discussion of President Slocum's religious and educational ideas, see Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 69-76.

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Finding the city pretty much dead economically, Hagerman decided to liven things up by raising the money to build a standard gauge railroad westward from Colorado Springs.

The new line, named the Colorado Midland Railway, went up Ute Pass and across South Park to the silver mines in Leadville. It then tunneled under the Continental Divide to reach the silver mines at Aspen. Going almost straight across the Rocky Mountains, "the Colorado Midland was an epic effort to defy the laws of gravity."<sup>8</sup>

Hagerman did more than give money to Colorado College. When he learned the College was building a new men's dormitory, Hagerman used his power as a Trustee of the College to convince President Slocum to build the new residence hall with pink "peachblow" sandstone from a quarry owned by Hagerman and served by the Colorado Midland Railway. Slocum had originally intended for Hagerman Hall to be built out of grey Castle Rock stone in order to match the stone used in the first College building, later named Cutler Hall. Slocum soon "fell in love with peachblow stone" and used it in the construction of three more College buildings, including the present-day Palmer Hall.

Boston Gothic architecture was appropriate for the grey stone used to build Cutler Hall. It was not appropriate at all when building with pink stone. For that reason Hagerman Hall was designed in a Romanesque style, with arched windows and a large Roman arch over the front door. It started a trend in Romanesque architecture for pink sandstone buildings at Colorado College.<sup>9</sup>

At the dedication ceremonies for Hagerman Hall, President Slocum praised the Trustees of the College for the manner in which they had pushed for the funding and construction of the building. A little later in the ceremonies, one of the speakers noted that "it was President Slocum, not the Trustees, who did the pushing."<sup>10</sup>

Professor Frank Herbert Loud established a weather station on the third

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<sup>8</sup> Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 106. For a detailed account of Hagerman's life, see John J. Lipsey, *The Lives of James John Hagerman: Builder Of The Colorado Midland Railway* (Denver, CO: Golden Bell Press, 1968).

<sup>9</sup> Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 277-278.

<sup>10</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 28.



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floor of Hagerman Hall which was operated by Colorado College students. The weather station later was incorporated into the United States Weather Bureau and, with students reading the instruments and keeping the records, served the city of Colorado Springs for 60 years.

The railroad-building efforts of James J. Hagerman, coupled with other venturesome local investments such as constructing the Pike's Peak Cog Railroad, revived the Colorado Springs economy in the late 1880s. The population grew from 4,500 persons in 1884, the year that President Tenney was forced out of office, to 11,200 persons in 1890. The opening of Hagerman Hall in 1889 symbolized the economic revival of Colorado Springs as well as the financial rejuvenation of Colorado College.<sup>11</sup>

### **THE CENTRAL HEATING PLANT**

By late 1889 the College had two buildings – Cutler Hall and Hagerman Hall. The Trustees determined that the time had come to construct a central heating plant. A boiler room was built behind Cutler Hall and steam lines carried heat to Cutler Hall and Hagerman Hall through underground tunnels. The heating plant had high smokestacks which became something of a landmark at the western end of the campus. As additional buildings were constructed at the College, they were connected to and heated from this central facility.

### **MONTGOMERY HALL**

Mary Slocum, the wife of President Slocum, organized the women of Colorado College and Colorado Springs into a formal group called the Woman's Educational Society (W.E.S.). The first project undertaken by the W.E.S. was to plan and raise the money for a "cottage" for women students. This new residence hall was called a "cottage" because the Society intended to

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<sup>11</sup> Two railroad presidents, William S. Jackson of the Denver and Rio Grande, and James J. Hagerman of the Colorado Midland, served on the Colorado College Board of Trustees. The two railroads competed to be the first line to reach the silver mines at Aspen, Colorado. Jackson's Rio Grande won but only by six weeks. The two men competed avidly as railroad builders but cooperated in getting a dormitory for men, Hagerman Hall, built at Colorado College. Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 104-108.

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make it as warm and comfortable a residence hall for women as possible. The "cottage" system for housing women students had been developed at Smith College, a women's college in Northampton, Massachusetts.

The W.E.S. not only collected the necessary funds for constructing the new dormitory but also furnished and decorated the building for its first inhabitants.<sup>12</sup> The fund-raising drive was helped along by a \$5,000 contribution from Mrs. J. J. Hagerman, the wife of the College trustee who contributed so much of the money for Hagerman Hall.

The new women's dormitory was named Montgomery Hall in honor of a sister of Mrs. Slocum's who had recently died. Montgomery was Mrs. Slocum's maiden name. The construction was of Castle Rock Lava, a grey stone very similar in appearance to that used in the building of Cutler Hall. The first floor included a living room, a small infirmary, and a kitchen and pantry.<sup>13</sup>

Montgomery Hall was located to the north of the main academic building (Cutler Hall) but set a few feet further to the west. After Montgomery Hall opened in 1891, the College, like so many other institutions of higher learning, had a "row" of major buildings. Hagerman Hall, the dormitory for men, was on the south. The main academic building (Cutler Hall) was in the middle. Montgomery Hall, the dormitory for women, was to the north.

### ROBERT WOMACK

Although the 1858-1859 Pike's Peak Gold Rush to Colorado produced plenty of gold, virtually none of that precious metal was found on the slopes of Pike's Peak. Many a prospector tried to find gold on America's most prominent mountain, but every digging and test hole turned up nothing. As a result, most of the "high country" around Pike's Peak was used to graze cattle.

For years a man named Robert Womack had divided his time between herding cattle for wealthy ranch owners in the area and digging for precious

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<sup>12</sup> For a history of the Women's Educational Society at Colorado College, see Barbara M. Arnest, Editor, *A Quiet Work: 100 Years Of The WES* (Colorado Springs, CO: Women's Educational Society, 1990).

<sup>13</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 29-33.



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metals. He was considered a "dreamer" for continuing to prospect in such an unlikely location.

Late in the year 1890, however, Bob Womack dug out some ore samples. He found them southwest of Pike's Peak near a small stream called Cripple Creek. The nearest major community was Colorado Springs, so Womack hurried down to the Springs and had his ore samples assayed. They turned out to contain real gold.<sup>14</sup>

At first Bob Womack had great difficulty convincing people he had made a significant discovery. But other prospectors went up to Cripple Creek and also found substantial quantities of the precious metal. By May of 1891 a small gold rush was under way. It did not stay small very long. In 1892 over \$500,000 in gold was mined. In 1893 output soared to \$2 million. In 1896 more than \$7 million in gold came out of the ground near Pike's Peak. Eventually the region produced the largest mining profits ever generated in Colorado. Cripple Creek ended up being the biggest precious metals bonanza in the state's history.<sup>15</sup>

And it all began just two years after William Frederick Slocum came to Colorado Springs and took over the presidency of Colorado College.

### **CRIPPLE CREEK AND COLORADO SPRINGS**

Cripple Creek was located at more than 10,000 feet of altitude and rapidly turned into a rough, roaring, bawdy mining camp. Colorado Springs was only about 40 miles away by road, so many of the men who rushed to the area to make money from Cripple Creek gold elected to build their homes and locate their families in the Springs. The result was a gold-inspired population boom in Colorado Springs. Ready and waiting to educate the older children of all these new residents was Colorado College.

The impact of the Cripple Creek gold discovery on Colorado Springs was significant. By 1894 there were three stock exchanges in town specializing in Cripple Creek gold mining stocks. One of them, the Colorado Springs Mining Exchange, soon was trading "more shares than any other

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<sup>14</sup> For Bob Womack's life and efforts to find gold in Cripple Creek, see *Men Of Note Affiliated With Mining And Mining Interests In The Cripple Creek District* (no publisher cited, 1905), 3-5. Book is available in Colorado College Archives.

<sup>15</sup> Ubbelohde, Benson, and Smith, *A Colorado History*, 201-205.

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exchange in the world." Astute Colorado Springs businessmen ended up owning the more productive mines. During the decade of the 1890s bank deposits in Colorado Springs multiplied nine times.

The city's population doubled from 1890 to 1900. A total of 420 mining companies located their offices in downtown Colorado Springs along Tejon Street. A number of the newly wealthy bought lots and built large mansions on the land just to the north of Colorado College. That area, some of which had been part of President Tenney's New Massachusetts development, became known as the North End. During the 1890s the number of millionaires residing in the North End jumped from three to over fifty.<sup>16</sup>

Many people made big money at Cripple Creek, but one person who did not was Bob Womack. He sold his diggings up at Cripple Creek for a relatively small amount of money shortly after he found the first gold there. Bob Womack ended up with more fame than fortune for his efforts.

### **A GOLDEN AGE**

The discovery of gold at Cripple Creek ushered in a Golden Age for Colorado College, both educationally and financially. "The College campus seemed to come alive in the early 1890s as enrollment increased steadily."<sup>17</sup> A men's literary society, the Apollonian Club, was organized in 1890. A similar intellectual club for women, the Minerva Society, was formed the following year. The students wrote and published a magazine, the *Colorado Collegian*, which reported the latest campus news events and included student literary compositions.

Intercollegiate oratorical contests had become important events in Colorado by the early 1890s. Apparently Colorado College students were skilled at giving effective and entertaining speeches. The Oratorical Society won the state oratorical contest in both 1892 and 1893. Oratorical contests were as popular as intercollegiate athletics, with student supporters wearing college colors and insignia and cheering thunderously from the audience. In 1892 a special train was chartered to take 150 Colorado College students and other local supporters to the state oratorical finals in Denver.

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<sup>16</sup> Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 166-168.

<sup>17</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 43-44.

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In 1891 the students at the College raised the money to build a small men's gymnasium. It was an one-story wooden frame structure located west of Cutler Hall. It contained gymnastic equipment and also served as a dressing room for the College football and baseball teams. Along with the other major institutions of higher learning in Colorado, including The University of Colorado at Boulder and the Colorado School of Mines at Golden, Colorado College helped to form the Colorado Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Teams competed in men's football, baseball, and track.

Colorado College graduated the largest graduation class in its brief history in 1893. A total of five seniors received their diplomas at commencement exercises in the Colorado Springs Opera House. One of those seniors was the College's first foreign student to graduate - Taizo Nakashima of Japan. Two years later, in 1895, Nettie Carey and Elizabeth Powell became the first two women students to earn degrees from Colorado College.

But what really made the 1890s the beginning of a Golden Age at Colorado College was the wealth which Cripple Creek millionaires began to lavish on the College. The contributions came slowly at first, but later on Cripple Creek money flowed to the College in considerable amounts. Men such as James Burns, Albert Carlton, Irving Howbert, William Lennox, Spencer Penrose, Eugene Shove, and Charles Tutt, Sr., contributed to both the College endowment and the building program. In later years the names of a number of these men could be found on major buildings at the College.<sup>18</sup>

Former President Edward Payson Tenney uncannily predicted the effect which Cripple Creek gold would have on Colorado College. In 1878, twelve years before Bob Womack first discovered great treasure on the southwest slopes of Pike's Peak, Tenney wrote: "Consecrated gold from the Colorado mountains will enlarge and beautify her Christian college [Colorado College]."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> The major buildings named for Cripple Creek millionaires were Lennox House (the first student union), Shove Chapel, Tutt Library, and Tutt Alumni House. El Pomar Sports Center was named for a charitable foundation set up by the Penrose and Tutt families. James Burns contributed money to build spectator stands for the football field.

<sup>19</sup> Tenney, *The New West*, 87.

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### COBURN LIBRARY

But the influx of new money from Cripple Creek did not diminish the importance of the New England connection at Colorado College. In 1892 Nathan Parker Coburn, of Newton, Massachusetts, made a \$50,000 gift to the College to pay for a new library. Newton was another one of those small towns located west of Boston, the area in which so many Colorado College benefactors lived. It also was significant that Nathan Coburn was a childhood friend of William Frederick Slocum.

When he contacted Nathan Coburn on behalf of the College, President Slocum at first intended only to ask for money for new books. At the last minute, however, Slocum decided to be courageous and ask Coburn for enough money to build the entire library building. Coburn agreed to it, and President Slocum was very pleased he had decided to ask for the larger amount of money.

The new structure was located on the northeast corner of Cascade Avenue and Cache La Poudre Street. It was the first College building to be erected on the four-block-square area east of Cascade Avenue.

As for building material and architecture for the new library, President Slocum decided to follow the patterns set by Hagerman Hall directly across the street. Coburn Library was built in the Romanesque style with pink peachblow sandstone from western Colorado. Its most distinguishing architectural feature was large arched windows. The new building also sported a red tile roof, a covered entrance on the Cache La Poudre Street side, and interior woodwork of solid red oak.

Coburn Library had the atmosphere of sumptuous intellectualism often associated with major buildings at New England colleges and universities. The structure was designed with galleries and alcoves which soon contained marble busts of Antinous and Dante and metal casts of Hermes of Praxiteles and Mercie's "David." A full-length statue of the Winged Victory of Samothrace presided over the main hall. The lower level was equipped with pews so it could be used for daily chapel services, College assemblies, and lectures. President Slocum located his offices on the main floor.<sup>20</sup>

Coburn Library and its collection of books and its study spaces were

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<sup>20</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 45.

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made available to the people of Colorado Springs as well as to the students and faculty of Colorado College. It marked the beginning of the College, to as great an extent as is reasonable, sharing its major facilities with the local community. Colorado Springs returned the compliment by providing athletic venues and large assembly spaces for Colorado College events.

### **THE FIRST CHALLENGE FUND**

In 1893 a wealthy Chicago real estate man offered to contribute \$50,000 to Colorado College if the College would raise a matching \$150,000 on its own. Dr. D. K. Pearsons had been a school teacher, a medical doctor, and an Illinois farmer before making a fortune buying and selling property in Chicago. He spent the later years of his life making gifts to colleges and universities he believed were doing exceptional work. Apparently President Slocum's efforts at the College impressed Pearsons, because Pearsons said he gave the money because he "he liked that young man who was doing things out there in Colorado."

President Slocum recruited everyone he could – trustees, students, citizens of Colorado Springs, traditional New England benefactors – in his efforts to raise the \$150,000 needed to secure Pearsons's \$50,000. The College met the goal on December 31, 1896, thereby gaining a total of \$200,000 from the Pearsons Fund. In the ensuing celebration, the men students pulled President Slocum around downtown Colorado Springs in a buggy. An onlooker described the scene:

“The center of interest was President Slocum, trying not to look too unhappy, seated in a high run-a-bout, drawn by students who were in cap and gown, and clasping to him a large money bag (made, I heard afterwards, of one of Mrs. Slocum’s sofa pillows) with \$150,000 on it in large figures.... I said, ‘How amusing!’”<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> The onlooker was Ruth Loomis, prior to her employment as the first Dean of Women at Colorado College. She was visiting Colorado Springs while taking a year off from her teaching duties at Vassar College. Letter, Ruth Loomis to Mr. Ormes, 25 February 1928, Colorado College Archives.

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### "AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

In 1893 Katherine Lee Bates, a professor of English at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, came to Colorado Springs for a summer visit. She was teaching in the Colorado Summer School of Science, Philosophy, and Languages. The summer program was sponsored by a number of colleges and universities in Colorado and was held at Colorado College.

During her sojourn in Colorado Springs, Katherine Lee Bates took a two-day wagon trip to the top of Pike's Peak. She was so inspired by the view that, upon her return to her quarters at the Antlers Hotel, she wrote a poem entitled "America The Beautiful."

The poem was published in the *Congregationalist*, a nationally circulated magazine of the Congregational Church. Later the words were set to an existing musical piece. The patriotic song that resulted was so popular that a number of unsuccessful efforts were made to make it the national anthem.

"America The Beautiful" used such images as "spacious skies," "amber waves of grain," and "purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain." These images confirmed the Pike's Peak and Colorado origins of the song. If it ever wishes to do so, Colorado College can call itself "The 'America The Beautiful' College."<sup>22</sup>

### WOLCOTT OBSERVATORY

In the spring of 1894 a small astronomical observatory was constructed down the hillside to the west of Hagerman Hall, the new men's dormitory. It was named Wolcott Observatory for Henry R. Wolcott, of Denver, who gave \$3,000 to build the observatory and also contributed a fine telescope for the dome-shaped observation room on the second floor. The building was square-shaped with a large Romanesque arch over the front entrance. On the first floor was a lecture hall, a photographic laboratory, and a faculty office.

Professor Loud taught the astronomy courses, and one evening a week

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<sup>22</sup> In 1981 Mike Bird, a Professor of Economics at Colorado College, was serving on the Colorado Springs City Council and had been elected the City's Vice Mayor. Acting on a suggestion from the author, Mike Bird introduced and got adopted a City Council resolution that designated Colorado Springs as "The 'America The Beautiful' City."



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he held open house at the observatory so that people from Colorado Springs could come study the planets and the stars. "The College authorities were very anxious that the townspeople feel free to use the College facilities at all times."<sup>23</sup>

### **THE CRIPPLE CREEK MINERS STRIKE**

In 1894 the miners at Cripple Creek, who were unionized in the Western Federation of Miners, went on strike for an eight-hour day. They seized all the largest gold mines and shut them down, much to the consternation of the wealthy mine owners and stockholders, many of whom lived in Colorado Springs. The sheriff of El Paso County gathered a posse of 1,200 instant deputies in Colorado Springs and prepared to physically fight the striking miners for control of the mines.<sup>24</sup>

The mine owners turned to Colorado College President William F. Slocum for help. After all, Slocum was the man who had worked to better the lives of factory workers in Amesbury, Massachusetts, and helped to form the Associated Charities in Baltimore, Maryland. President Slocum fearlessly walked through the picket lines at Cripple Creek in an effort to arrange an acceptable settlement with the armed and angry strikers. His efforts were rewarded when the striking miners agreed to peacefully negotiate their differences with the mine owners.

Slocum then was asked to address the striking miners, many of whom were armed and had been drinking whiskey to get their courage up for the anticipated battle with the El Paso County deputies. Despite these challenging conditions, Slocum spoke forcefully to the miners, urging them to negotiate with the mine owners in good faith and to obey the laws of the state of Colorado.

The Governor of Colorado, Davis H. Waite, was a member of the Populist Party and refused to use the state militia against the striking miners. In an effort to settle the strike, Governor Waite met with the mine owners in the main academic building (Cutler Hall) at Colorado

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<sup>23</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 37-38.

<sup>24</sup> At that time Cripple Creek was in El Paso County. The city became part of newly-created Teller County in 1899.

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College. President Slocum called the meeting to order and presided. No solution to the strike acceptable to the mine owners could be worked out, and an angry mob formed in front of the building yelling threats and taunts against the Governor. After dark Governor Waite had to quietly slip out the back door of the building and sneak down the railroad tracks to the railroad station in order to get safely out of town.

The strike was eventually settled. The miner's received their eight-hour day and their \$3 daily wage. President Slocum came out of the encounter with a reputation for personal physical courage and possessing good skills as a peacemaker.<sup>25</sup>

### **THE CRIPPLE CREEK FIRE**

President Slocum was not the only member of the Colorado College community to do good works at Cripple Creek. In April of 1896 a fire started in a dance hall and rapidly spread throughout the gold camp. Before the conflagration was over, 5,000 people were without shelter and food to eat. A major effort was made in Colorado Springs to find blankets and food supplies to help relieve the suffering. Classes were cancelled at Colorado College so the students could canvass nearby residential areas for food, clothing, firewood, and anything else that might help the burned-out miners and their families in Cripple Creek.<sup>26</sup>

### **THE CROSS OF GOLD**

The silver mines of Colorado were so productive that, throughout the 1880s and early 1890s, the price of silver declined rapidly. As a result, many silver mines closed, the miners were thrown out of work, and once thriving "silver queens," such as the city of Leadville, began to turn into ghost towns. A movement grew in Colorado to revive the silver mining industry by having

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<sup>25</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 85-86. Also see Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 168-170, 276. Ubbelohde, Benson, and Smith, *A Colorado History*, 220-221. For a detailed account of the entire 130-day strike, see B. M. Rastall, *The Cripple Creek Strike Of 1893* (Colorado Springs, CO: Colorado College, 1905). President Slocum's efforts are related on 22-24, 27.

<sup>26</sup> Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 173-174.

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the U.S. Government arbitrarily set the price of silver at one-sixteenth of the price of gold.

This movement to fix the price of silver gained its greatest political strength at the 1896 national convention of the Democratic Party. The Democratic nominee for President of the United States, William Jennings Bryan, joined the silver crusade and, in one of the most famous speeches in U.S. political history, pledged to save the nation from crucifixion upon "the cross of gold." Bryan's Republican opponent, William McKinley, committed his candidacy to keeping the United States on just one monetary standard - the gold standard - and continuing to let the market determine the price of silver.

Colorado College and Colorado Springs could not escape this great struggle over silver, even though the economy of Colorado Springs was based firmly on Cripple Creek gold. The idea was very strongly about all over Colorado that the state's economy could not survive if the U.S. Government did not fix the price of silver at a profitable level.<sup>27</sup>

As it turned out, the Republican candidate, William McKinley, won the 1896 presidential election. The U.S. Government did not support the price of silver, and the days of silver mining in Colorado ended abruptly as the price of silver dropped so low there was no profit to be made mining it. Colorado voted solidly for William Jennings Bryan, but this last ditch political effort to save the silver mining industry was in vain.

William McKinley's election to the U.S. presidency turned out to be good news for Colorado College. Some observers had estimated that, if Bryan had won the election and fixed the price of silver, the value of the gold mines at Cripple Creek would have been cut in half.<sup>28</sup> But with silver eliminated as a competitor to be the monetary standard in the United States, the gold in the ground at Cripple Creek retained its value. Gold production at Cripple Creek increased after 1896 rather than diminishing.

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<sup>27</sup> For a brief account of the silver struggle in Colorado, see Cronin and Loevy, *Colorado Politics And Government*, 60-63. For a more detailed version, see Ubbelohde, Benson, and Smith, *A Colorado History*, 208-212, 222-225.

<sup>28</sup> Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 174. Sprague, describing Winfield Scott Stratton, a famous Cripple Creek millionaire, wrote: "If Bryan should be elected, he [Bryan] would resume silver coinage at the old silver-gold ratio of sixteen to one, which would cut Stratton's gold fortune in half, in effect."

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In summary, as a result of the 1896 U.S. presidential election, gold continued to be mined in Cripple Creek, fortunes continued to be made from that gold by mine owners and investors in Colorado Springs, and a significant portion of those gold profits continued to be contributed to Colorado College. The silver "depression" that hit the rest of Colorado did not have a major effect on Colorado Springs and Colorado College. It became clear that the "Golden Age" that had characterized Colorado College in the 1890s was going to last into the early 1900s, and perhaps beyond.

### TICKNOR HALL

Enrollments at Colorado College continued to rise throughout the 1890s, and by the end of the decade the College had 216 students. The number of women students far exceeded the accommodations available in Montgomery Hall. The College used two residential houses close to the campus for women's dormitories. One was located in the 1300 block of North Weber Street. The second, called East Hall, stood at 930 North Weber Street. The western part of the Plaza Hotel, at the southwest corner of Tejon Street and Cache La Poudre Street, was used temporarily for women students and called South Hall.

In 1897 the College received an anonymous gift of \$5,000, later increased to \$10,000, to construct a new residence hall for women. The building was located between Montgomery Hall and Cutler Hall, but it was set back so that, taking advantage of the slope of the ground, well-lighted and ventilated rooms could be used on the basement floor. The building material was Ute Pass Green Stone. The brownish color of the stone contrasted with the grey of Cutler and Montgomery halls and the peachblow pink of Hagerman and Coburn halls.

The completion of this new dormitory tripled the living space for women on the Colorado College campus. From Cascade Avenue the new women's dormitory appeared to be the same size as Montgomery Hall, but a large west wing, not visible from in front, made it a much larger building. The design emphasized the social as well as the residential needs of the women students. A club-recreation room was included with a separate entrance on the south side of the building. There also was a room for storing bicycles, given that bicycling was one of the favorite pastimes of students in that era. On the main floor there were parlors and reception rooms where the

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women students could entertain visitors. There was a dining room seating 40 to 50 women.

The 1890s were the Victorian era and the College treated the students in a Victorian manner. The men took their meals in Hagerman Hall. The women ate in Ticknor and Montgomery halls. There also were separate exercise and club facilities for the two sexes.

The new women's residence hall was completed in 1898. Five years later, in 1903, it was revealed that the building was the gift of a young woman named Elizabeth Cheney. A resident of Wellesley, Massachusetts, Elizabeth Cheney had come to Colorado Springs because of her health. The structure was named Ticknor Hall in honor of Anna Ticknor, of Boston, who was a close friend and adviser to Elizabeth Cheney. The following account was given of how Elizabeth Cheney came to give Ticknor Hall to Colorado College.

“Miss Cheney had watched [President] Slocum’s taxing work on the Pearsons Fund in addition to all the other things he was doing. [She] put an envelope into his hand one day,... and he found that it was a check for \$5,000. He did not hesitate long. That evening he and Mrs. Slocum went over to ... tell ... [the women students of their plan to build another] building for them on campus. When President Slocum told Miss Cheney, she said, ‘I’ll make it \$10,000.’ When [President Slocum] showed her the plans of what afterward became Ticknor [Hall], she said, ‘Build it, and I will pay for it.’ Miss Cheney was then in her early twenties, and it seemed best to her mother and herself that no announcement of her gift should be made.”<sup>29</sup>

### RUTH LOOMIS

Following the completion of Ticknor Hall, the College hired Ruth Loomis to become the first Dean of Women. Miss Loomis, as she was addressed by the students, attended Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, graduating in 1885. She taught English for nine years at Vassar before coming to Colorado College. She was the first full-time administrative appointee at the College, taking office in 1897.

Although Ruth Loomis worked full time as a Dean, she was treated and regarded as a member of the faculty. Her most important contribution was to

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<sup>29</sup> Letter, Ruth Loomis to Mr. Ormes, 25 February 1928, Colorado College Archives.

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bring to a small western college the sophistication, gentility, and sense of proper behavior typified by an eastern college for women such as Vassar. "In effect, she maintained a college for women in a coeducational institution."<sup>30</sup>

Ruth Loomis became a living symbol of how a Victorian woman should act. She was noted for imparting "sterling integrity" to her charges and elevating "the ideals of...young women."<sup>31</sup> A woman member of the class of 1906 said of her: "Dean Loomis felt it was important to give [the women students] a polish along with strict moral standards. Dignity marked Dean Loomis's bearing; even her laughter was subdued and lady-like and her taffeta lined skirts swished in quiet elegance as she moved down the stairs.... She knew all the proper requirements for proper young women, and lest we forget, a list of reminders was tacked inside our closet doors."<sup>32</sup>

### A GROWING FACULTY

As the student body grew in size through the 1890s, President Slocum hired additional faculty members. Slocum himself taught Philosophy and Ethics, aiming his courses at students in their junior and senior year. In hiring new faculty, Slocum sought to find young and brilliant teachers who also were outstanding in their academic field. "The faculty that President Slocum did succeed in bringing to Colorado College gave to the institution a name among the best colleges and universities in the land. Some of the faculty had international reputations as scholars, and they were men of strong personalities that were an inspiration to the students."<sup>33</sup>

President Slocum recruited a number of his new faculty members from the large group of people who moved to Colorado Springs to seek a high-altitude cure for lung disease. One of them was Florian Cajori, a native

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<sup>30</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 163.

<sup>31</sup> Student testimony to Miss Ruth Loomis upon her retirement in 1917, quoted in Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 163-164.

<sup>32</sup> Mabel Barbee Lee, class of 1906, quoted in Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 49-50.

<sup>33</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 103.



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of Switzerland who came to the United States at the age of 16. Cajori began his studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He subsequently earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin and his Ph.D. from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. When Cajori moved to Colorado Springs to improve his health, Slocum quickly recruited him to teach Mathematics and Physics at Colorado College.

When Professor Cajori read about Wilhelm Roentgen's x-ray experiments in Germany, he took his advanced Physics class to the laboratory. There they carried out the first successful x-ray experiments west of the Mississippi River.<sup>34</sup> It was typical of the emerging style and manner of Colorado College that Florian Cajori involved his students in his pioneering x-ray research.

Another celebrated Slocum hire was Professor Moses Clement Gile. He went to preparatory school at Phillips Academy in Andover and then attended Brown University, where he received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees. Gile began studying for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary, but financial stringency forced him to begin teaching at Phillips Academy in Andover. He subsequently taught Greek at the University of Chicago before moving to Colorado Springs to recover from a pulmonary ailment. President Slocum hired him to teach Latin and Greek. Moses Gile was one of the most popular teachers at the College from 1892 until he passed away in 1916.

The numerous faculty members hired by President William Frederick Slocum were an outstanding lot, many of them characterized by a commitment to disciplined research and writing as well as a devotion to teaching. One scholar looked back and described them as the "first...distinguished faculty" of Colorado College.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 47.

<sup>35</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 155-156. Hershey wrote detailed descriptions of a number of the faculty members hired by President Slocum. See 155-170. Also see Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 103-113.

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### **CREATING AN ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

By the mid-1890s the faculty numbered more than 20. This required President Slocum to begin hiring full-time administrators to help him run the College. It was Slocum who began the practice, long honored at Colorado College, of customarily hiring academic deans from the existing faculty. The first Dean was William Montague Hall, a graduate of Yale University, who came to the College to teach Political Science.

Slocum also hired Edward S. Parsons, who subsequently became a Vice President and then Dean of Colorado College. Similar to Slocum, Parsons was an Amherst man, earning both a B.A. and an M.A. at Amherst and a Bachelor of Divinity at Yale. He served a brief period as a minister in Greeley, Colorado, before coming to Colorado College to teach English.

Throughout most of his career at the College, Edward Parsons was known and addressed as Dean Parsons. He became famous for being a skilled executive and taking a sympathetic and understanding approach when working with students. Through the middle years of William Frederick Slocum's presidency, Parsons was Slocum's most loyal and supportive lieutenant. In 1894 Parsons turned down a lucrative offer from another college because of his admiration for President Slocum and all that Slocum was accomplishing at Colorado College.<sup>36</sup>

Other administrative posts appointed by President Slocum included the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, the Librarian, and the Treasurer. Arthur Baylis was named to direct Buildings and Grounds in 1900 and held the post for 42 years. Manley Ormes, a Congregational minister, took charge of the Library in 1904 and served 25 years. William W. Postlethwaite was appointed Treasurer in 1911 and was on the job for 30 years.

By and large all the other administrative functions, such as raising money, issuing press announcements, and distributing student aid, were handled by President Slocum. That was in addition to teaching his Philosophy courses and leading daily chapel services.

And President Slocum sometimes had to fulfill the most routine of functions. On a Sunday morning in September in the late 1890s, the temperature dropped unusually low and the dormitories became

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<sup>36</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 107-108. Also see Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 162-163.

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uncomfortably frigid. Dean of Women Ruth Loomis was worrying about how cold the students were when suddenly the heat came on in Montgomery Hall. "As I looked out," Miss Loomis recalled, "there was President Slocum going back to his house from the boiler house, his hat a little back on his head, and holding his hands as if they were more grimy than they really were. Afraid that the [students] might take cold, he had opened the boiler house and started the fire himself. Indeed, it was many years before we could afford to keep a man [there] all the time."<sup>37</sup>

### **WASHBURN FIELD**

In 1898 it was decided that Colorado College needed an athletic field in order to stimulate more student interest in physical development and intercollegiate competition. The natural amphitheater created by the hill behind Cutler Hall was chosen as the location for the new field. The ground was leveled and smoothed to provide a football field, a baseball diamond, and a circular running track.

The new athletic field was dedicated at the start of a baseball game between Colorado College and the Colorado School of Mines on April 7, 1898. President Slocum performed the traditional symbolic ritual of pitching the first ball. The Colorado College team won the game over Mines by a score of 12 to 10, en route to winning the Colorado Intercollegiate Athletic Association baseball championship three years in a row.

One of the speakers at the dedication was Reverend Philip Washburn of Grace Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs. Washburn was an avid supporter of Colorado College sports. Following his death later in the year, the students and faculty voted to name the new athletic field for Reverend Washburn. An archway was erected over the entrance to the field that bore the name "Washburn Field."

The new athletic field came with a grandstand seating 600 persons. In 1900 James Burns, one of the first Cripple Creek millionaires to contribute to the College, gave the money to build an additional grandstand for 800 persons. There was no trouble filling all those seats with spectators. In 1899 and 1900 the Colorado College football team was undefeated, winning the state championship both years and, in 1900, defeating the University of

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<sup>37</sup> Letter, Ruth Loomis to Mr. Ormes, 25 February 1928, Colorado College Archives.

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Colorado by a score of 53 to 0. Top quality intercollegiate men's sports had become a major part of the Colorado College scene.

### **PERKINS HALL**

Willard B. Perkins was an architect who had come to Colorado Springs for his health and subsequently became one of the leading architects in the region. When he passed away in 1897, he stipulated in his will that Colorado College should receive the sum of \$24,000. Some of the money was designated for scholarships, but a large portion was given as a building fund to be used as the Board of Trustees saw fit.

During the previous three years President Slocum had overseen the creation of both a Department of Music and a Department of Fine Arts at Colorado College. The two programs had proven popular with the students, so a combined Music and Fine Arts building seemed to be the best thing to do with the Willard B. Perkins bequest. Two Cripple Creek millionaires, Winfield Scott Stratton and James Burns, joined a number of other contributors in making additional gifts to the Perkins Hall building fund.<sup>38</sup>

The new building was located immediately to the east of Coburn Library and faced on Cache La Poudre Street. Similar to Coburn, it was constructed of pink peachblow sandstone in a Romanesque architectural style. It was two-stories high, with classrooms, art studios, and music practice rooms on the second floor. The major feature of the building, a 600-seat assembly hall, was located on the first floor. The assembly hall was equipped with a pipe organ contributed by Elizabeth Cheney, the same youthful benefactor of the College who gave the money for Ticknor Hall.

### **A NATIONALLY-PROMINENT PRESIDENT**

By the year 1900 William Frederick Slocum's strenuous efforts and readily visible accomplishments as President of Colorado College had lifted him to national prominence. His photograph and his name constituted the

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<sup>38</sup> The Willard B. Perkins who contributed money to construct Perkins Hall should not be confused with Charles Eliot Perkins, an executive of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. Charles Eliot Perkins influenced his heirs to give the Garden of the Gods property to the City of Colorado Springs for a public park.

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entire front cover of the February 22, 1900, issue of the *Congregationalist*, the national magazine of the Congregational Church. The accompanying article lauded Slocum for his commitment to "the best traditions of New England learning and culture" and for succeeding in a situation where "any other than a man of vision would have utterly failed." The praise for Slocum was soaring, even for the Victorian Age. "Men around him have again and again learned from him to attempt courageously the right even when it seemed the impossible."

The article went on to cite President Slocum for his good business sense and administrative skills as well as his commitment to public service. It concluded with a prayer for his continued service as the head of Colorado College. "Long may he be spared to develop the institution which owes, in great measure, its marvelous growth and its wide influence to his energy, tact, wisdom and character."<sup>39</sup>

In 1903 President Slocum was invited to be the Southworth lecturer at Andover Theological Seminary. He gave a series of talks on the subject of "The Moral and Religious Evolution of the West." According to the *Congregationalist*, Slocum traced the various migrations to the West and the educational movements that resulted. It was assumed that many of the young divinity students to whom he was speaking would follow his example and become either church pastors or college teachers and administrators on the nation's western frontier. "The West," Slocum was quoted as saying, "demands today as never before that its clergymen should be men of breadth, scholarship, intensity of moral conviction, and possessed of the deepest personal religious experience."<sup>40</sup>

### GENERAL PALMER RETIRES

In 1901 General William Jackson Palmer began to sell his remaining railroad interests and thereby ended his business career as "a builder of the West." He had been very financially successful. He sold the Rio Grande

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<sup>39</sup> "President Slocum," *Congregationalist*, 22 February 1900, 259. Article found in the archives at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary in Newton, Massachusetts.

<sup>40</sup> "President Slocum's Lectures At Andover," *Congregationalist*, 25 April 1903, 581. Article found in the archives at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary in Newton, Massachusetts.

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Western railroad, his line across eastern Utah, to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad for \$6 million. He unloaded his remaining railroad properties in Mexico for another \$500,000. These monies combined with Palmer's extensive real estate assets gave him a personal fortune of \$9 million and an income of \$360,000 per year.<sup>41</sup>

This was a major development for both Colorado Springs and Colorado College. The good General, now relieved of his entrepreneurial responsibilities, was able to devote more of his time – and his fortune – to his city and his College.<sup>42</sup> This process began when General Palmer purchased the land, paid for the landscaping, and gave the city Monument Valley Park. Since Monument Creek ran along the western edge of the Colorado College campus, Monument Valley Park beautified the College as well as the city.

The portion of the park that immediately adjoined the campus had a number of trees and rustic benches. It was next to the women's dormitories, so it became a favorite spot for men and women students to get together and enjoy each other's company. Ruth Loomis, the Dean of Women, declared this area off-limits for women students at night. The area was nicknamed "the jungle," and there were occasional references in student publications to "night jungling."<sup>43</sup>

### **PALMER HALL**

From the earliest days of its founding Colorado College had a strong offering of science courses. Classical studies were never neglected, but pioneer science professors such as James Hutchison Kerr and William Strieby saw to it there was high quality instruction in all the major scientific fields. As the College grew in size throughout the 1890s, however, it became increasingly difficult to find the needed space for science classrooms and well equipped laboratories.

As the 19th Century came to an end, President Slocum increased his determination to see that Colorado College became a leading educational

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<sup>41</sup> Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 148. Also see Fisher, *A Builder Of The West*, 279, 302-303.

<sup>42</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 71.

<sup>43</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 68.



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institution. The rapid growth in the student body and the faculty during the 1890s had already brought the College a significant reputation. But Slocum wanted to do more. He wanted to establish science programs that would compare favorably with the best colleges and universities in the nation. The first step, and the most necessary step, to accomplish this goal would be to raise the money to build a new science building.<sup>44</sup>

The new building was designed to include science laboratories, lecture halls, and the College administrative offices. It was to be larger in size and sturdier in construction than any previous building on the campus. In short, it was to perform the dual function of increasing the space available for the sciences while at the same time symbolizing the recent growth in the size and reputation of Colorado College.

The construction cost of the new science facility was \$270,000. It had a steel frame and concrete floors overlaid with a terrazzo finish. The major interior walls were of red brick. The building was three stories high, with the first story called the basement and the top two stories called the first and second floor. Additional space was available in a sub-basement and a fourth-floor attic. The administrative offices of the College were located in the northwest corner of the first floor.

President Slocum had been granted a leave of absence for the 1901-1902 academic year. While he and Mary Slocum were away from the campus, Dean Edward Parsons served as Acting President. Parsons apparently had difficulty securing the proper-sized pink peachblow sandstone to build the new science building. He told the Board of Trustees in June of 1902 that he had been forced by necessity to order Greenlee stone instead.

When President Slocum returned from his year away, he was not happy with the decision to construct the new science building with Greenlee stone. He envisioned a building that would match Hagerman, Coburn, and Perkins halls by having Romanesque architecture and exterior walls of pink peachblow sandstone. Hurried changes were made, and the necessary pink peachblow sandstone was secured.<sup>45</sup> The Greenlee stone that had already

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<sup>44</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College*, 44-45.

<sup>45</sup> President Slocum intended for all College buildings constructed east of Cascade Avenue to be of pink peachblow sandstone and Romanesque architecture. For economic reasons, this plan was not carried out. "Colorado College," *Mecca* (no date), 7-11. See Photographic Files: Buildings – Campus Views – Collections, Colorado College Archives.

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arrived at the construction site was set aside for a future, as yet undetermined campus building project.<sup>46</sup>

The most interesting story about the new science building concerned its location. Originally it was slated to be built due north of Coburn and Perkins halls, but it was to be quite some distance away from those two buildings at the corner of Cascade Avenue and San Rafael Street. This plan was put on hold, however, when the streetcar company in Colorado Springs announced that it wanted to run its trolley tracks straight up Tejon Street right through the center of the Colorado College campus.

The streetcar company was owned by Winfield Scott Stratton, a carpenter who garnered instant millions by discovering and developing one of the first successful gold mines at Cripple Creek. Stratton, similar to many of the Cripple Creek millionaires, returned to Colorado Springs to spend his new fortune. He decided to purchase and improve the local trolley system. It would be very inconvenient, and expensive, to have his streetcars avoid the College campus by detouring from Tejon Street over to Nevada Avenue.

President Slocum was appalled at the thought of trolley cars clanging their way through what he had visualized as the green and grassy center of the campus. General Palmer joined him in opposing Stratton's plan, and the City Council sided with General Palmer and voted not to let the streetcar line bisect Colorado College. The tracks eventually were routed over to Nevada Avenue. The streetcars returned to Tejon Street once they were north of the College.

And then a mysterious event occurred. President Slocum announced at a Board of Trustees meeting that an anonymous donor had contributed \$100,000 for the construction of the new science building. At the same meeting, at the suggestion of General Palmer, the location of the building was moved further to the east, exactly in the middle of where Tejon Street would be if it were ever extended, along with trolley tracks, through the campus. The Board of Trustees accepted the gift, and the new building began to rise at a spot that would physically block any future attempt to build a streetcar line

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<sup>46</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 147. The Greenlee stone was subsequently used to build McGregor Hall, a women's dormitory. For another account of this story, see Letter, Ruth Loomis to Mr. Ormes, 25 February 1928, Colorado College Archives.

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through Colorado College.

There has been much speculation over the years that it was General Palmer who gave the \$100,000 for the new science building, perhaps in an effort to get the building up more quickly and Tejon Street permanently blocked as soon as possible. But this is only speculation. The name of the anonymous donor has never been revealed.

And what about Winfield Scott Stratton, the owner of the streetcar company? There was a rumor that, prior to his streetcar argument with President Slocum, Stratton had included a large bequest for Colorado College in his will. When Stratton died, however, he left all his money for a home for orphans and elderly persons living in poverty. Many observers conjectured that Stratton would have left a considerable amount of money to Colorado College if his streetcar line had not been blocked with a massive pink stone building.

On February 23, 1904, elaborate dedication exercises were held for the new science building. The structure was officially named Palmer Hall, and General Palmer himself was present to receive an honorary LL.D. degree from the College. There was an academic procession from Perkins Hall, where the ceremonies began, to the front steps of Palmer Hall, where President Slocum made a short speech and said a prayer of dedication. Fifty colleges and universities sent official representatives to this grand and reverent occasion.

Palmer Hall was highly praised for both its attractiveness and utility as an educational structure. Fifty years after the building was completed, a close observer of Colorado College wrote: "It is one of the finest college buildings among liberal arts colleges in the United States. Its lines are remarkably well-drawn to give it, at the same time, the effect of enduring mass and pleasing elevations. Within, it serves well both the student and the teacher in their scientific as well as their more general academic pursuits."<sup>47</sup>

The completion of Palmer Hall was a major symbolic event in the history of Colorado College. The building was considerably larger than any building previously constructed. Its cost was a full six times higher than any other structure on the campus. The building was pleasing in appearance, and its great mass indicated that the builders of the College planned for their institution to be around for many years to come. By its very presence,

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<sup>47</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 148-149.

## ***COLORADO COLLEGE: 1874-1999***

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Palmer Hall announced that Colorado College had made its mark as a successful institution of higher learning in the western United States.<sup>48</sup>

### **THE MUSEUM IN PALMER HALL**

From the first days of the College the professors began gathering geological and biological specimens to aid in teaching the students. Friends of the College donated mineral and paleontological collections. By the time of the dedication of Palmer Hall in 1904, the College had a sufficient number of these materials to open a museum on the second floor of the new building.

The museum was a large, high-ceilinged room with tall arched windows. It included a natural history collection with a large number of stuffed animals and birds. The most interesting exhibit was the skeleton of a giant whale, which hung from the ceiling and stretched over much of the length of the room.

This natural history collection had been given to the College by Cripple Creek millionaire Winfield Scott Stratton. He made the donation in 1900, just one year before he and President Slocum quarreled over Stratton's streetcars crossing the Colorado College campus.

### **MAJORS AND ADVISORS**

The academic program was changing in the early 1900s. It began to evolve into what could be called the conventional academic program of leading United States colleges and universities in the 20th Century. All students were required to choose a major field in which they concentrated their studies in the junior and senior year. Each student was assigned a faculty advisor and encouraged to work closely with that particular faculty member in developing the student's own personalized academic schedule. Courses were calibrated in semester hours, with the average course providing three semester hours of credit. The semester hours system made it possible to easily convert Colorado College credits into academic credits at other colleges and universities – and vice versa.

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<sup>48</sup> For a description of the optimistic atmosphere at Colorado College at the time Palmer Hall was constructed, see Judith Reid Finley, *Time Capsule 1900: Colorado Springs A Century Ago* (Colorado Springs, CO: Pastwords Publications, 1998), 86-90.

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Also at the beginning of the 20th Century, Colorado College began a long but not too serious flirtation with graduate and professional school education. A Master of Arts (M.A.) program was organized for most of the major academic fields. Professor Florian Cajori established a School of Engineering which offered B.A. degrees in electrical, mining, and civil engineering. After General Palmer gave the College 10,000 acres of forest land at the top of Ute Pass, a Forestry School was instituted. It was the fifth forestry school to be created in the United States and the only one with its own private forest to use as a living laboratory.

### **MCGREGOR HALL**

Student enrollment at the College continued to grow during the early 1900s. President Slocum and the Board of Trustees once again needed to find comfortable and safe housing for additional women students. The problem was compounded by the fact that the College's lease on the west wing of the Plaza Hotel had expired. The women students who lived in that facility, known as South Hall, would soon need other accommodations.

It was decided to build a third women's dormitory to go with Montgomery and Ticknor halls. President Slocum noted that the rental fees paid by the women students in South Hall could be used to help pay for the project. The College would build the new structure partly on gifts but also partly with a loan.

The new residence hall was constructed down the hill and a considerable distance west of Ticknor Hall. It was four stories high, had sixty bedrooms, and included a women's gymnasium in the basement. The Greenlee sandstone originally intended for Palmer Hall was used to complete this new dormitory. It was named McGregor Hall in honor of Miss Marion McGregor Noyes, who taught Latin and Philosophy and was President Slocum's assistant in the Philosophy Department from 1891 to 1897. It was she who solicited a number of major contributions for the new residence hall. McGregor was Professor Noyes's mother's family name.<sup>49</sup>

Together with Montgomery Hall and Ticknor Hall, the new McGregor

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<sup>49</sup> Marion McGregor Noyes was a popular member of the campus community in the 1890s. See Letter, Ruth Loomis to Mr. Ormes, 25 February 1928, Colorado College Archives.

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Hall formed the beginning of a residential quadrangle. Shortly after McGregor Hall opened, people began referring to the three dormitories as the Women's Quadrangle. The sport of tennis was so popular at the beginning of the 20th Century that the large area in the center of the Women's Quadrangle was filled with tennis courts.

### **A MAJOR ENDOWMENT DRIVE**

Palmer Hall, the new science building, and McGregor Hall, the new women's residence hall, were completed and added to the building inventory of the College at roughly the same time. In his short speech at the dedication of Palmer Hall, President Slocum indicated that he and the College were finished with the building program for a while. "The science hall is completed," Slocum said. "I have no other building in mind at present, and my every effort from now on will be to secure the endowment necessary to carrying on the work of Colorado College."<sup>50</sup>

Slocum was as good as his word. Late in 1904 he personally took charge of a \$500,000 endowment fund drive. That was a very ambitious figure for the time, but Slocum had said earlier that the College would not be safe for the future unless \$1 million could be added to the treasury.<sup>51</sup> Even Slocum himself recognized the magnitude of the task. He said later: "This seemed an insurmountable undertaking, and to many it was hopeless from the start."<sup>52</sup>

It was a measure of the increasing prominence of the College that one of the nation's leading philanthropists, and a leading philanthropic organization, contributed to this fund drive. Multi-millionaire steel baron Andrew Carnegie gave \$50,000. The General Education Board, with the support of a Foundation created by oil magnate John J. Rockefeller, also contributed \$50,000. At the local level, Charles M. McNeil, a Cripple Creek gold mining millionaire, put in \$25,000. "As usual, General Palmer was the largest individual contributor to the campaign with a gift of \$100,000."<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Buckley, *The History Of Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 50.

<sup>51</sup> Buckley, *Colorado College, 1874-1904*, 72.

<sup>52</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 123.

<sup>53</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 65.



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The \$500,000 endowment fund drive was \$60,000 short of its goal when President Slocum launched a final effort in the Colorado Springs community. The \$60,000 was raised in only 15 days with \$12,000 to spare. President Slocum had kept his pledge, stated at the dedication of Palmer Hall, to make enlarging the endowment his next major task at the College.

### **BEMIS HALL**

Also at the dedication of Palmer Hall in 1904, President Slocum had said that he had "no other building in mind at present...." He may have meant that when he said it, but it was not in the nature of President Slocum to rest on his laurels or let his College vegetate. In 1908 Colorado College began building a fourth dormitory for women, Bemis Hall, in between and south of Ticknor and McGregor halls.

Similar to Palmer Hall, this new building was sufficiently large and endowed with luxury features to symbolize the new, higher status of Colorado College. A spacious dining room with a high-vaulted ceiling enabled all the women students to take their meals in one place. A small theater for dramatic productions was installed in the basement.

Bemis Hall was named for Judson M. Bemis, a leading manufacturer of paper and cloth bags. General Palmer joined Bemis in providing the major funding for the new building. The first three stories were constructed of grey stone in an Old English architectural style, with half-timbered walls and dormer windows at the fourth floor level. A large stone porch ran the full length of the front of the building.

But the most important feature of Bemis Hall was a large common room, known as Bemis Lounge. It had a big fireplace, was furnished with comfortable sofas and chairs, had large windows looking out on the Women's Quadrangle, and was sizeable enough to be used as a campus social center for receptions, informal lectures, and panel discussions. "Bemis Hall has cast its refining influence over the women students and over the whole College.... Trustees, faculty members, students and friends of the College have met within its walls for the finest of the fine arts [-] friendly and gracious associations."<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 149. According to Ruth Loomis, the architect of Bemis Hall promised he would make Bemis Lounge "look like the Council Chamber of the Doge's Palace in Venice." Letter, Ruth Loomis to Mr. Ormes, 25

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### THE RISE OF FRATERNITIES

Throughout the 1890s and early 1900s, the College was only building dormitories for women. There was a good reason for this gender-based policy. Respectable Victorian parents would not send their daughters to Colorado College unless there was safe and well-supervised housing and meals for them.

The only men's dormitory was Hagerman Hall, which opened in 1889. When the number of men students began to exceed the capacity of Hagerman Hall, the College left these additional men no choice but to arrange their own housing and meals in the general community of Colorado Springs. It was not long before these off-campus men began organizing themselves into coherent social units that provided them with much-needed housing and meal service.

Thus did the fraternity system, and that venerable institution the fraternity "house," come to Colorado College. This same process took place at many other colleges and universities throughout the nation. In fact, it can be argued that the prominent institutions of higher education in the United States wished the fraternity system on themselves by not building more men's dormitories and thereby providing decent housing and meals for their men students.

Kappa Sigma was installed at Colorado College in 1904. The following year Sigma Chi was organized. Next came Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Delta Theta, and Beta Theta Pi. The fraternity houses obtained by these organizations quickly became the locale of a goodly portion of the social life at the College. The fraternities held dances, threw parties, and organized hikes and picnics in local parks.

### RACIAL INTEGRATION

In 1905 Colorado College became the first college or university in Colorado to have a racially integrated athletic team. Two African-Americans, Fred Roberts and Charles Jackson, played on the football team, which was undefeated that year. The Boulderado Hotel in Boulder, Colorado, refused to provide overnight accommodations for these two Black

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February 1928, Colorado College Archives.

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players during an “away” game at the University of Colorado. John Richards, the football coach at Colorado College, protested this act of racial discrimination by refusing to let the team stay at the Boulderado Hotel. Coach Richards had the team, White and Black members alike, stay overnight in Denver instead.<sup>55</sup>

### **THE DEATH OF GENERAL PALMER**

By the early years of the 20th Century General Palmer had become the revered and admired patriarch of both Colorado Springs and Colorado College. In 1906 the good General, ever modest and opposed to ostentation, reluctantly acceded to President Slocum's request that Palmer's portrait be hung on the west wall of the grand stairway in the main entrance to Palmer Hall. The portrait was painted in England by a well-known German-born British artist, Sir Hubert Von Herkomer.<sup>56</sup> It presented Palmer in a familiar pose - dressed in his horseback riding outfit, with a stylish green vest, and with his hands holding his horseback riding crop behind his back.

Later in 1906 a great tragedy befell General Palmer. He was horseback riding with two of his three daughters at his home at Glen Eyrie when he fell off a small cow pony and broke his neck. For the remainder of his life he was totally paralyzed from the neck down and had to be carried by servants from place to place. He stayed as active as possible, however, being driven about Colorado Springs in a white steam-powered automobile and even making one last trip to England and the European mainland.

But his condition steadily deteriorated, and early in the afternoon of March 13, 1909, General Palmer passed away quietly in his sleep. The Colorado College student newspaper, the *Tiger*, reported that College President William Frederick Slocum was at the General's bedside, along with

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<sup>55</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 73, 241.

<sup>56</sup> The original copy of the portrait hung for years in the lobby of the Antlers Hotel in downtown Colorado Springs. When that building was replaced in the early 1960s, the original copy was moved to the Board of Trustees room in Armstrong Hall at Colorado College. General Palmer liked the original of the portrait so much he asked the artist to paint two copies, one of which was displayed in Palmer Hall at Colorado College and the other in the auditorium of the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind in Colorado Springs. Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 155, 155 note 2.

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other friends and family members, at the moment William Jackson Palmer breathed his last.<sup>57</sup>

General Palmer's remains were cremated and buried at Evergreen Cemetery, the city-owned graveyard in Colorado Springs. A simple memorial service was held for the General in the auditorium of Perkins Hall at Colorado College. Edward S. Parsons, the Dean of the College, opened the service by reading an appropriate passage from the Bible. Among the speakers at the Memorial Service were Irving W. Howbert, a longtime Trustee of the College, and President Slocum. Following the service, the public was invited to walk over to Palmer Hall and see the oil painting of General Palmer hanging above the main stairs.

In his remarks at the Perkins Hall memorial service, President Slocum lauded the General for his social and community accomplishments. President Slocum also challenged his listeners to reflect in their lives the values and accomplishments that characterized General Palmer's life.

"His death marks an era in the history of the state," Slocum said. "Who is to take his place? Who is to take up his work and carry it on to its fruition? There may be no one person who can do what he has done; but there are those in our city who, by uniting for the betterment of the social and moral condition, can bring things to pass which will count for just as much in the new era as the things which he has done counted for in the past."

"He has placed a sacred trust in the keeping of this College," Slocum continued. "What are we to do with it? What he has done for us is for the purpose of helping us to live our lives nobly and do our work well in our state and in the life of the community. Only the future can tell whether we are to be worthy of all he has been and all that he has done."<sup>58</sup>

On the day of the General Palmer's burial, his ashes were carried out to Evergreen Cemetery in a horse drawn carriage. President Slocum, Dean Parsons, and the College faculty walked solemnly behind, followed by the General's family, friends, and many citizens of Colorado Springs. More than 150 men students at the College showed their respect by walking on both sides of the carriage. Special cars were hired to bring the women students at the College to the grave site. The College also provided a large floral wreath.

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<sup>57</sup> "Death Of General Palmer," *Tiger*, 19 March 1909, 1.

<sup>58</sup> "Address By President Slocum," *Tiger*, 19 March 1909, 7.

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Following a brief religious ceremony, a small black casket containing General Palmer's ashes was lowered into its final resting place by College President William F. Slocum and Colonel D. C. Dodge, a friend of General Palmer's from his railroading days.<sup>59</sup>

More than 3,000 residents of Colorado Springs attended these final services for the city's great founder and benefactor. "He was buried under the pines and evergreens of Colorado: beyond them, across the town, stood up the great Peak and the range of mountains which had lifted his heart from the first hour when he saw them, new and remote and lovely, forty years [earlier]."<sup>60</sup>

### **COSSITT HALL**

President Slocum was well aware of the poor facilities that had been made available to men students at Colorado College. The one men's dormitory, Hagerman Hall, only housed a small percentage of the male student body. As for athletics, there was only that small wooden frame building located to the west of Hagerman Hall. It served as little more than an exercise room with rough and rustic locker facilities for the men's sports teams.

In 1913 a relative of President Slocum, Mrs. A. D. Juilliard, gave \$100,000 to the College to build a social and athletic center for the men students. The old wooden gymnasium was torn down and in its place began to rise a major building that included a full-size gymnasium with a basketball court. There were also locker and shower facilities. The most interesting feature of the new structure was an outdoor amphitheater which looked out upon a small exercise yard. It was designed for gymnastic exercises and presentations, outdoor dramatic productions, sports pep rallies, etc.

As for social life, the new building included a large lounge area that could also be used for informal group meetings. At the west end of the building, with a spectacular view of Pike's Peak, was a men's dining hall and the accompanying kitchen facilities. Similar to Bemis Hall for the women

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<sup>59</sup> "Tribute To First Citizen," *Tiger*, 19 March 1909, 1.

<sup>60</sup> Fisher, *A Builder Of The West*, 318-319. Also see Sprague, *Newport In The Rockies*, 165. Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 71-72.

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students, this new building was designed to provide an attractive and comfortable environment for student social and intellectual activities.

As soon as the dining facilities in the new structure were open and operating, the College ordered the fraternities to stop serving meals. All the men on campus except those who lived in Colorado Springs were expected to eat all their meals in the new dining hall, which had a capacity of 200 persons per meal. Note that men and women students were not allowed to dine together on a regular basis. The women students continued to eat their meals in the women's dormitories, primarily Bemis Hall.

Mrs. Juilliard named the building in honor of her father, Frederick H. Cossitt. It was built of a grey stone that closely matched both Cutler Hall and Bemis Hall. The architecture was Greek-and-Roman with something of a military look. The College Seal, with the motto "Scientia et Disciplina" clearly visible, was inscribed in the eastern wall of the building above the main door.

The lounge area in Cossitt Hall got off to a controversial start. The faculty prohibited card playing and smoking, and the men students staged the first organized protest in the College's history to let the faculty know what they thought of such restrictions. A board composed of faculty members, alumni, and students was set up to govern Cossitt Hall, and the board quickly rescinded the rules against smoking and card playing. In addition, a pool table was installed in a lower-floor room located underneath the lounge area.

### **A MISSIONARY IN INDIA**

During the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, college students with a strong religious interest were motivated to participate in overseas missionary work. An example was Dr. Mary R. Noble, Colorado College class of 1896, who completed her medical training in the United States and then spent five years as an instructor in the Ludhiana Women's Medical College in the Punjab in India. At that time Ludhiana was the only Christian medical college for women in India.

Dr. Noble returned to Colorado College for a visit in the spring of 1909. In addition to lecturing on her experiences in India, she conducted a mission class for the students at the College which met every Wednesday evening in



Bemis Hall.<sup>61</sup>

### THE END OF THE GOLDEN AGE

In June of 1913 the College celebrated William Frederick Slocum's 25th year as President. The festivities, which lasted for five days, coincided with the 1915 commencement exercises. The major event was an academic procession from Palmer Hall to the Burns Theater, a vaudeville theater located in downtown Colorado Springs near the corner of Cascade and Pike's Peak avenues. The distance from Palmer Hall to the Burns Theater was eleven city blocks. Representatives of 60 institutions of higher learning, all dressed in full academic regalia, joined the faculty and the graduating seniors in marching in President Slocum's honor.

The most gratifying event for President Slocum must have been the unveiling of a full-length portrait of him, dressed in his academic robes, painted by John White Alexander. The portrait eventually was hung on the eastern wall of the grand staircase in the main entrance to Palmer Hall, exactly opposite the portrait of General Palmer. The images of the two men – they had worked together for two decades to build Colorado College – would face each other, in a place of honor, for decades to come.

But trouble was brewing for President Slocum and the manner in which he was operating the College. A growing number of faculty members were displeased with their lack of participation in the governing process at the institution. Slocum maintained almost complete control over financial decisions and unilaterally set faculty salaries. Furthermore, Slocum transferred money from one account to another as needed without paying particular attention to the uses for which particular funds were designated. Some faculty members opposed this financial sleight-of-hand despite the fact that independent audits showed no irregularities and all of Slocum's financial transactions were approved by the Board of Trustees.

What was happening was that the faculty was beginning to demand a much larger role in the academic governance of Colorado College. This process was taking place at other institutions of higher learning as well. The person who came to symbolize this faculty demand for more faculty power was Dean Edward S. Parsons. Although he had long expressed great

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<sup>61</sup> "Alumni Notes," *Tiger*, 19 March 1909, 6.

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admiration for President Slocum, and at one time had turned down other job offers to continue working with Slocum, Dean Parsons took the lead in publicly criticizing Slocum and demanding the faculty be given a larger role in decision making at the College.

The battle was a crucial and bitter one. By 1915 President Slocum was a holdover from the late 19th Century days of the great capitalists, men who single-handedly made great fortunes and achieved great things.

Such men did not waste time worrying about people's feelings and conscientiously consulting the views of others. The great success of Colorado College under President Slocum's leadership was ready justification for the individualistic way he had centered control of the College's affairs in his own person. "It was hardly a case of 'the end justifies the means,' but a conviction that the end sought must not be lost sight of in too many conferences and committee meetings concerned largely with what he considered the lesser details of the grand project."<sup>62</sup>

But Dean Parsons and the rebellious faculty members he led had their arguments as well. President Slocum himself had hired an energetic and competent faculty, and it was only natural that such a skilled crew would want to help captain the College ship. Also the College was much larger, with an enrollment of over 700 students, and such an enlarged and improved institution no longer was appropriate for "one-man rule." Furthermore, advancing years of age had robbed Slocum of the mental quickness he needed to govern what had become a more complicated and complex institution.

In the midst of this situation of sharp personal conflict and grave institutional turmoil, questions were suddenly raised about President Slocum's personal morals. "As is usual in instances of this nature, rumor begat rumor and adverse comments were met with denials."<sup>63</sup> The known details were this. Two women on the administrative support staff told Dean Parsons that President Slocum had "made improper and immoral advances toward them."<sup>64</sup> Instead of taking these charges directly to the Board of

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<sup>62</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 91.

<sup>63</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 92.

<sup>64</sup> Reid, *Colorado College: The First Century, 1874-1974*, 82. Reid was the only writer on Colorado College history to give this much detail about the charges against President Slocum.

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Trustees, Dean Parsons shared them with three faculty members who were critical of Slocum. Shortly thereafter, rumors about President Slocum's personal conduct were circulating widely throughout the College and the community of Colorado Springs. Clearly Dean Parsons's faculty allies had decided to use these not adjudicated and unproven charges to personally discredit President Slocum in the most damaging way possible.

This carefully constructed and very effective rumor-mongering campaign against President Slocum presented the College Board of Trustees with a difficult set of options. "In reviewing these more personal criticisms of the President, the Trustees, although persuaded that all such charges rested on rumor and hearsay rather than on convincing proof, felt that their general discussion in the community and the effect of such discussion on both the President and the College could not be ignored."<sup>65</sup>

The Board asked William Frederick Slocum, in view of his advancing years, to withdraw from the active administration of the College and prepare to retire. This Slocum agreed to do, spending the 1916-1917 academic year on the East Coast raising funds for the College to complete a major endowment drive.<sup>66</sup> Slocum returned in June 1917 and presided over the commencement exercises, giving the baccalaureate address, receiving an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, and then becoming President Emeritus of Colorado College.

When it became known among the student body that President Slocum was leaving the campus to raise money on the East Coast, and that his presidency officially would end shortly thereafter, there was a large gathering in Perkins Hall to honor President and Mrs. Slocum for their contributions to Colorado College. Slocum was presented with a gold watch, and Mrs. Slocum was given a pearl pin.<sup>67</sup> Then, the next day, the entire student body went with the Slocums to the railroad station to see them off. It was a send-off more frequently associated with a winning sports team rather than a

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<sup>65</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1929*, 92.

<sup>66</sup> "W. F. Slocum Resigns From C.C. Presidency," *Tiger*, 15 September 1916, 1. Also see "Last Ethical Was Delivered By Prexy This Morning," *Tiger*, 5 October 1916, 1.

<sup>67</sup> "President Slocum Leaves Tonight For East To Complete Endowment," *Tiger*, 10 October 1916, 1. Also see "We're Behind You, Prexy!" *Tiger*, 10 October 1916, 2.

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departing President.<sup>68</sup>

But William Frederick Slocum was not the only person to depart from Colorado College at this particular moment. The Board of Trustees was displeased with the manner in which Dean Edward S. Parsons had handled the morals accusations against President Slocum, particularly the fact that rumors were spread in the community before the Board of Trustees was officially informed of the problem. Dean Parsons was asked to resign and, when he refused to do so, he was dismissed from the College's employment. He subsequently served 17 years as the President of Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio.<sup>69</sup>

But, in his own way, Dean Edward S. Parsons was an important influence on the future development of Colorado College. The battle he inaugurated for greater faculty influence in the governance of the College was eventually won by the faculty. More and more of the major decisions, particularly concerning the academic and instructional aspects of the institution, were made in faculty meeting rather than unilaterally in the President's office. Even the process of setting faculty salaries came to be initiated by the faculty, even though the final figure setting was done by the President and the Board of Trustees. Despite the controversial nature of his departure, Edward S. Parsons left a significant mark and laid the groundwork for important changes at Colorado College.

### **PRESIDENT SLOCUM EVALUATED**

William Frederick Slocum was the giant personage in the early history of Colorado College. He took a failing institution of some 50 students and, 30 years later, left behind a financially sound College with more than 700 students and an endowment of over \$2.5 million. He built what can be called the Slocum Campus, a collection of 10 major buildings, all constructed of stone, many of which, even in the year 1999, were thought to constitute the

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<sup>68</sup> "Students Give The Slocums Big Send-Off Tuesday Night: Marched To Station Where Many Cheers Were Given," *Tiger*, 13 October 1916, 1.

<sup>69</sup> For material on Edward S. Parsons at Marietta College, see Arthur G. Birch, *A Pioneer College: The Story Of Marietta* (privately printed, 1935), 278-281. Vernon E. "Dan" McGrew, "*...In The Various Branches Of Useful Knowledge: Marietta College, 1935-1989*" (Marietta, OH: Marietta College, 1994).

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most attractive parts of the campus.<sup>70</sup> And for 37 years, from 1917 until the post-World War II year of 1954, the Slocum Campus remained essentially as Slocum had built it. Only Shove Chapel was added in 1931, and former President Slocum had a part to play in the design and development of that building as well.<sup>71</sup>

President Slocum strongly supported the athletic program at Colorado College. He oversaw the construction of Washburn Field for men's intercollegiate football and baseball. He also provided the College's first athletic facilities for women when a gymnasium for women was constructed in the basement of McGregor Hall. Cossitt Hall, with its indoor basketball court and outdoor exercise gymnasium, demonstrated Slocum's heavy commitment to having a first-rate athletic program at the College.<sup>72</sup>

Slocum's personal reputation as a leader in higher education in the United States was substantial. He was offered the presidencies of Oberlin College and the University of Illinois but declined them to complete his mission at Colorado College. He was awarded honorary degrees by Allegheny College, Amherst College (his alma mater), Beloit College, the University of Colorado, Harvard University, Illinois College, and the University of Nebraska. And Slocum continued the charitable activities that had characterized his life in Amesbury, Massachusetts, and Baltimore, Maryland. He helped to organize the Colorado State Board of Charities, and he served on the Colorado State Board of Pardons.

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<sup>70</sup> The ten major buildings, in rough order of completion, were Hagerman Hall, Montgomery Hall, Coburn Library, Wolcott Observatory, Ticknor Hall, Perkins Hall, Palmer Hall, McGregor Hall, Bemis Hall, and Cossitt Hall. The Slocum-built buildings that survived to 1999 were Montgomery Hall, Ticknor Hall, Palmer Hall, McGregor Hall, Bemis Hall, and Cossitt Hall.

<sup>71</sup> President Emeritus Slocum, living in Newton, Massachusetts, apparently was consulted about the new Chapel and recommended C. W. Walker, a Boston architect, to draw up plans for conducting a national competition to select an architect. Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 102.

<sup>72</sup> President Slocum saw a winning football team helping with fund raising. See Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1949*, 85. Dean Edward Parsons, however, wanted an athletic program in which many students, and not just those with great athletic skills, participated. See "Colorado College," *Mecca* (no date), 7-11, Photographic Files: Buildings – Campus Views – Collections, Colorado College Archives.

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Slocum's efforts and influence brought many honors to Colorado College. In 1904 the College was one of four institutions in the western United States to be selected for a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the national scholastic honor society. The other three were all large universities - the University of California, the University of Colorado, and Stanford University. In 1911 Harvard University selected Colorado College as one of four liberal arts colleges with which Harvard would annually exchange professors. The other participants in this famous Harvard faculty exchange were Beloit, Grinnell, and Knox colleges.

In the latter years of Slocum's presidency, President A. Lawrence Lowell of Harvard University described Colorado College as "among the four best colleges in America."<sup>73</sup> David Starr Jordan, President of Stanford University, said in a newspaper interview in 1908: "I have had many opportunities to judge of the standing and character of Colorado College, and in my opinion it is an ideal college, with a ranking equal to the best in the country, such as Amherst and Williams in the East. In the Middle West, Knox and Iowa College (Grinnell) are in the same category. [Colorado College] is the best college in the West, and in some respects is better fitted than eastern colleges, in that it has better equipment for the number of students..."<sup>74</sup>

William Frederick Slocum deserves to have his name listed with the other giants of American higher education. He ranks with Mark Hopkins, the great teacher and President of Williams College in the mid-19th Century, and Daniel Coit Gilman, the outstanding founder-President of Johns Hopkins University in the late 19th Century. Slocum compares with his contemporary and friend, J. W. Main, the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century builder-President of Grinnell College.<sup>75</sup>

Perhaps the saddest aspect of the unsavory events surrounding Slocum's departure from Colorado College was that these events have made

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<sup>73</sup> "A Reward For Service," *Tiger*, 15 September 1916, 2.

<sup>74</sup> *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 6 June 1908, quoted in "Colorado College (Special Announcement) New Residence Hall," Photographic Files: Buildings – Campus Views – Collections, Colorado College Archives.

<sup>75</sup> For the reaction to Slocum's resignation, see "Prexy Receives Many Notes Praising Work," *Tiger*, 26 September 1916, 1.



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partisans of the College somewhat hesitant about rendering to Slocum the high praise that he most certainly merits. This is true despite the fact that, in 1920, an investigating committee of “eminent collegians” completely exonerated Slocum of the morals charges against him.<sup>76</sup>

The reasons for Slocum's great success were obvious. He skillfully maintained and expanded the New England connections that were first carefully established by Thomas Nelson Haskell and Edward Payson Tenney. To these New England contributors he was able to add the gifts of the newly-wealthy Cripple Creek millionaires. Slocum found a good friend and staunch ally in William Jackson Palmer, particularly when the General increased his interest in and gifts to the College as, over the years, he sold his various railroad projects. In addition, Slocum benefited from the fact that the last two decades of the 19th Century were years of growth and prosperity for many of the liberal arts colleges throughout the nation. The discovery that a liberal arts education was good preparation for a business or professional career sent college enrollments upward as the 1800s drew to a close.

As Slocum gave up the presidency of Colorado College and moved away from the city of Colorado Springs, an era was ending in Colorado. Just as it had refused to subsidize the silver industry, the United States Government in the early 20th Century declined to fix or stabilize the price of gold. The price of this most precious of metals gradually fell so low that there was no profit in digging it out of the ground.<sup>77</sup> Cripple Creek and the other gold camps in Colorado slowly turned into ghost towns, with the result that economic activity in Colorado Springs and Denver greatly slowed down. The great silver and gold mining years in Colorado were over, and both Colorado and Colorado College were going to become quieter places as a result.

William and Mary Slocum returned to Massachusetts and lived their final years in the Boston-area town of Newton. William Slocum returned to the Colorado College campus only twice. One time was to attend the inauguration of a subsequent President of the College, Charles Christopher Mierow, in 1925. Slocum's second visit was one of considerable honor. He gave the major speech at the dedication of General Palmer's equestrian statue,

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<sup>76</sup> “The findings expressed are that the charges are not sustained, that the former President is an innocent man...” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, 7 April 1920.

<sup>77</sup> Cronin and Loevy, *Colorado Politics And Government*, 62-63.

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placed at the corner of Nevada and Platte avenues, in 1929.<sup>78</sup>

In his retirement years, Slocum gave sermons and speeches at many places on the East Coast. Mary Slocum passed away in 1933. President Emeritus Slocum died in 1934.

The departure of William Frederick Slocum from Colorado College marked the end of an important era at the College – the era when students at small liberal arts colleges were taught a curriculum based on a combination of Christian morality and classical literature. This approach to a college education was widespread in the United States at the close of the 19th Century. With his weekly "Ethicals" in compulsory chapel, President Slocum urged his students and his faculty toward such lofty goals as respect for the sacred, love and benevolence for other human beings, moderation in both business and social affairs, and the constant development of individual worth.

But by 1917 times were changing in American higher education. Scientific discipline was progressively replacing Christian moralism and classical thought as the underlying spirit of the better small colleges as well as the great universities. Slocum's struggles at the end of his presidency can be viewed as an old partisan of moralistic and classical education warring with younger members of his faculty committed to a disciplined scientific search for truth. Moralism and a classical emphasis lost their primary position at Colorado College when Slocum departed.<sup>79</sup>

To the very end, one of the most significant things about William Frederick Slocum was the high opinion that his contemporaries had of him and the College which he had done so much to help create. Irving Howbert, who served on the Board of Trustees from 1880 to 1922, made a typical comment. "The first eight years of my connection with the Board were ones of anxiety and discouragement, but the growth and development of the College that followed under the administration of President Slocum made

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<sup>78</sup> William F. Slocum was an active participant in the effort to erect a statue of William Jackson Palmer. He served as the head of the original group of men and women that formed a memorial association for the General. "Memorial Statue To General Palmer Will Be Erected," *Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph*, Annual Edition, 1925.

<sup>79</sup> For a discussion of the decline of moral and classical education and its replacement by principles of rigid scientific scholarship, see Dennis O'Brien, "The Disappearing Moral Curriculum," *Key Reporter*, Summer 1997, 1.

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service on it a great pleasure."<sup>80</sup>

Even more lavish praise came from Charlie Brown Hershey, author of the first published history of Colorado College: "But Slocum lives on. The institution which is his 'lengthened shadow' is a monument to his dreams and to his plans and energy for bringing them to reality. His high place among the great prophets of American higher education is secure, for it rests on ideals nobly conceived and skillfully set in material and spiritual values."<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Irving Howbert, *Memories Of A Lifetime In The Pike's Peak Region* (Glorieta, NM: Rio Grande Press, 1970), 290. This book was first published in 1925 by Louis V. Boling Books, Corpus Christi, TX.

<sup>81</sup> Hershey, *Colorado College, 1874-1929*, 94.