

CHAPTER TWO

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE¹

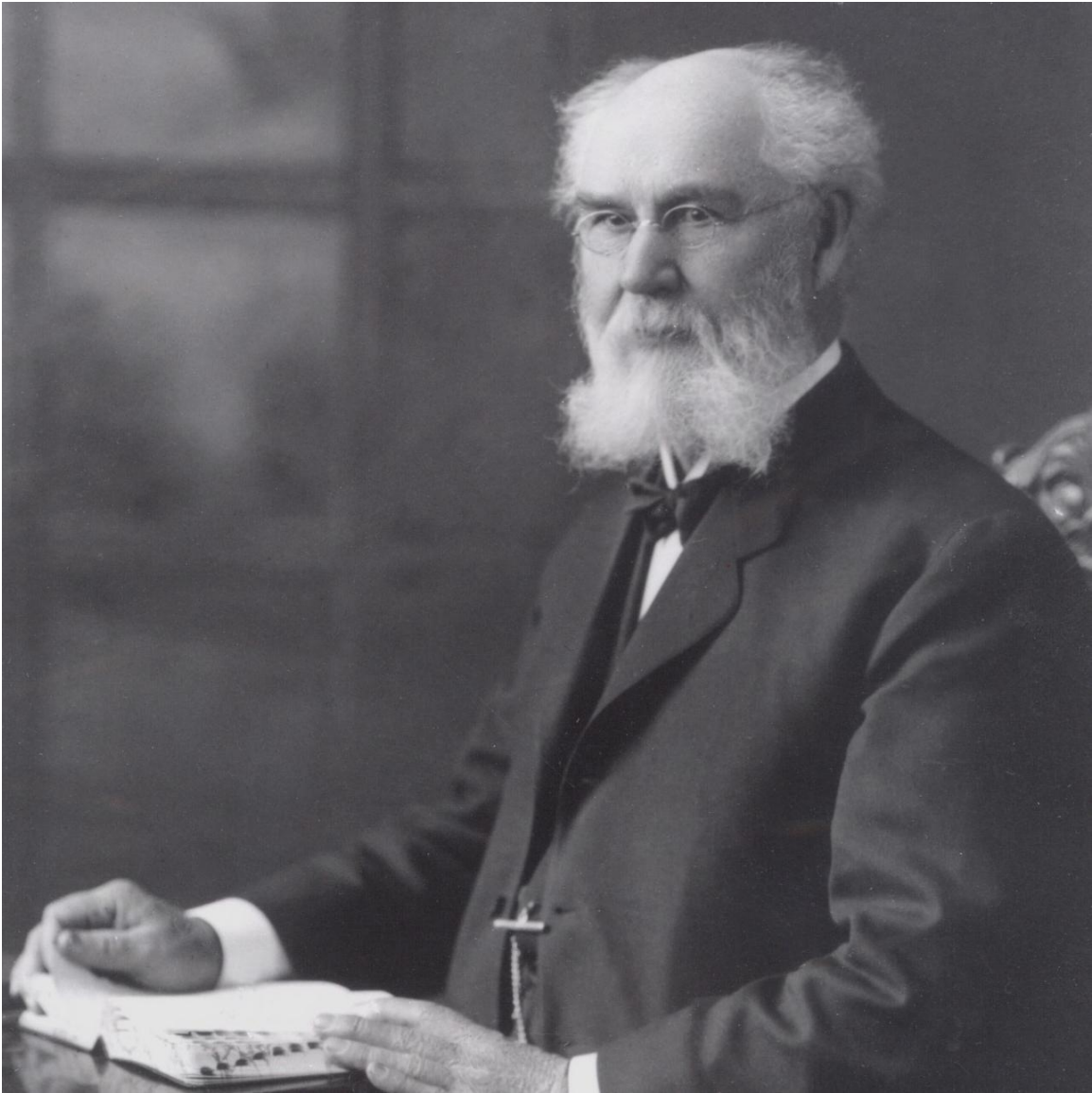
by James Hutchison Kerr

Editor's Note: The first historian of Colorado College was James Hutchison Kerr, who taught Mineralogy and Geology in the earliest days of the College. Kerr was born in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, on August 30, 1837. He spent his early life working in railroading and mining. He then studied Classics at Yale University, receiving an M.A. degree. He was the first person to systematically begin recording the history of Colorado College, in both writing his own memoirs and collecting newspaper articles and other memorabilia about the College. His major work is this feature story about his early experiences at Colorado College, published in a Colorado Springs newspaper in 1908.

The first trace we have of Colorado College, in the thoughts of men, is found in the proposition made in 1868, to the Ministerial Congregational Association of the Territory of Colorado, by Rev. Edward P. Tenney, Pastor of the Congregational Church of Central City, Colorado.

Inspired by the wealth of the mountains and plains and by the educational, moral and religious needs of on-coming, earnest, courageous women and men, he proposed to the Association that steps be taken at once to establish in this then new Territory, a Christian College, under Congregational auspices.

¹ James Hutchison Kerr, "The Pioneer Days of Colorado College," *El Paso County Democrat*, Pioneer ed., December 1908. Kerr, one of the first professors at Colorado College, kept a series of scrapbooks on Colorado Springs and Colorado College history. This newspaper article can be found in BOOK I, p. 1-6, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.



JAMES HUTCHISON KERR

He taught Mining and Metallurgy in the first days of Colorado College. His memoirs constitute the best record of the early struggles to found the College and keep it going financially. (Photograph from Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.)

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

The proposition was favorably received, but after an interesting discussion, it was decided that, as the population of the Territory was yet so small and the communication with the states yet so difficult, it was advisable to postpone action until the material resources of the Territory were better understood and the means of communication with the then faraway states be made more easy and less expensive. Within a year Mr. Tenney was called back to New England. He, however, never lost interest in his proposition. From year to year the importance of a college near the foot of the Rocky Mountains became more distinct and more urgent in the minds of the members of the Ministerial Association.

In 1873 Professor Thomas Nelson Haskell, M. A. (Yale), late of the University of Wisconsin, came to Denver in [the interest of] the health of his daughter, Florence Edwards Haskell. She lived only a few months. In her memory he sought to found a college, where students in the East preparing for college and those in college finding their health giving way, could come and, while [recovering], could complete their education. Accordingly, he took up the work with great earnestness and succeeded in getting the Congregational Association actively committed to the college enterprise.

The Colorado Springs Colony company, under the leadership of General William J. Palmer, had set aside what is now the College Square for college purposes and made it known to the world that it would deal liberally with any denomination that would establish and maintain a college at Colorado Springs. The first to consider seriously the proposition were the Catholics. In 1872 or 1873, seeing the need of a higher institution of learning in the Territory, the Jesuit Fathers appointed a committee to look over the field, get propositions, value their merits and recommend the most available location. (One member of this committee was the Rev. P. Persone, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Trinidad, Colorado. Father Persone is the writer's authority for these statements.) The two most promising locations in the minds of the committee were Denver and Colorado Springs. Finally the committee reported in favor of Denver.

When the Congregational Association took up the question of location for Colorado College, a committee was also appointed, to consider the merits of the various locations, propositions and probabilities. A most careful consideration of the claims of different locations ended in Colorado Springs becoming the unanimous choice of the committee.



THOMAS NELSON HASKELL

*He was the driving force in the founding of Colorado College.
(Photograph from Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.)*



MIAMI UNIVERSITY IN OXFORD, OHIO

Thomas Nelson Haskell attended Miami University of Ohio during his freshman and senior years in college. Miami University of Ohio was an all-male institution at that time. Haskell decided not to base Colorado College on Miami University, thus Colorado College did not become a men-only college. (Photograph by Robert D. Loevy.)



OBERLIN COLLEGE

Thomas Nelson Haskell attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio, in his sophomore and junior years. Even at that early time, Oberlin College was coeducational. Haskell said it was his intention to found Colorado College as a coeducational institution similar to Oberlin College, open to both men and women. (Photograph by Robert D. Loevy.)

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

The meeting which brought Colorado College to Colorado Springs was held in the parlor of Frank L. Rouse, Esq., northwest corner of West Costilla Street and South Cascade Avenue. Here Professor Haskell met Rev. R. C. Bristol, Rev. E. N. Bartlett, Mother Rouse and others and arranged to recommend to the Congregational Association of Colorado, meeting the following week in Denver, that Colorado College be located at Colorado Springs.

This report was duly accepted and rooms were secured in the second story of the Wanless Building, northwest corner of North Tejon Street and East Pike's Peak Avenue. The College trustees immediately appointed Professor Thomas Nelson Haskell – the practical founder of Colorado College – financial agent. Rev. Jonathan Edwards, M. A. (Yale), the brother-in-law of Professor Haskell, [was named] first professor and principal of the College. Mr. Edwards refused the title of President.

On the editorial page of the *Colorado Springs Gazette*, April 25 (Saturday), 1874, appears this notice: "We have secured the location of the College here and that will be no small aid to the growth of our town, if we go to work and make the best of it. The cooperation of our people is needed to give the enterprise a good start and that cooperation should be given heartily and ungrudgingly."

On page 3 of [the] *Colorado Springs Gazette*, May 9 (Saturday), 1874, we find this item: "The Preparatory Department of Colorado College was opened Wednesday last and 20 students have already been enrolled. Most of these are from our town, but it has been signified that several more from other places, in this Territory, may shortly be expected."

A little later Principal Edwards asked Professor E. N. Bartlett, formerly of Olivet, Mich., to assist him in Latin and Greek, and Mr. Sanford C. Robinson, an Oberlin boy, now of Crested Butte, Colorado, to assist in Mathematics and Physics.

[The] *Gazette* of July 18 (Saturday), informs us that on the 15th, there was a classifying examination of the students under the direction of the teachers and trustee committee consisting of Revs. Sturtevant, Lowrie, Bristol and Wellington, and that the work of the term closed with an exhibition at City Hall. Principal Edwards announced that the students so far had represented ten states, in addition to the Territory of Colorado.



**SITE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OF COLORADO COLLEGE**

James Hutchison Kerr wrote that the decision to make an offer to bring Colorado College to Colorado Springs was made in the living room of the home of Frank Rouse at the northwest corner of South Cascade Avenue and West Costilla Street in Colorado Springs. In the year 2012, a nondescript small office building occupied the site. (Photograph by Robert D. Loevy.)

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

Honor credits were given to the following students: Rose Hurd, Kate Kennedy, Lilly Kimball, Justin Edwards, H. M. Hurd, Frank C. Kimball, R. S. Owens and George Sarl.

[The] *Gazette*, Sept. 5 (Saturday), 1874, further informs us: “The College meeting of trustees next Tuesday. Temporary college building just north of Cumberland Presbyterian church, on the eve of completion and will be opened Tuesday evening by a sociable. Fall term of College to begin on Wednesday with a freshman class. The *Gazette* of Sept. 12 tells us that there were one hundred at sociable, that Professor Bartlett had been elected a college trustee. Professor Edwards elected Professor of Literature; Professor Solon Tenney French, B. A. (Amherst), Principal of Preparatory Department; Mr. Fred Jameson, Instructor in Music; Mr. Sanford C. Robinson, Mathematics and Physics; Professor R. S. Dills, late of Michigan University, Instructor in Spanish.

[The] *Gazette*, Nov. 21, informs us that on Tuesday the College closed its first term of college work, having enrolled 40 students in all. The term began with 31 pupils, 16 of whom were in the Freshman class.

[The] *Gazette*, Dec. 14 (Saturday), mentions the forming of the first Literary Society the previous Tuesday – R. S. Owens President, H. Mac Hurd Secretary.

At the end of winter term Principal Edwards and all instructors, except Professor French, resigned. Rev. James G Dougherty, M. A. (Brown), of Wyandotte, Kansas, was elected first President of Colorado College. Professor French became Professor-in-charge and Miss [Minnie] S. Mackenzie ... assistant.

The Colorado Springs Colony company had deeded to the College the eighth 25-foot lot, counting south from East Platte Avenue, on the west side of North Tejon Street. On this a two-room, frame building was erected for \$1,200.00. The building, however, soon carried a mortgage of \$1,500.00. This building was first occupied September 9, 1874, and for four years remained the first home of Colorado College. (When a permanent building is erected upon this lot, the writer hopes that a tablet may be prominently placed in the front of the same saying: “On this desert lot was erected the first home for Colorado College. Cost, \$1,200.00. Mortgage, \$1,500.00. Occupied first Sept. 9, 1874.”)

By this time the panic of 1873 and the grasshoppers of 1874 had so completely paralyzed business and hopes, that thousands left the Territory in

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

search of other homes, and the cry of those who remained was not money-for-colleges, but money-for-bread.

The writer, in August, 1875, was called to take the place of Professor French, who had resigned. Miss [Minnie] S. Mackenzie, who had been one term Professor French's assistant, continued the following school year, as assistant. In despair, Professor Haskell gave up all active efforts, as financial agent. President Dougherty now went east to make appeals for financial help. After a most earnest effort, he reported that for the time being nothing could be done in the states, in way of assisting Colorado College financially. With this report came in his resignation.

The writer received two letters from New England advising him, in substance, to stand from under – that the case of Colorado College was hopeless, and a well-known banker in this then village said to him: “Nothing can be done. You waste your strength. Why not let her go?” The writer answered: “There is still hope for Colorado College.” “Hope is wild,” the banker replied. “Take care of yourself and family.”

November, 1875, in the upper rooms of a two-story building, on the north side of East Pike's Peak Avenue, 5th 25-foot lot, counting west from Tejon Street, and at his home on the southeast corner of East Yampa Street and North Nevada Avenue, the writer organized afternoon and night classes, in Assaying, Chemistry, Metallurgy, Geology and Mining. These classes were fairly well attended and the pupils took great interest, especially in the practical side of their work.

These classes were continued during the winter months, until 1880, when part of the work was taken up by Professor Wm. Strieby, and the remainder of the work in 1881, by Professor George H. Stone. Although the work in these lines – begun in 1875 – was done without any expense to the College even for class and laboratory rooms, it was part of the College work and the part contemplated and encouraged by the trustees when the writer was made Professor of Chemistry and Geology, June 1876. It is believed that this work, begun November 1875, was the first continuous, systematic work, in Mining and Metallurgy, organized in the Rocky Mountains and continued until this day.

At the end of the school year 1875-6, the trustees of Colorado College refused to accept the writer's resignation as Professor-in-charge, on the plea that all others had resigned and that some continuity must be maintained. Thereupon the writer, as a compromise, made the following proposition:

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

That the writer be elected Professor of Chemistry and Geology, that he be required to do only such work, as his spare time, from his profession, as a Mining and Metallurgical Engineer, and from his other duties, would permit, and that he should receive no salary from the College, but be entitled to all fees from his pupils. So far neither party has sued for a divorce. December 1908 will mark the close of the first third of a century of the writer's connection with Colorado College.

Through the efforts of Professor E. N. Bartlett, Rev. R. C. Bristol, Rev. R. C. Cross and a number of ladies belonging to the First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs, a college storm was kept brewing over Michigan, Ohio, New York and New England until every congregational family in these states knew of Colorado Springs and Colorado College. It was during this college atmospheric disturbance that Dr. Richard Salter Storrs, the orator and divine of Brooklyn, remarked to a friend of the writer: "There are some people in Colorado interested in Colorado College who have either unbounded gall, or infinite love, for they don't know how to let up."

Through Dr. Storrs, others, in the land of unselfish hearts, offered their time and their money to find out, if it were possible to save Colorado College, for this Territory of great promise and for the health-seeking world. Accordingly Rev. Edward P. Tenney, formerly of Central City, Colorado, was sent out to investigate and to report, after making certain propositions to the people of Colorado Springs and getting their answer. His report was favorable.

This resulted in Mr. Tenney being elected second President of Colorado College and Professor Winthrop D. Sheldon, M. A. (Yale), now Dr. Sheldon, Vice-President of Girard College, becoming Professor-in-charge.

Professor Sheldon was an extremely conscientious man in his attention to details, neatness and classification. He had little patience with a student who tried to shirk his duty in these lines. One day a student came, to the writer, all wrought up, because Professor Sheldon had severely criticized his translation of a Latin or Greek sentence. "I didn't care so much for the lecture," said the student, "but Professor Sheldon just shot fire at me, from his eyes."

Professor Sheldon's attention to little things showed itself in his dress and walk. An anecdote, at the expense of the writer, shows this in quite bold

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

relief. The writer had given some suggestions to Governor [John] Routt as to the best method of developing a portion of the yet un-famous Morning Star Mine at Leadville. According to agreement in the course of two or three weeks, the Governor sent a report of progress and samples of ore, to the writer, who had gone down to Colorado Springs. The bearer of these – a doctor who had turned miner – forgot the writer’s name and could ask simply for the professor in Colorado College.

He was directed to the home of Professor Sheldon. Professor came to the door just ready to go down town. “I want the professor in Colorado College,” the miner said. “I am a professor in Colorado College,” said Professor Sheldon. The miner looked at the dustless patent leather shoes, the front crease in the pants, the kid gloves, the white handkerchief sticking out of coat pocket and the recently brushed stove-pipe hat, and solemnly remarked: “You won’t do. I want the professor in Colorado College who looks just like us common people.”

Miss Emma Bump, later Mrs. Meriam of Washington D. C., was appointed Professor Sheldon’s assistant. This position she held from 1878 to 1881 with credit to Miss Bump. The position was then for three years filled by Mrs. Mary Tenney Hatch. Mrs. Hatch was no ordinary teacher and did much to establish a high standard of scholarship in Colorado College. After Mrs. Hatch, Miss Eloise Wickard of Kansas, now wife of Professor Oliver H. Richardson of Yale University, took up the work in German and in English Literature. Her work was so highly appreciated that the writer, while acting-president, recommended her for a regular professorship and she was accordingly elected Professor of English Literature.

President Tenney’s coming gave to the College new hope and new life.

When Mr. Tenney entered upon his duties as President of Colorado College in 1876, he found the College penniless, the people of the State poor, the population scanty, the preparatory schools only three in all the Mountain West and the standard of education three years lower than it is today. In the West the panic of 1873 was still in full force. It was a day of great unrest and many misgivings. To go forward required a buoyant heart, a knowledge of what Yankee grit had done, a faith in Western possibilities and a deep insight into the probabilities of the Rocky Mountain country.

His first step was to awaken a permanent interest in Colorado and the territories of the mountains, among the people of the East and especially of

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

New England. To this end he issued his interesting and instructive pamphlets, "The New West." For advertising purposes these pamphlets have not to this day been surpassed. Colorado was represented as a land of rugged grandeur, rich in mineral wealth, great agricultural possibilities, superb in climate, of an assured future and an ideal location for an institution of the highest learning.

While keeping a close eye on the financial condition of the College and encouraging the College faculty in its effort to raise the standard of education in the College itself, and the schools of the State in general, he established as feeders to the College, preparatory schools in Salt Lake, Utah; Trinidad, Colorado; and Las Vegas, Albuquerque, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. In connection with these preparatory schools, for the first time in the western educational field, we hear of William Strieby and Charles R. Bliss and Professor Bennan and Henry Gordon, and a number of other devoted men and women.

Colorado College still reaps some of the benefits of their work. The great value, however, came to the cities themselves, in raising the standard of both public and private schools and in awakening a general interest in higher education.

President Tenney was a strong believer in faculty rights. In discussing this and other questions one day with the writer, Mr. Tenney remarked: "Each professor knows what is best for the pupils in his department. I want him to feel that he is responsible for his department. I want every member of the faculty to know that he is a failure if he is satisfied with anything below the best educational standards of Harvard and Yale."

The financial problem was Mr. Tenney's. This problem no one else in his day dared to attack.

For the purpose of furnishing a large endowment fund without begging it, he entered upon a land scheme which many of us thought wise, while others thought visionary. The lack of less than twenty thousand dollars caused the failure of the enterprise.

Two or three pessimists in the West and two or three, or less toadstool advisers in the East paralyzed the generous friends of Colorado College, in the very hour that their assistance was of vital importance. Then came the reckoning that should never have been. Random and fictitious assertions and guesses, without sufficient investigation taken as true, led many of us to say things and do things that we now know were unwarranted.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

It was not until the spring of 1904 that the writer had the reason to suspect that he himself had unintentionally done Mr. Tenney a great injustice. This injustice has been privately acknowledged. He [the writer] now takes this opportunity publicly to say that a thorough investigation of supposed facts shows them worthless and, consequently, all inferences drawn from the same as to misuse of money, etc., are false, and that he [the writer] sincerely regrets any harsh or unjust judgment given either publicly or privately.

Mr. Tenney's interest in Colorado College was a devotion, a consecration. His task was Herculean. His work, a creation. His resources, marvelous. His faith, divine. To be held up, in sight of the goal, which he so distinctly saw, was to be crushed under a falling sky. To him and to the College, it has meant years of struggle and suspense; but with the growing of the generations, the name of Tenney will become richer and more and more inspiring, to the students of Colorado College. Some day Colorado Springs and the mountain West, for which he practically and unselfishly gave his life, will do full justice to President Edward Payson Tenney.

Today, to the shame of Colorado College, there is not a picture of her second president hung up in any of the College buildings; nor stands his statue in any of her classic halls, or on any part of her beautiful campus.

What is the measure of a man today in Colorado College? A Kaffir slave, to give his energies, his accomplishments, his health, his soul, for a pittance and then to be cast to the winds and his very name to be forgotten? God forbid the coming of the day when Colorado College can measure her servants only by their first mortgage bonds, or their bank account, or by the strength of their pull. It is man, not marble halls, that makes families and cities and states and nations. Marble halls have crushed individuals and families and institutions and cities and states and nations. Let man be saved through justice, and saved while he lives. One ounce of justice, to the living, is worth a ton of honors, to the dead.

In the light of today, President Tenney's land enterprise is seen to have been one of the most far-reaching and prospectively profitable that could have been at that time devised. Over two square miles of this land, then valued at one hundred dollars per acre, are already within the city limits of Colorado Springs and worth from two thousand to ten thousand dollars per acre. Had Mr. Tenney's scheme been carried out as he had outlined, Colorado College would be today one of the richest colleges in America.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

In 1877, President Tenney secured the services of Frank H. Loud, a recent graduate of Amherst College. He was immediately elected Professor of Mathematics. Later he received the Doctor of Philosophy degree. For years he has been classed among the best Meteorologists and Astronomers in the West.

Doctor Loud in his early days was an extremely diffident man. It is said that at certain hours of the day he always went around the College Square for fear of meeting a member of the fair sex. One of the psychological problems often socially discussed in pioneer days was how Professor Loud proposed to Miss Wiley. At a gathering of some of the village ladies, a lady very seriously remarked: "Well, only Professor Loud, Mrs. Loud and the Lord know." To which another replied: "And perhaps they don't."

When the first boy came [the birth of Professor Loud's first child], Professor Loud started down to the College as usual, thinking that no one knew about the late arrival. However, he had not been long on his way when it became evident that the very birds were singing congratulations to the *father*-professor. When he entered the college building the very stones were joining in the hip-hip-hurrah for the *youthful* professor; and the student yell and the student stamp became so great and the professor's eyes so dim, that he put the chalk eraser in his pocket, left his handkerchief on the desk and started for home, by way of the window.

A kind-hearted student took him by the arm and led him out by way of the door. He wasn't seen going home. But many saw a pillar of dust moving loudward that seemed to have an intelligent director. All this was certified to by the kind-hearted student.

In 1880, Professor William Strieby, M.A., M.E. (Columbia), late principal of Academy, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, became Professor of Chemistry; and the present Chemical Department of Colorado College is a monument to his training, his faithfulness and his sacrifices.

In 1881, Mr. George H. Stone, of Wesleyan University, was elected Professor of Geology. He, however, was called upon to do much work outside of his special line and many remember him today most pleasantly through the great interest he awakened in the study of the flora of Colorado. Professor Stone was six or seven years in direct connection with Colorado College.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

Among the good students attending Colorado College in the middle eighties we are proud to mention Mr. Walter L. Wilder, now editor and one of the proprietors of the *Pueblo Chieftain* newspaper. His right to be named in this connection is due to the fact that for a number of terms he proved a very efficient instructor in the Spanish language.

Among all the Colorado College workers and lovers, there is another name that we must not forget - the name of Professor George N. Marden. In 1881, he, fortunately for Colorado College, linked his destiny with hers. First we find him as professor of Political Economy and History in the College, then as financial agent, afterwards as treasurer. The latter position he well filled for nine years. Through Professor Marden there was secured for Colorado College over a quarter of a million dollars. The greatest work of his life, however, was securing a President for Colorado College, in the person of Dr. William Frederick Slocum.

Out on the ribbon-land of waiting, wasting desert, where the bunchmaid struggled and the grama grass grew, where trailed the broad-leaf, angle-jointed prickly-pear, where stood in stacks the royal Spanish bayonets, and where the timid prairie dog shared his humble home, with Eden's ring deceiver and the canny owl, Mr. Tenney, in 1877, made a treaty, in the lodge of Palmer's heart and sealed it, with the trustful miner's shovel-dare.

Thus Tenney, backed by dollars few and promises of more, but mostly backed by Tenney-grit and Tenney-hope and Tenney-all-in-all, began to build a second college home [Cutler Hall]. The Rio Grande [railroad] loaned her strength and Castle Rock supplied the lava-flow, to build our desert college wall; while other goods were furnished, at the jolly builder's call.

It was the day of hope. It was the day of love. The morning stars, to some, were singing, and the hearts of many burned, as they talked of what they saw and told of what they heard. So, men and women, in their daily commons, thanked God, looked on and prayed, as they measured up the growth, of the precious college main, and thought of Colorado College, as the queenly Alma Mater - guiding saint - of loyal, loving women and great, true-hearted men. Thus grew the walls of Cutler Main. Some called it "Home of Learning;" some, "The Crag of Beauty." But Tenney called it: "Palmer Hall."

In 1880, the wings were added. This out-town college home, as well as the first, today is looked upon as a humble one. Compared, however, with the then humble homes of our people, it was in its day somewhat palatial. In

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

these two homes more than three hundred students got all their higher education. Many became miners, merchants, teachers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, ministers, legislators. So far as is known not one has proved a nonentity, or unworthy of the best hopes of those pioneer days.

Editor's Note: In 1904, James Hutchison Kerr commented on the financial condition of Colorado Springs in 1875, one year after Colorado College was founded.²

Here in Colorado Springs one could scarcely go upon the street without being compelled to listen to one of these imps of despair asserting that Colorado Springs ... had no financial basis and never could have; that it was the reckless scheme of wild speculators originated for the sole purpose of hoodwinking and swindling honest men and women. One often heard sneering, contemptuous words about the idea of establishing a college at Colorado Springs. "There is no more chance," says a man from Boston, "of an efficient college here than there is of establishing a springs here."

Editor's Note: James Hutchison Kerr seemed to be fascinated with the miracle of Colorado College's survival during its first years of existence, the necessity of money from New England to keep the College from expiring, and the sacrificial role of the College's early supporters and founders. Interestingly, Kerr concludes that the major work of the early professors at Colorado College was to prepare the way for the presidency of William Frederick Slocum, which brought financial solvency and a major building program to the college.³

² James Hutchison Kerr, "When Colorado College Was Not in Flower," October 24, 1904, p. 5. This pamphlet can be found in the Kerr scrap books, Book I, p. 11, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

³ James Hutchison Kerr, "Colorado College: After Dinner Paper," read before the Colorado College Alumni Association, June 12, 1907, at its annual gathering at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This pamphlet can be found in the Kerr scrap books, Book I, p. 13, Special Collections, Tutt Library, Colorado College.

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

In order to understand and appreciate Colorado College, as she is today [1907], we need a clear insight, not only into the conditions of Colorado College during her early girlhood, but also into the times – social and financial.

You all are undoubtedly aware that Colorado College was a very puny, sickly child. A number of times we thought she was breathing her last; and no one, except those who rocked the crib by day and walked the floor by night, have any definite idea of the amount of New England paregoric and soothing syrup that was necessary to relieve her dear little colicky frame....

My unique position in connection with Colorado College consisted largely in doing work and holding offices, when no one else was willing to do the work and hold the offices. To help matters I was in poor health and overrun with outside work, as a mining and metallurgical engineer....

Only the detail records of a god, however, have any just account of the sacrifices made, in this city, by some of the friends of Colorado College. One lady, who had already given more than she could really afford...came to our office on East Pike's Peak Avenue...and said: "...I want to help a little more. My mother gave me as I was leaving home this beautiful shawl. It is not in harmony with my circumstances here. I came to see if you could sell it. Whatever you can get for it, I will give to Colorado College." And eight (\$8) dollars more went to [Colorado College].

Another head of a family said to his wife: "Our meat and grocery bill is so much per month. Let us reduce it one-half for four months and give the other half to the college fund." And eleven (\$11) dollars more went to [Colorado College]. One woman took in washing for two months, that she might have something to give to Colorado College. She broke down; but sixteen or eighteen dollars more went to [Colorado College]. A lady from the South, who received five dollars per month from her father for pin money, gave \$15 to Professor E. N. Bartlett; and \$15 dollars more went to [Colorado College].

The sacrifice, however, was not all on the side of this class of patrons of Colorado College. I must at least hint at the sacrifices made by the professors. Well, I know the professors have their faults. The principal fault of some of the professors [at] Colorado College has been their willingness to do three men's work when they ought to be doing only that of two.

The case of Dr. Winthrop D. Sheldon, now Vice-President of Girard College, is a case in point. In early days, in addition to general supervision

THE PIONEER DAYS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

[of the College], he had from thirty-five to forty exercises per week in from six to ten different subjects, and yet he made it a point to put himself in fresh touch with every lesson before he went into class. For one year, Dr. Sheldon's total receipts (salary) were only a few cents over \$76.00.

Dr. Winthrop D. Sheldon, Dr. Frank H. Loud, Professor George N. Marden, Professor William Strieby and Professor George H. Stone are saying nothing about the great sacrifices they made for this institution; I have documents, however, to show that each of these men and President Edward P. Tenney laid his all on the altar of service for Colorado College. We cannot speak too highly of them. We honor ourselves in honoring them. It was their work and their sacrifices, let us never forget, backed by unselfish and generous New Englanders, that made possible in our Athens, both the age of Pericles and the coming of Pericles himself, the builder and beautifier, in the person of Dr. William Frederick Slocum.

Fellow citizens [of Colorado Springs]. Colorado College is blessing you every day – in your homes, in your businesses, in your lives. Colorado College, now sound to the core, is your college. Even now she is the stay, and largely the hope of this city. Treat her kindly, treat her generously and she will return you a hundred fold.

Alumni of Colorado College, your Alma Mater has given you her strength and her love, and fitted you well for the various responsibilities of life. When you leave her classic halls, don't forget her. Send or bring her frequent greetings. Bear some of her burdens. The world spirit is already preparing a crown for Colorado College.

I like to think that some will sing of her beginnings – the humble, the hopeful, the love-bound beginnings of our beautiful QUEEN.