

Behind the Scenes of Saving Grace – History Timeline

Glen Eyrie was the estate of General William Jackson Palmer, the founder of several railroads and the city of Colorado Springs. Also gifted the state: Colorado College, Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, a tuberculosis sanitarium, and \$3 million for development. “Valley of the Eagle’s Nest”

The Downton Abbey of the Old West. A fairy tale blend of frontier challenges and gracious living amid the Wild West.

1836 - born in Delaware

Raised in Pennsylvania, Quaker

Fascinated with steam locomotives

(age 17) - part of Engineering corp Hempfield Railroad

(age 19) - studied abroad in England and France - railroads, coal mines

March 1850 - Mary Lincoln Mellen born in Kentucky. Mother died when she was 4? And father remarried her mom’s sister, had 6 more children, nicknamed Queen (probably because doted on)

1861 - Civil War - pacifism, anti-slavery but joined Union Army to fight slavery

1862 - part of elite cavalry (Anderson Troop), doing reconnaissance, captured, imprisoned as a spy, released in a prisoner exchange,

~1865 (age 29) - 2nd youngest brigadier general (youngest was Gen. Custer)

Congressional Medal of Honor

1866 (age 16) - Queen’s family moved to Flushing New York. Well-educated, singing and voice lessons. Mezzo voice. Father was a lawyer who was part of the Treasury Dept. Eventually retired to private practice.

1867 - led survey party for Union Pacific Railroad's Eastern Division with goal to find the best route to CA via Kansas City. Traveled all the way to San Fran, then back via Salt Lake and Cheyenne. Company later became known as Kansas Pacific Railroad. While journeying west, he became fascinated by the vistas around Pikes Peak and on one journey discovered a valley four miles north of Colorado City bordering Garden of the Gods.

1869 - Elected as director of construction to extend the line from KC to Denver. Denver Pacific RR also hired him to close gap from Denver to Cheyenne

1869 - (ages 19 and 32) - Gen. P meets Queen and her father on a trip west. Within weeks of meeting and a whirlwind courtship, she accepted proposal.

Feb. 1870 - purchases land at \$1.25 acre. 10,000 acres to establish Fountain Colony (later known as Colorado Springs) and 2,225 acres for personal estate. Prelim steps for a RR to go south by the Rocky Mtns.

April 1870 - her first visit to the glen and sees Queen's Canyon named in her honor, she begins drawings of their first home with hexagonal/octagonal? Rooms clustered around a central chimney (her unique concept), 1st floor spacious with many windows, 2nd floor plans for "boys room" "girls room" "teachers room" and "schoolroom", 3rd floor plans for attic, servant quarters, trunk room

Queen returns to Long Island to arrange wedding.

May 1870 - Indian trouble with the RR people along spots she'd ridden on and Gen. P was horrified at the risks

June 1870 - Denver to Cheyenne completed

August 15, 1870 - 1st passenger train from KC to Denver arrived

Nov. 8 1870 - Wedding in Flushing, Long Island, NY. Sailed for Europe for honeymoon, kept a journal of their trip to London/Amsterdam/Brussels, Gen P often had business meetings with investors while Queen toured, attended dinner parties, and sang. A pattern of her often with friends or

alone amusing herself and enjoying music/art. During his meetings, decided on a gauge for mountainous country and ordered rails in Wales to be shipped to America. She had an eye out for “the marvelous, beautiful, often glorious works which I meet every day, very often without looking for them.” (Queen, pg 44)

1871 - After the honeymoon, she stayed in Flushing while he got to work on his dream town...but wrote letters daily. Starts Fountain Colony, no saloons or gambling houses allowed, no sale of alcohol (illegal), a strong moral code. Queen was a full partner in the founding of the “colony” of families and named the streets. Was a “bleak pioneer town with twelve small, unfinished buildings”

1871 - starts Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to run north/south along the front range

1871 - begins construction of a large adobe and wood house, painted bronze green, 22 rooms, got pigs to roam and kill the snakes. Queen names the rocks. Scottish friend visits - the valley of the Eagle’s Nest (“Glen Eyrie”)

Oct. 1871 - Queen arrives in Colorado with her dad, step-mom, 6 half-siblings. ALL the way by train to the colony using Gen. P’s Denver and Rio Grande RR narrow gauge. They live in tents and later in rooms above the carriage house during construction

Queen starts the first school for the children of the colony and had 7 students 1st day with soon 20. Rented a 3-room house until a schoolhouse was built. Eventually hired the newspaper editor’s wife as the teacher.

Organized the 1st church. Aided the “unfortunate”

Winter 1871 - harsh blizzard and freight trains delayed in region (except on the narrow gauge rails...) - otherwise enjoyed hiking and exploring her canyon, singing off Echo Rocks

Nov 28, 1871 - Fountain Ditch completed to bring water from the Fountain above Colorado Springs down to irrigate the town site

Christmas - 1st town tree, 20 couples at a ball, Q hosted a Christmas party for the children.

Colorado Springs Hotel opened New Year’s Day 1872

Feb. 1872 - Palmers move into finished house. Hard to find servants so had to do many things for herself.

By spring, 700-800 population in Colorado Springs. More irrigation ditches built and 600 cottonwood trees from Arkansas were planted. Soon dubbed "Little London"

March 1872 - Queen went with Gen. P to Mexico City via stagecoach from Denver to CA then a steamer to Mexican port, then carriages, learned how to handle a gun, attacked by highwaymen, William hoping to extend his narrow gauge rails that far, good negotiations, Queen sick...oh, she's pregnant. Journeyed home via Cuba, Florida, train to Virginia and New York where Queen stayed.

Oct 30, 1872 - Elsie born.

Dec. 1872 - William back to Mexico to solidify contracts but they'd collapsed

Queen's father died and Will became surrogate father to the Mellen children he loved.

A Ute family/band camped out in the glen near the stream. Very curious about white men and peering in windows or wandering inside uninvited.

Queen loved to hike the canyon, hats scorned, rebellious curly hair flying.

Also excelled as a hostess to Palmer's friends and business associates. "Delightful" Gathered books in 3rd story room and heard musicians. Mental sparkle, unfailing kindness, a "mezzo" voice

1870s?? - rail war with Santa Fe RR over mountain routes

fear of daughters being kidnapped in "war" with Santa Fe RR led to construction of the schoolhouse on the property

A financial downturn season forced them to close the castle and live in a small house in town for awhile. Another called them "really poor" but said that Queen was still a charming and beautifully natural hostess until they "escaped the clutches of the Santa Fe" - said she had an indomitable will

General P - excellent horseman and loved to ride over miles of trails at GE, large stable of horses

In general the gold, silver, and coal mining of the Rockies plus the railroads created men with wealth and power who built castles as a declaration of their positions or solidification of their dreams.

Tuberculosis - treatment was a high, dry climate which brought many people to Colorado's high plains

1879 - plumber finished a system of waterworks and three fountains at GE

Summer 1880 - Queen - mild heart attack

Oct 29, 1880 - Dorothy born

1881 - house remodeled to include tower and additional rooms

1881 - went to England, Marjory born Nov. 12, 1881

1882 - DC electric current installed

1882 - William returned from Europe to make another trip to Mexico, leaving his family in a seaside resort town in SE England. Whenever he was away for work, he wrote often to his family and daughter(s)

May 1883 - He returned to England bringing his mother with him. After a few months, they all returned to Glen Eyrie

1883 - Queen elusive sleep. Colorado's thin air a problem. Spent most of her time now in quiet pursuits in 3rd floor rooms. No longer able to enjoy walking, climbing, and horseback riding. Wanted to regain her health and stamina to see daughters grow up but also worried about their education. - Another source said she fought pain and sleeplessness for 5 years with a quiet life at the restored GE (after Santa Fe)

1883 - Palmer resigns as Pres of Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, 1880s he starts the Rio Grande Western Railroad with narrow gauge track to wind east/west through the mountains

1884-1886 - Queen and girls (ages 12, 4, 3), move East and lived in a hotel in Central Park West in NYC. After 2 winters of illness, eventually to

England because of lower altitude and milder climate. - Another source said she was forced by her health to give up the home she loved. Became a "wanderer among friends" until Will took her to England where they had friends (mostly made in GE)

Under the care of doctors who advised at least a few years to recover. Death/illness attributed to "a trouble of the valve of the heart" but others later guessed rheumatic heart disease.

For 8 more years, Queen and girls lived in London or the SE in Kent region. General Palmer wrote regularly and visited once or twice a year. (ages 14, 6, 5 to start) Igtitham Mote - the first location as tenants of a stately manor house with gatehouse, great hall, chapels, gallery, large fireplaces, oak ceilings, moat, courtyard, gardens, estate walks, lakes and stream.

Queen imparted to her daughters her zest for life, infectious enthusiasm, values of loyalty, honesty, empathy, duty, and love of beauty/serenity. Health was generally better but heart problems an issue to the point that in July 1886, she wrote the "when I'm gone" letter (that she later added a postscript to.

Still loved to travel despite the additional expenses of GE plus England household.

1889 - Queen and Will went to France and Italy (girls 16, 8, 7 left behind). Carried upstairs in a chair. Will tried to get lower rooms to avoid stairs for his wife. Queen loves the architecture and art/sculptures. A dream and yet in her journal wrote that she was "more tired than I have been"

Later in 1889 - Will took Elsie on a 2-month trip to Switzerland before her 17th Bday

Portrait of Elsie Palmer - painted by John Singer Sargent when she was 17.

1891 - Queen and Elsie (age 19) trip to Paris

Summer 1893 - Queen and daughters (21, 13, 12) trip to Germany and Scotland. She encouraged them to write in their journals in addition to continued letters to Will.

1894 - Elsie trip to Glen Eyrie after 10 years away. A special time with her dad. Returned to England in September

Christmas Day 1894 - Queen very ill and upstairs alone. Daughters wrote thank you for gift letters to be delivered upstairs. Will notified and train to NY/steam to England...but too late. - Another source said she'd had a month of intense suffering, the latter part of which she separated from her children to spare them the sight of her agony.

Dec. 27/28, 1894 - Queen died at age 44. Married 24 years. General Palmer goes to England to fetch her remains and his daughters (ages 22, 14, 13), before returning to Colorado Springs.

(??) sold the railroad. Took one last trip and generously gave to each employee. Then built the castle to last a lifetime

1902 - Gardener's House (Ridgeview) built, 2 large greenhouses attached. He grew flowers and vegetables in the hothouses.

1903 - Construction begins on castle/house remodel to transform it into an impressive stone castle. Wealthy/retired General Palmer and daughters travel through Europe seeking fireplaces, artifacts, and heirlooms to fill the castle. The old house is dismantled except for the central chimney. Great Hall is the last room completed. Queen's original ideas and characteristic of the original design (beehive structure) are perpetuated

Had telephones - first in the west. Guests arrived through electric gates operated by batteries. Creamery had one of the first milk pasteurization plants in the US. Pollution control from the 24 fireplaces. 2nd floor family rooms, 3rd floor for guests and visitors, 4th floor artists studio?.

65 rooms, drawing room for the ladies, a library, a den and large dining hall. Kitchen and butler's pantry had white tile walls. Special rooms for silverware and flower arranging. Turkish baths and servant quarters. A milk room for dairy maids. Ice room filled with ice making machinery. On top of the tower was a roof garden with a large silver bell.

Every Christmas, children invited to the castle great hall and given gifts all personally selected by General Palmer.

1906 - Gen. P on a ride in Garden of the Gods with his daughters and a friend, riding an unfamiliar horse who stumbled and threw him. Broken neck and paralyzed from 3rd rib down. Down but not out as he continued to entertain friends from a wheelchair.

1908 - Elsie married to Leopold Myers

March 13, 1909 - General Palmer died at age 72, 15 years after Queen's death

~1909 - Dorothy moved to England to become a social worker.

Fall 1810 - Queen's ashes disinterred from English graveyard and placed near the General's in a raised plot in Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs

_____ - Marjory married Henry Watt, the resident doctor and moved to Colorado Springs to open a tubercular clinic

1916 - Estate sold to group of Oklahoma businessmen. ("The Glen Eyrie Companies" syndicate formed by Ed Dunn and Walter Eaton from Oklahoma) Carriage House to be Black Horse Tavern. Castle as clubhouse. Golf course planned and site divided into 150 luxury home sites at the resort. BUT WW I and no/few buyers.

1918 - Sold to Mr. Alexander Smith Cochran, a 3rd generation multi-millionaire New York rug manufacturer, paid \$450,000. Mr. Cochran then expanded the property by purchasing 5 ranches to the north and increasing the acreage to 8000 acres. In addition to farming and ranching, Mr. Cochran had a string of polo ponies that he trained at the Glen and traveled around the world participating in polo matches.

1920 - Mr. Cochran married a Polish opera star, Ganna Walska, but the marriage ended in divorce in 1922.

1925 - Mr. Cochran closed the castle where he'd lived since 1918, transferring its ownership to his "Hill Bright Corporation" and built the Pink House as his primary residence while at the Glen. (PH had 3 bedrooms, 4

baths, living room, bar room, dining room, balcony, and basement. Living room is now the dining room and is a replica of the Great Hall in the castle). Mr. Cochran's employees resided in various cottages on the property built by General Palmer.

1929 - Mr. Cochran died. Having no children of his own, his nephew became his beneficiary. The nephew also died in 1929 and had no will. Therefore the Cochran Estate reverted back into his "Hill Bright Corporation"

(1933 - Dawson Trotman in Long Beach, CA, truck driver working at a lumberyard, hungry for God as revealed in the Bible. Originally sought to help teen boys in the Christian life. Then Worked with naval personnel to navigate thru life and help others to do so. Taught others to share what they had learned. Put Bible verses on little cards to put in pocket and memorize. "To know Christ and to make Him known...and help others do the same." As first Navigators got out of the military and scattered around the country, the ministry began to also help college students with a heart for discipleship, he wanted a headquarters in the central US. Wife had opened their home to have sailors come over for fried chicken dinners and allowed the ministry to begin.) Prayer is one spoke of the wheel/stool image as a foundational value of the ministry. Christ as center with outward spokes of the Word, witnessing, and fellowship with outer rim of the "obedient Christian in action". Vertical spokes of prayer and Word are how you relate to God. Horizontal spokes of witnessing and fellowship are how you relate to others. A wheel because it's an exciting/dynamic life in motion vs. "Sitting down stool" (word, prayer, witnessing)

1938 - property sold to George W. Strake, an oil producer from Houston who used it as a summer home and cattle ranch. His employees resided in Carriage House and at the Laundry Facility while the Strake family occupied the Pink House. In 1939, he added two wings to the Pink House as well as a two-car garage increasing the overall square footage to almost 6000 feet. While at the Glen, the Strakes enjoyed entertaining friends,

relatives, politicians, business associates, newspaper publishers, movie stars, and religious leaders.

1947 - a major flood

1950 - back on the market

1951 - Navigators did counselor training and follow-up for Billy Graham crusades.

Billy Graham was approached to buy Glen Eyrie for his headquarters. Mr. Strake lowered the asking price (from \$700K to \$300K) just for him. Dawson told Billy "if you don't want it, the Navigators do." Billy Graham withdrew from negotiations with the provision that Navigators would take over the option. (Billy was to buy and Navigators were to run it - but Billy prayed and felt like it was for the Navigators instead. Dawson visited. 1 Chron 29: 10-13 scripture claimed over this place.)

1953 - Navigators purchase the property. Raised \$100K down payment in 6 weeks with average donation of \$20. (more than their annual operating budget!) Showed up for closing and banker gave \$8K extra amount that actually covered the surprise extra fees. BG: "God did it!" Mr. Strake at closing surprise included >300 adjoining acres at the reservoir at the head of Queen's Canyon if it would be used as a camp for kids...became Eagle Lake Camp, used as a summer camp ministry. Glen Eyrie would be used as the Navigators Headquarters and a training/conference center for Navigators missionaries.

The Pink House became the home of Dawson Trotman and his family.

1956 - Dawson Trotman died - drowned while rescuing an unsaved girl who fell out of a boat at the camp (girl didn't know how to swim and was later led to Lord by D's wife Lila). Wife had felt impressed the night before that God was going to take him home so they talked about what would happen to family/ministry if it was true, then next day felt in the Spirit in that exact moment of his drowning to pray. By the time she got to camp and was told there was an accident, she already knew.). Pink House then occupied by Lorne Sanny, his successor. Billy Graham performed the

funeral - told story of when he met Dawson at Wheaton College and how 5 minutes later Dawson shared him about his morning devos and asked him what he'd gotten out of his own devos (and chuckled, b/c hadn't had his yet that day)

1999 - another major flood through the property

March 2012 - Pink House totally remodeled. The original wood floors were restored in many of the rooms. Today has a boardroom and three guest rooms (plus host apartment) and is used for small meetings, formal dinners, and teas.

Sat June 23-July 10 2012 - Waldo Canyon Fire starts as a brush fire in a valley of Rampart Range in the Pike National Forest about 3 miles west of Colorado Springs and North of Hwy 24. Started just 2 miles from GE and Eagle Lake Camp. Lake used by fire choppers to get water. Camp evacuated and grabbed staff essentials. Slurry plane dropped a load by the entry road. Evacuated 22 horses from camp in one caravan of volunteers. Stretched hoses and sprinklers around all the buildings and learned later it helped the firefighters defend the property. At GE temporary office helicopters were flying over every 30 seconds. Caused the evacuation of 32K residents of Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Woodland Park, and a partial evac of AF Academy. Destroyed 346 homes and Flying W ranch as it burned 18,000 acres of land including a significant portion of the upper watershed of Queen's Canyon. Lots of prayers asking it to be spared. Mostly "dodged" Eagle Lake Camp - what was burned was reseeded and erosion barriers put in place (i.e. horizontal logs on hills and sediment catches to keep the lake clean) GE campus had to close two trails, especially the one winding up Queen's Canyon because of flash flood danger from the burn scar. GE property vacant with animals all around. At the mouth of the canyon, a burning stump had rolled down the hill but otherwise nothing to see. By Tuesday too thick smoke to see, had evacuated the last skeleton staff while talking about how it might not

be here tomorrow, one last maintenance worker had gone up to Dawson's grave and prayed over the property - could see the flames and a violent wind was rocking his truck. The next day (after worldwide prayers) the director snuck in using mountain bike and could see that everything was still there - almost like God put His hand in the canyon and said "No more." Others had prayed with firefighters during their morning briefing. Story from the firefighters that the fire came down the ridge toward Camp and suddenly turned left for some reason (where scriptures were posted around camp). The cross on the hill was not burned or even scorched while fire was all around it. Equestrian program supply shed was the first structure burned. Another small shed burned as well. One girls cabin burned - rest saved because of fire mitigation efforts earlier in the year. A tent platform area burned but cot/bunks survived.

2013 - debris barriers built, added sediment catchment basins because castle and conference center are located at the mouth of the canyon and exposed to post-wildfire debris flows. Two large debris nets (to catch trees and rocks) in Queens Canyon and the "moat" around the castle was upgraded. Deepened and widened the channel (plus had to replace the bridges over Camp Creek) and therefore quadrupled the pre-fire flow capacity, then armored it with rocks. (Creek goes on to flow through Garden of the Gods before eventually running into Fountain Creek) What they do including communication from the Lake above (i.e. excess rain runoff) also protects the community downstream with an advance warning.

2014 - Her Spring Break fire

2022 - 8 years later or NOW