HISTORIC CAMPUS SPOTS
OF
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

By

James R. Miller

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado

1963
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Table of Illustrations</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author's Statement</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claim Building</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Main</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pioneer Monument</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustration</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAIM BUILDING</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLD MAIN (as it originally appeared)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLD MAIN (viewed from the northeast)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLD MAIN (as it appears in 1962)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PIONEER MONUMENT</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUTHOR'S STATEMENT

A reviewer for *Time Magazine* once wrote, "Research is the opium of the biographers; when the fit is on them, any fact, no matter how small, must be included just because it is available."

The statement, I believe, applies not only to biographers but to many others who write of the historic past. In the case of *Historic Campus Spots*, the offense, if such it be, is deliberate. The objective here has been to compile all available information about each of the subjects—not to make dramatic nor even concise stories for quick reading.

The information is from a number of sources, chiefly the files of the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, the Colorado State University Library and the Fort Collins City Library. With the passage of time, some of these sources inevitably will disappear. Hence, this effort to assemble all the data in one place in the interests both of preserving it and of making it easily available to future writers.

The long, rambling newspaper story, which supplies details of the cornerstone ceremonies at Old Main, for example, is quoted in full, not merely to preserve the information in convenient form, but also because of the "atmosphere" which the account affords for consideration by future generations. Already there is an air of quaintness about the wordy journalistic style, the meandering pomposity of the speeches and the entire character of the observances. They reveal the tenor of a quiet pioneer era in which Americans had time for relaxed and deliberate thinking by contrast with the rush of modern life—a difference upon which sophisticated students of the years ahead may well reflect.

--James R. Miller

Fort Collins, Colorado
March 14, 1962
CLAIM BUILDING

If Colorado State University, in tribute to historical significance, were seeking a location for a memorial marker, a 16- by 24- foot area at the extreme northeast corner of the campus is most deserving of consideration as "sacred ground." This spot was the site of the so-called "Claim Building," first structure upon the campus.

Constructed in the fall of 1874--two years before Colorado became a state--the red-brick building stood at the present intersection of South College Avenue and West Laurel Street, almost at the present sidewalk lines. This corner was the main entrance to the campus at that time.

The cost of $420 for construction of the Claim Building was met from a fund, in part provided by the Territory of Colorado and in part by the people of the Fort Collins community. Although the Territorial Legislature had approved location of the new land-grant college at Fort Collins in 1870, it made no appropriation for its establishment until four years later. Then it conditioned its $1,000 appropriation upon the raising of an equal amount by public subscription. The people of Fort Collins and vicinity, having already provided a 240-acre site for the institution, land which was worth between $10 and $20 an acre,* met their share of the further obligation through donations by individuals, organizations, and business firms.

The immediate inspiration for construction of the first building in November, 1874, according to local legend, was the fact that other towns of Colorado Territory were awaking to the potential community value of having one of the new land-grant schools which were to teach "agriculture and the mechanic arts." Weld County, to the east, was destined to become one of the richest agricultural counties of the United States, and its aggressive early settlers recognized the many advantages of having a school specializing in agriculture. Boulder County, to the south, had similar aspirations. Like Larimer County, in which Fort Collins is located, its agricultural potential was severely limited by the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, but it already had been designated as the site of the University of Colorado, and it saw great possibilities of having the agricultural college as a part of that educational complex. Petitions reputedly were being circulated in the county-seat towns of Greeley and Boulder asking the legislature to change the site from its earlier selection of Fort Collins.

* A report for the first six years of operation of the College lists among assets 240 acres valued at $5,000, an average acre value of $20.83.
Certainly there was mounting public impatience in Fort Collins over failure to establish the college. This dissatisfaction finally aroused the board of twelve trustees, predecessors of the present State Board of Agriculture. The Fort Collins Standard of November 4, 1874, commented:

We are glad to know that the trustees have issued a call for bids for the erection of a brick building, 16x24 feet, on the Agricultural College grounds, to be completed according to contract within sixty days. The call was not made public until after we went to press last week, so it was too late for our paper. No bids can be received after 1 o'clock Saturday November 7th. A small building of this kind seems absolutely necessary. We hope however the collateral work about the premises will be pushed on vigorously as far as practicable at the same time.

One week later, the Standard reported that "The contract for putting up the new building on the Agricultural College grounds has been awarded to E. Bassonet*, he being the lowest bidder."

*Preferred spelling: Bassonett.
Unfortunately, and rather inexcusably from a journalistic viewpoint, the Standard did not report the amount of the low bid. However, the oldest-known document of Colorado State University is a record of an action by the Board of Trustees on March 10, 1875, providing "that the Account of Besonett for $420 for Building on Agricultural College grounds be allowed." This action is supported by the stub of a disbursement book showing that, on December 31, 1875, an order was drawn for payment of $420 to Boyd and Bassonett for building House on College Grounds." No explanation is given for the delay of more than a year in making payment to the contractors.

The account of the leisurely call for bids and the deliberate and orderly letting of a contract which allowed 60 days for completion, as related by the Standard, must be accepted as accurate, since it was written at the time. This, despite a much more dramatic story which apparently was first written by Professor J. W. Lawrence, is a version which has been accepted by other later writers.

Professor Lawrence, a professor of engineering who also served as Interim president of the College in 1891-92, realized the desirability of recording the history of the first campus building. In an undated manuscript, now in the University Library, apparently prepared as a press release, he related his findings:

THE FIRST BUILDING ON THE COLLEGE GROUNDS

Professor J. W. Lawrence, in searching for facts in the history of the College has obtained the following in regard to the first building erected on the campus.

The first building on the College grounds was a small brick structure, built in the northeast corner, where south college avenue and west laurel street intersect. It was fourteen feet wide and twenty-eight feet long.

A. K. Yount made a small sketch of what was wanted and handed it to Messrs. Jonas R. Boorse and Eph. Love, contractors, and builders, with a request that it be built within nine days if possible. It was completed and the keys handed to A. K. Yount on the evening of the eighth day, one day ahead of the time allotted.

This building was called the "Claim" building of the College, and was built as evidence of good faith on the part of those interested in locating the college at Fort Collins, as

*Historic Documents of Colorado State University.

**Mr. Yount was a Fort Collins banker and a member of the College's Board of Trustees. He was a delegate to the Colorado Constitutional Convention of 1875-76.
other localities were stirring about with a view of locating the college elsewhere.

A half-breed, by the name of "Indian Clark," furnished the stone for the foundation. He received the order for the stone at 7 o'clock in the evening, and using ox teams, had all the stone on the ground the next morning.

His part of the "rush" order was carried through promptly. The following day the foundation was laid. William Skenk laid the stone foundation.

During the next two days, the brick work was all laid. Boyd and Bassonett made and laid the bricks. Their brick yard was located at the east side of Fort Collins, a few hundred yards down the river from the Fort Collins Flour Mills.


The building was built in October 1874, and the records show that the interior was plastered in 1877 by J. W. Boyd.

So far as is known the only one now living, who took part in the erection of the building is Jonas R. Boorse, who is at present with the Maher Mercantile Company of Fort Collins, and who furnished most of the information given in this sketch.

Professor Lawrence has thus far been unable to secure a photograph of the building, and if any reader knows of the existence of one he will be glad to secure a copy.

In stating that Boorse and Love were the contractors, and Boyd and Bassonett only the manufacturers and layers of the brick, Professor Carpenter or his informant obviously reversed the actual roles of the two partnerships. Boyd and Bassonett, as the over-all contractors, probably sub-contracted with Boorse and Love for the carpenter work.

So far as is known, Professor Lawrence's appeal for a photograph of the Claim Building brought no response. The only known picture is a reproduction of a pen-and-ink drawing which appeared first in the 1896 Report of the State Board of Agriculture. This drawing resembles in style many drawings made by Dr. E. E. Edwards, first president of the College, and may have been made by him.

The Claim Building, had it been preserved, might well have become a historic shrine for future generations of "Aggies." Actually it had an inglorious existence of only about 16 years. For a time it was used as a granary for storage of grain which the Grange, a farmers' organization influential in establishment of the Institution, raised upon

*Actually it was built in November, 1874.
a part of the College Farm. For a time it was used merely as a storage place for tools and implements used on the farm. In 1878 it was rented to a newly married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Collamer. Dr. E. E. Edwards and his family lived in it briefly when they first arrived upon the campus in 1879. William Rist, a teacher, and his bride occupied it in 1880.

In 1882 Professor Charles F. Davis, teacher of chemistry, fitted the Claim Building as the first "chemical laboratory" of the College. In a report dated December 14, 1882, he wrote:

In the course of the summer vacation of 1882 it was decided to resume, at the opening of the autumn term, the chemical instruction which had been suspended by the state board because of lack of accommodations for carrying on analytical work.

The small building at the northeast corner of the college grounds was fitted up at an expense of thirty-three dollars, with tables, sinks, hoods and ventilating apparatus for six students. . . .

. . . It is plain that the department has already outgrown the limited accommodations for rooms.

In order that the work in the chemical laboratory may be satisfactorily carried on, I would respectfully ask that the state board set aside for use of the chemical department, for the quarter commencing January 1st, 1888,* the sum of $100.00.

The ultimate fate of the Claim Building was a mystery in College circles for nearly 70 years, although there was a near-legend that it had been razed and the materials used in buildings of the Department of Horticulture complex, which, during the 1880s, took shape to the west, facing West Laurel Street. Not until 1961, in the course of this writer's research for the manuscript Pioneer College President, were bits of information from separate sources fitted together to give the answer.

In 1882 the second president of the College, Dr. Charles Lee Ingersoll, in planning for construction of a greenhouse as a part of the physical plant of the Department of Horticulture, stated in a carelessly worded report to the State Board of Agriculture, the governing board of the College:

I would therefore recommend that the site of the building be erected near the entrance to the grounds, where the structure and flowers will be more seen and visited. To this end the present chemistry laboratory could be utilized as an addition to such a structure and thus at the same time preserve one of the oldest landmarks about the college.

*Apparently a typographical error; should be 1883.
The 1895 issue of *Silver Spruce*, a student yearbook, tells in a historical sketch of the construction of a horticultural "conservatory" in 1883 and adds, "This structure was attached to a small one-story brick building—the first building erected on the campus—which stood near the corner..." The article tells further of the subsequent building of a horticultural laboratory in 1890 and says, "In September of the same year the greenhouse was moved and connected with the laboratory, and the small brick building was torn down and removed."

Oldest members of the faculty of the Department of Horticulture have long believed that the materials salvaged from the Claim Building were used in construction of a small building in the departmental group known as the "potting shed," although they can cite no source of this information. This small, one-story building is the unit of the horticultural complex farthest east, standing next to an alley which extends from West Laurel Street to the east-west drive north of Old Main; this alley also is at the rear of two other old buildings: Spruce Hall, former dormitory, and the Conservatory of Music. Examination of the bricks and the stone trim of the potting shed indicates that the theory of the Claim Building, having been absorbed by the potting shed, is well within the range of probability. The potting shed is still standing in 1962, although abandoned when the work in horticulture was transferred in late 1960 from the West Laurel Street site to the new Plant Science Building and its greenhouses on the southern part of the campus.

At the time he was planning to attach a greenhouse to the Claim Building, in 1882, President Ingersoll had indicated an appreciation of the historic value of the first campus building by saying that his proposal would "at the same time preserve one of the oldest landmarks about the college." In view of this, it is difficult to understand why, in 1890, while he was still president, the "landmark" was eliminated from the campus landscape with no regard whatever for its historical significance—an act so thorough that not even a photograph of the building remains.
OLD MAIN

Gaunt and shabby, Old Main in this year of 1962 stands in an attitude of deliberate and bitter defiance overlooking the campus of Colorado State University. If its position is more than fantasy, this is understandable. For Old Main is outdated—and doomed. Progress, as typified by current building programs of glass-aluminum construction, is by-passing not only Old Main but the entire area surrounding it.

Old Main must go. With its wealth of historic memories, it is tentatively scheduled to be wiped from the face of the campus within the next two or three years at latest. The space age cannot pause for sentimental sniveling over past glories, nor can it endure longer the offensive sight of a structure at odds with modern architectural concepts.

This is no reflection upon campus planners, though. Practicability of prolonged further use of the building is questionable. This writer suggested to the State Board of Agriculture 15 years ago that the two additions ultimately be removed and the original structure maintained for historic reasons as a museum and an archives depository. He now believes that, from a construction viewpoint, the proposal would be unjustifiably expensive, even aside from the permanent costs of maintenance and operation. It is best that Old Main become a part of the "Agricultural College" legend; even now there are few who have any sentimental attachment for it.

With its two additions, those afterthoughts inspired long ago by expanding academic necessity which turned both interior and exterior into an architectural nightmare, Old Main has withstood the abuse and condemnation of successive generations of "Aggie" students and their teachers. Despite all assaults upon its character, it has continued grimly to serve the purposes to which it was so glowingly dedicated on the drizzly afternoon of July 27, 1878, when its cornerstone was laid at formal public ceremonies.

Until recently, despite the glorified construction programs which have been gradually gaining momentum, the President of the University and members of its governing board have been inclined to break out in cold sweat when they considered how the Institution would operate were it to lose Old Main by fire. That is a fate, incidentally, which sabotage-minded faculty members and irresponsible students have long held to be too good for it.

The red-brick walls of the original building, standing strong and substantial even now, belie its troubled existence. The story of Old Main is the story of one jinx after another. For the building to stand, even in humiliation, is a triumph, considering the blows
which hostile circumstance has rained upon it over the years.

The construction of Old Main was predestined, for the College had to have a beginning somewhere. Only a small utility building, the Claim Building, 16 by 24 feet in dimensions, stood upon the College grounds earlier.

In March, 1877, in the first year of Colorado's advancement from territorial status to that of statehood, the State Board of Agriculture was organized and took charge as governing board of the
proposed college. The new board began immediately to plan for construction of "the College." At a meeting on March 29, 1878, a building committee adopted a plan submitted by George B. King of Boulder. The building, King guaranteed, "could be built for seven thousand dollars or less."

Two months later, on May 29, 1878, the Board opened bids for construction. Twelve bids had been received. W. G. Bentley of Greeley submitted the lowest bid, $6,740. Differences arose between Bentley and the Board over the contractor's guarantee of reliability and the payments to be made to him by the Board. Bentley returned the contract unsigned, and the Board awarded the contract to the next low bidder, Henry C. Baker of Boulder, whose bid was $7,000.

Two weeks after the signing of the construction contract, the State Board of Agriculture turned its attention to the financing of the project. Although establishment of the College had been authorized by the Colorado territorial legislature in 1870, the date which appears today upon the University seal as the founding date, no funds had been provided at that time. It had been understood that the Fort Collins community would provide land for the new institution, and this had been done by donation of 240 acres.*

A legislative appropriation of $1,000 in 1874, contingent upon donation of an equal amount by citizens, had been used to build the little brick farm building,* and for other expenses such as fencing and the purchase of irrigation water rights.

With the acquiring of statehood in 1876, Colorado began to accept more seriously its responsibility for its Agricultural College. Reviewing later the history of the Main Building,** William F. Watrous, first president of the State Board of Agriculture, wrote:

After careful consideration of the facts ... it was deemed best to commence and complete a building of sufficient capacity to accommodate the present wants of the state which it was understood could be done by combining the two levies of 1879 and 1878 and creating a fund of about eight thousand five hundred and fifty dollars.

Upon the basis of this understanding, the Board proceeded with construction and without funds actually in hand. It borrowed money from several private sources in Denver to finance the construction, signing promissory notes and issuing certificates of Indebtedness** against its account in the office of the state treasurer.

The report of the State Board of Agriculture for 1878 says ground was broken for the Main Building about June 20, 1878. Apparently

---

*Pioneer Monument, this volume.

**Historic Documents of Colorado State University.
there were no ground-breaking ceremonies when Contractor Baker and his men started work. Using stone quarried in the nearby mountains, the workmen laid a deep and substantial foundation resting upon a bed of shale. The foundation is in reasonably good condition 84 years later.

So well did the work progress that the Board set Saturday, July 27, 1878, as the date for the formal laying of the cornerstone. Plans for the building provided for a contrasting gray cornerstone, to be properly inscribed. A peculiarity of this inscription resulted in immediate and continuing confusion regarding the historic date.

The stone, placed at the northeast corner of the building, bears these words:

Laid by the
M. W. Grand Lodge
A. F. & A. M. of Colorado
July 27, A. D. 1878 - A. L. 5878

For some unknown reason, the first "7" in the inscription "July 27, 1878" is peculiarly carved. It is not in the precise, conventional style of the second "7"; but has the usually horizontal portion curved as though the stoncutter had started to make a "9." However, the top part of the digit is not closed as would seem to have been the case if a "9" were intended, especially in view of the strictly conventionalized style of the other numerals. The result actually is neither a "7" nor a "9."

This peculiarity resulted in confusion regarding the true date of the cornerstone ceremonies. Probably the original error was made by Harris Stratton, first secretary of the State Board of Agriculture. In the printed report of the Board for 1878,* he presented an article on early College history in which he said:

"... the corner stone of the superstructure was laid ... on the 29th day of July, 1878."

Excerpts from his account of the observances, including the erroneous date, have been copied and recopied by subsequent writers until the mistake has acquired the tone of authenticity. Notable among such authors was Alvin T. Steinel, whose published History of Agriculture in Colorado quotes extensively from Secretary Stratton's article and repeats the erroneous date. Exceptions among writers in this respect are Ansel Wattrous, History of Larimer County, and Ruth J. Wattles, Mile-High College, both of whom give the correct date.

It is probable that, by the time he prepared the report of the Board, Secretary Stratton had forgotten the date of the ceremonies--

---

which is not even mentioned in the minutes of the Board—and obtained it for his article by inspecting the cornerstone, thus making the un­derstandable error. The result has been like the action of the legendary calf which made an initial crooked trail that became a crooked path and eventually a crooked city street.

The Fort Collins Courier of July 20, 1878, carried a "programme and order of exercises for laying the corner stone of the State Agri­cultural College." This listed the date of the coming ceremonies as "the 27th day of July, 1878 . . ." A week after the ceremonies, the same newspaper reported "the laying of the corner stone of the Agricultural College of Colorado last Saturday." A member of the staff of the University Library, after studying the dates at the request of the writer of this study, has determined that the 27th day of July, 1878, fell on a Saturday and hence, the 29th was on a Monday.

The mystery of the odd-style numeral on the cornerstone probably never will be explained beyond doubt. One speculation is that, at the time the inscription was cut, the date of the 29th had been given erroneously to the stonemason, who stopped work midway in the cutting of the numeral when he received the correction. Another is that there was un­certainty whether the ceremonies would be held on the 27th or the 29th, and that the stonemason compromised by producing a curious hybrid fi­gure which later might be reshaped into either a "7" or a "9," and that after the correct date had been determined, he failed to complete his task.

Least understandable of all is why a question about the date was not raised at the time of the ceremonies. So far as is known, no such question was raised at that time—nor, indeed, at any time since, until the investigations which preceded the writing of this article.

The State Board of Agriculture gave to the Grange, a farmers' organization which was among the most ardent promoters of the College, the responsibility of planning the dedicatory ceremonies at the placing of the cornerstone, and for a street parade to precede the laying of the cornerstone. The Report of the State Board of Agriculture for 1878 quotes the Denver Daily Tribune's account of the occasion. In the lengthy, wordy, rambling journalistic style of the times, the Tribune reporter wrote as follows:

A FETE-DAY OF THE AGRICULTURISTS

Yesterday was a proud day for the town of Fort Collins and the county of Larimer, and a day fraught with importance to the entire state, if the enterprise which was formally set on foot brings forth its legitimate fruit. The interest of the friends of education centered in the laying of the corner stone of the proposed Agricultural College, which, as is generally known, is to be built, and in a great degree supported, by the common­wealth, and is another link in the wonderful system of schools for the education of the people that has been inaugurated with such success by the citizens of Colorado.
Yesterday was a day which had been looked forward to by the people of the northern part of the State with interest for many months, not to say years; an interest which has grown more and more intense as the time for the beginning was approached. It was no wonder, then, that Collins was the center of interest for these people, and no wonder that the whole country round should turn out to lend their presence to the occasion.

Wonder or no wonder, everybody was there, and the event was given all the importance that a hearty interest in it could give. It was really refreshing to see the crowd--such a crowd as one can not see in every part of Colorado, and that reminds one of the turnouts that are met within the agricultural regions of the trans-Mississippi States. A string of farmers' wagons as long as the average politician's tongue, occupied by good-natured and rotund ranchmen, and their wives and sons and daughters, all looking robust, agreeable and prosperous, and intelligent--a descriptive adjective which cannot always be applied to gatherings of the kind in the East. The entire prosperous neighborhood seemed to have turned out, bringing with them innumerable vehicles and animals. It was a Fête-Day, the girls and boys wore their best clothes and smiled their sweetest smiles. All seemed to thoroughly understand and appreciate the magnitude of the occasion, and all seemed all the more pleased that they had come out to witness the starting of an institution which is calculated to improve themselves and their descendants mentally and morally. It was good to be there, and refreshing to see the interest that was taken in the procedure, without exception.

The only drawback was the unfavorable weather. For once the farmers in that section had rain that they did not appreciate. The rain was well enough, but it came at the wrong time. To be sure there was not a heavy fall, but it commenced just at the time when the ceremonies were to begin, and it continued until they had been brought to a close--one of those drizzling and prolonged rains which are more annoying than the heaviest fall. Notwithstanding this drawback, however, not one who had come to witness the laying of the corner stone sought to shun the wet, or missed the sight, the prospect of which had attracted them to the spot, showing that the people about Fort Collins are people of grit as well as of intelligence.

The site of the college is about a mile south of the town of Fort Collins, and is immediately on the Colorado Central Railroad, the building fronting the line on the west side. The time set for the ceremony was half past one o'clock in the afternoon, but owing to some delay in getting the procession in marching order, it was fully two before a start was made. The procession then formed in the order agreed upon previously, and as follows:
Band.

Citizens bearing the National Flag.

Town Board of Trustees and Town Officers.

County Board of County Commissioners and County Officers.

Patrons of Husbandry in numerical order, each
Grange bearing a banner with appropriate mottoes. Members and Officers
of the State Grange.

Odd Fellows.

Masonic Fraternity.

Orator of the Day.

State Officers and Citizens.

After the citizens on foot came a long line of wagons, the entire procession being perhaps four hundred yards long. The footmen walked in pairs, and as the rain was falling all the time, and as about every other man carried an umbrella, the scene presented to an outsider was picturesque and peculiar. Hon. N. H. Meldrum acted as Grand Marshal, and succeeded, with the aid of efficient assistants, in keeping the body in the best of order.

The place where the ceremonies were to begin was reached about half past two o'clock, and very little time was lost in commencing the work of the day. The basement of the building had already been erected, and joists put down with planks laid across them, forming an excellent platform for the accommodation of as many of the crowd as chose to avail themselves of it.

The ceremonies of laying the corner stone were appropriately left to the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of the State—an order which has done more than any other, through its symbolisms, to furnish a proper appreciation of the work of the builder. Grand Master C. J. Hart, of Pueblo, Deputy Grand Master R. W. Woodbury, of Denver, and Senior Grand Warden, Byron L. Carr, of Longmont, were present, and Hon. W. C. Stover, of Fort Collins, acted as Junior Grand Warden. The other officers of the Grand Lodge were filled by members of the Collins Lodge.

Hon. W. F. Watrous, chairman of the Agricultural Board, acted as presiding officer of the meeting, and Mr. Hart, Grand Master, directed the ceremonies. Almost every one has seen this rite performed. It is very impressive, and can but strike one as in every way appropriate. Before the stone was placed, where, let us hope it will remain for generations, a metallic box containing the following articles was placed under it:

The Constitution of the United States and of Colorado.
Corbett's Legislative Manual.
All acts of the Legislature pertaining to the construction of the Agricultural College.
Grains of the State.
When the stone had been placed, the proper Masonic officers applied to it the square, the level and the plumb. Answering to the satisfaction of the officiating body, the stone was pronounced to be well founded, true and trusty, and was then consecrated by pouring upon it:

1. WHEAT, an emblem of plenty.
2. WINE, an emblem of joy and gladness.
3. OIL, an emblem of peace.

Grand Master Hart then advanced to the front, and turned the building over to the trustees with the following remarks:

Gentlemen, Trustees of the State Agricultural College:

In compliance with your request, and in accordance with the time-honored custom among the Fraternity of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Colorado has to-day been convened for the purpose of laying the corner-stone of the STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE with the beautiful and imposing ceremonies of the Order.

Under the Superintendence of the Grand Master and the assistance of the Craft, the stone has been placed in its proper position, tested by the Square, Level and Plumb, and pronounced to be well formed, true and trusty, and the implements of architecture have been delivered to the principal architect, and to him has been entrusted the direction of the work. These ceremonies are not unmeaning rites, nor the amusing pageant of an idle hour; but they have a solemn and instructive import, and it is by such means that Masonry imparts the most wholesome instructions of precept and example. To the mind of the intelligent and reflective Mason they have a symbolic reference to the commencement of the moral and intellectual task of erecting a spiritual temple in his heart, and the symbol is beautifully sustained, when we look at all the qualities that are requisite to constitute a well tried, true and trusty corner-stone.

The squareness of its surface, emblematic of morality; its cubical form, emblematic of firmness and stability of character; and the peculiar finish and fineness of the material, emblematic of virtue and holiness; portray, in the consecrated language of symbolism, the necessity of integrity and stability of conduct, truthfulness and uprightness of character, and purity and holiness of life.
Masons are called moral builders, and in their ritual they declare emphatically that a more noble and glorious purpose than squaring stones and hewing timbers is theirs—the fitting of immortal nature for that spiritual house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.

It is the scientific application and the religious consecration of the rules and principles, the technical language, and the implements of operative masonry to the worship of God as the Grand Architect of the Universe.

It is said that the construction of the Pyramids of Egypt employed the labor of one hundred thousand men for many years, but it was only to build monumental piles, beneath whose shadows kings might rest. These pyramids were only temples for the dead; Masons are building one for the living. The pyramids were only mausoleums in which the bones of the mighty dead might repose in imperial magnificence; Masons are erecting a structure in which the God of Israel shall dwell forever. The pyramids shall crumble away until not one stone shall be left upon another; but who shall count the years of immutability! The life-time of the soul, which is fitted for its place in the heavens! Who can define its outline, or fathom its depths, or measure its journey. It is a stream that grows broader and deeper as it flows onward. When earth's proudest monumental piles have crumbled away, and the sands been scattered by the desert winds, and the glory and greatness of earth shall be forgotten, then will the immortal be pluming its wings for loftier flights. It is a fountain whose sources are in the Infinite, and whose placid waters flow on forever. A springtime that shall bloom, educating immortal minds for the present, the future, and for all ages.

This is acknowledged to be one of the essential objects of Masonic labor. The builder plans for a century; Masons for eternity. The painter paints for a generation; they for everlasting years. Although divested of its operative character, it is no less efficient in its symbolisms. It comprehends the theory of proportions in architecture and sculpture, analyzing forms of artistic expression, until it can divine by what features of similarity they work in sympathy with the mind.

It comprehends the sublime lessons of nature—our earth, its oceans, lakes and rivers, its mountains, rocks and trees, its plains, grasses and flowers; it comprehends the intimate relations of poetry and music to each other, and their sensitive affinity to the soul; it mounts to the realms of the Infinite, the illimitable system of the universe; catches the sweet songs of stars, the celestial harmony of the revolving spheres; it teaches man that in that song his own fair earth is heard with all its million-voiced choirsters, and bids him join the universal chorus.

It is devoted to the labor of diffusing light and
knowledge, of striking from humanity the shackles of ignorance and superstition, and placing it upon the highest plane of civilization and intelligence. It fosters and encourages all institutions of learning, and readily affiliates with every effort tending to advance the moral, social and intellectual interests of society; hence it is, that participating in these ceremonies, we, as Masons, are but engaged in the prosecution of legitimate Masonic labor.

And the task is a pleasant one, because by the erection of these temples of learning we are assured that the fire which has been kindled upon the altar of civilization in our young State will never be extinguished; but, supplied by the exhaustless fountains of knowledge flowing from this and kindred institutions, will continue to burn brighter and brighter as each advancing year marks our onward progress, and casting its light adown the vista of time, lights the pathway to knowledge and greatness of the succeeding generations.

Honored Sirs! having completed our task, to you and your successors is committed the work of completing this edifice, hoping that the blessings of the God of light and truth will rest upon you in your labors, and so guide and direct your efforts in the administration of its affairs, that it will prove a blessing to this community and an honor to our State.

Immediately after Mr. Hart retired, Professor J. C. Shattuck, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was introduced, and spoke as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The first want of man is food, and his first resource for it the ground. Whether herbs or fruits were first resorted to must have depended upon their relative abundance in the country where man found himself; but the latter would probably be preferred, till the use of fire was discovered in the preparation of the former. The first care and labor of man would thus be bestowed on fruit trees; hence gardening may be said to be the art of earliest invention.

But man is a carnivorous animal, and this propensity of his nature would soon induce him to attempt domesticating such beasts of the earth as he found most useful in affording milk, clothing or food, or in performing labor. Hence the origin of pasturage and the management of live stock. The invention of tillage would be coeval with the discovery of the use of cereal grasses, and may be considered as the last grand step in the invention of husbandry, and the most important as leading to the establishment of property in territorial surface.
Agriculture, in modern times, may be defined as the cultivation and management of territorial surface on an extended scale, by manual and animal labor for the production of objects and materials used for the food and service of man, and for various important services in arts, manufactures and civilized life.

The importance of agriculture is obvious, not only by its affording the direct supply of our greatest wants, but as the parent of manufactures and commerce. Without agriculture there can be neither civilization nor population. In the United States east of the Mississippi River we have a population of 30,000,000 to 35,000,000. At the settlement of Jamestown all this vast territory held a population of less than half a million savages. It is little more than 250 years since the white race obtained its first footing here; yet, as Mr. Greeley once said, in that time it has effected greater changes and built more enduring monuments of its occupancy than did the savage in unnumbered centuries.

While agriculture is one of the oldest of human occupations, it is a strange fact that its improved methods, and especially its improved implements, are of very modern origin. The nation that gave the world the Parthenon and the Iliad plowed its fields with a pointed stick. Rome created a literature that is still the admiration of the world; she carried the manufacture of war-like implements to a point hardly surpassed today, except such new forms as the use of gunpowder has required; but her implements of agriculture were scarcely superior to those of the now forgotten race whom Pizarro conquered among the mountains of Peru.

Up to the middle of the last century the grain of the world was still threshed in the manner to which Moses referred when he wrote: "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn;" and it is only about eighty years since the farmers of England and America began using plows with both mold-board and land-side of iron. Indeed, so young is the art of agricultural implement manufacture that in the fields of wide-awake farmers today you will hardly find a tool that is not—at least in its present form—the invention of the present generation. The English speaking race, in a remarkable degree, has led the van in this department of advancing civilization. In the agricultural department of the Centennial Exposition continental Europe exhibited an assortment of clumsy implements which a Yankee farmer would not use if given him, among which I searched eagerly for one tool, single or complex, that England or America had not anticipated and improved. I found only a hollow leathern tube which the farmers of Southern Russia use to relieve an animal when choking. The most prominent feature of the European display in this department was the bewildering collection of liquors. As I stood a moment—

"Bottles to the right of me,
Bottles to the left of me,
Bottles in front of me --

and then look again at the awkward tools with which these 
European farmers till their soil and gather their harvest, I 
concluded that the European market paid better for a new drink 
than a new plow. I do not see how anyone could walk through 
the Agricultural Department at Philadelphia and avoid the con-
viction that, in all that pertains to brain-work in agriculture, 
the English-speaking race is far in advance of all others; al-
belt, they do not say that our aesthetic tastes are shockingly 
uncultivated. Much has been written and spoken in the late 
years of the dignity of labor, and England and America have 
done more to give dignity to labor than all other nations of 
the earth, because they have put more brains into agriculture.

I take the risk of shocking the notions of some people when 
I say that there is not a particle of dignity in manual labor 
alone. If such be in itself ennobling, then the peasant woman 
of Europe, yoked in the field beside a cow, or the galley slave, 
driven to exhausting toil by deadly weapons, have reached the 
acme of human dignity. Would it be elevating for a farmer to 
go into his grain-field to-day with a sickle, and, by dint of 
hard work and long days, cut and bind an acre a day, when, with 
a pair of horses and a self-binding reaper, he can accomplish 
the same in an hour?

The one is muscle, pure and simple; the other is muscle 
under the control of an intelligent brain. When a man performs 
the labor of an ox, it gives no more dignity to the man than to 
the ox; but when an ox is forced to a man's work, the man's su-
periority becomes manifest. While man depends on muscle alone, 
all nature holds him at a disadvantage. A squirrel can outrun 
him; even a calf excels him in strength; the tiny humming-bird 
almost defies the glance of his eye; the beasts of the field 
devour him with impunity; the waters drown him; the soil yields 
him but a beggarly sustenance, and in her own rock-ribbed bosom 
earth hides her jewels far beneath the reach of his unaided 
hand. It is only when man turns from puny muscle to kingly 
brain that he walks forth a monarch, and bird and beast, and 
water and air, and the lightnings of heaven even, accept his 
sway. And yet, till within two hundred years, the most numer-
ous, the most important class, the tillers of the soil, in all 
lands and climes, have been hinds and boors, and slaves, who 
have gone forth to toil with the collar of the master about 
their necks, and on their foreheads the mark of him who was rich 
because they were poor. Thanks be to God, that in America, at 
least, this is past--past forever.

Farmers of Colorado, this stone which you are laying to-day 
is something grander far than the simple corner of a modest build-
ing of brick and stone. It is another monument of the emancipa-
tion of your guild. May it be the guidon of greater triumphs 
than any yet achieved.
OLD MAIN
( viewed from the northeast )

"With its two additions, those afterthoughts of academic necessity, which turned interior and exterior into an architectural monstrosity ... ."

At the close of an article on "Agricultural Chemistry" in the British Encyclopaedia, written about twenty-five years ago, the author says: "In many branches of this subject the observed facts are few, and the conclusions founded on them must necessarily be uncertain. Yet facts of much practical value have been elicited, and an immense stimulus has been given to careful observation and inquiry into principles on the part of the farmer. That this is already beginning to bear its fruit is unquestionable, and it is impossible to look at the opinions and practice of modern farmers of the best class without observing how much they are influenced by science. Much, however, remains to be done, and, even in what we consider familiar matters, the chemist is often stopped for want of field experiments sufficiently definite to support or refute his positions. We doubt much, however, whether, this can be carried out until a regular professional education in the principles as well as the practice of agriculture is provided for the
young farmer, a want of which is every day becoming more felt, and the fulfilment of which cannot long be postponed."

This prophecy was soon fulfilled. At about this time England founded the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester.

In 1862, Congress gave to the several States and Territories of this Union land-scrip to the amount of 30,000 acres for each Senator and Representative in Congress, provided that each State or Territory claiming the benefit of this act should, within five years from its passage, "provide not less than one college, which should receive for its endowment, support and maintenance the interest of all moneys derived from the sale of the aforesaid scrip or lands."

It was further required that the leading object of these colleges should be, "without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

The main supporter of this bill was Hon. Justice S. Morrill, of Vermont.

It is frequently said that agricultural colleges have all been failures, yet it is my earnest conviction that of all laws ever enacted, either State or National, for the advancement of practical education, no one has ever been productive of such fruitful results. The originators and framers of this law "built better than they knew." No tabulated statement can give more than a faint idea of what has been done in a short space of time in advancing agricultural education. "Looking back over the last ten years, we notice that those engaged in agriculture have made marvelous progress in general information, as well as in technical subjects having a direct bearing on their special calling." This is largely due to the munificent endowments of Congress. As soon as the act became a law, the question of its acceptance began to be agitated in the several States. Many strenuously opposed its acceptance--some on the ground that it would add heavy burdens, in order to furnish buildings, etc.; others because they regarded the whole scheme as chimerical and impracticable. "These discussions--which have not yet wholly ceased--have disseminated such valuable information. They have aroused the agricultural classes to a sense of their rights and duties; they have developed latent talents and excited a desire for information among farmers; they have created such a demand for agricultural literature that, in addition to numerous well conducted journals, a large portion of the religious and political press devotes more or less space to this subject. These are some of the incidental results of this wise and munificent act of this Congress; and they are none the
less real and beneficial, although they cannot be tabulated or set forth in long columns of figures." Up to 1865 the Agricultural College of Lansing, Michigan, was the only one in the United States in which students could pursue a college course arranged and adapted to meet the wants of those who might desire, in after years, to engage in agriculture. Since that time some thirty have been organized—about half of them as parts of universities which are largely devoted "to teaching such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts."

That these institutions, though yet in their infancy, are exerting a powerful and salutary influence upon the young men and women of our country, no thinking man will deny. In 1873, Professor Atherton, of New Jersey, speaking of the relation of the general government of these colleges, said: "These younger institutions have a larger average of students, by more than one tenth, than the long-established colleges, and are fairly occupying with them the field of higher education. In an important sense, however, they are not the rivals of the older colleges. Their graduates, to only a limited extent, enter the learned professions. They become engineers, farmers, mechanics, architects. They labor with hand and brain. They become leaders and organizers of labor, and thus fulfill the intent of Congress when it designated these institutions to furnish a liberal and practical education to the industrial classes. What is the government domain but the property of the people, and to what higher use can the people put it than to promote the higher as well as the lower education of all the people? We have in this country no aristocracy of education—not one education, as in the old country, for the masses, and another and higher one for the privileged minority. The republican principle is the best education for all—the best and highest education for the masses. That is the only principle on which republican institutions can be founded. The words of Washington fully justify this principle: "In proportion as the structure of the government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened." Among agricultural colleges I am of the opinion that our sister State of Kansas is entitled to preeminence in the determination to do the specific work which its name would indicate. It has not impoverished itself by spending its endowment in imposing buildings, but has built only what is needed in a plain and substantial manner. I commend this example most heartily to our own board of managers. There is a great case being tried in these latter years before the American people, viz.: Mind vs. brick and mortar, as an educating power. How many institutions of learning have been shipwrecked because the founders built a magnificent edifice and then were too poor to employ first-class minds.

We are educated—and I care not whether the education be classical or technical—we are educated by mind, and not by brick and mortar. I had rather a child of mine would sit down
before a warm-hearted, great-minded man, with nothing but the
canvas of a tent between them and the winds of heaven, than to
enter a fully appointed university, if the great mind be want­
ing. Of such men as Thomas Arnold and Mark Hopkins, of such
women as Mary Lyon and Emma Willard, it may well be said, "to
know them is a liberal education." It is impossible, especially
for youth, to come within the influence of such a mind without
being educated, without being drawn out of self and lifted up by
the strong attraction of the master spirit, and made better for
time and eternity.

Gentlemen of the Board, I charge you, fling away ambition--
if you have any—to erect here grand buildings; but let your am­
bition rather be to create here an educational influence that
shall be felt on every farm; in every kitchen, in every work­
shop, in every cattle camp in the State of Colorado. We will
send you our boys and girls, that you may make of them more skil­
ful men and women than are their fathers and mothers. There is
no lack of problems for you to solve. Travelers tell us that
the average American family throws into the slop-bucket enough to
support a French family of equal size. Can you train cooks that
shall stop this waste?

Not more than one farmer in ten in Colorado can raise a crop
of potatoes. The graduates of Fort Collins must reverse this
proportion—if they have to bring out a new potato to do it. I
believe it is less than two years since American beef was first
sold in Europe. A few days since I saw the statement that the
average receipts of American beef in Liverpool are two thousand
head per week. How does this affect one of Colorado's largest
interests? How can we lay the densely populated regions of
Europe under tribute to us for their meat? But time would fail
me to speak of the problems of irrigation, of fencing, of cere­
als, of vegetables, of dairy products, of beef stock, of beasts
of burden, of the use of implements, of fruit culture, of soils,
of manner sic, of rotation of crops. It is my candid belief
that a careful consideration of the least of these by the mem­
ers of your faculty here is of more practical importance than
the tracing of their ancestral line to a particular family of
apes, or the determining whether the Pliocene skull of Califor­
nia be really "Brown, of Calaveras," or a Modoc Indian.

Statistics tell us that the farm house sends more women to the
Insane asylum than any other walk of life. Surely this will not
be true of the generation that shall look back to this college as
its alma mater. Your alumni will be wise enough to build comfort­
able homes rather than buy an additional quarter section; they
will be able to make slight repairs upon house or wagon without
consulting a carpenter, the wheelwright, or the blacksmith; their
doors will be hung, their windows glazed, and their gates can be
latched; their business calendar will contain no such day as to­
morrow; they will know how to do the work in field and kitchen
within reasonable hours, and in the cool of the evening they will
sit in the shaded porch—husband, wife and children—- and
give an hour to mental culture and social chat, or, with united voices, intone that immortal prayer with Burns—

"That He who stills the raven's clamorous nest,
And decks the lilly [sic] fair in flowing pride,
Would, in the way His wisdom sees the best,
For them and for their little ones provide;
But chiefly in their hearts with grace divine preside."

They will know that sleep "doeth good like a medicine," and will not invite disease and sour tempers by habitually driving everybody out of bed two hours before day. Bob Ingersoll says that a man who routs his wife and children out of bed at three or four o'clock in the morning ought to be visited by a missionary. The eloquent Colonel is more human than I am, or else our ideas of missionaries differ: I would send such a man to the whipping-post.

But the farmer of the future is not so. He will know how to make farm-life pleasant and home happy. Oh! priceless wisdom! No sons shall be eager to shake the dust of his fields from off their feet as they haste to the city in the early days of their majority, carrying with them only memories of thankless toil. No daughters shall long for the time when they shall be freed from his tyrannical rule, and pray heaven to give them husbands who will deal more tenderly with them than father has done with mother. No wife shall be carried from his home to the asylum, or to an untimely grave—driven hence by slavish toil or carking care. He will be loved at home and respected abroad.

Citizens of Larimer County and of Colorado, I give you joy that the day is dawning when here in our midst we can furnish a liberal and practical education to the industrial classes.

Gentlemen of the Board, I congratulate you on the success that has thus far attended you; but I warn you that when this structure is completed, "from turret to foundation stone," the real difficulties of your task will have but just begun. May God guide you to place this institution for industrial education upon a foundation as firm as this stone which we have to-day fixed in its home, and more enduring than the rocks beneath whose shadows we stand. Let us remember that no words or ceremonies of ours to-day can consecrate this soil; but, if in the years to come our sons and daughters are here trained to greater skill in their various callings; if, above all, the influence of this spot shall make them better and nobler men and women, then, indeed, shall this be hallowed ground.

"What's hallowed ground? 'Tis what gives birth
To sacred thoughts in souls of worth!
Peace! Independence! Truth! Go forth
Earth's compass round,
And your high priesthood shall make earth
All hallowed ground!"
The rain was falling during the time that both gentlemen spoke, but they took off their hats and "went in like little men," never pausing, and the people stood and listened until they had concluded, and then applauded vigorously.

When Professor Shattuck had retired, the Granger Glee Club came forward and treated the audience to a song, which was well rendered. A few appropriate and encouraging remarks, and a prayer of the same nature by Father Byrne, closed the exercises, with the exception of the doxology, suggested by Father Byrne, and as the last strains of the grand old

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost,"

went out upon the moist air, the crowd dispersed, and found its way back to town in somewhat less order than it had gone out.

The exercises did not occupy more than an hour and a quarter. It may, therefore, be seen that but little time was lost.

Besides the citizens of Fort Collins and vicinity who were present, there were many from other sections—all portions of the State being represented. The Tribune is able only to give a partial list. A majority of the State officers, including Governor Routt, Secretary of State Clark, Auditor Crawford, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Shattuck, lent their presence to the occasion. Among others from Denver were Hon. Thomas M. Patterson, Mr. J. S. Stanger and daughter, Colonel E. P. Jacobson, Mr. Herman Beckurts, Mr. J. P. Farmer, Captain D. I. Ezekiel, Mr. R. W. Woodbury, Mr. W. R. Thomas, Mr. M. Spangler, Mr. Avery Gallup, Mr. Ed. West, Mr. W. W. Prugh, Alderman Linton, Mr. L. K. Perrin and wife. Among those present from other points were Colonel B. L. Carr and Mr. W. E. Pabor, Longmont; Mr. W. C. B. Allen, Omaha; Dr. J. A. Sewall, Mr. George E. King and Mr. J. E. Storey, Boulder; Messrs. Joseph Luce, L. J. Smith and G. T. Belcher, Golden; and Judge Belford and John Turk, Central. Halsey M. Rhoads was also there. Superintendent Henry, of the Colorado Central, went along to look after the interests of the party, and succeeded in landing at Collins exactly on time, and in putting off his cargo at Denver, on the return, half an hour in advance of the schedule time.

The Report of the State Board of Agriculture from which the foregoing lengthy quotation from the Denver Daily Tribune is taken contains also a description of the completed building:
DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

The College is located on a beautiful elevated site west of College Avenue, less than three-fourths of a mile southwest of the business part of Fort Collins, and presents a magnificent view from every point of the compass. The basement is 62 x 43 1/2 feet, and 9 feet high in the clear. The foundation is five feet below the surface. The walls are built of the best mountain stone, dressed to a uniform thickness, and finished with raised points, presenting a piece of workmanship unequalled in the State; impressing every one with its beauty, strength and solidity. The basement has four rooms, that are well lighted, and can, in the future, if occasion requires, be used for students. There are three entrances, which are reached by flights of stone steps. The superstructure is constructed of brick, the front being laid with selected brick of uniform color, and is pronounced as fine work as can be found in the State. The first story is fifteen feet high in the clear, and contains four room $t_{SiC_3}$, besides the main hall and cloak-rooms. There are two entrances, the front having two heavy doors, reached by a flight of steps and platform. The rear door is single, and is reached in the same manner as the front door. The second story is thirteen feet high, and is reached by a substantial winding stairway. This story has two rooms, 14 x 14 feet, with a hall and recitation room, connected by sliding doors, so that both rooms can be thrown into one, making a magnificent hall the entire length of the building. Every room in the building is thoroughly lighted and ventilated, and from the elevated site of the building, each room has a fine view of the surrounding scenery. The college is so arranged that it can be heated either by furnace or stoves; is forty-four feet high and is surmounted by a tower twenty-one feet high, making the extreme height from the ground sixty-five feet. The inside finish is perfect in the minutest particular, while the whole building, from the foundation to the top of the tower, is constructed in a substantial and workmanlike manner, reflecting great credit on H. C. Baker, the contractor, and is an enduring monument to the educational interests of the State.

The involved and often irritating procedures of financing construction were merely the prelude to the difficulties which the State Board of Agriculture encountered when the Main Building was completed. The contractor found himself involved in financial obligations for labor and materials beyond the amount he would receive under the contract price of $7,000.

As a result of his inability to meet his bills, numbers of subcontractors, workmen and suppliers filed a series of liens against the project, forcing the Board to take a hand in the flasco. It was found that claims totaled $2,594.49, and that the balance due the contractor from the Board was $1,801.65. The Board settled by paying immediately 60 per cent of each claim, conditioned upon the claimants relinquishing
all claims under their liens. Later additional payments were made in final settlement within the contract total.

Thus for the $7,000 actual investment, the Board obtained a building which cost the contractor $8,801.65—a gain of 1,801.65 dollars but at a cost of extra legal services and a great deal of time and annoyance to the unpaid members of the Board personally.

Meanwhile, Dr. E. E. Edwards had been elected president of the College at a salary of $1,800 to head the three-man faculty. With his family, he had arrived from Illinois in July, 1879. After living for a brief period in the little one-room utility building in the northeast corner of the campus, they moved into second-floor rooms of the Main Building. This was their home until the last half-year of Dr. Edwards' tenure, when they moved into a new dormitory, now known as Spruce Hall, in order that Mrs. Edwards might serve there as matron.

A. E. Blount, "professor of practical agriculture," and his family lived in basement rooms. There the professor started various field and garden plants for transplanting later on the College Farm, operation of which was his responsibility. Mrs. Blount grew flowers and ornamental plants in the makeshift nursery and set them out in the first efforts at campus beautification.

Charles F. Davis, a bachelor who was an early professor of mathematics and chemistry, also lived in the basement of the Main Building when he first joined the Faculty, as did several students, including the well-remembered Dr. George H. Glover, whose name is memorialized by the present veterinary hospital.

With the building completed, school opened on September 1, 1879, for a short "preparatory course" designed to review sub-college studies and otherwise prepare students for beginning college-level work. Completion of the Main Building, however, did not mean that troubles centering about the building were at an end.

Shortly after the first term of school opened, someone raised a question about the adequacy of a lightning rod which had been installed on the roof. At the November 29th meeting of the Board, President Edwards, Professor Frank J. Annis and Board Member Stanger were appointed "to examine the lightning rod on the College and report to the Board at its next meeting whether it is properly erected or not." Three months later, the committee was "granted further time to report." Another three months elapsed before the committee finally reported: "The committee on Lightning Rod made a verbal report, saying that the rod was connected with the iron work on the roof, and therefore of little utility."

What appears to be the final episode in the story of the erratic lightning rod appeared in the Board minutes more than three years later, when the Committee on Finance reported, "We have examined bill of B. F. Woods for $54 for fixing lightning rod and respectfully submit same for your consideration." Even at that late date, the subject continued to be an irritating one, for further in the record of the same meeting
Is this notation, "The bill of Mr. Woods for repair of lightning rod taken up and after discussion fifty dollars allowed after rod should be put in proper shape."

Nor was this the last nor the greatest of the difficulties involving the Main Building. During the next year and a half, serious defects began to appear. The west wall, on the end next to the railroad, cracked and appeared in danger of collapse. Further, the roof gutters dumped their water so close to the building that the foundation was in danger of being washed out.

On July 21, 1880, the minutes stated:

LaGrange report read and committee discharged, but new committee of Watrous and LaGrange on the college building appointed and instructed to immediately procure three one inch iron rods of sufficient length, with 16 inch star heads, with buckle joints in the center of each rod, said rods to pass through the building in the best manner to strengthen the west wall. The committee are instructed to have the water conductors leading from the roof lengthened sufficiently to carry the water into open drains so as to protect the foundation.

On the following morning, after the Board members had considered their predicament overnight and recovered somewhat from their panic, a more grandiose scheme of supporting the west wall was devised:

... It was ordered that as soon as possible an addition be made to the present college building; the addition to be made upon the west side, to be three stories in height, including the basement, to be built of brick with stone facings, in dimensions of ground plan of about 30 x 40 feet, each story to be divided into rooms according to a plan submitted and adopted by a building committee to be hereinafter appointed. The whole cost of the addition not to exceed $4,500.00. The vote against the foregoing was carried by 5 ayes against one nay.

The sequel to this hasty and ill-advised subterfuge is related in Board minutes of September 9, 1880:

Building committee reported that inasmuch as the rods and braces which had been put into the building was considered sufficient protection to the College building, it would be inexpedient to proceed at the present time to construct the addition to the College as contemplated by the resolution passed at the special meeting of the board on the 22d of June 1880; and therefore ask to be discharged. On motion the report was accepted and the committee discharged.

Additions to the Main Building were built in 1889-90 and 1901-03. These were placed on the west or railroad end of the original building,
with the result that the westernmost wall is only 54 feet from the rail-
road right-of-way. Various other construction projects from time to
time altered the interior to meet new needs as they developed. Al-
though the resultant building is spacious and functional, and has with-
stood well the gnawing ravages of time, it is poorly planned. It is
today a perplexing jumble of various levels and crazy corridors leading
to obscure recesses.

When the eighth president of the institution, William E. Morgan,
arrived upon the campus in 1948, the only provision for escape from Old
Main in event of fire, other than by the wooden stairways, was a rickety
ladder or two clinging uncertainly to the outside walls. When the State
Board of Agriculture met in 1951 to adopt the annual budget, it was
faced by the prospect of adopting a deficit budget because of the
scarcity of revenues. After wrestling with the problem of finances at
one session, the Board recessed for the day with its task uncompleted.

At 2 o'clock next morning, President Morgan awoke from an ago-
nizing nightmare in which he saw Old Main being destroyed by fire, with
students and teachers trapped in the flaming building. So realistic was
the scene, and so disturbed was the president, that he slept no more
that night. When the morning's session of the Board opened, he related
his dream and immediately urged that, regardless of deficits, steel fire
escapes be placed upon Old Main and upon several other hazardous build-
ings.

As a result, fire escapes were constructed and installed by the
College maintenance staff 73 years after the building first was oc-
cupied. Almost miraculously, there never has been a serious fire in Old
Main, although the interior construction of wood, with open stairways
and no firewalls, makes the possibility of disastrous fire a constant
hazard.

Dr. L. S. McCandless, who was graduated in veterinary medicine
in 1917, and who combined an extensive veterinary practice in Moffat
county, Colorado, with the business managership of the Craig Empire-
Courier, recalls a near-catastrophe in 1915. As a student dependent up-
on his own financial resources, he was engaged in painting the belfry.
In attempting to smoke out a wasp's nest, he inadvertently set fire to
the tower. The Fort Collins Fire department responded and prevented
serious damage.

No bell hangs in the "tower" of Old Main today, although two or
more bells served at different times. The exact story of the bells is
not known. Of the original bell, Dr. Glover wrote in the Fort Collins
Express of May 20, 1923:

The bell tower not being considered safe, the bell was
placed on an improvised tower, about thirty feet north of the
main building. The rope swung in the breezes, and, of course,
was a constant temptation at all hours of the day and night.

Whatever the reason for not placing the bell in the building im-
mediately, it seems unlikely that it was because of doubts of safety of
the tower. Glover, again, in an undated manuscript in the University Library, without being definite about the date of the incident to which he referred, wrote:

The old bell had been moved to the belfry. In those days the bell was a good one and could be heard for miles in the country, but alas, its peals of victory will be heard no more. Over zealous freshmen, after a certain football victory, armed with a sledgehammer, were the direct and immediate cause of its undoing.

At least two other versions exist regarding the fate of the original bell. One is that it was hammered into pieces during a battle between college students and "Shorthorn" students in the early 1920s. The Shorthorns were mostly disabled veterans of World War I who were enrolled in a separate School of Agriculture conducted on the campus, where courses of high-school level or less were taught, with emphasis on vocational training. By reason of their military experience, they were more mature than other students; hence they were contemptuous of them and engaged them frequently in physical combat.

Another story is that, because the night-long clanging of the bell in celebration of football victories disturbed residents of Fort Collins, including LD Crain,† crusty professor of engineering who served also as maintenance superintendent and who lived directly across the street from the campus; the professor had the offending bell removed.

At any rate, a bell is known to have hung in the belfry at later dates. H. L. Dotson, retired vice president of the University, recalls that in 1915 he was one of several freshmen assigned to ring the bell in celebration of football victories. C. W. Ferguson, retired special services officer, says that about 1924, he was one of a Student Council delegation which negotiated the gift of a railroad locomotive bell from the Denver shops of the Denver and Rio Grande railroad, and that this bell was hung in the belfry of Old Main.

Old Main has seen the enactment of much history since the days when President Edwards and his family climbed its spiral stairway to their living quarters on the second floor, since George H. Glover lived in the basement as a student, and since Professor A. E. Blount and his family lived there and nursed his pitiful stock of experimental plants against the penetrating chill of Colorado's winters. Despite its hectic career, Old Main has more than justified the pride which early planners of the institution felt as they envisioned a new era of educational opportunity in the expanding West. Today it is still one of the chief academic centers of the campus, continuing to serve well the

---

†The irascible Professor Crain insisted that he had no Christian names, hence no initials, and that the letters "LD," serving instead of names, should be written without periods and without spacing.
lofty ideals of education to which it was dedicated 84 years ago. To sentimentalists, Old Main seems to stand firm and secure—and resigned—as though confident, at least, of its place in history.

Somewhat strangely in 1962, there is little current sentiment for its survival, little of the appreciation of historical significance which, upon many another campus, would dictate that it be spared from the onslaught of the wrecking crew. Perhaps this is because so much criticism amounted almost to campaigns for replacement. Particularly students and teachers interested in drama rebelled against the inadequacy of the auditorium and stage space and the lack of facilities for the staging of plays. As a result, recent generations of students have felt no sentimental fondness for the building, and the ranks of alumni who, as its earlier users, might have been expected to feel sentimental attachment, have been depleted by long years of absence and by deaths.
PIONEER MONUMENT

Because Colonel William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody chided the people of Fort Collins for failure to memorialize a community achievement, a granite marker stands today "in memory of the men who donated the land for the Agricultural College." The stone, known as the "Pioneer Monument," was erected in 1916 by the pioneer societies of the city. It stands a few feet northeast of Old Main Building, the first academic and-administrative building erected on the campus of Colorado State University.

The story, as told by the Fort Collins Morning Express, in its issue of March 19, 1916, follows:

The movement for erection of the marker was started a little over a year ago and was the outgrowth of a little curtain lecture given the people of this city by Col. William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody on the occasion of a visit of his circus to this city. Colonel Cody was a warm friend of A. H. Patterson, known in the old days as Billy Patterson, and he took the people of Fort Collins to task for his inability to find any stone on the college campus erected in honor of the part his old friend had in getting the college here. Colonel Cody did not know that Patterson was but one of a group who made the location of the college here possible, and the marker erected Saturday in honor of the five pioneers is largely the result of the movement which Colonel Cody started.

The colonel, however, will not have to carry out his threat of rolling a boulder down from the foothills himself on his next visit here, for the name of his old friend tops the list engraved on the splendid monument erected Saturday.

Patterson, according to the History of Larimer County, by Ansel Watrous, had come west with Cody from Kansas:

It was while living at Leavenworth that young Patterson made the acquaintance of William F. Cody, since become famous as scout, guide, Indian fighter and showman, who is known the world over as "Buffalo Bill." In 1860, Mr. Patterson, in company with Mr. Cody, came to Denver. They were both mere boys, only sixteen years old, but they were full of courage and ripe for adventure. In January, 1862, both left from New Mexico in charge of government trains carrying supplies for Col. Chivington's command which fought the decisive battle at Apache Canon,
resulting in the defeat of the Confederates under Gen. Sibley. In 1863, Mr. Cody returned to his home in Kansas, but Mr. Patterson remained in the West, serving in the various capacities of wagon master in charge of freight trains for government contractors, superintendent of stage lines, mule trains, bull trains, etc., until he came to the Cache la Poudre Valley in 1866.

In Fort Collins, Patterson was a leading citizen. He was twice elected county clerk, served as clerk of the district court, and as alderman from his ward in the city council. He was active in business enterprises of the community and had built two substantial business blocks of the town. He was a member of one of the several Boards of Trustees of the proposed college, after the Colorado Territorial Legislature had authorized its establishment in 1870, and before the State Board of Agriculture was established as governing board.

Of particular significance for purposes of this study is the fact that he had served at one time as secretary of the Larimer County Land Improvement Company, an investment organization which was important in developing the town of Fort Collins. In that office he was associated with General R. A. Cameron, a Civil War veteran who was president of the company. Cameron was an important factor in the settlement of the Cache la Poudre Valley and contributed largely of his means and energy to the establishment of colonies at Greeley, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins, doing much in his day to bring the state into notice and in aiding in its settlement and development.

Cameron and Patterson were foremost among community leaders willing to make substantial contributions to the cause of establishing an agricultural college at Fort Collins. On January 3, 1872, Patterson donated 80 acres toward a site for the college. In December of the same year, the land company gave an adjoining 80-acre tract by a deed signed by Cameron as president and J. E. Remington as secretary. Robert Dalzell had earlier transferred 30 acres to the Board of Trustees of the proposed college, and later three other pioneers--John C. Matthews, Henry C. Peterson and Joseph Mason--had given 80 acres to bring the total to 240 acres.

Formal presentation of the Pioneer Monument to the College was a part of Commencement Week ceremonies on June 8, 1916, although the stone actually had been set in place on the preceding March 16th. The Express reported the occasion:

The pioneer societies of the city had charge of the erection of the monument and also of the unveiling, Hon. Peter

*Patterson's name as secretary of the company appears on a document circulated in 1874 to pledge contributions to a fund "for the Improvement of the Agricultural College grounds . . ." See Larimer County, Colorado. Citizens. Subscription List, Agricultural College of Colorado, 1874.
Anderson* being chairman of the exercises. Music was furnished by the college band and Frank J. Annis, ** formerly secretary of the college, spoke on "Early Organization of the Colorado Agricultural College." The monument was the presented to the college by Judge L. R. Rhodes,*** the acceptance being by Dr. Lory.**** The unveiling was by the grandchildren of the men in whose honor the monument was erected.

In the concrete base beneath the granite marker was placed a metal box which held sketches detailing the histories of the sponsoring pioneer societies and lists of their members; biographical sketches of the men who were honored; catalogs of the College; a copy of the Rocky Mountain Collegian, student newspaper; a report of the State Board of Agriculture, governing board of the College; and a number of coins of the United States.

A committee of three, representing the pioneer societies, had charge of the arrangements for the presentation ceremonies. Committee members, as listed in a Commencement Week program published in the Express, were Mrs. Louella M. Rhodes, Frank C. Watrous and John A. C. Kissock.

Of the occasion, the Larimer County Democrat said, "It was a splendid inspiration of the pioneers to erect this monument and it will stand for decades to come, expressive of the altruistic unselfishness of the men whose names are carved upon it."

*Peter Anderson was a Fort Collins citizen prominent in business enterprises and in civic activities of the community.

**Frank J. Annis, as professor of mathematics and chemistry, had been a member of the original faculty of Colorado Agricultural College, resigning to study law. Later, as an attorney in Fort Collins, he had been a member of the State Board of Agriculture and served as secretary of the Board.

***Ledru R. Rhodes was a Fort Collins lawyer and former state senator. He was hired by the original State Board of Agriculture to effect settlement of claims connected with construction of Main Building.

****Dr. Charles A. Lory was fifth president of Colorado Agricultural College, 1909-1940.
Pioneer Monument bears the following inscription:

Erected by the 1877 - Pioneers - 1916
in memory of the men who donated the land for the Agricultural College

A. H. Patterson
Joseph Mason
H. C. Peterson
J. C. Mathews
Robert Dalzell

Deeds to the original 240-acre campus area, on file in the office of the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, show that transfers of land to the Board of Trustees of the proposed college were made as follows—all the tracts being in Section 14, Township 7 North, Range 69 West, 6th Principal Meridian:

Robert Dalzell, 30 acres in the north half of the southwest quarter, deeded on January 23, 1871.

Author H. Patterson, the south half of the northeast quarter, deeded January 3, 1872.

John C. Matthews, Henry C. Peterson and Joseph Mason, 50 acres in the same north half of the southwest quarter, deeded on February 16, 1875.

Larimer County Land Improvement Company, by R. A. Cameron as president and J. E. Remington as secretary, the north half of the southeast quarter, deeded on December 30, 1872.

While Patterson's action in donating 80 acres of land is accepted as historically correct, a peculiarity of his deed transferring the land is most puzzling. The deed states that a consideration of the transfer was $800 "paid by the Larimer County Land Improvement Company.** The deed provides that if later the proposed college should not actually be located upon the site, the land should revert to Patterson upon his paying the Land Company $800 within six months of the time of abandonment.

These features of the transaction, were they viewed alone, would make it appear that the Land Company, intending to donate its 80 acres but desiring to donate twice that acreage, bought Patterson's 80 acres

**In the case of all other deeds to the original site, the customary formal legal consideration of $1 is indicated.
with a view of donating it also to the College; and that, instead of making a double transfer— that is, from Patterson to the Company, then from the Company to the College— it had Patterson merely transfer the land direct to the College, with provision that if the College did not materialize, he could buy back the land by returning the $800.

This latter transaction, of course, would have involved a transfer by the College to return the land. There could have been an understanding, possibly unwritten, with the Board of Trustees to that effect, since all the men concerned, including at least some of the trustees, probably were closely associated in various business enterprises of the small community. It is quite impossible now to ascertain the understandings these men may have had among themselves which are not revealed by the legal documents.

**PIONEER MONUMENT**

"... doubts which challenge the accuracy of the data..."
Upon the evidence of the deed alone, Patterson would appear to have sold his land rather than donating it. On the contrary, the earliest known record on the subject revealed by this study, which is in Ansel Watrous' History of Larimer County, published in 1911, lists Patterson as a donor. Further, the news story in the Fort Collins Express of March 19, 1916, not only credits him with having been a donor but as the one whose action inspired the erecting of the monument. Although these articles were written 39 years and 44 years, respectively, after the transaction, hence probably by writers who had no personal knowledge of the event, their written statements at least seem to indicate that Patterson was generally regarded in Fort Collins as one of the donors. Certainly his friend, Buffalo Bill, must have so regarded him.

In response to a letter of inquiry, Patterson's son, George W. Patterson, an attorney in San Jose, California, wrote on March 3, 1962, as follows:

The information gleaned from discussions in my presence between my father (A. H. Patterson) long after donation of the acreage by himself and the others noted on the monument, indicated that there was no monetary consideration received by them ... I am sure the grant was made without monetary consideration ... for him to accept or seek or accept monetary consideration would be quite out of character. Several Colorado communities were bidding for the land-grant college; and I am sure getting it in its present perfect location required substantial concessions on the part of the donors.

Although Interesting, these comments are merely the son’s impressions in his old age, unsupported by evidence, of an event which occurred before his birth. They offer no conclusions which could not have been reached upon the basis of data submitted to him in the letter of inquiry.

Despite the questions herein raised, there is no wish to do an injustice to Arthur H. Patterson. On the contrary, this study has been a search for facts, with the hope that any questions—which easily could have been answered fully and satisfactorily by an inquirer upon the scene at the time of the events or soon afterward—might yet prove capable of answer before the lapse of still more time.

If a mistake was made in assembling the data for the monument—and additional questions will yet be raised in this article—it most likely was the mistake of officials of the College, for in all probability the committee of pioneers turned to them for the data. The committee might well have turned to page 138 in the History of Larimer County where it could have obtained a more reliable list of donors. Finally, in the absence of any known written records, other than the deed, which might afford explanation, the writer feels that it should be assumed that Mr. Patterson deserved well the honor which has been accorded him by the monument.
The Patterson tract proved the most important portion of the campus. Because of its proximity to the town and its frontage upon the main avenue, it was the site of most of the early college buildings, hence of the greatest college activity until the plant expansion which followed World War II.

Study of the inscription on the monument, in the light of other records, gives rise to doubts of the accuracy of some of the other data and at least indicates carelessness in assembling some of it.

The name of the fourth donor on the list, J. C. Matthews, is misspelled--with only one letter "t." His signature on the deed by which he and his co-owners transferred their land shows the name with that letter doubled.

Of more consequence is a feature of the news story in the Fort Collins Morning Express, published at the time of the dedication of the monument, which casts doubt upon the justice of honoring Robert Dalzell by including him in the list of donors. Upon the basis of that account, Matthews, Peterson and Mason bought from Dalzell the 50 acres which they donated, receiving as a bonus in that transaction the remaining 30 acres of the north half of the southwest quarter-section. Apparently to avoid a double transfer--from Dalzell to the trio, and from then to the College--they had him deed the 30 acres direct to the College. The newspaper recounts the transaction, as follows:

Dalzell, it seems, owned eighty acres of the 240 which was donated by the five for the location of the college and of the college farm. He had been trying for months to get rid of his land, and had labored unsuccessfully to sell it at any price. His resolve to leave the county and try for his fortune elsewhere finally became so strong that he offered Messrs. Mason, Peterson and Mathews to give them thirty acres of his eighty if they would buy the remaining fifty at the figure at which he had been pricing it. His offer was accepted, and his name is included in the list of those donating the land; altho his donation was by no means inspired by the same motives which prompted the action of Messrs. Patterson, Mason, Peterson and Mathews. As soon as he sold his land he left the Poudre valley and no record is to be had concerning his life since then . . .

And so it is that Mr. Dalzell's memory is to be perpetuated in stone because he was willing to give away part of his land in order to sell the remainder at a bargain price.

Adding confusion, in view of the foregoing story, is the fact that Dalzell's 30 acres were transferred to the College in 1871, while Matthews, Peterson and Mason's 50 acres were not transferred until 1875.

A final peculiarity is that the monument to the donors does not mention the substantial contribution of land by the Larimer County Land Improvement Company. This company clearly gave at least 80 acres--one-third of the total original college area. Yet it receives no credit,
either as a company or in the names of its officers who signed the deed: General R. A. Cameron and J. E. Remington, president and treasurer, respectively. If unquestioned exception is taken to any part of the inscription, this omission seems the most inexcusable and regrettable.

As a matter of historical record, it may be noted that the date "1877" on the monument has no significance in College history. This writer raised the question in an article in the July 27, 1962 issue of the Fort Collins Coloradoan. It then developed that the date is that fixed by the pioneer societies of Fort Collins as a deadline for membership purposes; establishment of residence in Colorado by that year was a qualification for membership.