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## CREATIVE HISTORY – A CLOSER LOOK

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This section goes into more detail about some of the people, places, businesses and industries profiled in the 1894 flood narrative. Special attention is given to discussing the historical process of each topic. Use these case studies in conjunction with [Keys to Local History](#) to evaluate challenging research questions and learn how particular problems were solved. Think about how some of the solutions might apply to your own research.

### **People**

Get to know some of the people featured in the [Main Events](#). Discover how and when they came to Boulder and their continued rolls within the community

### **Communities**

Uncover more about Boulder's early history and additional information about a few of the mountain mining towns.

### **Local Industry**

Discover the large industrial bases that drove Boulder's nineteenth-century economy, along with some locally owned businesses.

## THE PEOPLE

As with all communities, the people are what bring energy, creativity, and character to a place, and early Boulder is no exception. This young frontier town attracted people from all walks of life for the opportunity to make a better life for themselves and their families. A handful of people from the main flood narrative are profiled here in more detail, and each has a fascinating story you can learn from. As you read through these biographies, pay attention to my research comments to see how I solved problems, questioned my sources, and what kind of research still needs to take place.

### **Lawrence Bass**

This young photographer documented a great deal of the 1894 flood. Lawrence later became Boulder's Chief of Police.

### **Jacob Faus**

One of Boulder's blacksmiths, Faus watched his house dramatically float away the morning of the flood.

### **Mary Kingsley**

Mary gained her notorious reputation as one of the better-known madams of Boulder's small red-light district.

## **Marinus Smith**

A respected Boulder pioneer, farmer, landowner, and philanthropist, Smith's mental health deteriorated during the flood and he spent several years in the state's mental institution.

## **"Rocky Mountain Joe" Sturtevant**

Claiming an adventurous past as a scout and "Indian fighter," Joe was an artist, teller of tall tales, and best known for his photographs of Boulder.

## **LAWRENCE P. BASS**

Arriving in Boulder with his family in the early 1880s, Lawrence Bass represents the typical child of parents migrating west looking for new opportunities. Having little choice in the cross-country move, Lawrence made the most of the possibilities his new home had to offer. Perhaps more motivated than the average teenager, he made a strong impression as a young photographer, then at the age of twenty-four, Lawrence began his public service career in Boulder's police force.

Researching someone who had a life-long presence in the public eye does not necessarily make the task easier. No diaries, letters, records, or police documents about Bass have currently been found, so the biography of Lawrence Bass presented here is an example of how a broad collection of individual records can eventually develop into a narrative.

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Predominately an agricultural community, Howard County, Missouri was home to about 17,000 people in 1870. George Thomas and Mary (Withers) Bass were one of many farming families living in the small town of Moniteau Township, near Fayette. On February 13, 1870, George, Mary, their daughter Maggie, and George's mother Susan, welcomed the birth of the Bass's first son, Lawrence.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Historical Census Browser," Geospatial and Statistical Data Center, *University of Virginia Library*, <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/php/start.php?year=V1870> (accessed 22 July 2006). 1870 search for total population-farms-manufacturing in Howard County, Missouri; Lawrence Bass entry, Howe Mortuary Funeral Records, Book 4: 164, no. 1824, 18 March 1920, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, Colorado. The funeral record gives the names of Lawrence's parents, date and place of his birth; Geo P. Bass household, 1850 U.S. census, Howard County, Missouri, population schedule, Moniteau township, page 265, dwelling 3, family 3, National Archives micropublication M432, roll 401. Provides name of George's mother, verifies family relations; SM Bass household, 1870 U.S. census Howard County, Missouri, population schedule, Moniteau township, Fayette post office, page 36-37, dwelling 244, family 244, National Archives micropublication M593, roll 780. Provides information about Lawrence's birth and family living arrangement; George T. Bass household, 1880 U.S. census, Howard County, Missouri, population schedule, enumeration district [ED] 91, supervisor's district [SD] 5, sheet 17A, dwelling 148, family 157, National Archives micropublication T9, roll 690. Indicates the birth of Lawrence's older brother Russell approximately five years earlier.

*By using Lawrence's funeral records as a starting point, I found names, dates and places that led me to examine multiple years of out-of-state census records that I used to verify locations, family names, and relationships. Further genealogical research could be done on the Bass family by using the clues in the census to look for family records in Tennessee, the birthplace of George's father George, and Kentucky, the birthplace of his mother Susan.*

It is not known what motivated George and Mary Bass to leave their home around 1880 and move their family nearly 750 miles west. It is believed they stayed in Denver for a short time but soon found their way to Boulder the same year. Over the next several years George might have struggled keeping steady work because after five years in Boulder he was still working as a laborer. There is no way of knowing for certain, but at the age of 49 it might have been difficult for him to find a new line of work other than farming. Lawrence's sister Maggie helped out the family by working at the local telephone office, and Lawrence, at fifteen years old, considered himself a professional photographer while still attending school. Lawrence's interest in photography continued, and in 1889 he partnered with I.H. Hosier opening the Hosier & Bass studio. The partnership lasted until 1892.<sup>2</sup>

*There is no way of knowing exactly why the Bass family moved west. It would be interesting to do research around Fayette, and Howard County, Missouri to discover if there was a trend of people moving out of the region during the 1880s, or if there were any environmental causes (such as drought) that might have forced farmers to look elsewhere for work. Could there have been medical reasons for their move? Colorado's dry climate became a haven for people suffering from respiratory ailments such as tuberculosis. Perhaps there are Bass family records that still survive in Howard County that could shed light on their motivations.*

Sometime between 1885 and 1892 Lawrence's father died leaving Lawrence to head the family. Earning a steady living became even more important for Lawrence since he also needed to provide for his new wife Ida M. Darling, whom he married on December 24, 1891. The next year the couple, Lawrence's younger brother Russell, and their mother, all lived at 1524 Pine Street. The brothers worked in their own photography studio above the Brown Mercantile at 1404-1406 Pearl Street. This was Boulder's main street where locals, businesses travelers, and visitors passed on a regular basis, making it a potentially beneficial location for the brothers. After striking out on his own, Lawrence remained

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<sup>2</sup> *Daily Camera*, 18 March 1920. Bass's obituary states he moved from Denver and had been a resident of Boulder for 40 years at the time of his death; George Bass household, 1885 Colorado state census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, town of Boulder, page 52, line 13, microcopy T158, Colorado State Archives, Denver. Provides family relations, ages and occupations; Details about the Hosier and Bass studio came from "Hosier Family," BHS 220 Hosier, Carnegie Branch Library Online Catalog, <http://nell.boulder.lib.co.us/search/aHosier+and+Bass+%28Boulder%2C+Colo.%29%2C+photographer./ahosier+and+bass+boulder+colo+photographer/-3%2C-1%2C0%2CB/frameset&FF=ahosier+and+bass+boulder+colo+photographer&6%2C%2C15> (accessed 21 July 2006).

with photography for several more years taking pictures of people, buildings, and landscapes. One of several photographers at the time of the flood, the images Bass took are still some of the best visual documents of the event.<sup>3</sup>

*City directories fill in the gap between the 1885 Colorado census and the 1900 Federal census, showing that Lawrence's father died sometime within a seven year period. Unfortunately there are no city or county directories available for the years between 1885 and 1892 to provide more details. An obituary, death certificate, or tombstone has not yet been found, but the narrower time frame will make the search a little easier.*

Did something change within Lawrence after the eventful days following the May 31, 1894 flood? Later that same year he decided to completely change his career to become a police officer, beginning as a city night watchman. This new line of work suited him since it ultimately turned into a life-long career. However, two brief respites from police work occurred for unknown reasons beginning in the late 1890s. The first took place around 1898 when he returned to photography. Then another roughly between 1902 and 1907 when he spent several years in mining and mill work, only to return to the force in 1907.<sup>4</sup>

*Examining newspaper articles during these two time periods might be the only source of information available to answer the questions about Bass's changing work conditions. The Boulder papers often posted local happenings and short news articles about some its better-known citizens. Perhaps the papers can provide insight into events that directly affected Bass's ability to work on the police force.*

Very few details are known about Bass's personal life and activities. The handful that is known took place in the late 1890s and early 1900s. In August 1897 Lawrence and Ida's only child, Harold Lawrence Bass, was born, possibly prompting the move of the entire family (including Bass's mother) several years later to a house a few blocks away at 1921 Pine Street. Lawrence also started to become quite active in the community, joining the

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<sup>3</sup> Bass-Darling marriage, 24 December 1891, M. E. Church, Boulder (Boulder County) Colorado. Certificate held at and recorded in Marriage Book 161:11, County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Boulder, Colorado; *Bensel Boulder County Directory* (1892) 74. Lawrence appears to be the head of the household in 1892 with no listing for his father George. The directory lists the brother's occupations and business address along with the residential address listed vaguely as "bet 15th and 16th." Subsequent directories list the address as 1524 Pine for nearly a decade, so it was concluded that the 1892 address to be the same.

<sup>4</sup> *Daily Camera*, 18 March 1920; *Boulder County Directory* (1896) 135, city night watchman; *Boulder County Directory* (Denver: Inter-State Advertising and Investment Co., 1898) 21, photographer; *Boulder City Directory* (Boulder: J. Sumner Edgerton/Daily Herald Press, 1901) 17, city marshal; *Boulder City Directory* (Boulder: W.G. Brown/Press of the Daily Herald Press, 1904) listing for Lawrence Bass, city police; *Boulder City Directory* (Boulder: City Directory Company, 1906-1907) listing for Lawrence Bass, mining.

Boulder Hose #1 volunteer firemen in 1898, and later becoming a member of the Blue Lodge of Masonry, the Odd Fellows, and in 1909 the Elks.<sup>5</sup>

*Despite the straight forward listing of Bass's activities, a further investigation of the organization he was involved in could provide a better view into the type of person Bass was. Community and fraternal organizations often take on a variety of functions within the community and knowing these roles might reflect Bass's personal values.*

Returning to police work in 1907, Lawrence quickly earned a promotion to Chief of Police in 1910. Police work appears to have been a good personality match for both Bass and Boulder. The town appreciated and respected his stern yet fair style of order, his devotion to the job, and keeping a high moral standard for the force to minimize corruption. As a well-known and admired member of Boulder, Bass's sudden and tragic death on March 18, 1920 took people by surprise and shook all levels of the community.<sup>6</sup>

*While obituaries often only reflect the positive and good deeds a person accomplished during their lifetime, they are still valuable sources of information about what kind of life someone lived. Unfortunately, Bass's obituary was the only source that reflected any aspect of how he lived his life. Because of how he died and his status in the community, it might be worthwhile to look for less emotionally charged perspectives about Bass in earlier newspaper articles.*

A few days before his death, Chief Bass finally received the police car he had worked for several years to acquire. On the morning of March 18, Fire Chief Emil Johnson gave Bass, and three other passengers in the Buick, driving instructions. During their test drive a fire alarm sounded, but due to the morning's high winds, a miscommunication about the fire's location with the passing fire truck put both on a fateful route. Fire Chief Johnson sped down Pearl Street thinking the fire was at 28th and Pearl instead of 28th and Pine, two streets north.<sup>7</sup>

During the initial excitement, Johnson did not notice Joe Salter, a budding journalist and prep student, jumping on the running boards of the car for a ride to the scene. With the fire truck in the lead, the driver made an unexpected wide left turn at 19th Street towards Pine Street not realizing until the last moment that the police car was very close behind. Johnson swerved avoiding a direct impact, but still side swiped the fire truck causing the car to "catapult through the air, turning over and over." After the crash three of the six

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<sup>5</sup> Lawrence Bass household, 1900 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, city of Boulder, ED 160, SD 1, sheet 4B, dwelling 93, family 101; *Daily Camera*, 18 March 1920; *Boulder City Directory* (Boulder: W.G. Brown/Press of the Daily Herald Press, 1903) 19. The first mention of the Bass' new address; Laurence Paddock, "Boulder Hose #1," Volunteer Firemen Records 1875-1909. Boulder Historical Society Collection. Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, Colorado.

<sup>6</sup> *Daily Camera*, 18 March 1920.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

passengers in the police car died. Police Chief Lawrence Bass and Joe D. Salter (son of the City Manager) died of their injuries at the hospital, and William Stretcher, Boulder County's Undersheriff died the following day. William McAllister, former Fire Chief, Emil Johnson, acting Fire Chief, and Lester DeBacker, a prominent Boulder real estate agent, were all injured but recovered on their own at home.<sup>8</sup>

*Newspaper reports after the accident currently provide the most detail about how the event happened. It would be interesting to see if any official police reports or other witness accounts can be found to provide a different perspective on the accident.*

Lawrence Bass's death saddened a large portion of Boulder community, making the Chief's funeral the most highly attended up to that time. The Methodist Church overflowed with mourners to hear the Reverend Dr. C.A. Rowand give a modest but emotional tribute to Lawrence Bass the man and the public servant. With family members present and a large public attendance, Bass was laid to rest Sunday, March 22 at the Green Mountain Cemetery with members of his Masonic lodge presiding over the grave-side services.<sup>9</sup>

Lawrence Bass is still honored today by the Boulder Police Department as one of their brothers who fell in the line of duty.<sup>10</sup>

### **JACOB FAUS**

Jacob Faus and his family arrived in America from Württemberg, Germany when he was about nine years old. As with most people who migrated to Boulder, little is known about Jacob's life prior to arrival. Trying to find his whereabouts in other states is necessary if details about Jacob's immigration and naturalization are to be found. There are many questions that need to be answered before a significant search can begin about when and where he arrived in America. Knowing more details about where Jacob lived, his parents, and any siblings, will help in the process of learning about his immigration experience and his home in Germany. Along the way I will point out problems, date discrepancies, discoveries, and more questions for possible research leads.

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<sup>8</sup> *Daily Camera*, 18 and 22 March 1920. According to the newspaper, Lawrence Bass died from a severed artery at the base of his brain, Joe Salter died by being crushed by the car, and William Stretcher from a severe head injury.

<sup>9</sup> *Daily Camera*, 22 March 1920; Lawrence Bass Funeral Record.

<sup>10</sup> "Police Memorial" *City of Boulder, Police Department*, [http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=3977&Itemid=1672](http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3977&Itemid=1672) (accessed 21 July 2006).

Born March 31, 1860, Jacob Faus might have been a son to Johann Martin Fauss and Catharina Barbara Schittenhelm. It is possible he was born in the town of Nebringen, Schwarzwaldkreis County, in the province of Württemberg, Germany. Immigrating to America with his family around 1868, family lore suggests the Faus family lived in Michigan, Ohio, and possibly Indiana. It is not known when he became a naturalized citizen because Jacob, being under 21, automatically became naturalized his when his father did.<sup>11</sup>

*No records of Jacob outside the state of Colorado have been found. Due to the frustrating spelling variations of his name in the census (Jacob Faus, John Fans, and Jacob Faur) it becomes difficult to find any mention of him in other states. The name of his parents and specific town of birth was retrieved from the Family History Library's International Genealogical Index (IGI). The birth date and province of birth are the only known information from other sources that match the IGI. Additional information from the IGI is currently unsupported, and is only being used as a placeholder and inspiration for further research. Jacob Faus's obituary is one of the only sources that suggest family residences in other states. Census records mentioning a child born in Ohio is another clue. At this point, however, these clues are only producing more questions rather than leading to answers. Additional information about other states and family members is essential if I wish to find any immigration or naturalization records for Jacob.*<sup>12</sup>

Dates vary as to when Jacob arrived in Boulder; some are as early as 1872 or as late as 1878. According to an undated interview with his son Ben, Jacob came to Boulder as a teenager and found work in 1872 as an apprentice blacksmith under Ben Williams. Jacob learned the trade from Williams and worked with him until the mid 1880s. It is possible Jacob boarded with the Williams family for several years as well. By late 1880 he would

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<sup>11</sup> Jacob Faus entry, Howe Mortuary Funeral Records, Book 13 Nov 1941 to 3 June 1943: 23, no. 5064, 23 December 1941, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, Colorado. Lists Jacob Faus's date of birth and place of birth; Jacob Fauss entry, *International Genealogical Index* (Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1969-1991), citing microfilm 1,553,509 for batch 2,160,599, sheet 84. Undocumented source providing names of parents and to be used only as a general reference for future research; Newspaper clipping (unknown newspapers) "Jacob Faus, Pioneer Blacksmith, Dies," 23 December 1941, "Mrs. Jacob Faus Dies in Her Sleep; Was Boulder Pioneer," 7 May 1947, Faus Family Portraits and Documents; *Historical and Descriptive Review of Colorado's Enterprising Cities, Their Leading Business Houses and Progressive Men* (Denver: Jno. Lethem, 1893) 161. This is the only source that mentions that Jacob lived in Indiana for a period of time.

<sup>12</sup> John Fans household, 1900 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, city of Boulder, ED 160, SD 1, sheet 1B, dwelling 18, family 20; Jacob Faur household, 1930 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, Boulder City, ED 7-45, SD 2, sheet 3B, dwelling 71, family 89, National Archives micropublication T626, roll 231; Jacob Faus household, 1885 Colorado state census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, town of Boulder, page 71, line 30. Jacob's ten-year-old daughter Lotta is listed as being born in Ohio.

have moved out of the Williams' home because of his marriage to Katherine Schelling on September 29.<sup>13</sup>

*Jacob's funeral record states he lived in Boulder for sixty-five years, which would first place him in Boulder about 1876. I had little luck finding Jacob in the 1880 census until I did a search on just his first name "Jacob" and place of birth "Württemberg." The resulting query surprised me. Living with Ben Williams was a 21 year-old, single man named Jacob who was a "helper" to Ben and was born in Württemberg Germany. But the surname that accompanied Jacob looks like "Weipsport," certainly a far cry from any alternate spelling of Faus. What is odd is that all the other information about this Jacob fits so closely, except the last name. After investigating German words that might be close in spelling, and a variety of spellings of possible place names, I came to a dead end. There are no clues as to where the name comes from, what this name means, or why it could be associated with Jacob Faus. Perhaps a clue will surface at a later date.*<sup>14</sup>

Little is known of Katherine Schelling other than she was born in Switzerland in November 1859, immigrated with her family around 1862, and lived in Ohio and Michigan before moving to Boulder. The couple had six children: Lottie (Charlotte), Benjamin, Jack (Jacob Jr.), Frankie, Ernestine, and Robert. The 1910 census suggests that Katherine and Jacob had another child who died between 1900 and 1910, but nothing is known beyond this brief mention.<sup>15</sup>

*Lottie's appearance on the 1885 Colorado census quickly raised some questions. This is the only official document she is mentioned in (other than a few obituaries) and in 1885 the census indicates her age as 10 and that she was born in Ohio. Jacob and Katherine were not married until 1880. Was this a mistake? Was Lottie Katherine's child from a previous marriage? Family lore states that Katherine spent part of her early years in Ohio, but it is not known if Jacob actually did as well. Did a child out of wedlock*

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<sup>13</sup> "Ben Faus – 1443 Spurge St.," short type-written biography, Forest Crossen "Ben Faus Recalls Early Blacksmith Shops, '94 Flood," undated *Daily Camera* article, "Jacob Faus, Pioneer Blacksmith, Dies," newspaper article dated 23 December 1941, Faus Family Portraits and Documents; Jacob Faus, Funeral Records; Benj. Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, Boulder, ED 24, page 29, dwelling 5, family 5, National Archives micropublication T9, roll 89; Faus-Schelling marriage, 29 September 1880, in Marriage Book J: 327, County Clerk's Office, Boulder, Colorado.

<sup>14</sup> Benj. Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, Boulder, ED 24, page 29, dwelling 5, family 5.

<sup>15</sup> Jacob Faur household, 1930 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, Boulder City, ED 7-45, SD 2, sheet 3B, dwelling 71, family 89. This census provides the most legible year of immigration; Anna M. Grant, "Four – Faus" and "Jacob Faus, Pioneer Blacksmith, Dies," 23 December 1941, Faus Family Portraits and Documents; Jacob Faus household, 1910 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, Boulder City, ED 39, SD 1, sheet 6A, dwelling 120, family 136, National Archives micropublication T624, roll 113. Columns 10 and 11 indicate Katherine bore seven children and only six survived. Additional research needs to be done to determine if this is true.

*motivate Jacob to migrate all the way to Colorado as a teenager, only to move his soon-to-be bride and child after getting established? This one brief bit of information stirs up a whole new set of questions that need to be answered. At least Ohio is one clue, albeit large, for future family research.*

The couple's first home was part of a small frame house near Pearl and 9th Street. Katherine recalled the three rooms upstairs as being "where the wind whistles and whirls."<sup>16</sup> Beginning in 1883 Jacob and Katherine began buying sections of a lot along 12th Street (Broadway) to build a house in block 9 of Smith's Addition. Over the next decade they built their home, bought additional lots to add to what they already had, and in 1893 while Katherine visited her mother in Ohio and toured the Chicago's World's Fair, Jacob built an addition on the house.<sup>17</sup>

After apprenticing under Williams, Jacob worked with Dick Gilbert until 1888 when he decided to open up a general blacksmith shop with Simpson (Sam) Wylam. The Faus and Wylam shop first shows up in the city directory in 1892 with a location on the corner of 12th and Walnut. A few years later they expanded by buying out Ed Perren's shop next door in 1895. The shop stood at 1925 12th Street, on the corner of the alley between Pearl and Walnut Streets. Jacob and Sam specialized in horseshoes. Because of the importance of horses for transportation, the two not only made quality horseshoes but they were experts in horse's hooves, injuries, and a variety of problematic foot diseases.<sup>18</sup>

*Deeds for the shop properties need to be investigated in detail. There might be interesting information about the purchase of Perren's shop such as an inventory of work tools. As a more detailed biography develops for Jacob Faus, more information about what blacksmiths did, how they worked, and what kinds of tools they used would be a desired addition. [Click here](#) to read some excerpts from an interview with Ben Faus who began apprenticing in his father's shop in 1893.*

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Forest Crossen, "People I Meet – "Ben Faus Describes His Early Work in Blacksmith Shop." *Daily Camera*, 20 June 1952.

*My first work was to keep the tools hung up. These were mostly hand-made: tongs, hammers, knives, each in its proper place handy to the smith's hand. I had to keep the horseshoeing floor clean and the slack tub filled.*

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<sup>16</sup> Anna M. Grant, "Four – Faus," Faus Family Portraits and Documents.

<sup>17</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 215: 296, County Clerk's Office, Boulder, Colorado, Recording Division; Anna M. Grant, "Four – Faus," Faus Family Portraits and Documents.

<sup>18</sup> *Boulder County Directory* (1892) 87; Forest Crossen "Ben Faus Recalls Early Blacksmith Shops, '94 Flood," Faus Family Portraits and Documents; *Historical and Descriptive Review of Colorado's Enterprising Cities*, 161.

*I also worked the bellows to blow up the forge fire. These were made of leather and wood, 54 inches across the largest width. They'd open to a height of 54 inches. They were 7 feet long, and we worked them with a long pole.*

*In the forge we burned slack coal from the Walsenburg field. We paid \$3.50 a ton for it. For some special work, like welding broken buggy springs, we used charcoal. We bought it from an old man who burned it near Ward. The old-time blacksmiths thought that they couldn't weld spring steel without charcoal.*

*Then I advanced to swinging the sledge hammer. When welding a piece of iron to draw out, the man running the forge would hit (first heating to a white heat) it with the hand hammer to show the striker where to hit. Then I'd come down hard with the sledge hammer. In this way the man running the forge drew out his work so that there were no hammer prints. In the old days no hammer prints were tolerated.*

*My next step was hand-turning horseshoes for different afflictions of horses. Horses – particularly buggy horses – would sometimes interfere. That is, they'd strike the other leg with a shoe. We overcame this by putting side weights on shoes. Then some horses would overreach – hind shoes strike their front feet. We cured this by putting toe weights on the front shoes, which kept them from stepping so far.*

*We had factory shoes for work horses and mules, but for buggy horses we had to make the shoes. We bought 'shoe shape' iron for this work. When a horse came in, we measured the hoof, cut off a piece of iron the right length, heated it in the middle and shaped a shoe. Then we had to crease and punched it for the nail holes.*

In the early morning of May 31 1894, the family woke up in darkness with water pounding at the house. They lived on 12th Street just south of the 11th Street railroad bridge. With all the boulders and debris gathering at the bridge, the clog forced the flow of the water changed southward. Katherine had only one way out of the house and was forced her to drop little daughter Ernestine to her son Jack. They left house in time, saving very little and watched the 12th Street bridge collapse behind them. Later the water removed the house from its foundation and it sailed across the street, past the Beasley Ditch headgate, and came to rest in a thicket of trees about 300 yards downstream. The family found safety at the home of Frank and Teresa Weisenhorn near the brewery at Lincoln and Arapahoe.<sup>19</sup>

*Every account written about Jacob Faus and the flood implies the house was on the east side of Broadway between Canyon and Arapahoe, in what is now considered Central Park. However, legal property descriptions of deeds, an 1887 map, photographs, and two*

<sup>19</sup> Anna M. Grant, "Four – Faus," "Jack Faus Recalls Flood That Destroyed Home of His Parents," undated newspaper article, Faus Family Portraits and Documents.

*first-hand accounts from the Faus family prove the house stood on the west side of Broadway in Smith's Addition. Both Katherine and her son Jack gave interviews for newspapers and recalled the house crossing the street before coming to a rest. Jack made the statement that the "new city hall stands on almost the site of my birthplace," making reference to Municipal building on the southwest corner of Broadway and Canyon. Katherine also made reference to the original location as "where the Grill Lumber Yard has been." The Ernest Grill and Company was located just on the south bank of Boulder Creek at 1739 Broadway. [Click here](#) to see the building around 1900. A [photograph from about 1920](#) shows part of the distinctively shaped Grill Company building in relationship to the creek.*<sup>20</sup>

Within a few weeks after the flood the family bought a house at 1322 Hill (Mapleton) Street and lived there for nearly a decade. In 1905 they moved two blocks south to 1443 Spruce Street, and both Jacob and Katherine lived there until their deaths. Little is known about Jacob after the events surround the flood, only that he continued with blacksmithing for several more decades. His son Jack opened up a car dealership and in the 1930 census Jacob is shown as working at a blacksmith in a garage. Could he possibly have been working in his son's shop? Jacob's known social activities included membership in fraternal organizations. He was a charter member and past grand of the local International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) as well as an early member of Boulder's Woodmen of the World.<sup>21</sup>

*Deed indexes assisted in the location of the Faus's other homes, but the deeds should still be examined for additional information. Researching Jack Faus's automobile dealership in more detail might bring more family connections forward. Locating records of Jacob's activities in the fraternal societies might be of assistance as well. Lodge records might be difficult to locate, so contacting local lodges or the national organizations for assistance will be necessary.*

While crossing the street at 14th and Pearl on December 14, 1941 Jacob Faus was hit by a car. Struck in the left side and hitting the hood of the car, Jacob suffered a fractured skull and leg. Driving with two friends, eighteen-year-old Howard Vickery did not see Faus crossing due to the bright headlights of an oncoming car. Transported to Community Hospital, Jacob lived for nine more days, succumbing from his injuries on December 23. The eighty-one-year-old man became the tenth automobile-related death in the county that year. The Howe mortuary handled the funeral services with Rev. John H. Sanders,

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<sup>20</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 76: 282, 303, Book 82: 37; *Map of the City of Boulder, Colorado*, Compiled from the Official Records by W. C. Willits (Denver, CO: Unknown publisher, 1887) black and white map, Copy at Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, Colorado; Anna M. Grant, "Four – Faus," "Jack Faus Recalls Flood That Destroyed Home of His Parents," undated newspaper article, Faus Family Portraits and Documents;

<sup>21</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 163: 214, Book 282: 317; Jacob Faur household, 1930 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, Boulder City, ED 7-45, SD 2, sheet 3B, dwelling 71, family 89.

pastor of the First Presbyterian church, and Odd Fellows handling the grave-side services at Green Mountain Cemetery.<sup>22</sup>

### **MARY KINGSLEY**

Researching women can often be a difficult task since they did not leave many documents behind. Typically you only find women referenced through their father or husband's names and accounts. If you have read about the Boulder flood in the Main Events, you will know that Mary was far from typical, and due to her notorious occupation as a prostitute, she made the newspapers more often than a typical frontier housewife. Despite her publicity as an infamous madam, there are still few sources available to document her life. Because little is known of Mary Kingsley, her story will be illustrated through a series of primary sources to demonstrate some methods for researching women. See How to Research: Women for more information.

#### **Probate Records**

Sometimes you need to go to the end of someone's life to learn about his or her beginnings. In Mary's case her will offers some key items about her past. Currently, only abstracts of her estate files have been found, and an investigation of the actual documents still need to be made. But even abstracts can be full of good information and clues. One of the most important items found in the abstracts is her maiden name, Mary Kennelly. Her father was Edmond Kennelly of Knockloing, Ballchique Parish, County Kerry, Ireland, and she had at least two siblings, James and Annie Kennelly. At the time of Mary's death on 14 July 1902, her brother was in Ayer Hill, Scotland, and her sister Annie lived in St. Louis, Missouri.<sup>23</sup> These few facts give Mary a past, provide her a sense of place, and uncover clues for further research. Sometimes researching siblings will open new doors to the person of interest.

Other items in her probate records also reflect parts of Mary's life. Apparently litigation was underway in regards to her father's estate, which is possibly what prompted the mention of her siblings. A detailed investigation of the records may reveal the issues surrounding her father's estate and more information about her family. Mary also left behind two houses located between 10th and 12th Streets. They seemed to be in such poor repair that the estate's administrator thought they would be impossible to rent to "desirable tenants." Additional items included a gold necklace, earrings, a breast pin,

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<sup>22</sup> "Jacob Faus, Who Was Hit by Car, Dies of Injuries," "Jacob Faus, Pioneer Blacksmith, Dies," 23 December 1941, Faus Family Portraits and Documents; "Auto Pedestrian (Fatal)" 14 December 1941, Boulder Police Blotters, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, Colorado.

<sup>23</sup> Lois Wescott compiler, *Boulder County, Colorado Estate Files, 1890-1904* (Boulder, CO: Boulder Genealogical Society, 1990) 75-76.

some furniture, seventeen bottles of beer, and four cuspidors (spittoons).<sup>24</sup> Due to her occupation as a prostitute, the beer and spittoons could have been items specifically intended for her male clientele.

### Census Records

According to Mary's brief obituary she lived in Boulder for seventeen years, which would put her arrival around 1885. A Mary Kingsley is found in the 1885 Colorado census, working as a dressmaker and boarding with three other women in one house. She is a thirty-five-year-old widow, but lists her place of birth as Michigan with no reference to her parents. Could Michigan be the place she recently came *from*?<sup>25</sup>

But is Mary Kingsley *really the same* person as Marietta Kingsley that shows up in the 1900 census? It is difficult to say with certainty because there are several discrepancies between the two women. The most significant difference is age. In 1900 Marietta's age was thirty-nine, not fifty like you would expect; she and her parents were born in Scotland; and her occupation was "fancy housekeeper," another name for a prostitute. Both Mary and Marietta were listed as widows, and the 1900 census shows Marietta had bore two children, neither of which survived.<sup>26</sup>

So with all these differences, what can I take from these two records? I think it is possible these two women are the same, but additional supporting evidence certainly needs to be found. The variations in her name are of little significance since other records show her either as Mary, Etta, Mary Etta, Maryetta, or Marietta. The discrepancies in age could be explained because she might not have been the one that gave information to the census taker. The head of the household often was not at home, so other family members or neighbors provided the necessary statistics, so sometimes the information was not correct. When examining the census record, I noticed there was no date for Marietta's year of immigration. Most likely she would have provided that information herself. Maybe a neighbor did not know that detail, so it was left blank. Finally, the differences in occupations are the most curious. The Mary in the 1885 census lived two doors down from a known prostitute, Mollie Gordon. Could a house full of women with the occupation of "dressmaker" have been a cover for prostitutes? Did she fall back on her skills as a dressmaker before making her presence known as a "lady of the night"? There is no way to know with certainty, and the names of the women she boarded with are not names of known prostitutes during that time. More investigation needs to be done.

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<sup>24</sup> Wescott, *Estate Files, 75-76; Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*. Vol. 1. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971) 631.

<sup>25</sup> *Daily Camera*, 16 July 1902; Colorado. Boulder County. Annie Bash household, 1885 Colorado state census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, town of Boulder, page 52, line 5.

<sup>26</sup> Maryetta Kingsley household, 1900 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, city of Boulder, ED 161, SD 4, sheet 30B, dwelling 665, family 753.

### Deeds and City Directories

A preliminary index search of deeds revealed Mary was quite active with real estate, owning and selling several properties during her time in Boulder. The deed books also help establish a rough arrival date for Mary, with the first mention of a transaction by her on January 14, 1886.<sup>27</sup>

To locate her properties I used an early map of Boulder showing town blocks and lots, city directories, and the 1900 census. Deeds record the legal description of the property, making it easier to pinpoint on a map indicating property division. The city directories and census provide further evidence by putting an address to the property's legal description. Further investigation into the actual deeds is necessary in order to better understand the terms stated in the documents.

Below are the descriptions of the properties Mary Kingsley owned at one time, their locations on a map, and their corresponding addresses (if known) based on city directory listings.

In 1886 Mary bought **Lot 1 on Block 44** in Boulder from Mary Arnett, which she sold eight months later back to Mary and Anthony Arnett. This property was located at the southwest corner of Front Street (Walnut) and 11th Street.<sup>28</sup>

Mary purchased **part of Block 4** in Culver's Subdivision in 1889 from George Walker. The deed index does not clarify which lot or lots were purchased, but the location of the property was between Goss and Grove Streets and 18th and 19th Streets. About a year later Mary sold all or part of this property to Henry Johnson.<sup>29</sup>

In October of 1892 Mary bought **Lot 6 on Block 12** in Boulder from John W. Day and kept this lot until 1900 when she sold it to Lizzie Tipton. The property was located on the southeast corner of Water (Canyon) and 11th.<sup>30</sup>

Several months later in February of 1893, Mary bought another property, **Lot 2 of Block 11**, one block west along Water Street. This is most likely the same property the 1892 city directory mentions as Mary's residence on Water Street between 10th and 11th, and listed as 1036 Water Street in the 1896 the city directory. An address of 1042 was

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<sup>27</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 94: 250.

<sup>28</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 94: 250, Book 92: 490; *Map of the City of Boulder, Colorado*, Willits (1887).

<sup>29</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 126: 115, Book 151: 381; *Map of the City of Boulder, Colorado*, Willits (1887).

<sup>30</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 122: 522, Book 231: 184; *Map of the City of Boulder, Colorado*, Willits (1887).

shown in the 1898 directory and 1900 census.<sup>31</sup> Could this be the same property with an altered address or another house located next door? More research needs to be done to clarify the discrepancies.

In 1896 Mary bought her final property, **Lot 5 of Block 12**. Near the southeast corner of Water (Canyon) and 11th and next to her Lot 6 property, this is probably the place where she died. A newspaper article made note that she died on 14 July 1902 at her home at 1128 Water Street.<sup>32</sup>

Because Mary owned several properties very close to one another there is some confusion when comparing the addresses from the city directories to the legal property description in the deeds. More investigation needs to take place into uncovering these street addresses. These might be found as the deeds are researched and her estate records are examined in detail.

### Newspapers

Mary might not have made the papers as often as her predecessors, but her activities, as well as those of her “girls,” kept the public aware of the problems of prostitution.

The first mention of Mary in the newspapers was on May 16, 1888, when one of the women working for her died in Mary’s house of a cocaine overdose. Reportedly addicted to cocaine and morphine, Mamie Price died two weeks prior, and the *Boulder County Herald* noted that Miss Kingsley bought a cemetery plot for her at Columbia Cemetery.<sup>33</sup>

Mary appears one month later in a *Boulder County Herald* report of a violent scuffle that left Mary injured and two unnamed prostitutes sobering up in the jailhouse. Police arrived at Mary’s house as she defended herself with a “ten-inch carving knife” after receiving a large knot on her forehead and “scratches on her face [that made] her look like a clown in a circus.”<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 158: 222; Map of the City of Boulder, Colorado, Willits (1887); Bensen Directory Company’s Boulder County Directory, Colorado Business Directory and Annual Register (Trinidad, CO: Bensen Directory Co., 1892) Miss Marietta Kingsley entry; *Boulder County Directory* (Publisher unknown, 1896) 157; *Boulder County Directory* (Denver: Inter-State Advertising and Investment Co., 1898) Miss Mary Kingsley entry; Maryetta Kingsley household, 1900 U.S. census, Boulder County, Colorado, population schedule, city of Boulder, ED 161, SD 4, sheet 30B, dwelling 665, family 753.

<sup>32</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, Book 176: 345; *Daily Camera*, 16 July 1902.

<sup>33</sup> Sanford Charles Gladden, *Early Boulder Series: No. 5 Ladies of the Night* (Boulder, CO: by the author, 1979) 20.

<sup>34</sup> Gladden, *Ladies of the Night*, 14.

During the May 31, 1894 flood, Mary makes a brief appearance in the papers when a police officer dramatically carried her, and her two pug dogs, on his shoulders from her crib through the floodwaters to safety.<sup>35</sup>

Only three months later in August of 1894, Trixie Lee, one of Mary Kingsley's "inmates," was shot at killed by a jealous wife. At the trial a month and a half later, Mrs. Maud Hawkes and her mother (who had urged her daughter to shoot Trixie) were acquitted of all charges.<sup>36</sup>

On July 16, 1902 the last mention of Mary Etta Kingsley was published. Her brief obituary merely states, "Miss Etta Kinsley, a women of the half world, died at her place at 1128 Water Street Monday evening. She was 75 years old and had been here seventeen years."<sup>37</sup>

It is surprising how only a handful of newspaper articles can quickly expose the problems and hazards prostitutes faced while living such difficult and violent lives. Sometimes all it takes are a few small details to bring depth to an individual's life. By using these articles, and others like them, a broader understanding of the history of prostitution in Boulder, Denver, Colorado, and the West, in addition to social and reform issues surrounding "fallen women," can be brought to Mary Kingsley story.

### **MARINUS GILBERT SMITH**

A respected member of the community for over forty years and one of Boulder's pioneers, Marinus Gilbert Smith's involvement in the founding and growth of Boulder makes him an ideal person to research because there are many possible sources available. Only a handful of documents have currently been reviewed for Smith's short biography, but they already provide a great deal of information about this innovative man.

Little is known about the first forty years of his life. A few items about his earlier years have surfaced, but I have only been able to verify a few of them so far. Marinus "Marine" Smith is also a good example of how to track an individual from state to state over a period of years, and the difficulty of long-distance research. As you read through Smith's story, I will note what problems I faced, solutions I discovered, and the questions that still need answering.

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<sup>35</sup> *Daily Camera*, 31 May 1894.

<sup>36</sup> *Daily Camera*, 21 August, 12 October 1894.

<sup>37</sup> *Daily Camera*, 16 July 1902.

After the Revolutionary War lands west of the Hudson River became areas of interest for new settlements. The town of Camden in Oneida County, New York became one of these pioneering towns. Built amongst three rivers, Camden became known for its water-powered mills and factories. The town was barely twenty-years-old when Marinus Gilbert Smith was born on May 6, 1819. Nothing is known of Marine's immediate family, and to complicate issues there were many Smith families that made their homes in Camden at this time. Very little is known of Smith's early years except that he lived on the family farm until the age of fifteen when he went to Pulaski, New York to apprentice for several years as a tinner.<sup>38</sup>

*Marine Smith's own pension application provides evidence to his date and place of birth. Questions about his family surfaced after examining the 1820 and 1830 census records for Camden, New York. Early censuses only give the name of the head of household and then the number of males and females in certain age ranges. In 1820 there were seven Smith men with at least one boy under the age of ten. In 1830 only three of the seven had boys in the ten to fifteen –year-old range. These men were Rueben Smith, John Smith, and William Smith. If other biographies about Marine are correct and he grew up on a farm, then Rueben Smith can be removed from the list since he was a manufacturer rather than in agriculture. A preliminary search for "Marinus Smith" was also done on Ancestry.com. There were several entries, all with varying information about him and his family. All conclude William was his father, his mother was Polly (Pond) Smith, and he had five brothers and sisters. Along with using the Ancestry.com family tree as a guide, I hope to contact the submitters of Marine's information to discover what sources were used in the research.*<sup>39</sup>

After finishing his apprenticeship Marinus moved to Knox County, Illinois to start up a stove and tinware shop at they young age of nineteen. A few years later he set up a mail and stage line business. While living in Mercer County, Illinois Smith met Anna Marie Woodruff. They married December 8, 1840 and soon began a family with the birth of their first son Walter in 1842. Seven additional children gradually followed over the years: Jessie, Sarah, Ellen, Estelle, McLane, Jane, and Della.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Ona Schoville, "Camden," excerpts reprinted in "Spotlight on Camden," *Oneida County Historical Society*, <http://www.oneidacountyhistory.org/Spotlight/Camden/Camden.htm> (accessed 30 July 2006); Marinus G. Smith, Mexican War Pension Application File SO 6002; Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys, Colorado* (Chicago: O.L. Baskin & Co., 1880) 679.

<sup>39</sup> Rueben Smith household (the equivalent of page 1), John Smith household (the equivalent of page 3), William Smith household (the equivalent of page 4), 1820 U.S. census, Oneida County, New York, National Archives micropublication M33, roll 73; Rueben Smith household (page 351), John Smith household (page 354), William Smith household (page 353), 1820 U.S. census, Oneida County, New York, National Archives micropublication M19, roll 99; "Marinus Gilbert Smith," Ancestry World Tree entry, Coleman and Fenn Families of Berkshire County, MA, *Ancestry.com*, <http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=cbansbach&id=I17021> (accessed 5 June 2006).

<sup>40</sup> *History of Clear Creek*, 679-680; Smith-Woodruff marriage, 8 December 1840, Mercer County Marriage Book A, Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, *Illinois State Archive*,

Not much is known of Smith's life during the 1840s and 1850s, but his earlier biographies hint at two quite eventful decades. During the first year of the United States and Mexican War in 1846, Marine enlisted in Quincy, Illinois serving one year in Company A of the 1st Illinois Infantry under Captain Morgan's command. Other than mentioning that he participated in the battle of Buena Vista, his military records provide minimal information about his activities. After his military service, Smith supposedly traveled to California during the 1849 Gold Rush where he made \$8000 in one year from mining and stocks. The following spring he returned to his family in Illinois, bought a farm, and pursued farming and other agricultural ventures until news of the Pikes Peak Gold Rush in late 1858.<sup>41</sup>

*A marriage index entry in Mercer County, Illinois provides the date of Smith's marriage. A copy of the original record needs to be ordered to verify facts and hopefully uncover new clues. Smith's compiled military and pensions records are the only primary sources acquired so far for this time period. The early biographical data about Marine were written during his lifetime, and he probably supplied the information about his life directly to the writer. But despite the age of the biographical sources, attempts should still be made to uncover additional clues in other states. Before an attempt is made to locate Marine in California, research needs to be done to better understand the 1849 Gold Rush, locations of boomtowns and mines, and what kinds of records are available for those areas.*

Hearing of the gold finds in Colorado, Marine traveled alone across the plains arriving in Boulder in June of 1859. Based on his experience in California, he did not put too much effort into mining and looked for other ventures. He established a stage and express mail line between Denver, Boulder, and the mountains, and claimed 160 acres of land along Boulder Creek and south of the official town limits. Smith's wife and family joined him in 1862 and they quickly became involved members of the community and made significant contributions during the town's first five years. Marinus helped build the first irrigation ditches in town, he donated land for Boulder's (and the state's) first school house, served as County Commissioner, and was also appointed as Captain of the home guard during a time of heightened fear about Native American attacks in 1863 to 1864.<sup>42</sup>

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<http://www2.sos.state.il.us/GenealogyMWeb/marrsrch.html> (accessed 8 June 2006); Marinus G. Smith, Petition for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed, Boulder County estate file 977, Colorado State Archives, Denver, Colorado.

<sup>41</sup> Marinus G. Smith, 1st Illinois Regiment, Mexican War Compiled Military Service Records; Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Marinus G. Smith, Mexican War Pension Application File SO 6002; Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; *History of Clear Creek*, 679-680.

<sup>42</sup> *History of Clear Creek*, 680; Mary McRoberts, compiler *Columbia Cemetery: Boulder, Colorado, 1870 to the Present* (Boulder, CO: Boulder Genealogical Society, 1997, updated 2001) Anna Maria Woodruff Smith biographical information. Online index found at "Columbia Cemetery Burial

*To date, secondary sources have been my only resources for this period of Smith's life. Research into town records, early land grants, and other early settler's records will be necessary to broaden the scope of Smith's contributions to the community. On a preliminary deed search, the quantity of records was quite overwhelming. Marine certainly bought and sold a great amount of land as well as several mining claims. One item of interest is his service in the home guard during the time of the Sand Creek Massacre on November 29, 1864. Conflicting accounts have him serving during 1863 and 1864, and some state he was appointed by Governor Evans only in mid-1864 during the peak of Indian fears. While Smith could technically be called a veteran of Sand Creek because he served during that period of time, no evidence has been found that he volunteered into the 3rd Regiment or actively participated in the battle. Home guards were common community groups formed to protect the area from Indian attacks. Additional information needs to be found to better understand the circumstances around these events, when Smith served with the local guard, and what responsibilities he faced.*<sup>43</sup>

Later in the 1860s Marinus turned his attention to horticulture. He experimented with different fruit varieties to find ones that were compatible to the area's dry climate. His earlier irrigation efforts and experimentation paid off as his fruit and vegetable farm grew some of the best produce in the area, even receiving top honors for the "largest and best variety of vegetables" in the first annual Boulder County Agricultural Fair in 1869.<sup>44</sup>

As 1870 approached, Smith, a man of fifty, had little intention of slowing down. Smith's eldest son Walter, who worked with him in the stage and express mail business for many years, took over the business around this time, allowing Smith to focus on his farm and other community business. During the early 1870s Marine, along with several other local men who owned large tracts of land, spent a great deal of time subdividing property to help the town grow. In addition to Smith, Boulder expanded its residential property with land contributions made by Wilder, Berkly, Culver, Chamberlain, Squires, and Anderson. When the town needed a new cemetery, Marinus provided some of his land south of town to the local Masons who bought it in April of 1870. Newspapers remarked of Smith's numerous land sales for town expansion to the south side of Boulder Creek by joking, "we have all heard of the man who stole the meeting-house, but Marine Smith is trying to

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Index." *Boulder Genealogical Society*, [http://www.rootsweb.com/~bgs/columbia/columbia\\_intro.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~bgs/columbia/columbia_intro.html) (accessed 24 June 2006); Whitacre and Simmons, *Goss-Grove*, 7-8; Kiki Cohagin and Caroly Murray, compilers, "Register of Early Boulder County Officials, 1861-1872," *Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly* 23, no. 2 (May 1991): 30; "Marine Smith Joins Majority," *Daily Camera*, 12 January 1901; Phyllis Smith, *A Look at Boulder From Settlement to City* (Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Company, 1981) 40, 67.

<sup>43</sup> Smith, *A Look at Boulder*, 40; *Daily Camera*, 12 January 1901; *History of Clear Creek*, 680; "Colorado Volunetters Transcript of Records Index," *Colorado State Archives*, <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/military/trans/index.html> (accessed 1 July 2006).

<sup>44</sup> *Boulder County News*, 19 October 1869.

eclipse that little job, by stealing the town, and moving it over on the other side of the creek.”<sup>45</sup>

Boulder officially incorporated in 1871, and Marine Smith along with Anthony Arnett, James P. Maxwell, Alpheus Wright, and Fred Squires were elected the town trustees. For several days these men worked to organize the town government, incorporate the original town site with three major residential additions, and writing town ordinances.<sup>46</sup> Perhaps it was during this time of town restructuring that Smith received the honor of having a street named after him – Marine Street – located between Arapahoe and University.<sup>47</sup>

*The volume of Smith’s land transactions would make tracking all the deeds incredibly time-consuming, but by focusing on one area at a time, an interesting pattern of neighborhood growth and expansion could be found. The original town incorporation papers have not been viewed yet, so they will make an interesting addition into how Marine contributed to the town government and development.*

Among all the contributions Smith made to his community during his forty-two years of residency, his legacy of bringing the first university in Colorado Territory to Boulder is probably the most visible. He was a strong believer in education and was one of the leaders in bringing the university to town. With strong negotiation by Boulderite Robert Culver, the territorial legislature had decided in 1861 that Boulder would be the location for the university. But it took sixteen years before the university would finally open its doors. To show the government the town was serious, Smith donated twenty-five acres for the university site in 1872, but the town still needed financial help. In 1874 the territorial legislature finally agreed to provide \$15,000 for the school if Boulder could match the same amount. Marine Smith, along with David Nichols and Andrew Macky, took to fundraising around town. With 104 contributions, including Smith’s \$1000 donation, they were able to raise the \$15,000 needed to begin construction of Colorado’s first university. The cornerstone for Old Main was laid on Smith’s donated land in 1875, and the school opened its doors two years later. This first university building took on all the school’s functions, containing the classrooms, library, student dormitory and President’s house.<sup>48</sup>

*The founding of the University of Colorado is a very important part of the history of Boulder. In order to learn more about Smith’s role in the development of the school, a great deal of research needs to be done in the town minutes and records, any diaries by*

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<sup>45</sup> *Boulder County News*, 13 April 1870.

<sup>46</sup> Whitacre and Simmons, *Goss-Grove*, 9; Smith, *A Look at Boulder*, 67.

<sup>47</sup> Phyllis Smith, *A Look at Boulder*, 94-96.

<sup>48</sup> Smith, *A Look at Boulder*, 94-96; *History of Clear Creek*, 407-408; Whitacre and Simmons, *Goss-Grove*, 9.

*those directly involved, newspapers, early university records, and possibly the papers from the early territorial legislature.*

Through the 1870s and 1880s Marine continued his farming and kept very busy with the subdividing and selling of his land. During the 1880s Smith averaged seven property transactions every year, with sixteen being the highest in 1882.<sup>49</sup> In his seventies, Smith continued selling his land despite some apparent signs of mental deterioration. By the beginning of 1894 his troubles became public when the *Boulder Tribune* reported Marine “to be strangely afflicted” and “laboring under hallucinations.” He refused medical help allowing only trusted individuals into the house due to his “fears [of] imaginary enemies.”<sup>50</sup> For a man who had always “been possessed of the vigor, mental and physical, of a young Hercules” the *Tribune* voiced obvious concerns for Marine Smith’s unknown and dramatic mental state. It is not known if Marinus Smith fell in and out of these delusional episodes for several months, but the May 31 flood became the final push past the point of sanity.

Smith’s homestead at 16th and Grove Streets stood in an area of low elevation and put Smith at the center of some of the highest floodwaters. Reports vary, but the water levels reached anywhere from six to twelve feet forcing Marine to the second story of his house. Despite the efforts of many men, Marine refused to leave his home of twenty-five years fearing his enemies would take over his house and possessions. Three days later Sheriff Dyer and several men had to remove Marine from his island house by force. They found him with meager rations made of oyster crackers and sugar, on which he believed he could survive for seven days. Once removed, the Sheriff took him to the county jail’s insane cell where Smith remained agitated and refused to eat.<sup>51</sup>

On June 4, Marine exited the jail appearing lucid but “flighty” as he joked about his circumstances stating, “I did a foolish thing when I broke a window in my house. You see I thought I had brought all this flood down on Boulder and then I began to claw in the ground with my finger nails.” Probably at the family’s request, a judge appointed a conservator to manage Marine’s estate while arrangements were underway to determine Smith’s sanity.<sup>52</sup>

After a second episode only two days after his release, Marine was once again forced into confinement for his own safety. In his cell he occupied himself with small trinkets which he arranged into an imaginary alter and refused to eat. A trial was held on June 12

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<sup>49</sup> Boulder County Deed Index, County Clerk and Recorder’s Office, Recording Division, Boulder, Colorado. A deed search under Marnus Smith’s name revealed multiple listings per decade.

<sup>50</sup> *Boulder Tribune*, 19 January 1894.

<sup>51</sup> *Daily Camera*, 31 May 31, 1-2 June 1894.

<sup>52</sup> *Daily Camera*, 4 June 1894.

to determine Marine's mental state and to decide on the best course of treatment for him. He appeared quite lucid and engaged in the proceedings, prompting his attorney and laughing at appropriate moments. It seemed his paranoia stemmed from the fear that his children wanted his property, and his agitation around the topic of water came from an argument with Robert Culver about an irrigation ditch they dug twelve years prior. The jury found Marine to be "a man so distracted in mind as to be unsafe to remain at large."<sup>53</sup> The judge ordered Smith to be taken to the state insane asylum in Pueblo for a period of time so he could get the help he needed. Smith ultimately felt it was the best course of action and an appropriate place for him to go.<sup>54</sup>

Sadly, Marine never properly recovered at the Pueblo institution. It appears he remained there for several years until he became ill in October of 1896. Ellen Renkes, one of his daughters, brought him back to Boulder so he could live the remainder of his life in familiar surroundings, with his family and friends. While happy to be back home, his feeble state and variable condition required him to live with family members periodically during the last five years of his life.<sup>55</sup>

*Due to the national regulations to ensure medical records privacy (HIPAA–Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996), Marine Smith's records could not be made available to a non-family member. Therefore, all the information about Smith's mental health has so far come from newspapers. Additional combing of newspapers as well as any possible diary entries from associates should be done to get as many details as possible about Marine's mental state over the years. There is no way to know with confidence what Marine suffered from, but it is curious to know that some of his stated symptoms coincide with some symptoms of lead poisoning: loss of appetite, easily excitable, hallucinations, confusion, irritability.<sup>56</sup> Could his years as a tinner have exposed him to enough lead fumes from the solder to cause damage? This diagnosis is certainly speculation, but it does raise questions as to the consequences of a particular occupation has on the health of an individual.*

Marinus Gilbert Smith died on January 11, 1901 at the age of 82. His will states his desired to have "no religious rights or ceremonies performed" and to be cremated, but there were no facilities west of Missouri to handle the cremation task.<sup>57</sup> After a largely attended funeral at Mr. Buchheit's undertaking parlor, he was buried with Masonic

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<sup>53</sup> *Daily Camera*, 6 June, 12-14 June, 17 June 1894.

<sup>54</sup> *Daily Camera*, 6 June, 12-14 June, 17 June, 1894.

<sup>55</sup> *Daily Camera*, 19-20 October, 23 November, 1896.

<sup>56</sup> "Solder," *Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia*, 2006, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002822.htm> (accessed 6 July 2006).

<sup>57</sup> *Daily Camera*, 12 January 1901; Marinus G. Smith will (copy, 23 November 1893), Boulder County estate file 977, Colorado State Archives, Denver, Colorado.

honors next to his wife and other family members in Columbia Cemetery; the same cemetery he helped create thirty years before.<sup>58</sup>

Unfortunately, some of Marine's suspicions about his family wanting his property might have been true. According to the *Daily Camera*, shortly after Marine's death there were "signs of dissatisfaction among the heirs," making one of the original executors, Edward Morath, nervous and decline responsibility of handling the estate.<sup>59</sup> A month later, James Hankins stepped in to become the new administrator. Apparently Marine left behind twenty-five lots of Boulder real estate worth approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. But it appears that nothing could be sold until all the out-of-state heirs were located and gave permission to sell the land to cover debts owed. Finally in December of 1901 a public sale of the property took place and two months later, all debts were paid, and the remaining balance of the estate was divided amongst the heirs.<sup>60</sup>

*The apparent drama that occurred after Marine's death needs to be thoroughly investigated in the newspapers as well as special attention given to the will and estate records. A brief summary was taken of the probate records and these provided a basic chronology for the events in settling the estate. Intensive research needs to be done with these records in addition to the files surrounding his insanity trial to uncover additional details about the last decade of Smith's life.*

### **JOSEPH BEVIER STURTEVANT**

When I began researching "Rock Mountain Joe" I was excited to discover more about one of Boulder's most colorful characters. Little did I know that path would lead me on a series of questions that would challenge the local legend and iconic figure. Joseph Sturtevant's story illustrates how basic questions can take you in *very* unexpected directions, how important it is to find multiple sources on the same topic, and to follow the path of the primary source evidence rather than assume the secondary sources are correct.

Joe's story is a long way from completion. The more I research the more interesting questions surface and new connections are made. Below is a brief look at Joe's early years prior to moving to Colorado. Extra attention is paid to areas of his life I found contradictory to the standard telling of Joe's life's story. While some might interpret the

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<sup>58</sup> *Daily Camera*, 12 January 1901; "Some Early Burials in Columbia Cemetery, Boulder, Colorado," Boulder Genealogical Society Quarterly 4, no. 4 (Nov 1972): 28; Boulder County Deed Index, Book L: 217. Marinus Smith and his wife Ann Maria donated land to the Columbia Lodge No. 14, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons (A.F. and A.M.), hence the name Columbia Cemetery. Alternatively it is referred to as Pioneer Cemetery because it was the first cemetery within the town of Boulder.

<sup>59</sup> *Daily Camera*, 14 January 1901.

<sup>60</sup> *Daily Camera*, 14 January 1901; Marinus G. Smith estate file 977, Colorado State Archives.

presentation of these contradictions as an attack against Joe's character, I find the questions and results intriguing which, to me, makes Joseph Sturtevant a **much** more fascinating individual. Many found the West a place where they could reinvent themselves. Was Joe one of those individuals, or did he just enjoy telling tales of the Wild West? Along the way I will point out the questions I asked, the problems I faced, the discrepancies I found, and the questions that still remain.

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One look at "Rocky Mountain" Joe Sturtevant in his fringed buckskins conjures up images of the Wild West, Indians, and adventure. And that is probably just what Joe wanted you to think. Much of what is known of Joseph Bevier Sturtevant's early life came from him, and biographies and recollections provide little evidence to back up his claims. Due to the lack of documentary evidence, it was necessary to question the items presented as fact. Did Joe really enlist with the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry at the age of ten while with a traveling circus? Was he an actual participant in several brutal Indian skirmishes as a teenager? His apparent military career seemed a bit far-fetched, but I was willing to give Joe the benefit of the doubt. However, the deeper I dug into his early life, the more I began to question what was fact and what was fiction. Even during his lifetime, there were those who questioned the truth of his stories. Some believed that he had told the adventures so many times he began believing he actually lived them. All legends have grains of truth in them to make them believable, and I was determined to begin my search to uncover that truth.

Born February 8, 1851 in Boston, Massachusetts, Joseph Bevier Sturtevant was the second son of Samuel A. and Jemima (Depuy) Sturtevant.<sup>61</sup> Moving from Lowell, Massachusetts around 1849, his parents lived in Boston for several years, before making an ambitious move to western Wisconsin in 1854 or 1855.<sup>62</sup> Samuel Sturtevant applied for and received an 80-acre land grant in the town of Hudson, St. Croix County, Wisconsin in 1856.<sup>63</sup> Located on St. Croix Lake, bordering Wisconsin and Minnesota,

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<sup>61</sup> Robert Hunter Sturtevant, comp., *Descendants of Samuel Sturtevant* (Waco, Texas: privately printed, 1986) Index number 7-679. Nolie Mumej, *Rocky Mountain Joe* (Boulder, Co: Privately printed, 1960) 1. Mumej credits the Sturtevant family bible for the date and place of Joe's birth.

<sup>62</sup> Sturtevant-Depuy marriage, 16 July 1846, volume 25: 34, Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910, Massachusetts Archives, Boston, Massachusetts; Sturtevant, *Descendants of Samuel Sturtevant*, Index number 6-295, 7-678. Listings indicate marriage location of Samuel and Jemima and the birth location of their son Samuel; *The Boston Directory* (Boston: George Adams, 1849) 236, (1850) 302, (1851) 236. For these three years the listings are for a Samuel A. Sturtevant, and in 1851 Mrs. S.A. Sturtevant is listed with an occupation of millinery (ladies hat maker).

<sup>63</sup> Samuel A. Sturtevant, document no. 1010, Wisconsin Land Patents, General Land Office Records, *Bureau of Land Management* <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/Detail.asp?Accession=W10450%5F%5F%2E171&Index=9&QryID=66702.51&DetailTab=1> (accessed 24 April 2006).

Hudson was a young town in an agricultural region, and the Sturtevant's were only a few people of the several thousands moving to the county during the decade.<sup>64</sup>

*The first several years of Joe's life quickly became a period of interest. Conflicting newspaper articles claimed a variety of beginnings: Joe was born in 1848 in Boston; he was originally from Illinois; his family was attacked by Indians while traveling to California; he grew up in California amid the 1849 gold rush; as a young boy the family moved to Wisconsin where his father was an Indian trader; his parents allowed him to live with some nearby Indians in Wisconsin.<sup>65</sup> The only item in the entire list that has been proven is the family moved to Wisconsin when Joe was young. It is quite possible Samuel was an "Indian trader" since he was a merchant of some kind in Lowell, Massachusetts.<sup>66</sup> And it is certainly possible Joe spent time with and learned from the local Native Americans. Further research needs to be done in Wisconsin to hopefully uncover what kind of work his father Samuel did, and what life was like in Hudson during the 1850s. While Joseph's birth certificate still needs to be found, I did find evidence of the family's location during these first years through marriage records, city directories, land grant records, military records, and the census.*

Samuel Sturtevant died on July 2, 1859, leaving Jemima to care for four young children; Samuel Jr. eleven, Joseph eight, Florence four, and Blanche two. No records have been found yet as to the cause of Samuel's death. Jemima supported her family as a milliner making hats and a variety of clothing trimmings. After his father's death, Joe was supposedly apprenticed as a broom-maker, which was certainly a possibility for a young boy. Bored with his apprenticeship it is said he ran off to join Dan Costello's circus. Then upon the outbreak of the Civil War, and seeing the opportunity for great adventure, he left the circus and convinced a recruiting sergeant from the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry to let him join.<sup>67</sup>

*It is at this point in most renditions of Joe's life that the story becomes quite elaborate. One of my first tasks was to find out if Joe served in the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry. I found no official mention of Joseph Sturtevant in that regiment, however, Joe's **older***

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<sup>64</sup> "Historical Census Browser," Geostat Center, *University of Virginia Library* <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/> (accessed 2 June 2006). Using the total population and state search functions, the St. Croix County, Wisconsin population increased from 624 people in 1850 to 5,392 in 1860.

<sup>65</sup> Nolie Mumey, *Joseph Bevier Sturtevant*, 1; *Daily Camera*, 16 April 1910; *Colorado Prospector* 12, no 2 (Feb 1981): 7. Dedicated to the life and times of Joseph Sturtevant, this edition of the periodical includes reprints of various turn-of-the century newspaper articles about Sturtevant. Information taken from the *Walworth Times* (Wisconsin) dated 6 January 1909;

<sup>66</sup> Sturtevant-Depuy marriage, 16 July 1846. Marriage record states Samuel's occupation as merchant.

<sup>67</sup> Jemima Sturtevant household, 1860 U.S. census, St. Croix County Wisconsin, population schedule, town of Hudson, sheet 83, dwelling 627, family 627, National Archives micropublication M653, roll 1428; Mumey, *Joseph Bevier Sturtevant*, 1.

*brother Samuel enlisted at the age of seventeen in Company G of the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry and served from 1863 to 1866.<sup>68</sup> Did he assume the experiences of his brother in order to tell a good story? Young boys did enlist, typically as drummer boys and fifiers, and there is always the possibility that due to his age he was not officially accounted for. Researching company records for any mention of him should be made before ruling out that possibility.*

The military engagements Joe supposedly experienced quickly took him all across the country with a variety of different state military units. With the 4th Wisconsin he would have spent time in Alabama and Louisiana, he next befriended General Alfred Sully and went north. His next battle occurred in Dakota Territory at the Battle of Whitestone Hill in 1863, when he would have been twelve years old. He stayed in the territory until the close of the Civil War then became a civilian scout for the Army. In 1867 he fought along side Captain James Powell in the Wagon Box Fight near Fort Kearny in what is present-day Wyoming. Then in the following year, while transporting mail from Fort Stevenson to Fort Totten in Dakota Territory, Sioux Indians took him as a prisoner for two years. In 1870 he escaped with a companion and floated down the Missouri River in a stolen canoe. Over the next few years he supposedly spent time in St. Louis, New Orleans, Florida and Tennessee before returning to Dakota Territory and Fort Totten where he served briefly under the infamous George Armstrong Custer.<sup>69</sup>

*Besides being a bit fantastic, there is a significant problem with at least one of these stories. In 1870, when Joe was supposed to be escaping Indians and floating down the Missouri River, the 1870 census places him in St. Paul, Minnesota, working as a clerk, and living with his brother, sisters, mother and stepfather.<sup>70</sup> A comment made by his own mother even brings some of his military claims into question. After Joe's death in 1910, his mother told a newspaper that "Joe was an affectionate son" and "it was while he was with her in the Northwest [Wisconsin/Minnesota] that Major Peck took her as his wife, after Joe had reached his manhood."<sup>71</sup> This suggests that Joe did not abandon his family after his father died. Further research needs to be done on the family's activities during the 1860s in Hudson and St. Paul, and also to find out specifically when Joe's mother remarried. Based on census records the marriage took place around 1868. Numerous military records also need to be reviewed in detail. While there is no official mention of*

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<sup>68</sup> *Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers, War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865, Volume 1* (Madison, WI: Democrat Printing Company, State Printers, 1886) 184. Roster available online at the Wisconsin Historical Society, [http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/roster/results.asp?image\\_id=1336](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/roster/results.asp?image_id=1336) (accesses 5 February 2006); Samuel A. Sturtevant, Co. G, 4th Wisconsin Cavalry, Compiled Military Service Records, Civil War 1861-1865, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>69</sup> Nolie Mumey, *Joseph Bevier Sturtevant*, 1-2; *Colorado Prospector*, 7.

<sup>70</sup> William L. Peck household, 1870 U.S. census, Ramsey County Minnesota, population schedule, town of St. Paul, sheet 70, dwelling 414, family 435, National Archives micropublication T132, roll 10.

<sup>71</sup> *Boulder Daily Camera*, 7 April 1910.

*Joe as a civilian Army scout according to the National Archives, it is possible he was hired by a specific regiment, post, or officer.*<sup>72</sup>

Other curious coincidences relating to Joe's supposed military career revolve around William Peck, his stepfather. Prior to marrying Joe's mother, William spent three years serving in Company D of the 30th Wisconsin Infantry.<sup>73</sup> According to a regimental history summary, Company D was one of four companies along the Missouri River that guarded boats and provisions for General Alfred Sully's Northwestern Indian Expedition in the summer of 1863. That autumn Company D assisted in the construction of Fort Sully along the Missouri River in the Dakota Territory just south of Pierre. In September 1863 General Sully battled the Sioux in the battle of Whitestone Hill, the skirmish Joe claimed to have fought in.<sup>74</sup> There is a chance William Peck heard stories from Sully's men due to his close proximity to the troops while building the fort. It is certainly a possibility that William retold some of his war experiences as well as stories he heard from other soldiers to Joe at a later date.

Some time during the 1870s William Peck became a post trader at Fort Totten, Dakota Territory (North Dakota). No specific date has been found to narrow down a year, but by 1880 the census places him at Fort Totten while his wife and family remained in St. Paul, Minnesota. Fort Totten plays into some of Joe's military stories, but there is currently little evidence, other than William's association to the fort, to support Joe's connection to it. If Joe spent time at the fort, the early 1870s with his mother and stepfather is the most likely time, because by 1874 he made his way to Boulder, Colorado to join his older brother Samuel.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> An email correspondence was undertaken with Michael Knight of the Old Military and Civil Records Textual Archives Services Division at the National Archives to see if there were indexes for civilian scouts making reference to Joseph Sturtevant. A preliminary search in the Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, Card Index to Names of Scouts Mentioned in Reports of Persons and Articles Hired, 1818-1905 (Record Group 92) uncovered no mention of Sturtevant. Email from Mr. Knight is dated 20 July 2006.

<sup>73</sup> William S. Peck, Co. D, 30th Wisconsin Infantry, Compiled Military Service Records, Civil War 1861-1865, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Record Group 94; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>74</sup> "30th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry," Union Wisconsin Volunteers, Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, *National Park Service*, <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/regiments.cfm> (accessed 19 June 2006); Jerry Keenan, *Encyclopedia of American Indian Wars 1492-1890* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1997) 248.

<sup>75</sup> Earnest W. Bremmer household, 1880 U.S. census, Ramsey County Dakota Territory, population schedule, Fort Totten, ED 78, SD Dakota, sheet 6, dwelling 32, family 34, National Archives micropublication T9, roll 114; J.S. Peck household, 1880 U.S. census, Ramsey County Minnesota, population schedule, town of St. Paul, ED 5, SD 3, sheet 2, dwelling 11, family 18, National Archives micropublication T9, roll 630.

*The years before Joe's arrival in Boulder have been very difficult to research because there are few sources other than census records that can be accessed easily. The deeper I search into the military pasts of the people Joe knew, the more I think Joe absorbed the stories he heard and retold them as his own. But in order to prove my theory, a great deal of effort needs to be put into researching military records, including William Peck's, and trying to find references to Joe in Wisconsin and Minnesota that might contradict his claims. Like many people doing long distance research, I need to put together a detailed research plan about Joe Sturtevant's early years, with the hopes of eventually traveling to specific towns for research.*

Arriving in Boulder, Joe quickly took up the sign painting profession before going into photography in the early 1880s. The combination of his love of the mountains and photography made him one of Boulder's most prolific and well-known photographers.

Discover more about Rocky Mountain Joe, his family, and career in future installments to his biography, so come back soon!