



# Colorado Biographies



## Mary Lincoln Mellen “Queen” Palmer 1850-1894

- Mary Lincoln Mellon was born in Kentucky in 1850. She was named for her aunt, Mary Clarke Lincoln and nicknamed “Queenie” by her Grandmother Clarke.
- When she was 4, her mother died.
- In 1866, Queen’s family moved to Flushing, New York.
- At 19, Queen met General Palmer while on a train to New York, they became engaged a month later; they were married in 1870.
- In 1870, Queen came to Colorado Springs to visit and named their future home site “Glen Eyrie” after a pair of eagles nesting high in the canyon. She moved to Colorado Springs in 1871.
- Soon, Queen rented space in a building on Cascade Ave. for a school. She had 7 students at first.
- It was Queen’s idea to name the streets of Colorado Springs after streams General Palmer had explored while working for the railroad.
- The Palmers had three daughters: Elsie, Dorothy and Marjory.
- In 1883, doctors advised her that the altitude of Colorado Springs was bad for her health. Queen eventually went to live in England where she died in 1894 at the age of 44.

### Great Resources on Queen Palmer

Black, Celeste. *Queen of Glen Eyrie*. Colorado Springs, BlackBear Publishing, c1999.

Sprague, Marshall. *One Hundred Plus: a Centennial Story of Colorado Springs*. Colorado Springs : Colorado Springs Centennial, Inc., c1971, pp. 1-8.

Blevins, Tim (editor), *Legends, Labors, & Loves: William Jackson Palmer, 1836-1909*. Colorado Springs: Pikes Peak Library District with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and Colorado College, c2009.

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