

Moffat the Rabbit Meets A General



photos and text by Christy Howard



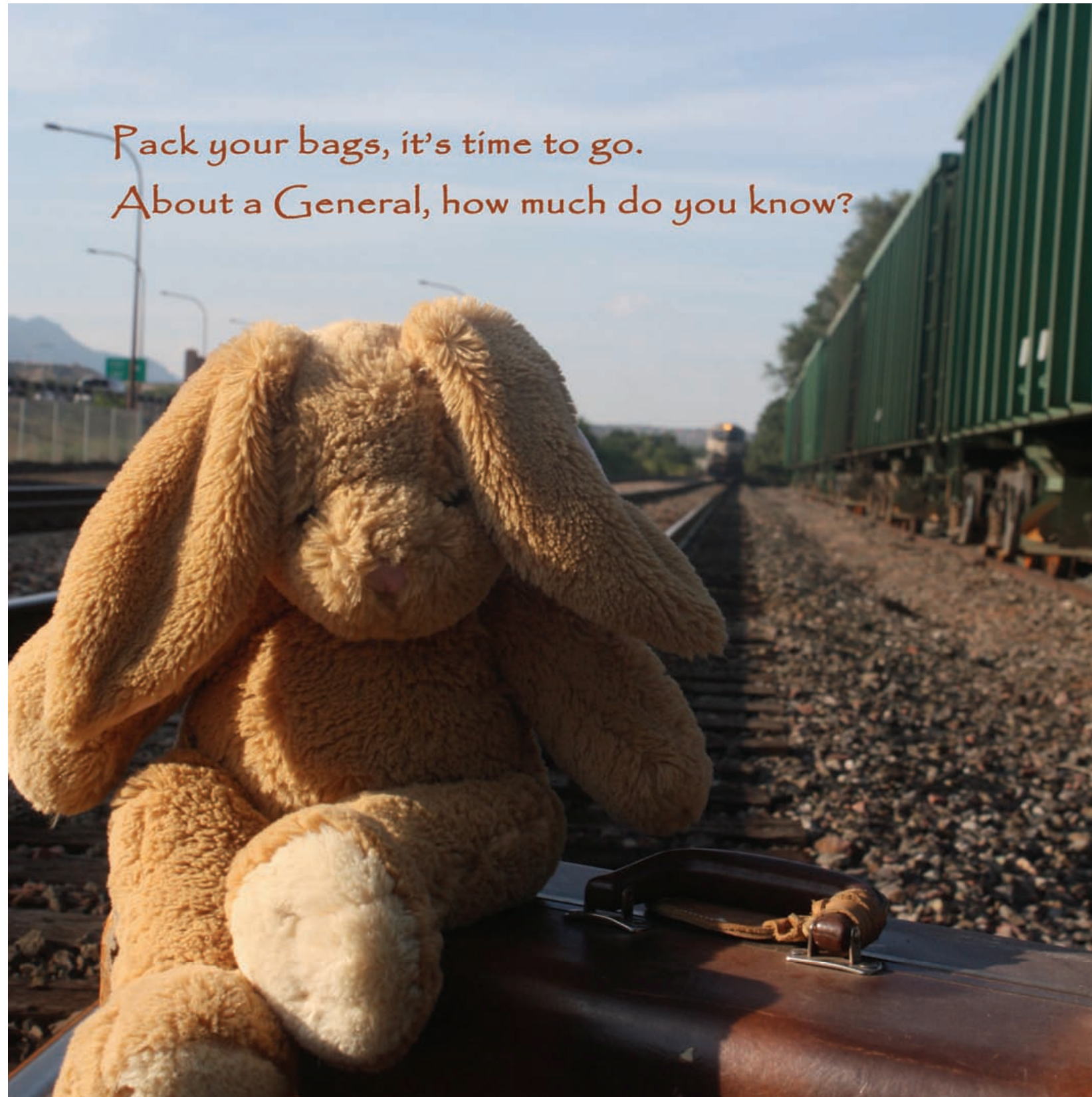
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additional photos courtesy of the
Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Pack your bags, it's time to go.
About a General, how much do you know?

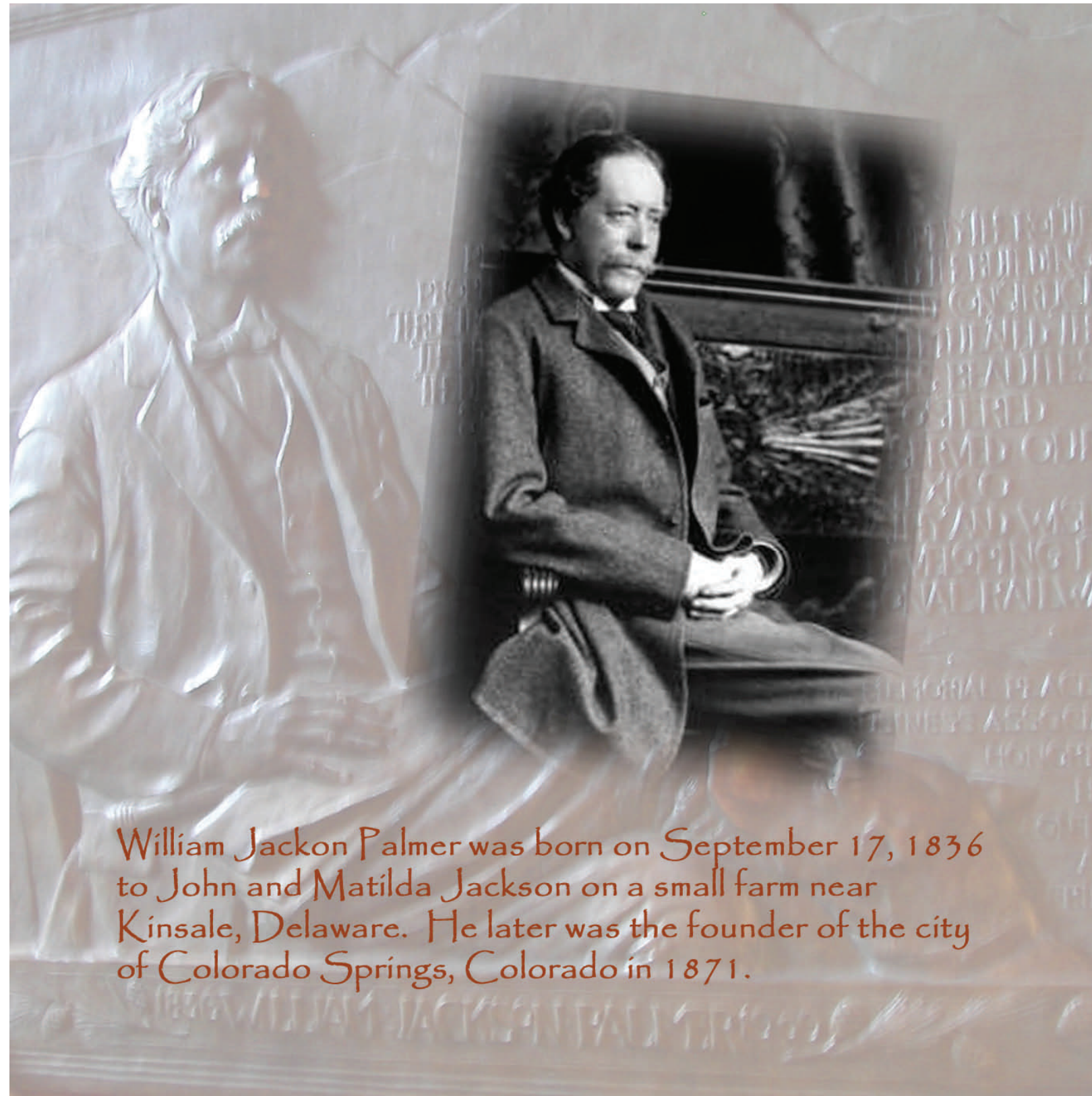




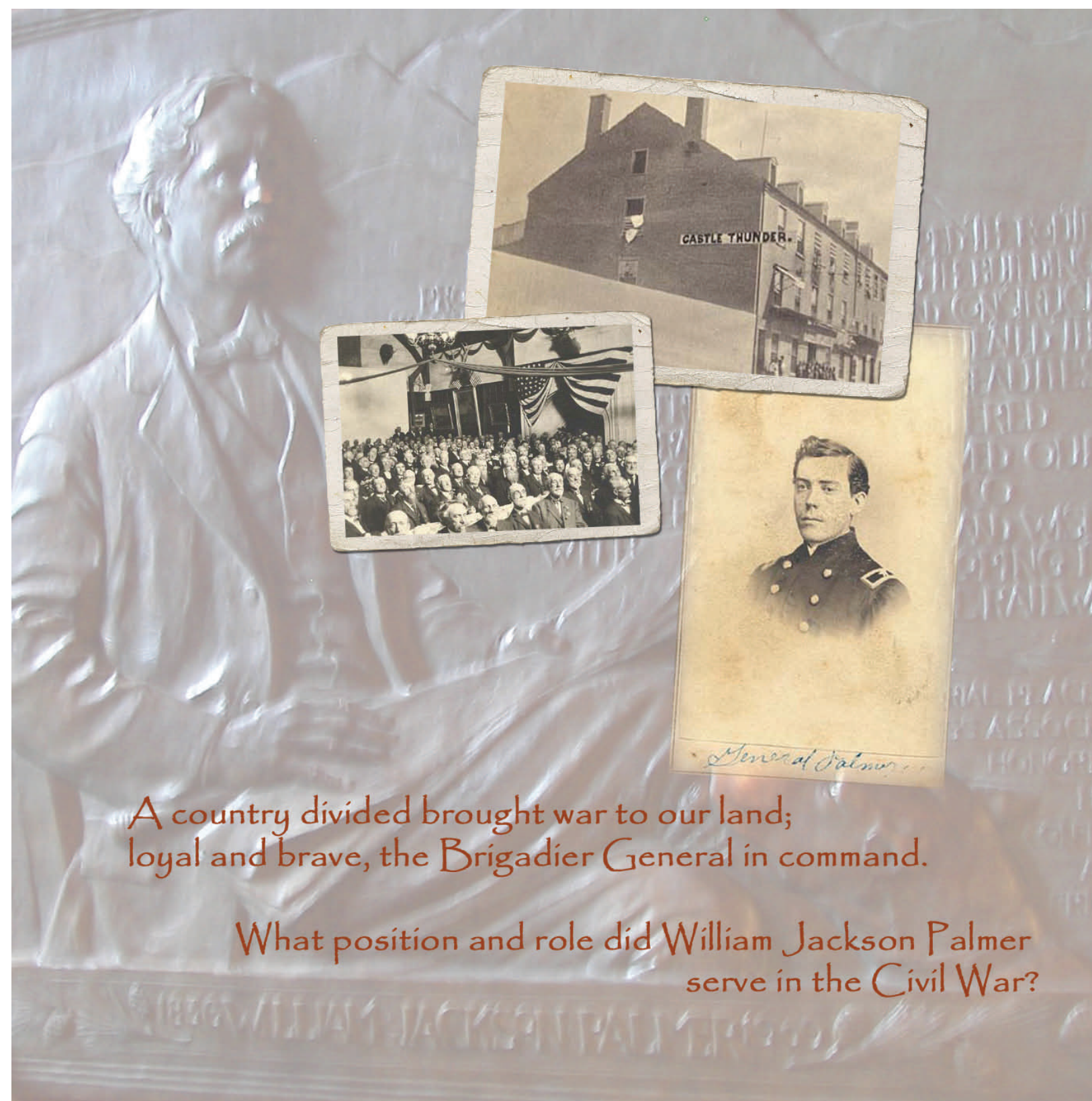
Born on the farm in the first state of Delaware,
only time would tell of the vision he would share.

Where was William Jackson Palmer born?





William Jackson Palmer was born on September 17, 1836 to John and Matilda Jackson on a small farm near Kinsale, Delaware. He later was the founder of the city of Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1871.



A country divided brought war to our land;
loyal and brave, the Brigadier General in command.

What position and role did William Jackson Palmer
serve in the Civil War?



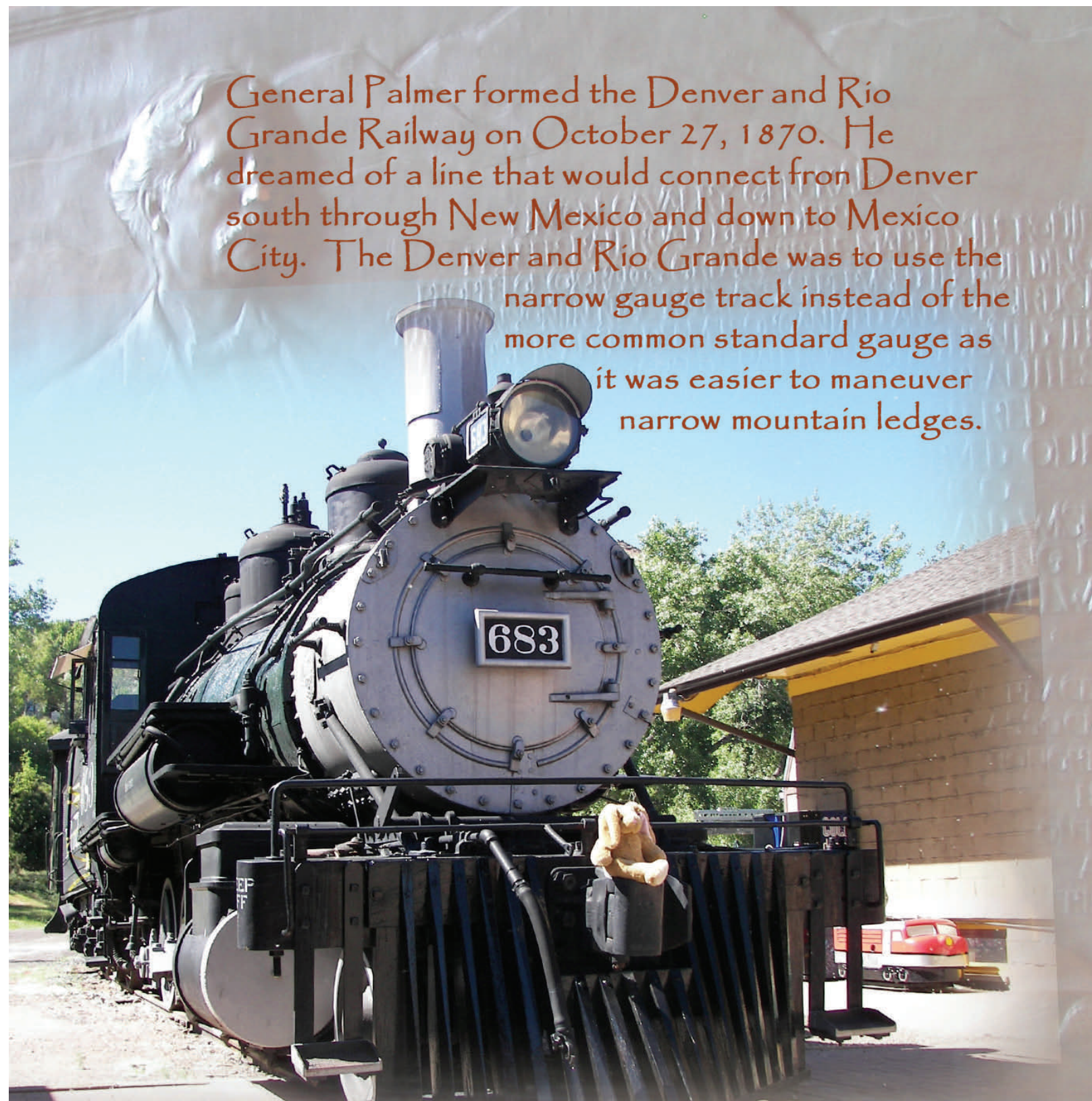
Palmer was brevetted Brigadier General on November 4, 1864 for his efforts in leading the troops during the Civil War and was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.



Engrained in his blood from an early age,
the General preferred narrow to standard gauge.

What railroad company did
General Palmer build?

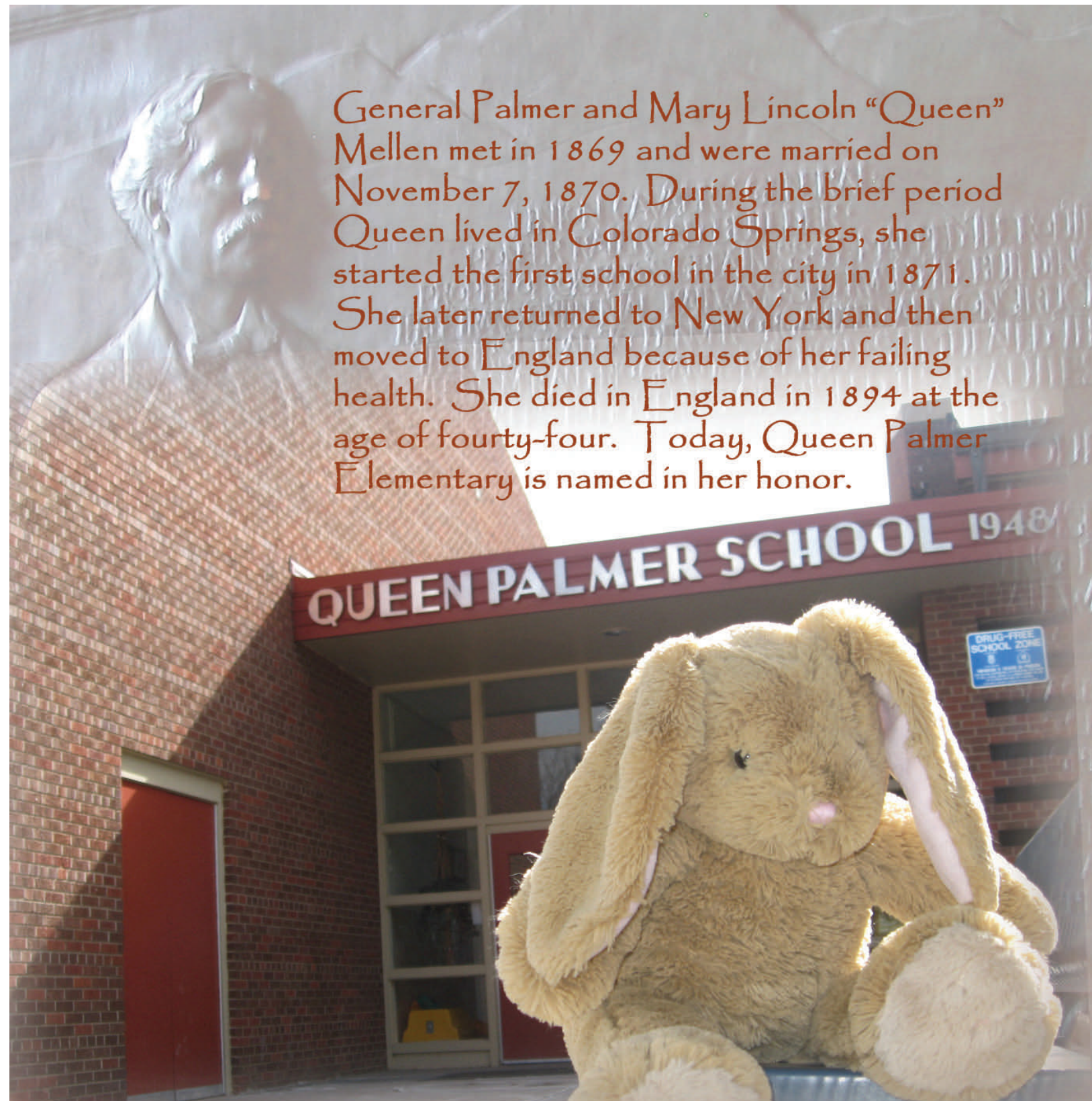
General Palmer formed the Denver and Rio Grande Railway on October 27, 1870. He dreamed of a line that would connect from Denver south through New Mexico and down to Mexico City. The Denver and Rio Grande was to use the narrow gauge track instead of the more common standard gauge as it was easier to maneuver narrow mountain ledges.



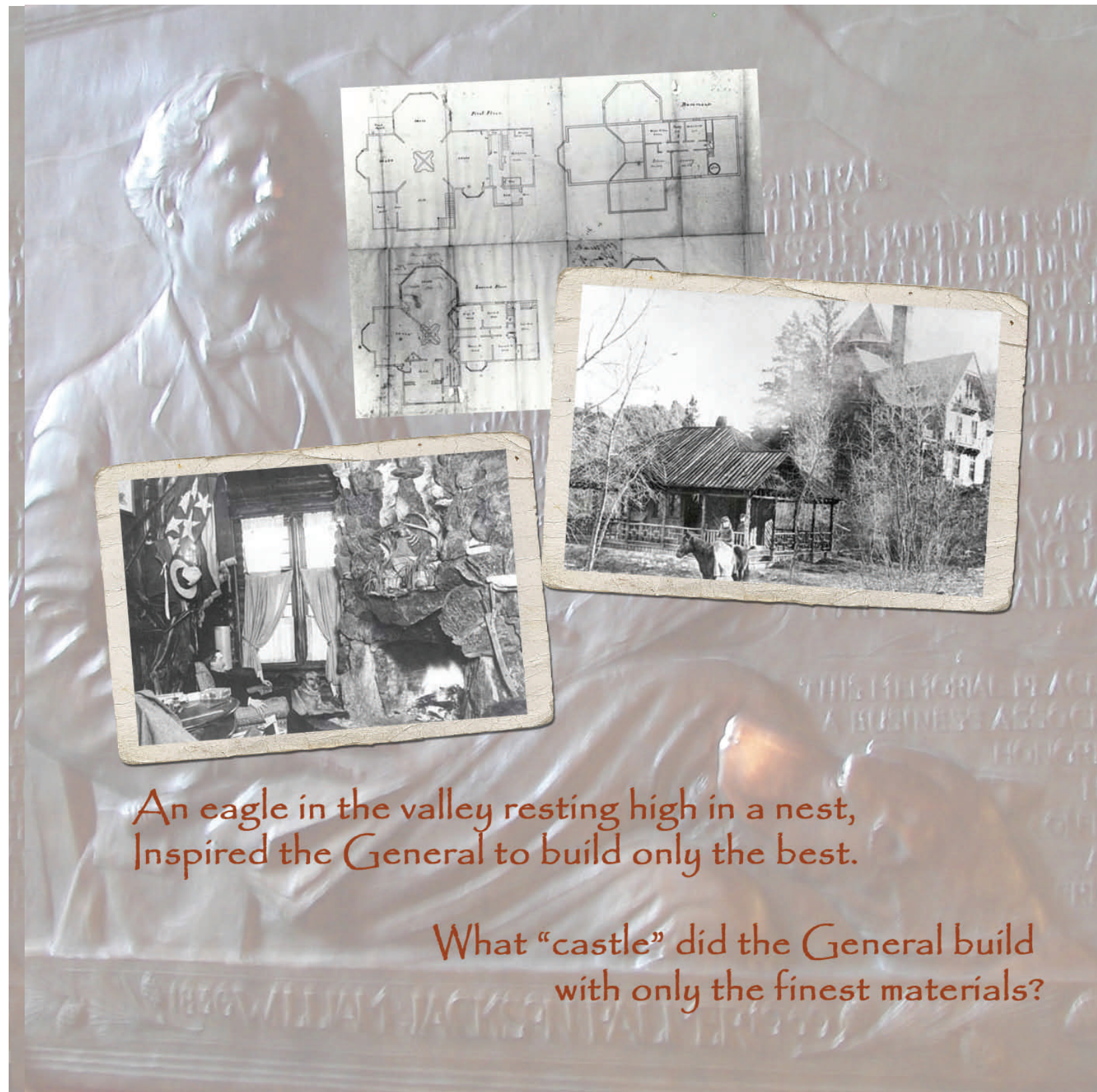


Though not of royal blood, from New York she came;
She fancied the General, Queen was her name.

Who did General meet and later marry?

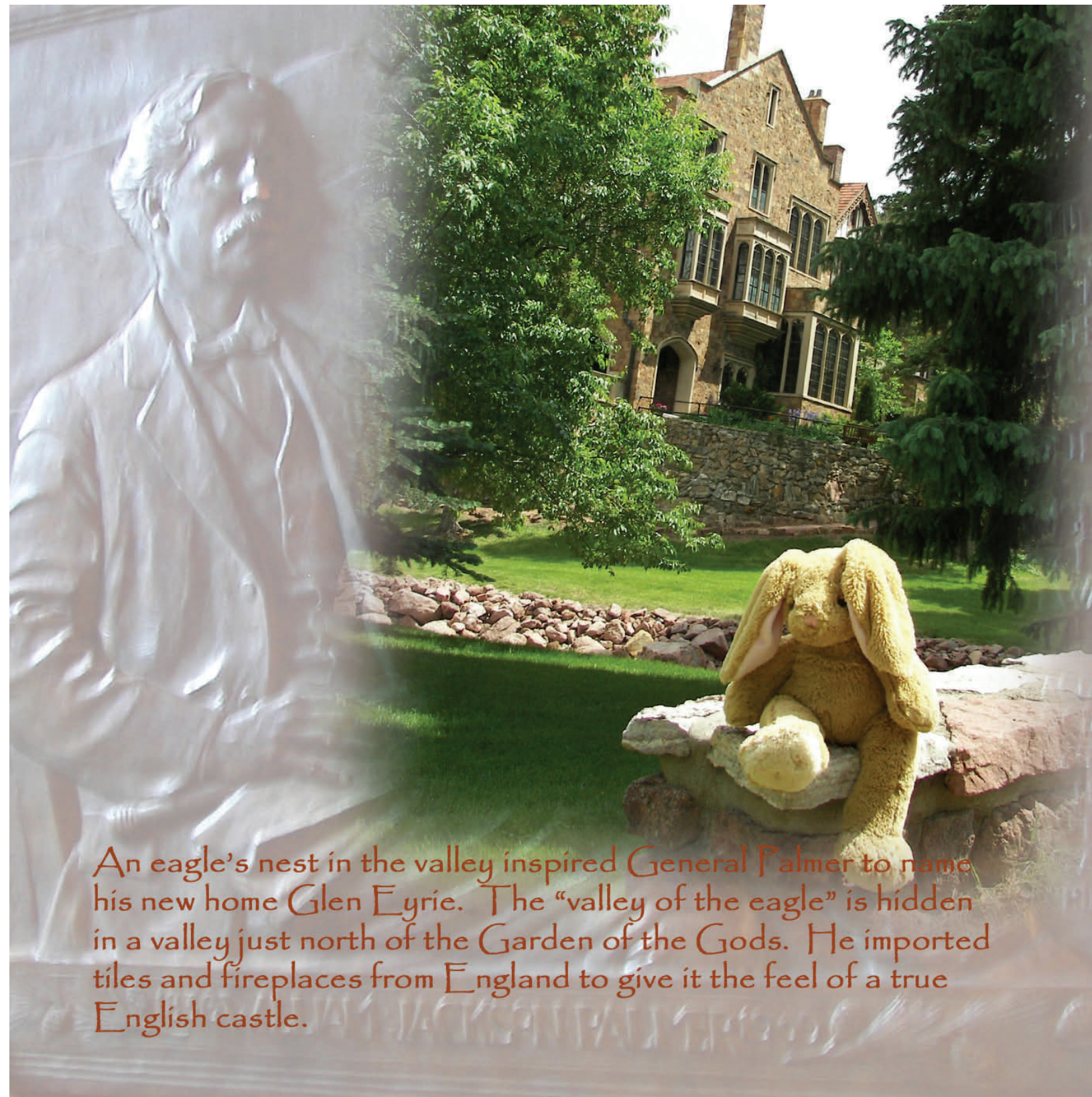


General Palmer and Mary Lincoln "Queen" Mellen met in 1869 and were married on November 7, 1870. During the brief period Queen lived in Colorado Springs, she started the first school in the city in 1871. She later returned to New York and then moved to England because of her failing health. She died in England in 1894 at the age of forty-four. Today, Queen Palmer Elementary is named in her honor.



An eagle in the valley resting high in a nest,
Inspired the General to build only the best.

What "castle" did the General build
with only the finest materials?

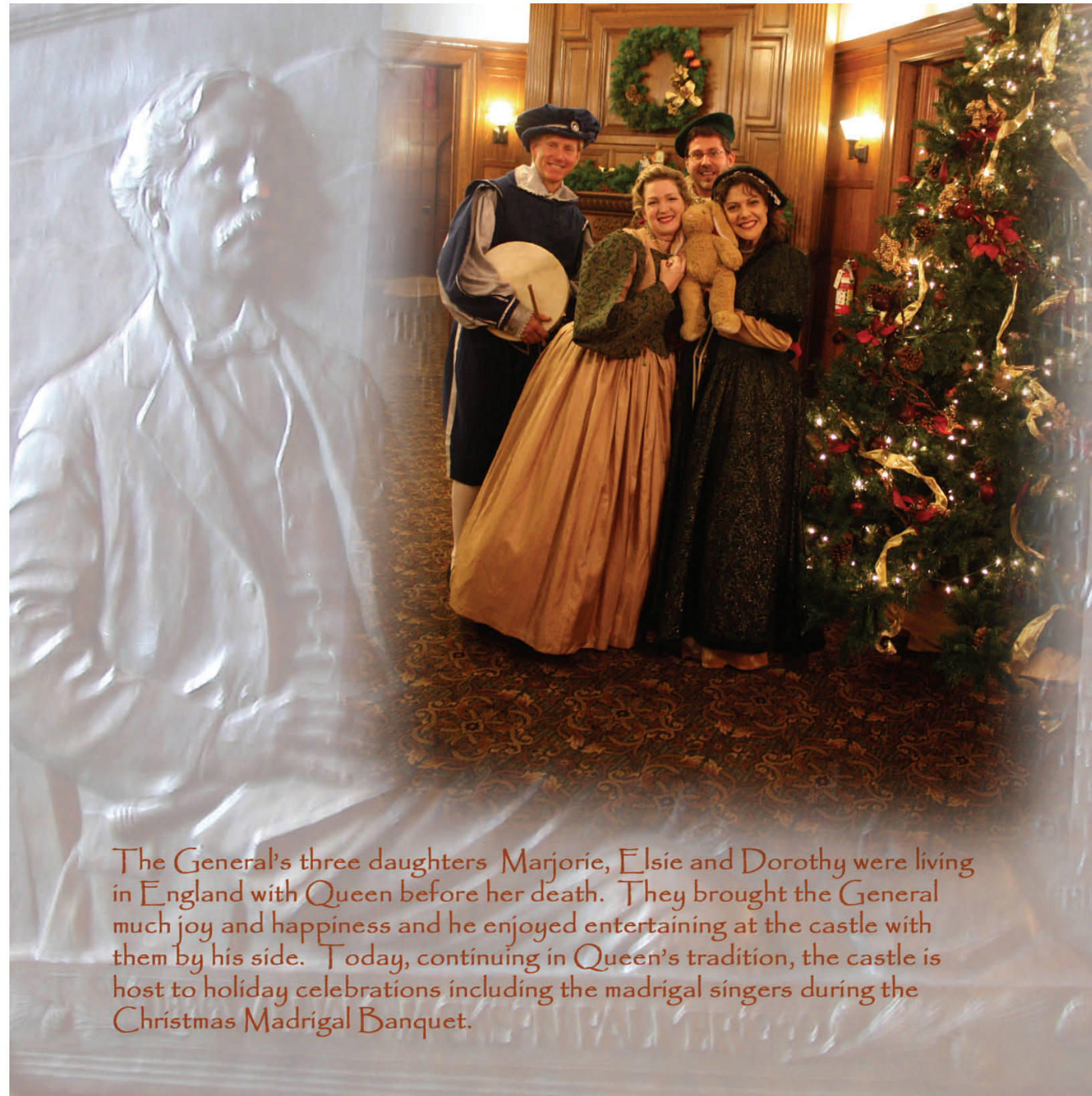


An eagle's nest in the valley inspired General Palmer to name his new home Glen Eyrie. The "valley of the eagle" is hidden in a valley just north of the Garden of the Gods. He imported tiles and fireplaces from England to give it the feel of a true English castle.



Three beautiful daughters brought joy to his life,
returning to the Glen after the death of his wife.

Where were General Palmer's three daughters
living before they returned to Glen Eyrie?



The General's three daughters Marjorie, Elsie and Dorothy were living in England with Queen before her death. They brought the General much joy and happiness and he enjoyed entertaining at the castle with them by his side. Today, continuing in Queen's tradition, the castle is host to holiday celebrations including the madrigal singers during the Christmas Madrigal Banquet.



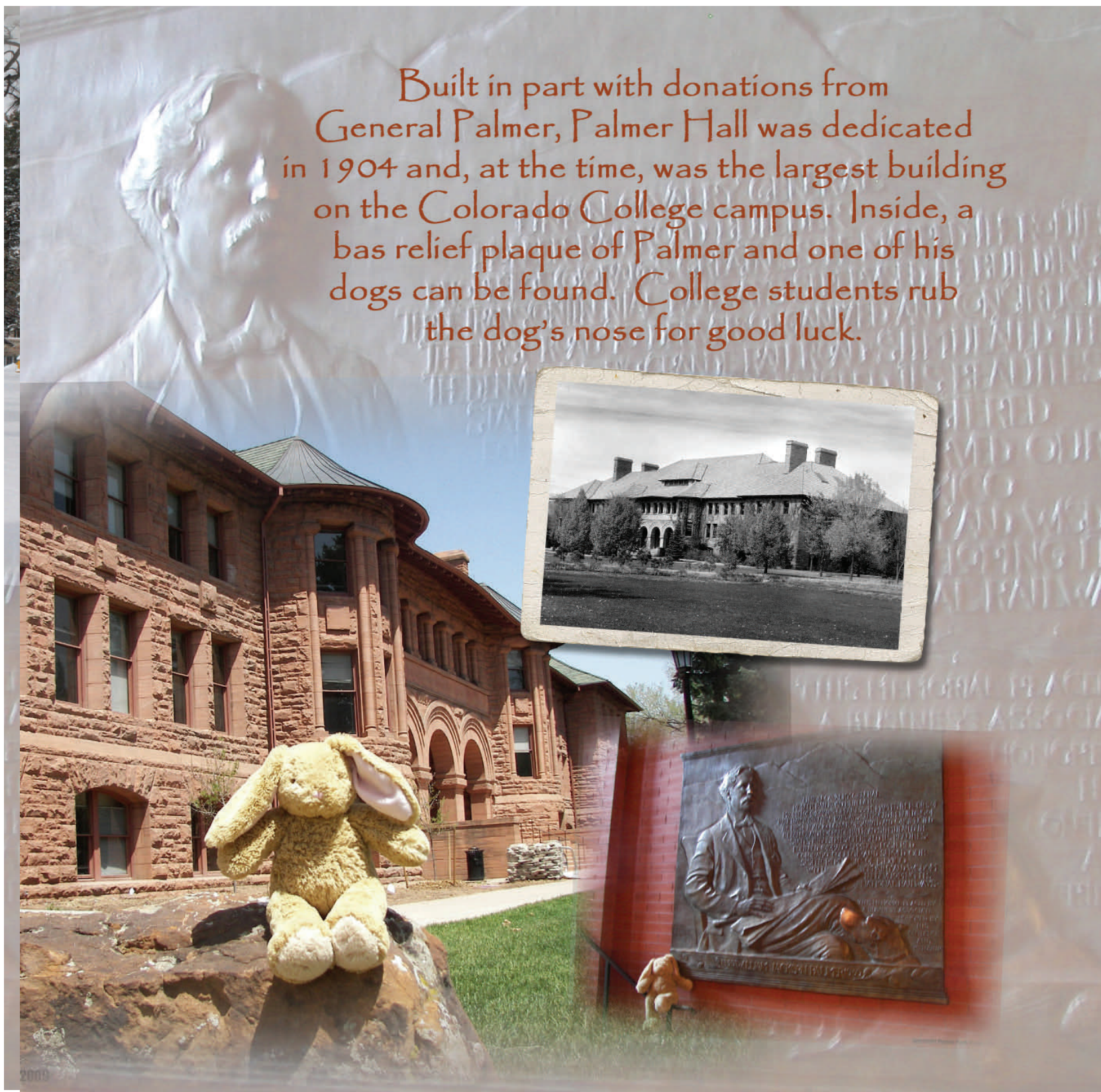
The General on his horse was a common sight to see;
riding hundreds of miles , past streams, rocks and trees.

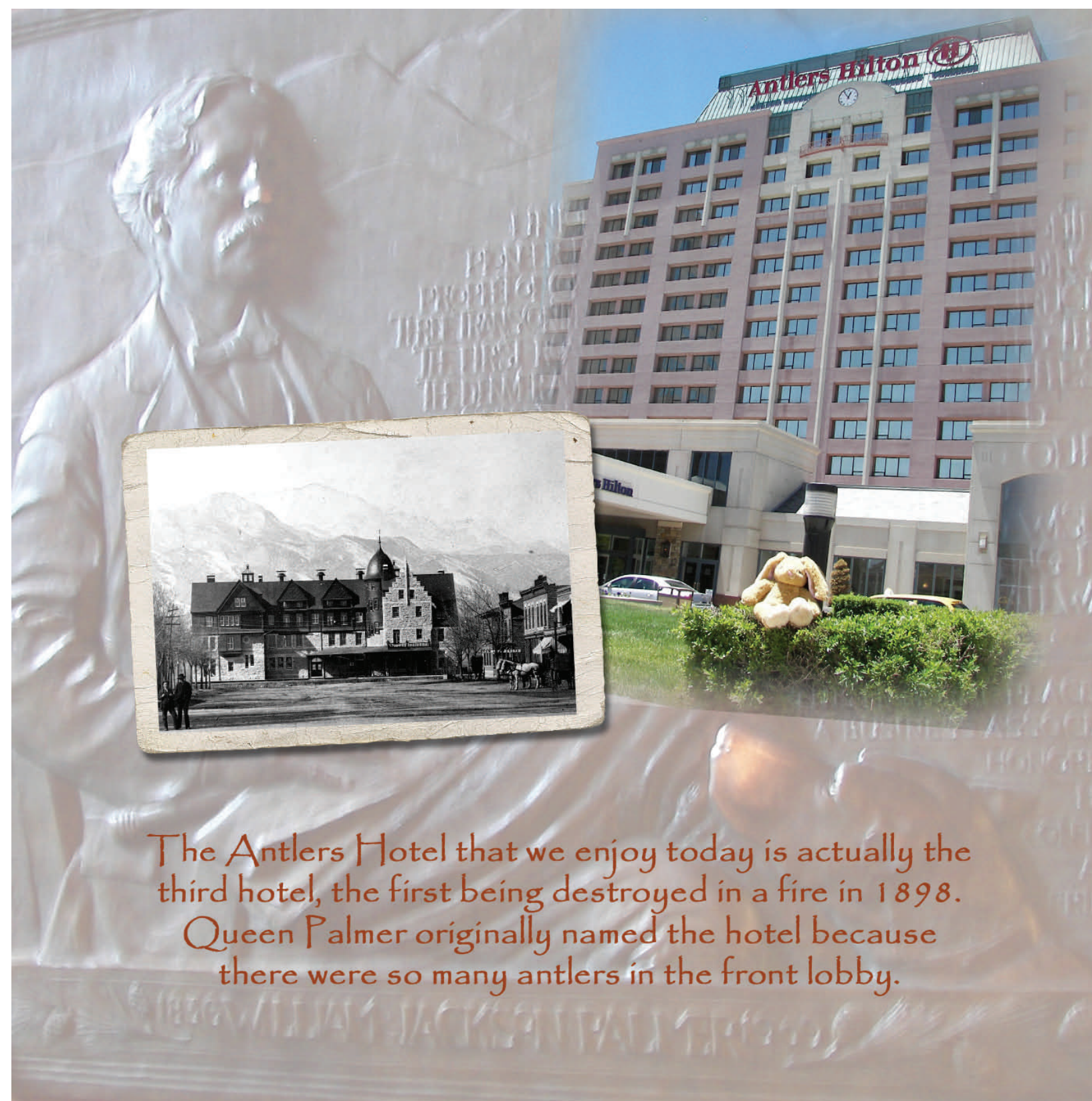
What places in the city can I still visit today to see
General Palmer's lasting influence?



Cutler Hall was the first building of Colorado College and was completed in December 1879. Built on land donated by General Palmer, it was his dream to have education play a major role in the city of Colorado Springs. Today, Cutler Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places and houses the admissions and financial departments of the college.

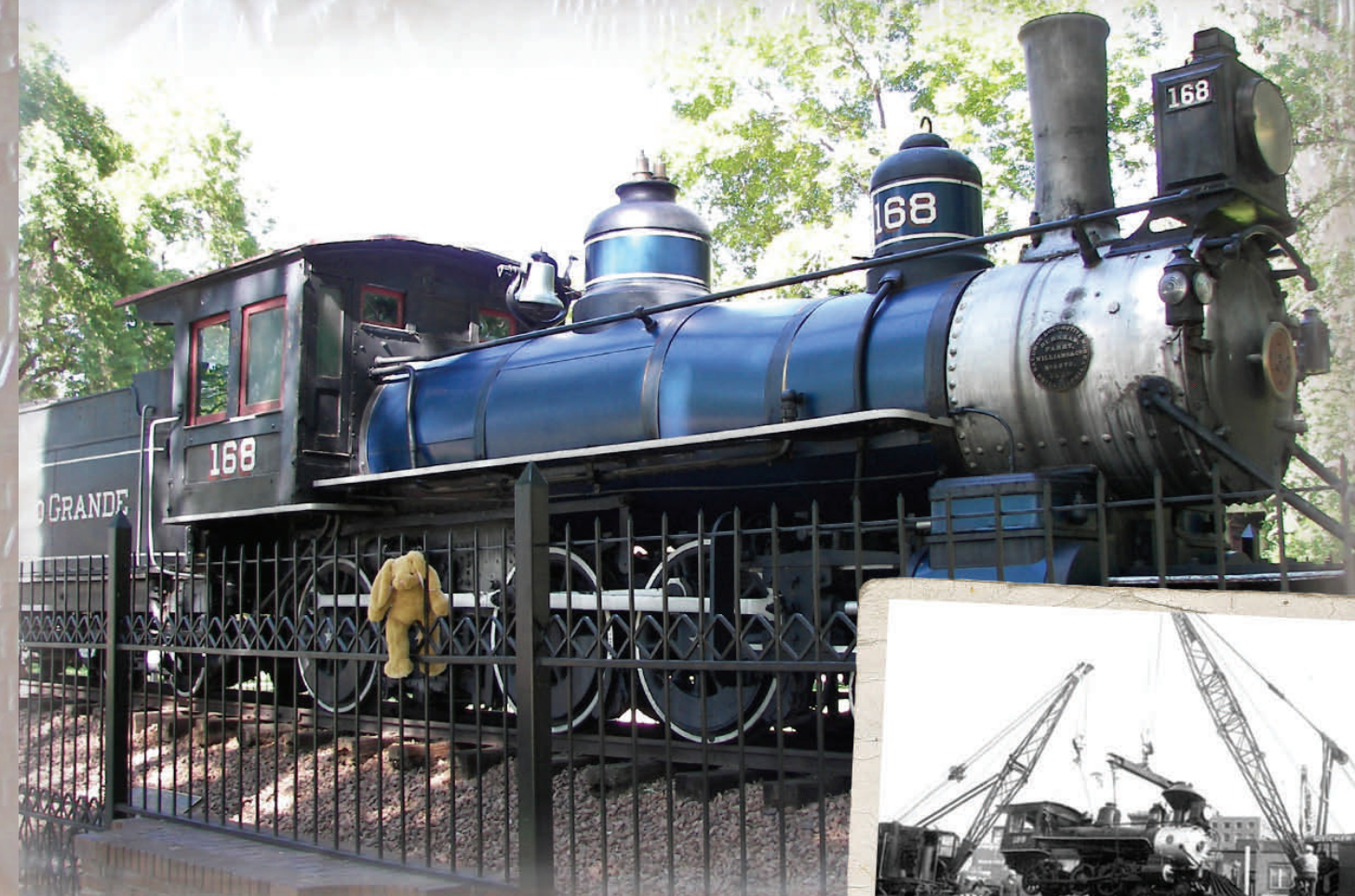
Built in part with donations from General Palmer, Palmer Hall was dedicated in 1904 and, at the time, was the largest building on the Colorado College campus. Inside, a bas relief plaque of Palmer and one of his dogs can be found. College students rub the dog's nose for good luck.





The Antlers Hotel that we enjoy today is actually the third hotel, the first being destroyed in a fire in 1898. Queen Palmer originally named the hotel because there were so many antlers in the front lobby.

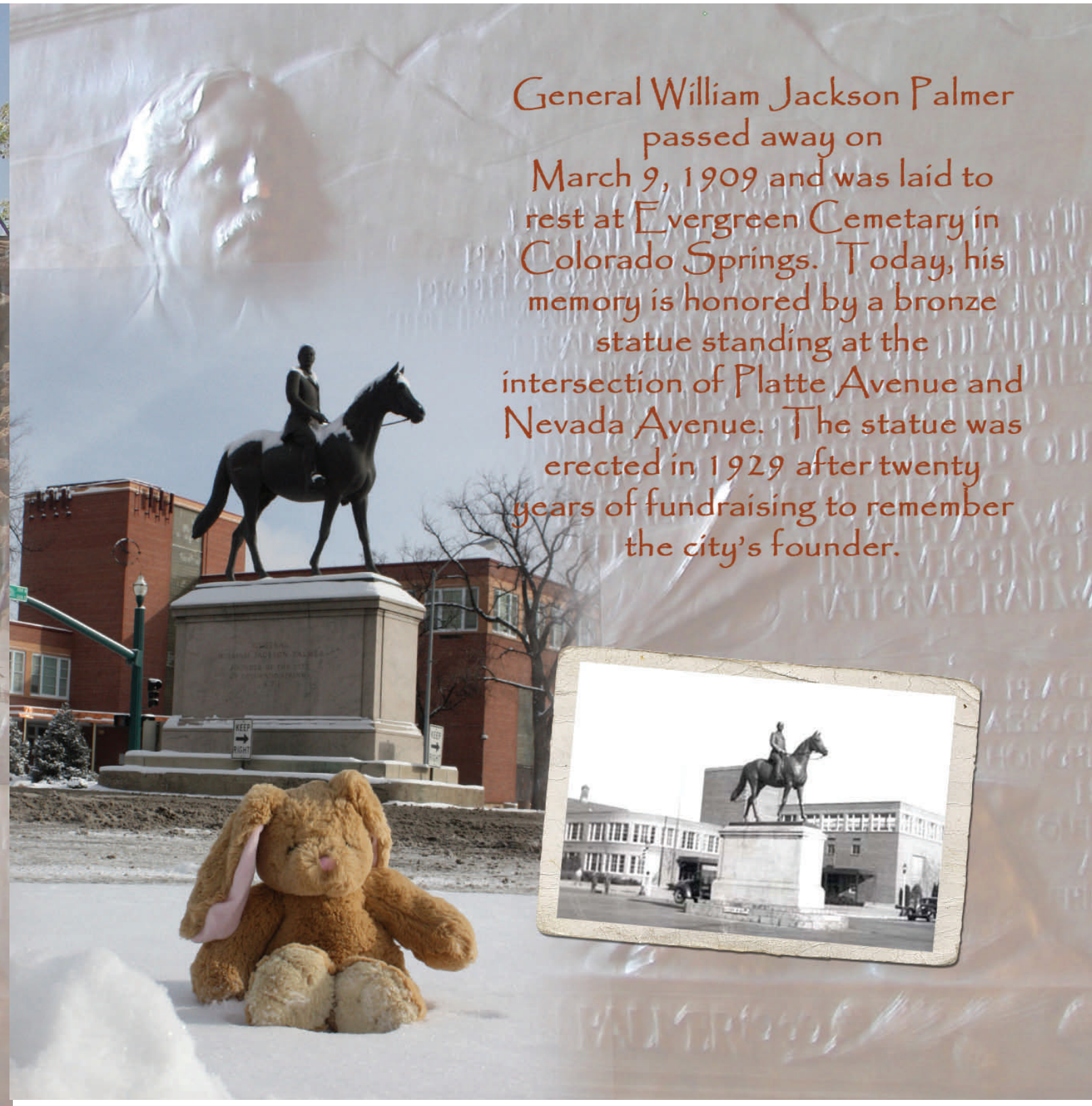
A D&RG steam engine of the past rests
in Antlers Park across the street from the
old Denver & Rio Grande Terminal. Engine
No. 168 came to rest in the park in 1964.





Running along Monument Creek, Monument Valley Park was designed by the General so that no vehicles could drive through it. It is filled with lakes, walkways and playgrounds. The General also had every kind of tree that grows in Colorado planted within the park.

General William Jackson Palmer
passed away on
March 9, 1909 and was laid to
rest at Evergreen Cemetery in
Colorado Springs. Today, his
memory is honored by a bronze
statue standing at the
intersection of Platte Avenue and
Nevada Avenue. The statue was
erected in 1929 after twenty
years of fundraising to remember
the city's founder.





Glossary of Terms

Brigadier General- a one-star officer in the US Army, Air Force or Marine Corps

Civil War-an American war fought between the Union (against slavery) and the Confederacy (for slavery) from 1861-1865

Colorado-the "Centennial State" was the 38th state admitted to the Union

Congressional Medal of Honor- the highest military decoration awarded by the United States government

Delaware- Delaware is "The First State" and is located in the mid-Atlantic region on the east coast

Denver-Colorado's capital city is nicknamed the "Mile-High City" as it sits 5,280 feet above sea level

eagle- the bald eagle is a bird of prey and is recognized as the national bird of the United States

narrow gauge- the width between the rails being 3 feet, 6 inches

standard gauge- the width between the rails being 4 feet, 8 ½ inches

vision- the ability to plan for the future

Recommended Books

(most books can be found on Amazon.com or the local library)

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Photo Credits

(Courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum)

Page 3	Palmer Family Farm, Kinsale, Delaware William Jackson Palmer's mother, Matilda Palmer
Page 4	General William Jackson Palmer
Page 5	William Jackson Palmer, circa 1864 Castle Thunder, circa 1864 15th Pennsylvania Calvary Reunion at Glen Eyrie
Page 7	Palmer surveying, trestle bridge, DRG Terminal in Colorado Springs
Page 9	Mary Lincoln "Queen" Mellen Palmer
Page 11	Original 22-room frame house and cottage at Glen Eyrie, General Palmer in his den, Glen Eyrie floor plans
Page 13	Elsie, Dorothy and Marjory Palmer
Page 15	General Palmer on his horse
Page 16	Cutler Hall at Colorado College
Page 17	Palmer Hall at Colorado College
Page 18	First Antlers Hotel
Page 19	Engine No. 168 being lowered into Antlers Park
Page 20	Monument Valley Park
Page 21	General Palmer statue



Bibliography

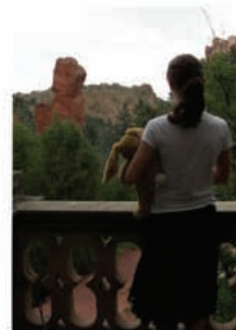
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Author Bio

Christy Howard has been an early childhood educator for 15 years. While teaching kindergarten, she became aware of the need for one central resource for parents and educators to locate regional picture books and non-fiction sources. Through her own travels with her family and children, she became inspired to create a series of books for young children as she saw their genuine enthusiasm to learn about the great cities and states we live in.





This book is dedicated to my good friend Leah and her delightful family!
I am happy I painted the classroom blue.
Thanks for sharing your knowledge and passion for a truly remarkable man.
-Christy

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A Rabbit's USA Adventure

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