

# The Arthur House Gazette

3 3 4 E A S T M U L B E R R Y S T R E E T

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Fine Residence	2
From Cabin to Mansion	3
Bird's Eye View, 1884	4
Fort Collins Courier	6
Poudre Valley Pressed Brick Co.	11
James B. Arthur Obituary	12
Mrs. Arthur Obituary	15
Pioneer Album	17
Sigma Chi Fraternity, 1925	19
A Neighbor Recalls...	25
Arthur Knew Top Investment	20
Arthur House Getting New Role	22
Biography from Denver Library	26



Arthur house 335 E. Mulberry built 1882 - early photograph still standing in 1975.

*Geo B. Arthur*



## A Fine Residence.

The contract for building Mr. James B. Arthur's residence, according to plans and specifications furnished by Nichols & Caumann, architects, Denver, was let last Friday to Richard Burke, Esq., of this town, his bid being \$8,935. This house will stand on the corner of Peterson and Myrtle streets, and will be two stories high, with a basement and an attic, built of brick with stone trimmings. It will be in the modified Queen Anne style, and when completed will present a very fine appearance. The basement is divided into a vegetable cellar, coal cellar, store house, furnace room, ash room, etc. The first floor is arranged for a roomy vestibule connecting with the main hall through an arch, parlor and dining room connected by sliding doors, and each supplied with grate and mantle. A large bay window projects from the east side of dining room. In the rear of the dining room is the kitchen, furnished with china closets and wash sink, and connected with store room, bath room and rear

ea opens on to a spacious veranda. At the rear of the hall, connecting with the dining room, is a commodious family bed-room. The second floor is divided into a hall and passageway, two chambers, sewing room, three bedrooms, trunk room and four closets. The chamber above the dining room is lighted by a large bay window. A ca-

pacious water tank, to be filled with water, is located in the attic for use in case of fire and to accommodate the bath rooms. The ceilings of the first story are twelve feet, and those of the second story ten feet six inches high. The interior finish is of pine, painted and grained. The rooms are all well-lighted and arrangements for proper ventilation are included in the specifications for the construction of the same. Gas and water pipes will be laid all through the house and provisions made for heating the rooms by steam. Mr. Arthur estimates the entire cost of the house, completed and ready to occupy, at about \$19,000. It will be by all odds, the finest and most conveniently arranged residence in town.



## FROM CABIN TO MANSION IN 2 DECADES

Some ex-freighters and Indian fighters becoming prosperous business men in the new city had a series of homes which reflected innovations in style currently popular and suited the different social life they later enjoyed. James Arthur lived south of Timnath in the 1860's. The cabin identified with the Arthur family still stands though moved from the river. His life style was considerably altered when he built his big two-story brick house at 335 E. Mulberry in 1882. The yard was enclosed with a handsome fence. The coach house in the back is now converted into a residence. There were only a few barns between his home and the Remington school which appeared in the background in an early photograph.

Arthur hired Denver architects, Nichols and Canman, and they promised to make his home one of the finest in Fort Collins. The cost was about \$7,000. The style was called "Queen Anne." The hall windows were of frosted glass embellished with a smooth sunken flower design. On the right from the entrance hall were the parlor and diningroom, separated by sliding doors. Both of these rooms had "magnificent mantels of Tennessee marble faced with tiling." The staircase in the entrance hall had solid black walnut balusters, and was lighted by a tier of three windows, the upper half of each with variegated glass. These windows today with the afternoon sun pouring through them or interior lights shining out at night give an impressive beauty to the old home.

The rear of the first floor contained a bedroom, back staircase, kitchen, pantry, and store room. Upstairs there were three spare chambers, a sewing room and four servant rooms. Gas fixtures were installed and a furnace in the basement heated each room through registers.

The Arthurs had no children, so they used this spacious home for friends and church affairs. In 1890 Arthur gave a euchre party for seventy men. After the games when Mrs. Arthur and her helpers were serving refreshments noises arose outside, bell, whistles and commotion. The guests saw many of their wives with signs: "Home Rule," "Give me back my Hubby!", "Innocences Abroad," "Where is my wandering boy tonight?", "Who'll take care of the baby now?" They all fled, escaping detection!

A more formal event was a reception for the Episcopal rector of St. Luke's and his wife in 1896. Rev. and Mrs. D.H. Clarkson received with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur. Mrs. Clarkson wore a white corded silken train trimmed with pearls, white gloves, white flowers in her hair, and carried a white fan. Mrs. Arthur wore pastels and Mr. Arthur a full dress suit.(49)



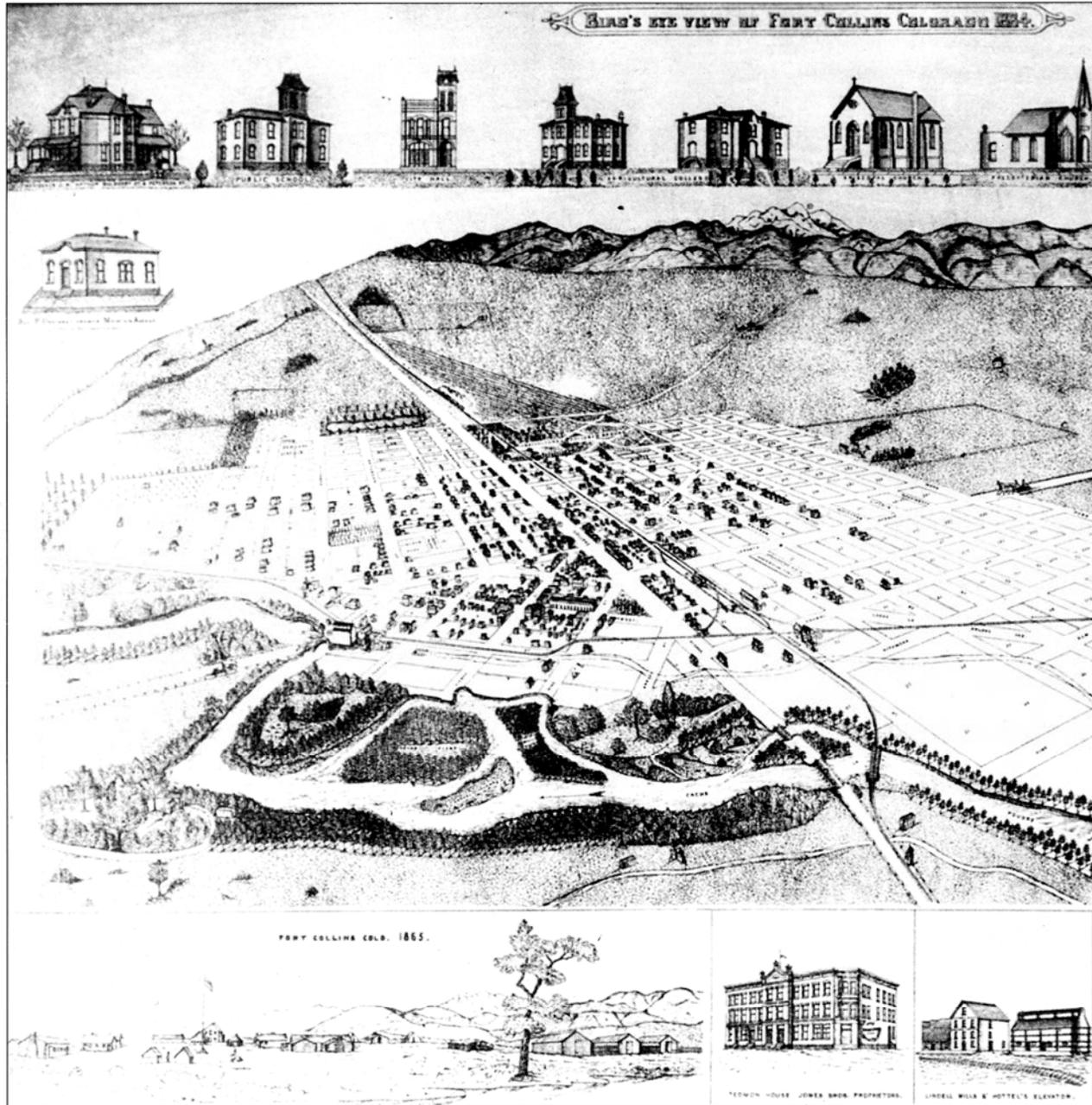
Arthur cabin south of Timnath used in early 1860s still standing in 1975.



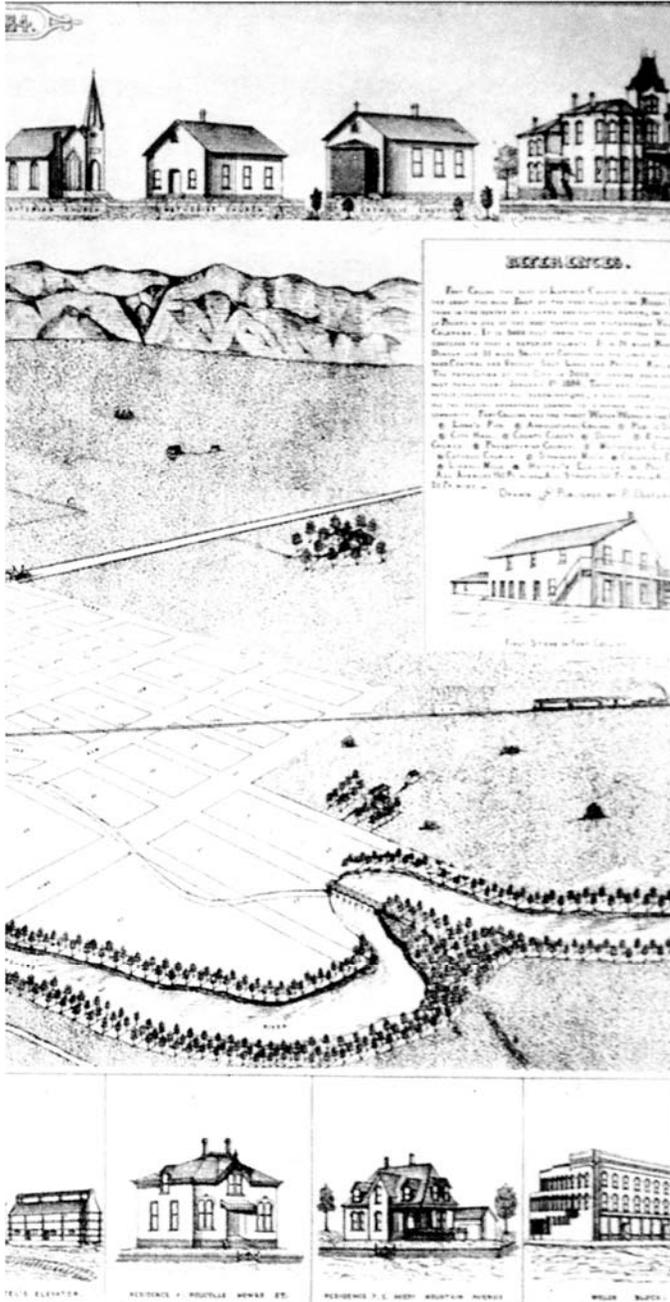
This story is an excerpt from  
*Fort Collins Yesterdays*

"A guest who cannot and does not enjoy himself or herself at their beautiful home is incapable of experiencing the pleasures of good cheer and genuine hospitality."





*"Bird's Eye View of Fort Collins, Colorado, 1884." Mapmaker Pierre Dastarac located a pond in the upper left hand corner of map. College Avenue is the widest thoroughfare. The Cache la Poudre map. Courtesy, Fort Collins Public Library.*



*a pond near College Avenue and Lake Street  
la Poudre River meanders at the bottom of the*

## A ROUSING CELEBRATION IS ALREADY ASSURED

Messrs. J. B. Arthur, James A. Brown and Dr. Geo. H. Glover, composing the general committee appointed at Monday night's meeting of citizens to carry into effect the unanimous desire of this community for a Harvest Festival, to be held October 20, met at the city hall on Tuesday evening, and organized by electing Ex-Senator J. B. Arthur chairman, and Carl Anderson secretary.

This done, the committee proceeded to appoint the following sub-committees to assist in arranging for and in directing and managing the celebration:

Entertainment committee: Mayor P. J. McHugh, F. C. Grable, Prof. J. W. Lawronce, Senator W. A. Drake, Jesse Harris, C. E. Welch and M. F. Tyler.

Barbecue committee: Sheriff John A. Cross, Abner Loomis, N. C. Alford, F. P. Stover, I. W. Bennett, Clark Smith, Carl Anderson, W. B. Mner and Tom Beach.

Finance Committee: A. W. Scott, E. D. Avery, V. U. Wolf, T. A. Gage, J. A. C. Kissonck.

These committees embrace some of the most patriotic, active and energetic citizens of Fort Collins and when they take hold of a matter of public interest it is bound to go through.

The people of the city are enthusiastic over the movement for a Harvest Festival and will lend united aid to make it a record breaker.



Publication: Fort Collins Weekly  
Courier (Fort Collins, Larimer  
County);

Date: September 30, 1903

# FORT COLLINS COURIER.

MAY 22, 1884

Mr. James B. Arthur of this city, on the 14th. inst, sold out his entire herd of cattle on the range in the Powder river country, says the *Cheyenne Leader* of May 15th., to the Big Horn Cattle company for a consideration of \$90,000. The sale includes a number of ranches in that region of country.

OCTOBER 7, 1886.

JAMES B. ARTHUR,

Who was the unanimous choice of the convention for county commissioner, is, like Mr. Sullivan, a pioneer of Larimer county, and one of the county's leading and most influential citizens. His active brain and ready hand has aided no little in the development of the resources of the county. He came to Colorado at an early day, poor in pocket but rich in the elements that go to make the perfect man; rich in enterprise, energy and determination, and by diligence, prudent management and the exercise of rare judgment, is now rich in the possession of a goodly share of this world's goods. He is a stockman by occupation. He is every inch a gentleman, and, in point of intelligence, executive ability and good business capacity, is the peer of any man in the state. His character as a man and a citizen is without a blemish. If elected, he will bring to the discharge of the important duties of county commissioner rare good judgment, a ripe experience and a disposition to mete out exact and impartial justice to all having business before the board.



JAN 20, 1887

The handsome grove of native timber situated on the north side of the river, opposite the city, formerly owned by Mr. Vecelius, has been purchased by a syndicate of five prominent citizens, viz. Abner Loomis, W. B. Miner, James B. Arthur, E. W. Reed and F. C. Avery, with a view of converting it into a free park. The grounds will be laid out and improved in an attractive manner, and the free use of them tendered to picnic parties and celebrations, whether from home or abroad. In the event that the city should desire to purchase the property for park purposes, we are informed that the owners will sell it for just what it has cost them. The spirit manifested by these enterprising gentlemen is commendable, and we are sure their generous offer will be fully appreciated by the people of Fort Collins. The grounds are admirably adapted to the purpose for which they are to be used, being shaded by a beautiful grove, and situated on the banks of the picturesque Cache la Poudre.

## POUDRE VALLEY BANK

[INCORPORATED.]

FORT COLLINS, COLO.

PAID UP CAPITAL, \$100,000

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Abner Loomis, President.  
 Jas. B. Arthur, Vice President.  
 Chas. H. Sheldon, Cashier.  
 Verner U. Wolf, Ass't. Cashier.  
 C. B. Andrews, N. C. Alford, T. H. Robertson,  
 W. C. Stover.

Sight drafts drawn direct on the principal cities of Europe. Collections receive prompt attention.

# FORT COLLINS COURIER.

Fort Collins Courier, December 28, 1882

<Previous sea

to be.

Mr. Henry Meyer, of Denver, a fresco artist of superior merit, arrived in town last evening. He comes to do the painting and frescoing on the James B. Arthur mansion, Mulberry street, on which he will commence work to-morrow. The job which Mr. Meyer has recently been engaged on, and which he has just completed, was the interior of the Colorado National bank, in Denver, which is pronounced the finest piece of frescoing in Colorado.

AUGUST 11, 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Arthur tendered their guest, Miss Bessie Ross, of Greeley, who is a charming and accomplished young lady, a brilliant reception last Thursday evening, at their beautiful and hospitable home, corner of Mulberry and Peterson streets, this city. The invited guests were The evening was enjoyably spent at progressive eucher, and the hours sped swiftly away on wings of pleasure. After the excitements and pleasures of the game were over, the guests were served with refreshments of a very palatable character, and otherwise royally entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur. A guest who cannot and does not enjoy himself or herself at their beautiful home is incapable of experiencing the pleasures of good cheer and gaiety.

The Poudre Valley Pressed Brick Co., formed to manufacture pressed building brick, vitrified pavers and drain tile, has been incorporated at Fort Collins, Colo., with \$100,000 capital stock. The officers of the company are Peter English, president; James B. Arthur, vice-president; Frank English, secretary, and F. D. Stover, treasurer. The works when completed will have a daily capacity of 30,000 brick.

JUNE 25, 1896.

President James B. Arthur of the Rocky Mountain Stucco and Manufacturing company, is in receipt of an elegantly embossed bronze medal accompanied by an elaborately engraved certificate, being the World's Fair medal and certificate awarded his company for the excellence of its product and the enterprise shown in developing a new and important industry at Red Buttes, Wyoming. It is one of the three medals awarded to Wyoming, and, naturally enough, Mr. Arthur feels very proud of it. The fame of the excellence of the products of the Rocky Mountain Stucco and Manufacturing Co. is extending to all parts of the country and the demand for its plaster of Paris and cement is daily on the increase.

MAR 29, 1900

Ex-Mayor James B. Arthur returned last Friday from a business visit to the Red Buttes, Wyoming, plaster works, of which he is general manager. He reports everything working smoothly and a ready market for the products of the works.



Fort Collins Courier  
June 21, 1883

Mrs. James B. Arthur arrived from California last Wednesday. She will, next month, be joined by her husband, who is detained on business, and they will then occupy their elegant new residence on Mulberry street.



Fort Collins Courier  
May 5, 1887

On Friday evening last, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Arthur gave a most enjoyable progressive eucher party at their handsome and very hospitable home, on Peterson street, in honor of Miss Hattie Ryan, of Loveland, who has been their guest for a number of days. Thirty guests were invited and all were present except one. There were present the Misses Carrie Armstrong, Julia Burke, Nettie Blount, Jennie Fowler, Nelia Handy, Lillie Handy, Kate Galbraith, Letitia Kelley, Kate Lee, Lelia Loomis, Anna Maxwell, Grace Mandeville, Grace Patton and Hattie Ryan, and Messrs. Frank and Albert Abbott, G. T. Budrow, Harry Carpenter, S. E. Clark, W. Driscoll, J. Hanna, W. P. Handy, E. J. Bennett, C. G. Mantz, A. J. Hottel, T. H. Robertson, F. J. Spencer, A. W. Scoot and H. E. Wheeler.



Fort Collins Courier  
October 21, 1886

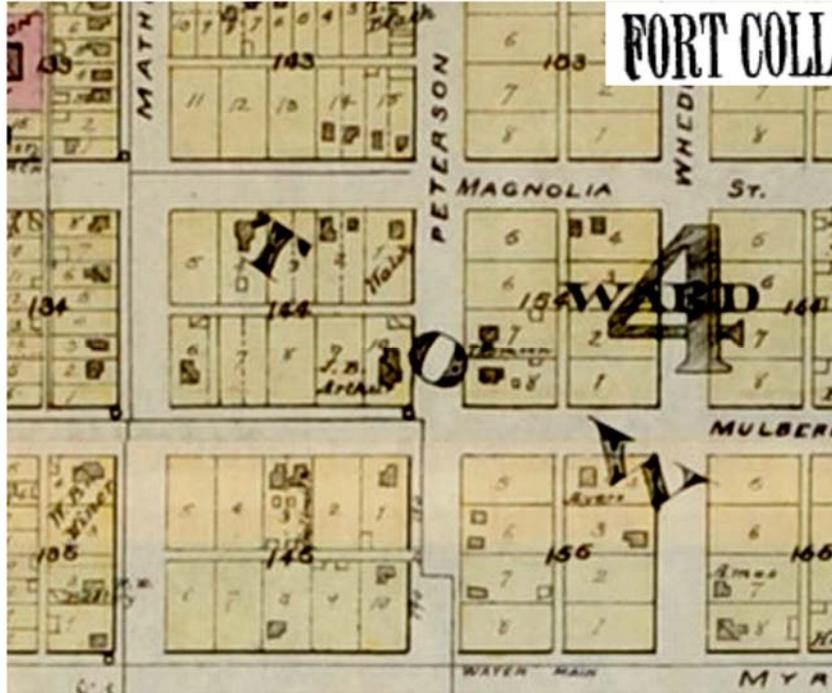
IN JAMES B. ARTHUR, who asks the suffrages of the people for the office of county commissioner, the people have a man whose record all through life, public and private, will bear the closest scrutiny. He is peculiarly fitted by nature and education for this very responsible and highly important position, and it is conceded by republicans and democrats that the public will greatly promote their interests by electing him county commissioner.



Fort Collins Courier  
February 12, 1885

Mr. James B. Arthur, of Fort Collins, an old-time cowman, came up to Cheyenne Wednesday evening. Mr. Arthur made a very pleasant visit at the *Journal* office and related many interesting incidents in connection with the cattle business in Wyoming in "early days." He is now a "retired citizen," but will probably be obliged to purchase a few cows just to keep from growing lonesome, if for nothing else.—*Cheyenne Live Stock Journal*.

In 1862 [Territorial] Governor John Evans appointed Mr. Mason, Wm. B. Osborn of Big Thompson, and James B. Arthur of Cache la Poudre the first board of county commissioners.



For Aldermen, Fourth Ward.

(Vote for Two.)

JAMES B. ARTHUR.  
Place of residence, 334 E. Mulberry st.  
Place of business, 334 E. Mulberry st.

Independent Reform.

CHARLES A. BLACK.  
Place of residence, 427 Smith st.

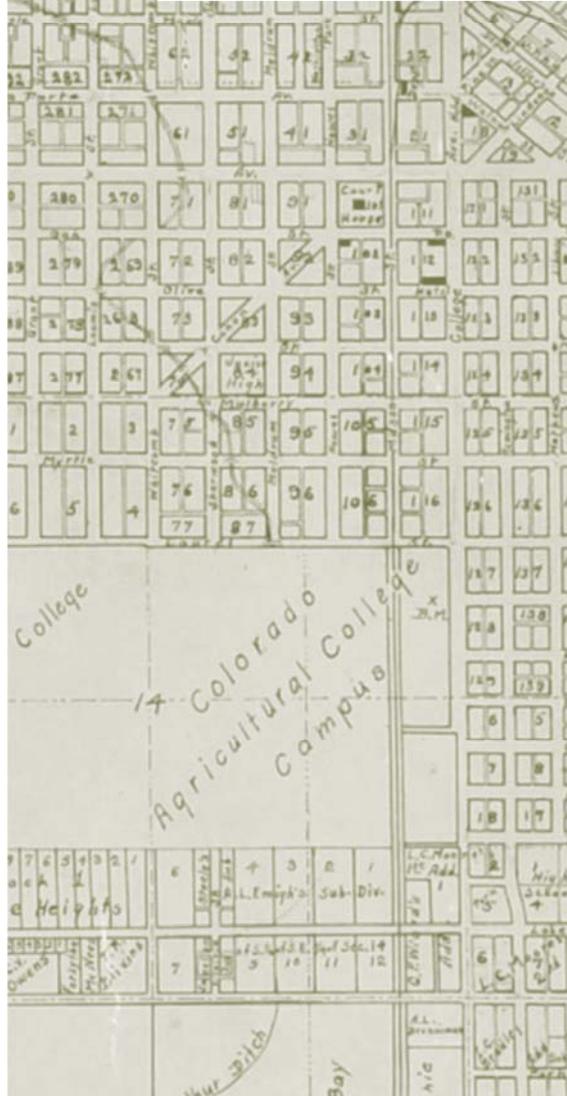
MAR 29, 1889

THERE are five aldermen to be elected this spring and these five will constitute a majority of the new board. The hold-overs are C. R. Welch, F. N. B. Scott and James B. Arthur, all good men and true. No effort should be spared to select and elect five equally as good men to fill the places of the five retiring aldermen. The city is in debt and there is urgent need of a council composed of conscientious and well trained business men who will manage the financial affairs of the city in a careful and prudent manner.



## FORT COLLINS COURIER.

JAN 30, 1902



A CAREFUL reading and thoughtful consideration of the matters set forth in the report of Messrs. James B. Arthur and P. Anderson—published in full in this issue—is seriously commended to all interested in the erection of a sugar factory for Fort Collins. These gentlemen—as is already known—were sent east by the sugar factory committee, to interest capitalists and manufacturers in the establishment of a sugar factory here and their proceedings under that commission as well as the results of their efforts are fully, clearly and comprehensively set forth in the report, which, together with its recommendations, has been approved by the full committee. As appears by this report the only thing in the way of a complete realization of our hopes touching a factory is the fear of capitalists that congress may prove unfriendly to the beet sugar industry by disturbing the duties now levied on imported raw sugar. While it is not believed by the best informed that congress will take any action that will injuriously affect the growth of so important an industry as that of beet sugar making, yet, until the question is settled, there is an element of uncertainty respecting it that serves to prevent present investments along that line. We must, therefore, wait until congress determines upon its course of action. If this action is delayed too long, we shall not be able to get a factory this year. As we can do nothing to hasten the action of congress, we are compelled to make the best of the situation.

B. F. COEN, B.L., '00, Univ. of Wis.  
1906, Professor of English, Colorado Agricultural College, 334 E. Mulberry St., Fort Collins,

# COLORADO STATE COLLEGE

of

Agriculture and the  
Mechanic Arts  
for 1904-05

Prospectus for 1905-06

CHARLES A. LORY, M. S. (Univ. of Colorado), Profes  
Physics and Electrical Engineering.

Residence, 901 Stover

B. F. COEN, B. L. (Univ. of Wisconsin), Professor of Eng  
Residence, 334 E. Mulberry

ROBERT W. GAY, C. E. (New York Univ.), Associate Pr  
of Civil Engineering.

Residence, 639 Matthews

H. M. BAINER, M. S. (Iowa State College), Professor of  
Mechanics.

Residence, 900 Smith

LESLIE F. PAULL, A. M. (Brown), Associate Profes  
Horticulture.

Residence, 704 Remington

S. L. MACDONALD, B. S. (Ind. State Normal), Profes  
Mathematics.

Residence, 424 W. Olive

HARRY D. HUMPHREY, Capt. U. S. A. (Ret.), Profes

**BETA TAU**, Prov. 13—Colorado Agricultural  
College, 334 E. Mulberry Street, Fort Collins,  
Colo.

Wednesday evening

FRANK E. FERGUSON, *Consul*

CHARLES M. ROSS, *Asso. Ed.*



## Wanamaker's Beginning

The number of men who fall on account of lack of courage is enormous. The number who would refuse to let go of a dollar if they knew positively that it would bring back two is astonishing. Such men merely exist. They don't live. They never really amount to anything.

The men who win are the men who think out the right course to pursue and then back up their convictions with their last penny and their last ounce of energy.

The first goods John Wanamaker ever sold brought him \$33. He delivered his goods in a wheelbarrow. He collected the \$33 and went directly to a newspaper office and planked it down for advertising space.

Some men would have spent \$1.50 for some cheap dodgers and "saved" the rest. They would have been wheelbarrow merchants today.—Shoe and Leather Facts.

If Wanamaker were doing business here, he would advertise in this paper.

## A USEFUL LIFE COMES TO A CLOSE

Ex-Senator James B. Arthur Suddenly  
Called to the Great  
Beyond

Fort Collins was inexpressibly shocked when the announcement was made on Friday afternoon that Former State Senator James B. Arthur, one of the foremost citizens of Northern Colorado was dead. It came so suddenly and so unexpectedly that friends were unwilling at first to credit the story, but when the truth was at last forced upon them a feeling of grief and sorrow overspread their faces, immediately supplanting the look of incredulity. Up to the day before his death Senator Arthur had been about town attending to his usual duties, apparently in the best of health and spirits. On Thursday morning he complained of not feeling well and kept to his room and bed all day, the family physician being called during the day to administer to his ailment, which was thought to be a temporary stomach trouble. On



Friday morning he seemed to be better and in the afternoon dressed and came down stairs unassisted, but even then the grim reaper was stealthily approaching and had almost laid his clammy hand upon the beloved friend and citizen.

While sitting in his easy chair listening to his wife as she opened and read the day's mail his head fell backward and his breathing became irregular. This attracted Mrs. Arthur's attention and she went to his side only to find that he was in the throes of death. The family physician was immediately summoned by telephone but when he arrived at the house his patient was beyond human aid, death ensuing a few moments later from neuralgia of the heart.

Mrs. Arthur is prostrated with grief over the affliction that has so suddenly come upon her and words of consolation from devoted friends fall upon unlistening ears. The entire community is also stricken with sorrow for the loss it has sustained in the death of Senator Arthur, and all hearts are filled with sympathy for his bereaved companion.

James B. Arthur was one of the noblest of men, a clean, honorable, high-toned gentleman. His integrity was unquestioned, and his word was the equivalent of a bond. What he promised to do, that he did without fail. In his domestic and social life he was one of the most charming of

# A USEFUL LIFE COMES TO A CLOSE

(CONTINUED)

men, genial, kind and obliging. His home life came as near perfection as it is possible for human beings to attain. He loved his home and his friends and was by them beloved in return. As a citizen he was among the first: loyal, public spirited and enterprising, suffering no opportunity to pass without saying or doing something to advance the social, moral and material interests of his home town, county and state. He was charitable to a degree and generous to a fault, his purse always being open for the relief of the suffering and distressed. He was, in fact, a model husband, friend and citizen.

James B. Arthur was born in County Londonderry, Ireland, in March, 1835, of Scotch lineage, his grandfather, Arthur, having been a native of Scotland. The father, James Arthur, was born in Ireland, and was a farmer and stock grower by occupation. He was three times married, and by his union with Mary Booth of County Tyrone, he had five children, three of whom attained years of maturity, namely, James B., the subject of this sketch, John, who was accidentally killed on April 15, 1878, by a runaway team, and Jane, wife of William Jessup, who died in Hoboken, Pennsylvania. Save two half sisters, Rozetta, of Allegheny City, and Grace, who is married and lives in Pittsburg, the deceased was the last of his father's family.

In 1849, when fourteen years of age, Mr. Arthur started for America, and

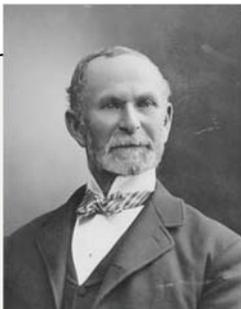
on arriving in this country joined his sister in Pennsylvania. In Pittsburg the boy found employment in a grocery store, where he remained for eighteen months. He then secured work as a cabin boy on an Ohio and Mississippi steamer, later being promoted to the post of clerk. His boat plied the waters of the rivers between Pittsburg and New Orleans in winters, while the summers were spent on the great lakes. Quitting the lake trade in 1858, he came west as far as Nebraska City, joining his brother John at that place.

When the Pike's peak excitement broke out he determined to seek his fortune in Colorado, and in the spring of 1860 he came across the plains with two yoke of oxen and a wagon. After spending a short time in the

---

mining districts of Gilpin and Clear Creek counties, he decided that the best thing for him to do would be to cut and make hay and haul it to the mining camps. This he did, locating a claim in the Cache la Poudre valley about eight miles east of this city. There were then only two tents in the valley and about six houses. The village of Laporte was as large then as it is now, its inhabitants being French and Indians.

The hay that he cut Mr. Arthur hauled to Central City and Black Hawk, ninety miles distant, using first two yoke of oxen but later three and four yoke and several wagons.



## A USEFUL LIFE COMES TO A CLOSE

(CONTINUED, PG 3 OF 3)

He had none of the modern improvements to assist in his work, and was forced to cut all his hay with a hand scythe. Prices were high then and the expense of living was considerable. Bacon was as high as 45 cents per pound. In 1863 he went to Missouri and bought a bunch of cattle, which he drove across the plains and embarked in the cattle business.

In 1883 Mr. Arthur closed out the open range business and moved to Fort Collins, where he built a handsome home in which he had since lived and where he died. Since then Mr. Arthur has been identified with several important business enterprises, all of which have proved successful. In Bay City, Michigan, Mr. Arthur married Mary Kelley, who survives him.

In 1864 Governor Evans appointed Mr. Arthur a member of the board of county commissioners to perfect the organization of Larimer county, to which position he was chosen by the public at the following election, serving on the board until 1871. For two terms he served his ward as alderman in the city council and was elected mayor of the city in 1893, serving one term. In the fall of 1901 Mr. Arthur was elected state senator with

At the meeting of the board of directors of the Poudre Valley Gas company, held on Wednesday evening, Frank P. Stover was elected president of the company to succeed Jas. B. Arthur, deceased. Frank English and B. F. Hottel were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively, to succeed Frank P. Stover, resigned to accept the presidency. The company's affairs are in excellent condition and applications for gas service are being received as fast as the company can make the necessary connections.

out opposition, to fill out the unexpired term of the late Senator James C. Evans, and represented the county in that body in the Thirteenth general assembly, with honor and distinction. He had been a director of and vice-president of the Poudre Valley bank since 1893. \*

Mr. Arthur was a 32nd degree Mason, and held a membership in Fort Collins lodge No. 19, A. F. & A. M.; Cache la Poudre Chapter No 11, Royal Arch Masons, DeMolay Commandery No. 13 Knights Templar, Collins Chapter No. 26 O.E.S., all of this city, and El Jebel Temple N. M. S. of Denver. In politics he was a democrat and in religion an Episcopalian.

The date for the funeral cannot be fixed until distant friends are heard from, but it will not occur before next Monday and may not until a day or two later.

## Mrs. J. B. Arthur, Long An Esteemed Citizen, is Dead

Altho anticipating such a message the many friends and acquaintances of Mrs. James B. Arthur will regret to learn that a telegram was received this morning by F. P. Stover announcing her death. She died this morning at 9 o'clock at Excelsior Springs where she was taken a short time ago in the hope that her life could be prolonged.

Mrs. Arthur was one of Fort Collins foremost citizens. She occupied a position in the community but little less prominent than that of her distinguished husband who died in 1905. For years she was exceptionally active in social, charitable and church work and when the occasion permitted did her part in civic work.

She came here in 1870 as the bride of Mr. Arthur, from Bay City, Mich., where she was prominently known as Miss Mary A. Kelley.

The deceased was nearing her 84th year. She is survived by a sister in Michigan and two nieces in California, who have been notified of her death. The remains are being shipped to this city and will be interred in the family plot beside the body of Mr. Arthur.

Friends Mrs. Arthur had in large numbers. She was very active from the time she came here as a bride. She grew with the city and retained her old time friends while making new acquaintances. It was only in the last year or two that she relinquished her activity in affairs which interested her. A few months ago her heart showed signs of giving way and it was trouble in that organ that resulted in her demise.

There are many here to mourn her demise and a host of friends will pay their respects to all that is mortal when the remains are consigned to the final resting place at Grandview.



Publication: Fort Collins Courier  
(Fort Collins, Larimer County);  
Date: Mar 14, 1919;  
Section: Front page; Page: 1

## BELONGINGS OF LATE MRS. ARTHUR TREASURED

Ft. Collins people treasure the personal belongings and furniture of the late Mrs. James B. Arthur, not for their intrinsic value but rather as memorials of their former friend. This was shown by the manner in which the household furniture and fixtures were sold at public auction this afternoon at the old Arthur home.

A very large crowd was in attendance long before the sale started and bidding took on real life from the very start. Nearly every piece of furniture which Mrs. Arthur had in her home was of the old style, richly polished black walnut or the best of birdseye maple. Altho it is not the type sold in the furniture stores of today, many consider it far more attractive than the modern styles. The auctioneers had little difficulty in getting the highest price for most of the pieces and even the kitchen supplies brot far better than second-hand prices.





James B. Arthur

## PIONEER ALBUM: JAMES B. ARTHUR

"Gold is where you find it," said the early Colorado prospectors. Similarly, opportunity was wherever it might be found — and more, wherever it might be recognized. The ability to recognize opportunity, or the failure to recognize it, made the difference between success and failure.

James B. Arthur, 25, was quickly disillusioned by his failure to find riches in the Gregory's Gulch area of Colorado, in 1853. He turned to that part of Nebraska Territory which now is Larimer county, in search of opportunity.

In the mining districts west of Denver, the young Irishman had noted that hay for horses and mules cost from \$75 to \$100 a ton. Here, on the plains to the east of the Cache la Poudre river, he found a heavy growth of rich buffalo and gramma grass. He filed on a claim along the river, several miles below the later site of Fort Collins and went into the hay business. Jim Arthur had met and recognized opportunity.

### Was Hard Work

Anslé Watrous, in his "History of Larimer County," published a half-century later, told the story of the young settler's success in these words:

"Having teams and wagons, he saw a better chance to make money in hay than at placer mining, and he went on to the prairie, put up his tent; and with assistance the grass was cut and when, dried, was baled. Scythes and hand rakes were used, and hard work it proved

to be, but it meant money. There was no mowing machines are hay balers in Colorado in those days, and everything was done on the primitive order.

"A box was used as a baler. This was about 3 by 6 feet and from 4 to 5 feet high. Ropes were placed at end and sides; hay was pitched in, and a man tramped it down till the box was filled, then the ropes were hauled taut and tied. This plan kept the hay in place and for hauling to point of destination was far superior to loose hay on a rack.

### Later Used Cotton Press

"But the loads were too bulky for their weight, and Mr. Arthur put in practice a method he had seen hundreds of times on the Mississippi river at New Orleans. He obtained an old cotton press and put it to use. He and John Hahn, now of Loveland, were the first men to use this machine in Colorado, and it paid them, for they put as much hay in half the space as by the box method, consequently they could haul more and in better shape."

James B. Arthur was born in County Londonderry, Ireland, in 1835. At the age of 14 he came to America and worked briefly as a store clerk in Pittsburgh, Pa. Next he worked on boats on the Mississippi river and on the Great Lakes. When the great financial panic of 1857 threw him out of work, he was attracted to Colorado by reports of rich finds of gold.

From the marketing of hay, Mr. Arthur turned to livestock production. He bought his first cattle in Missouri and drove



Mary Arthur

them across the plains to his farm. He prospered and at times owned as many as 5,000 head of cattle. As the plains were taken up by settlers, he foresaw the time when there would be no open range, and in the early 1880s he quit the livestock business and turned to other pursuits.

### Bank Director

He invested in irrigation companies and in several other businesses. Finally, he became a director of the Poudre Valley Bank and served as its vice president. He served as a county commissioner, a member of the Fort Collins City Council, mayor of the city and state senator to fill a vacancy. He was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and of all the Masonic orders in town.

### Watrous tells of the romance of the Arthurs:

"James B. Arthur was married to Mary A. Kelley in Bay City, Mich., in the early spring of 1870, and there is a thread of romance to this tale of true love. The couple knew each other in 1855, and in time there grew an attachment. When he determined to go west and seek his fortune, they plighted their troth, but it was nearly 12 years before they met again, though a correspondence was kept up between them, and when the marriage tie made them one they were as one—till death called him hence, Aug. 11, 1905."



This article originally appeared in the Fort Collins Coloradoan on December 2, 1963 as part of the Pioneer Album

7. The Arthur House, 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> East Mulberry, is a single, detached dwelling that was constructed in 1882 for Mr. Arthur by Richard Burke. The two and a half story, irregularly shaped house has three bays across the main facade. The basement is partially below the grade.

The coursed, rough cut sandstone foundation supports an interior balloon frame and exterior brick walls, laid in stretcher bond. The roof construction is irregular. The main element is a high hipped section and off this is a projecting gable in the rear. The eaves have a sloping soffit with brackets. The raking trim is plain and boxed. There are three single stack chimneys present. One is centrally located and straddles the ridge with another offset right on a side slope. The final chimney is offset left and on the rear slope of the hipped section of the roof.

The windows are in a flat opening and have a tooled, stone label and lugsill. The side surrounds are plain. The windows have two sashes and are double hung.

The offset left main door is in a flat opening and has a plain head, side surrounds, and architrave. The single leaf door has one panel that is bevelled and recessed. Surrounding the door are flush, light side panels and a transom.

Straight, ground level stairs ascend to an open one story porch that is supported by columns.

8. The Arthur House, built in 1882, is historically significant for the long residency of James B. Arthur (1882-1905). His widow continued to occupy the structure until around the early 1920's. Sigma Chi fraternity occupied the house during the remainder of the 1920's.

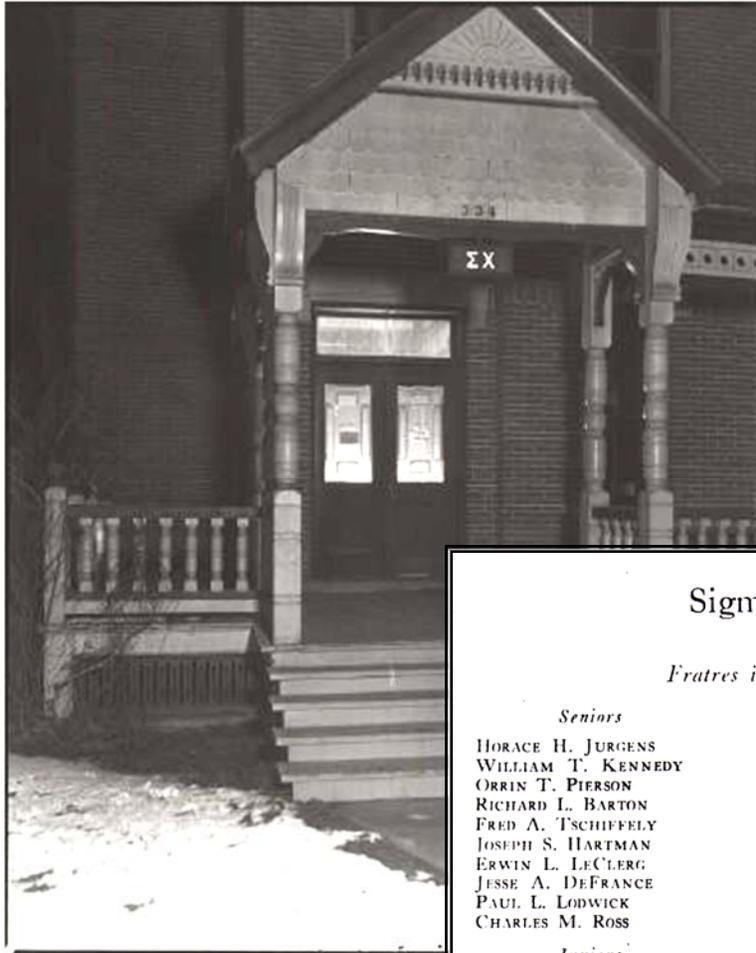
In the early 1860's, Arthur filed a land claim near the Poudre River a few miles below Fort Collins and settled down to cattle ranching. This activity prospered to the extent that he eventually owned over 5000 head of cattle. In 1883, Arthur sold out all of his cattle interests because he sensed that the days of the open range were over.

Arthur then pursued activities in irrigation (including the Arthur ditch through the Colorado State University Campus), real estate and land, and a packing company. He was also a director of the Poudre Valley Bank for many years. All these activities met with his success.

James B. Arthur was another who met the call of public service. He served terms as city councilman and as a county commissioner and was elected mayor of Fort Collins from 1893 - 4. His influence had a measurable effect on the early growth of Fort Collins. Arthur died in 1905.



Excerpts from  
Ted Gatteau's documentation of  
the Arthur House for the  
Midtown Historic District



## Sigma Chi

*Fratres in Collegio*

*Seniors*

HORACE H. JURGENS  
 WILLIAM T. KENNEDY  
 ORRIN T. PIERSON  
 RICHARD L. BARTON  
 FRED A. TSCHIFFELY  
 JOSEPH S. HARTMAN  
 ERWIN L. LECLERG  
 JESSE A. DEFRANCE  
 PAUL L. LODWICK  
 CHARLES M. ROSS

*Juniors*

RICHARD A. HARRIS  
 LAWRENCE F. KROLL  
 FRED J. TREFFEISEN  
 GEORGE L. JAMES  
 EARL B. MCCALL  
 HORACE G. WOODHAMS  
 WEB W. BALLINGER

*Sophomores*

AYLMER L. MONTGOMERY  
 LAWRENCE W. SWANSON  
 WALTER S. BALL  
 ROBERT C. ADAMS, JR.  
 ROY V. WALN  
 VERNON C. LECLERG

*Freshmen*

CLARENCE H. JOHNSON  
 WILLIAM E. ALLEN  
 MARION H. WEAVER  
 ARNOLD K. BEATTIE  
 EARL H. ASHER

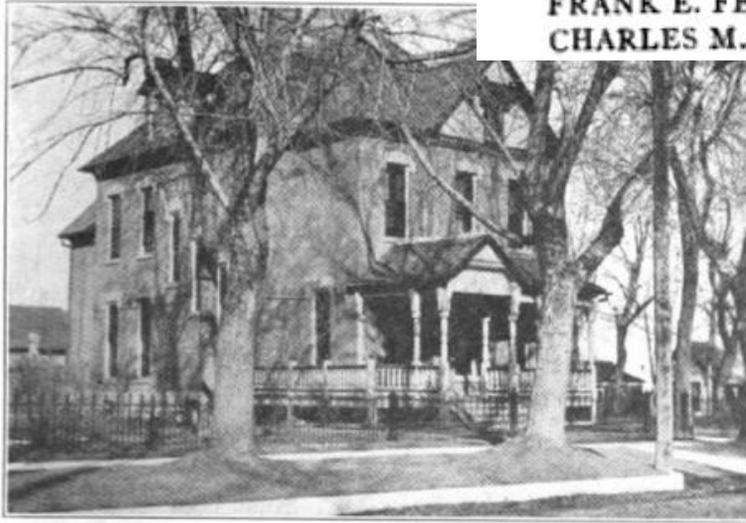
*Fratres in Facultate*

OLIVER P. PENNOCK  
 JAMES D. MARSHALL  
 BRETHER W. FAIRBANKS  
 WALTER R. FREEMAN  
 WALDO KIDDER  
 DONALD L. JONES  
 ERNEST LUNGREN

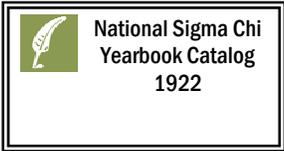


A Listing of the  
 Sigma Chi Fraternity,  
 Silver Spruce  
 Magazine, 1925

**BETA TAU**, Prov. 13—Colorado Agricultural  
College, 334 E. Mulberry Street, Fort Collins,  
Colo.  
Wednesday evening  
**FRANK E. FERGUSON**, *Consul*  
**CHARLES M. ROSS**, *Asso. Ed.*



BETA TAU HOUSE—COLORADO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
Fort Collins, Colo.

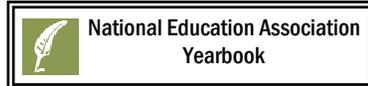


**EMBERS**

**103**

**COLORADO—Continued**

- 1908 **ROBERT J. WELLS**, A.B., '03, A.M., '04, Univ. of Colo.  
1904, Superintendent of Public Schools, 547 Lincoln Ave., Loveland.
- 1909 **JAMES H. ADAMS**.  
1908, Superintendent of City Schools, Aspen.
- LULU BELL BARNES**.  
Primary Teacher, Lincoln School; res., 1904 Logan St., Denver.
- MRS. GERTRUDE S. BELL**, Grad. Ind. State Nor.  
1910, Lecturer in Montana Institutes, 1167 Downing St., Denver.
- JOHN RANDOLPH BELL**, Pd.B., '06, Colo. St. Nor.; Ph.B., '01, A.M. '02, Univ. of Colo.  
1903, Principal of Edison School, 3017 Osceola St., Denver.
- CHARLES WESLEY BIGELOW**, B.L., '80, A.M., '07, Univ. of Nebr.; Ph.D., '01, Univ. of Denver.  
1907, Principal of West Side High School, 9 Pearl St., Denver.
- IDA BELLE BROOKS**.  
1908, Teacher of First Primary, Columbine School, 721 Main St., Longmont.
- EDWARD LEROY BROWN**, A.M., '00, Cornell Univ.  
1900, Principal of North Side High School, 3435 Alcott St., Denver.
- F. A. BURKERT**.  
With Ginn & Co., Box 800, Denver.
- MILTON CLAUSER**, M.E., '88, H.E., '89, Keystone State Nor.; A.B., '06, Haverford Coll.  
1897, Supervisor of Manual Training, Public Schools; office, Evans School, Denver.
- B. F. COEN**, B.L., '00, Univ. of Wis.  
1906, Professor of English, and (1910) Head of Department of English and History, Colorado Agricultural College, 334 E. Mulberry St., Fort Collins.
- C. I. COLLINS**, Ph.M., Hillsdale Coll.; Pd.B.  
Superintendent of Schools, Holly.



# Historical corner Arthur knew top investment

By ROSEMARY CASHMAN  
Of the Coloradoan

A shrewd businessman, Fort Collins pioneer James B. Arthur knew a good investment when he saw one.

He was born in Ireland in 1835, a descendant of Scotch Highlanders who had been forced to leave "Auld Scotia" because of civil and religious wars. Arthur's ancestors were among the early Americans who fought for this country's independence.

Arthur was a lad of 14 when he began his life's adventures, crossing the Pacific Ocean in much the same manner his forefathers had when they first came to America's eastern shore.

Leaving home and native country at so young an age made a young man of the daring Arthur. He managed the long trip by himself and traveled to Pittsburg, Pa., to live with a sister. For a few months, he lived in what was even then an industrial city of black smoke.

The country's rivers attracted the boy and he soon began "steamboating," working hard to earn higher salaries. With his business acumen developing already, Arthur realized there was better work on the Great Lakes than on the Missouri River, which kept steamers tied to their piers four or five months each year because of low water.

His work on the Great Lakes brought him to Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo and Detroit. At 22, Arthur's life changed direction as the result of the panic of 1857 when financial disaster paralyzed industry, silencing the factories and docking the river boats.

Business activity east of the Missouri stalled and Arthur packed his bags for a move to his brother's place in Kansas, arriving in 1858.

When gold was discovered in Colorado a short time later, Arthur joined the fortune seekers, crossing the Plains in ox wagons. Placer mining was hard work, he learned, but the work didn't discourage him. Yet Arthur wasn't of a mind to waste his labors if a better profit could be made elsewhere.

"James B. Arthur was a money maker. He was shrewd, far-seeing and bold in undertaking," wrote historian Ansel Watrous. And his sharp business sense told him there was more profit in harvesting the



*The Arthur House, 334 East Mulberry*

This article originally appeared in the Coloradoan, December 16, 1978

bountiful grass of the plains, an open land of public domain. Hay in the mining camps was worth \$75 to \$150 a ton.

Equipped with some teams and wagons, Arthur and his hired help camped on the plains and cut the grass with scythes and hand rakes. In order to bale and transport more hay, Arthur devised a method similar to the way cotton was baled in the South, a process he had seen. He purchased a cotton press and was the first man in Colorado, along with a Loveland resident, to use the method.

Arthur began to settle down when he filed a land claim on a site near the Poudre River just a few miles below what is now Fort Collins. After his hay venture, he bought some cattle and began ranching. At one time he owned 5,000 head, according to Watrous.

"But in the early 1800s, he realized the open range was doomed and he sold every hoof in 1883, then devoted his time and money to other pursuits," wrote Watrous. The pursuits were many: irrigation ditches, land, packing company business and more. He was one of the owners of Arthur Ditch that runs through the Colorado State University campus in 1887. Arthur Drive, which connects Spring Court with College Avenue, is near the ditch and was so named after the Irishman.

Business affairs were not his only concerns. Arthur was mayor of Fort Collins in 1893 to 1894, served as a county commissioner and city councilman, and was director of the Poudre Valley Bank for years. He was an active Mason and dedicated Episcopalian.

Residents of the community respected Arthur. "And those days when he was constantly on the move, he was welcome to all camp fires and his word was as good as negotiable paper from Oregon to the Missouri, from Mexico to the Canadian line," wrote Watrous. After 70 years of full, active living, Arthur died in 1905.



This article originally appeared in the *Fort Collins Review* on December 16, 1981

## ARTHUR HOUSE GETTING NEW ROLE

by Wayne Sundberg for The Review, December 16, 1981

In the 300 block of East Mulberry Street stands a stately, old three-story red brick home. Built in 1882 as a residence for James and Mary Arthur, the structure is being given a new role in its varied history.

Its doors will open to the public this week as "L'Alouette," a French café specializing in home-made breakfasts and lunches. It seems fitting that this new life should begin only a couple of weeks before the house itself moves into its 100<sup>th</sup> year.

James B. Arthur and his wife, Mary, contracted to have the home built at 334 E. Mulberry St. for them in January 1882. Arthur homesteaded near Timnath 22 years earlier and had wed Mary A. Kelly in Bay City, Mich., in the spring of 1870. Richard Burke designed and built their spacious new home for \$7,000.

It stood virtually alone, as the Fort Collins Courier for March 1, 1883, put it "... on a slight prominence, granting a fine sight of the mountain range

and Long's Peak on one hand, and a comprehensive view of the Poudre and its verdant fields on the other." It is often difficult for the present vision of so many houses and trees to be erased to give us a view of that early, sparsely settled community with its seemingly endless views in all directions. "Desolate views," some Easterners may have said!

The editor of the *Courier*, Ansel Watrous, toured the home before writing the March 1 story. Arthur and Henry Meyer, "a Denver frescoist, who did the interior finishing," conducted the tour. Watrous noted that the beautiful "Queen Anne" style of "architectural art" presented many outstanding features.

He wrote, "The hall windows are frosted glass, embellished with a smooth, sunken flower design; ...a tier of three windows, the upper half of each being of variegated stained glass" lighted the stairway to the second floor, and there were several other unique features.



The craft work throughout the house is obvious even today, though some features like the two fireplaces, which each had "a magnificent mantel of Tennessee marble, faced with tile," are gone.

The large house served Mr. and Mrs. Arthur, who had no children, as the focal point of their rich social life. Both were active in the St. Luke's Episcopal congregation, and he served as mayor of Fort Collins in the 1890s. The interior design of the home fit their needs very well. Many church activities were held at the Arthur's home.

As one entered the home, he was struck by the beautiful, well-lighted

## ARTHUR HOUSE GETTING NEW ROLE (CONTINUED)

entryway with its balustered, black walnut stairway leading to the upstairs. To the right, through double sliding doors, sat the formal parlor. Behind it was the dining room. The lower floor also had one “commodious bedroom, from which opens a bath room.”

How did this family become one of the most prominent in Fort Collins? By hard work and wise investments! James B. Arthur was born in County Londonderry, Ireland in 1835. When he was 14, his family immigrated to America, settling in Pittsburgh. Arthur worked on steamboats of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers until he moved to Kansas City to live with his brother, John, in 1858.

News of the gold strikes in the “Pikes Peak Country” drew the brothers west the next year. They prospected, along with hundreds of others, in the Gregory Gulch area. According to his biographical sketch, published in Watrous’ *History of Larimer County*, Arthur soon saw that, “washing or mining for gold was speculation and that there were more blanks than prizes in the drawing.” He moved to the plains, set up a temporary home, and began “mining” the native hay.

At that time hay sold for \$75 to \$150 a ton in the mining camps. He was one of the first to use an old cotton press to pack the hay into tight bales for easier hauling.

In 1860, he moved to the Cache la Poudre and set up a cattle ranch. At one time his herd was said to be 5,000 head. He saw the end of the open-range coming in the very early 1880s and sold out. Moving to town, he engaged in real estate investing and in the important task of building irrigation ditches. One of these is the Arthur Ditch, which cuts through the west side of town and across the campus.

Water to irrigate his lawn and others was drawn from it by a 3 inch pipe near the corner of Canyon and Mulberry Streets. The ditch now is covered as it meanders through the city.

Arthur was a member of the board of directors of the Poudre Valley Nation Bank for many years, and at the time of his death on Aug. 11, 1905, he was vice president of the firm.

Gatteau has leased the ground floor to Sam and Josette Smyrl for “L’Alouette.” That name is the theme of the French folk song, “Alouette, Gentille Alouette.”

As Josette Smyrl said of the restaurant’s name, “The problem was to find a new name for it; one that would be French, of course, but preferably not too hard to pronounce and, possibly, already familiar to area residents. It was not an easy task, and I was almost ready to give up when, one morning, I heard the meadow-lark sing...and my troubles were over. The meadow lark, l’alouette! I thought it would be a fitting symbol and a belated homage to the French-Canadian trappers who were the first white men to explore – and name—Cache la Poudre.” James and Mary Arthur would undoubtedly approve, too.[]

# GALETTE DES ROIS

By Josette Smyrl, L'Alouette Proprietor

Traditionally the French celebrate *La Fête des Rois* (Festival of the Kings, or Epiphany) by eating a special dessert. Epiphany is often the pretext for a gathering of friends – or several gatherings, since guests return the invitation. Sometimes these get-togethers can take place through all of January!

There are two main cakes prepared for this occasion: a brioche type stuffed and decorated with gorgeous candied fruits, and a puff pastry with almond filling. This recipe is for the northern-style pastry and almond cake. One tradition that comes with it must always be respected: a *fève* – originally a real fava bean – is dropped inside the cake before baking and whoever finds it is crowned king of the party and must buy the next cake!



Janet Smyrl's Galette Des Rois

"In historic Arthur House"



**L'ALOUETTE**

French Cafe and Restaurant

A different kind of place...

## The recipe:

1 pound puff pastry dough (If you can't find or make puff pastry dough, it still tastes great when made with pie crust.)

5 oz. ground blanched almonds

5 oz. (about 1 cup) powdered sugar

5 oz. softened butter

2 whole eggs + 1 yolk

1 tablespoon dark rum (optional)

1 fava bean (optional)

Cream filling: mix together almonds and sugar. Add creamed butter, two eggs

and rum; mix well together.

Divide the puff pastry dough in half: roll out each half into a 12-inch (about) circle. Lay one pastry round sheet on a (very slightly greased) baking pan. Pour the filling in the middle and spread without reaching the edge. Drop your "fève" in the filling, if you wish.

Top carefully with the second circle of dough. Press firmly all around (with moist fingers) to seal the "cake." Glaze the surface with the remaining beaten egg yolk. (For a little more control over the color, brush the yolk on roughly halfway through the baking – the glaze on our test cake was a little dark.)

With a knife or a fork draw some light curved lines for decoration. Make a few tiny cuts on the top (to let out steam during cooking).

Cook for about 35 to 40 minutes in preheated 400-degree oven. Oven temperatures can vary; keep an eye on the cake!

Remove when golden. Cool and serve while still warm if possible.[]

## ABOUT THE "ARTHUR HOUSE AND L'ALOUETTE..."

When James B. Arthur built his house in 1882, it was one of the most elegant in Fort Collins. It marked, in a way, the coming of age and the success not just of a man, but of the town itself. So few years after its foundation, the city was trying its best to look sophisticated in its architecture and its social life. The residents were a colorful mixture of old and new, rough and refined. Former mountainenmen and new immigrants cohabited happily. Several were of French ancestry. We owe to one of them, Pierre Dastarac, the first map of the city and a beautiful sketch of the Arthur House as it stood in 1884 and still stands today.

So the choice of this Victorian mansion for a French Restaurant is not so odd after all! The only problem was to find a new name for it: one that would be French of course but preferably not too hard to pronounce and, possibly, already familiar to area residents. It was not an easy task and I was almost ready to give up when, one morning, I heard the meadowlark sing...and my troubles were over. The meadowlark, l'alouette! (at last, now you know what it means!) A bird so familiar to our Western fields and the theme of the French folk song best known to Americans: "Alouette gentille Alouette" .. Meadowlark pretty Meadowlark.. Actually the song is a French Canadian tune, but I thought it would be a fitting symbol and a belated homage to the French Canadian trappers who were the first white men to explore – and name – the Cache la Poudre and settle on its banks.

So here is to Antoine Janis, Philippe Lariviere, Desjardins and their friends...

WELCOME TO THE ARTHUR HOUSE  
BIENVENUE A L'ALOUETTE



### A neighbor recalls...

James B. and wife Mary lived there until James passed away in August of 1905 (August 11, 1905). Mrs. Arthur continued to live in the house through the 1919 directory.

By 1922 the home was being used by a fraternity, the Sigma Chi, until 1930. It then stood vacant until purchased by the Minter family in 1934. Roy Minter, his wife Lydia, and two children, Carol and Roy Jr. lived in the house until the mid or late 1940s. Roy Sr. was a laborer at the Cement Plant, and Roy Jr. worked as a district manager for the Denver Post and after as an auto parts salesman for the Ghent Motor Company.

By 1948, Curtis C. and Doug W. Hicks owned the place, which they kept until 1951. Curtis was manager of the Larimer County Farm Bu-

## ARTHUR HOUSE TIMELINE



Letter written to Ted Gateau by neighbor, Colonel Beach, 1986

reau, and director of the organization. After the Hicks, the house again stood empty until purchased by the Donegans around 1955. George W. Donegan operated a trucking business, and his wife Bernice was a practical nurse. By 1957, George and Bernice had turned the house into the Donegan Rest Home, which it continued as until the late 1970s.

In 1979, the home had been converted to offices, and was occupied by a realtor company, an insurance company, and the Stewart title Company. By 1981, a doctor's office, a realty company, and a family life center had offices in

the building.

In 1983, the building was converted into a French restaurant. Sam and Josette Smyrl operated their Aloutte French Café in the home for 2 years, then in 1985 the property had once again been remodeled into offices. The most recent city directory, for 1986, shows the property at 334 East Mulberry to be occupied by a beauty salon and a custom sewing and alteration business.



HON. JAMES B. ARTHUR.

HON. JAMES B. ARTHUR, a pioneer of '60 in Colorado and now the secretary and treasurer of the Consolidated Plaster Company of Denver, is one of the most prominent and successful citizens of Fort Collins, of which city he has served as mayor and in other public positions of trust. He was born in County Londonderry, Ireland, in March, 1835, of Scotch lineage, his grandfather, Arthur, having been a native of Scotland and an active member of the Presbyterian Church in that country. The father, James Arthur, was born in Ireland, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising until his death, when past fifty years of age. He was three times married, and by his union with Mary Booth, a native of County Tyrone, and whose family were, like his own, freeholders, he had five children, three of whom attained years of maturity, namely: James B., of this sketch; John, who joined our subject in Colorado and was accidentally killed on the Cache la Poudre April 15, 1878, by a runaway team; and Jane, wife of William Jessup who died in what is now Hoboken, Pa. There are two daughters living of another marriage, Rozetta, of Allegheny City, Pa., and Grace, who is married and lives in Pittsburg.

In 1849, when fourteen years of age, Mr. Arthur started for America, and, crossing the ocean, joined his sister in Pennsylvania. His voyage on the sailer "Cathnes-shire," from Belfast to New York City, was an eventful one, not only because it was his first glimpse of the world outside of his own parish home, but more especially on account of shipwreck. The vessel was wrecked on Barren Island, thirty miles from New York, and remained stranded on a sand-bar until the tide went down. The passengers were rescued by a tugboat from New York.

In Pittsburg the boy found employment in the grocery of Matthews & Bros., where he remained for eighteen months. He then secured work as cabin boy on a steamer on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and later was promoted to be a clerk. His boat plied the waters of the rivers between Pittsburg and New Orleans in winters, while the summers were spent on the great lakes. He was finally made baggage master and placed in charge also of express packages on the boats that were run in connection with railroads, on the Sandusky, Toledo, Buffalo and Detroit lines. Quitting the lake trade in 1858, he came west as far as Nebraska City, making the journey via the steamer "Morning Star" from St. Louis to St. Joe, Mo., and on the steamer "Florence" from St. Joe to Nebraska City. He joined his brother John in that place and remained there until the Pike's Peak excitement drew so many to the mountains of the west. Determining to seek his fortune in Colorado, in the spring of 1860 he came across the plains with two yoke of oxen and a wagon, on the south side of the Platte, to near Fort Kearney, then going on to Denver. He met friends, discouraged and returning east, but he refused to act on their advice and turn back. He had an abundance of provisions for a year and was determined to see the country for himself.

Landing in Denver June 10, he proceeded from there into the Gilpin and Clear Creek districts, and from there went via Bear Canon to Boulder. While in the mining region, observation taught him that mining was not always a success. He decided the best thing for him to do would be to cut and make hay and haul to the mountains. This he did, locating his claim on the Cache la Poudre, where the land was well adapted for his purpose. There were then only two tents in the valley and about six houses.

The neighboring village of LaPorte was as large as now, but its inhabitants were French and Indians. The valleys of the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson were ruled by the Claim Club prior to the formation of the regular government. This unique organization had a president, vice-president, secretary and justice of the peace, and all matters of controversy were first submitted to the justice and from him taken to the president, whose decision was final.

Below we give a copy of the patent for his land which Mr. Arthur still has in his possession. On the back is the following endorsement:

The hay that he cut Mr. Arthur hauled to Central City and Blackhawk, ninety miles distant, using at first two yoke of oxen, but later three and four yoke and several wagons. He had none of the modern improvements to assist in his work, and was forced to cut all of his hay with a hand scythe. Prices were high, and the expense of living was considerable. Bacon was as high as forty-five cents per pound, and other things in proportion. In 1862 and 1863 he made a private ditch from the Cache la Poudre and later enlarged the ditch. He also introduced other improvements, thus increasing the value of the farm, which in 1880 he sold. In 1863 he went to Missouri and bought a bunch of cattle, which he drove across the plains and embarked in the stock business. Later he drove from Oregon and Idaho to Wyoming, where the cattle lived on the range. In 1883 he closed out the open range business and settled in Fort Collins, where he had built a residence the previous year and planted trees on the place. He still owns large tracts of land, having one ranch three miles east, and another eight miles southeast of Fort Collins; one at Arthur's Bridge on the Cache la Poudre, twelve miles east of Fort Collins, and a large stock ranch on the Larimer River bottom in Larimer County.

Aside from his stock and farm interests, Mr. Arthur has been identified with many important business enterprises. he is a director in the Poudre Valley Bank, which was changed from a private to a state bank; also a director in the Empson Packing Company at Longmont. He bought and opened the gypsum quarries and beds at Red Buttes, Wyo., also the plaster beds in that place. About 1890 the company had mills erected, where they manufactured under the name of the Rocky Mountain Plaster, Stucco and Manufacturing Company. In 1893, at the World's Fair in Chicago, they had an exhibit of the products of the quarries in the manufacturers' building, Wyoming exhib-

Claim 63	Book A	Page 32	Club record
J. B. Arthur	160 acres		
Colona City, N. T.	July 25, 1860		William G. Goodwin,
recorder			

it, and received the highest award for the same, also a diploma and medal for other exhibits. In 1896 they added machinery, and then began the manufacture of the best grade of cement plaster in the world. The capacity of the mills is eighty thousand pounds a day.

October 11, 1892, the Buckhorn Plaster Company at Loveland, Denver Gypsum Company and Colorado Springs Plaster and Cement Company were incorporated under the name of the Consolidated Plaster Company, with Mr. Arthur as vice-president. Later the number of mills was reduced by moving the Denver Gypsum Company's mills to the Buckhorn quarries in Larimer County. The Colorado Springs business was destroyed by fire, and its interest was purchased by Mr. Arthur. On the death of the first president, J. C. Helm succeeded to the office, Mr. Arthur became secretary



and treasurer, and A. Wild was made vice-president and manager. The capacity of the two Buckhorn mills is now one hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds per day and a fine quality of hard rock cement is the product. Shipments are made to California, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Washington. At Red Buttes the company owns two hundred and sixty-six acres on section 21, south of the Union Pacific Railroad, and furnishing an inexhaustible supply of gypsum.

In Bay City, Mich., Mr. Arthur married Miss Mary Kelley, a native of Ireland, whose parents were settlers in Buffalo, N. Y., while her brother was captain on the lakes for many years and was a resident of Bay City. For about six years Mr. Arthur resided in Greeley, where his wife had a sister living. There he contracted heavily in stock, at times having as many as four thousand head on hand. He was appointed by Governor Evans a member of the board of commissioners to perfect the organization of Larimer County, establishing voting precincts and serving until after the first election. The county was divided into three commissioners' districts, one of which elected a commissioner for one year, another for two years and the third for three years, so that an entire change would not be necessary at one time. At that time was established the precedent, which still holds, that the oldest commissioner, in point of service, shall be chairman of the board the last year of his term. After one year he was elected to succeed the one-year man, and three years later was re-elected, being the nominee of his party, the Democratic, endorsed by the Republicans, and elected without a dissenting vote. About the time his second term ended, he removed to Weld County. For two terms he was a member of the town council, and from 1893 to 1895 served as mayor of Fort Collins. Fraternally he was made a Mason in Fort Collins and served as past master of Lodge No. 19, A. F. & A. M., is also identified with Cache la Poudre Chapter No. 11, R. A. M.; DeMolay Commandery No. 13, K. T., which he joined at Greeley, but is now a member in Fort Collins and past eminent commander of the commandery; and El Jebel Temple, N. M. S. He is identified with the Episcopal Church, in which he holds the office of vestryman.

