

## William Bent's Family and the Indians of the Plains

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William Bent married Owl Woman, a Cheyenne. Their family consisted of four children: Mary, born January 22, 1838; Robert, born in the year of 1841; George, born July, 1843; and Charles (date of birth unknown). After the death of Owl Woman, which occurred at the birth of Charles Bent, William Bent married Yellow Woman, a sister of Owl Woman, who gave birth to Julia Bent.

Mary Bent, my wife's mother, married R. M. Moore April 3, 1860, at Westport, Missouri. She died May 6, 1878, near Las Animas, in Bent County, Colorado. Mr. Moore died in the fall of 1894, having been thrown out of a buggy and sustaining an injury that resulted in his death. They left surviving them the following children: Ada M. (Mrs. Lubers); William B., who died about 1895 (he was then County Clerk of Bent County, Colorado); George T., who died about 1901 at Cripple Creek, Colorado; Nellie H. (Davies), now living in Los Angeles; Daisy M. (Lakin), now living in Los Angeles; and Agnes (Monroe), who died about 1918 in Denver.

The Moore children, particularly the girls, were quite well educated, attending the public school in Las Animas, and thereafter attending seminaries at Topeka, Kansas, Independence, Missouri, and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Ed Guerrier, who was a half-breed Indian, educated at St. Mary's Mission, Kansas, was the husband of Julia Bent, and for a time, particularly under General Sherman, was a scout and guide in some of the warfare on the plains in the late '60s. He visited Mrs. Lubers about the year 1904 at Las Animas and told us, among other things, the following:

About two hundred years ago the Cheyenne Indians moved a long way from the northeast and settled on the Cheyenne fork of the Red River of the North, in North Dakota. They were agriculturists, had no horses or guns, their weapons being bows and arrows, lances, clubs, etc. They had a lot of trouble and battles

\*Mr. and Mrs. Lubers of Denver have given the State Historical Society a number of Bent items, among which are the Bent Family Bible (giving the names and dates of birth of William Bent and his brothers and sisters) and the William M. Boggs' manuscript about Bent's Fort, etc.—Ed.

with the Assiniboin Indians. To get away from their troubles and warfare with the Assiniboin they moved down on the Missouri River, as neighbors of the Mandan Indians, where they lived in their huts and were following agriculture at the time of the Lewis and Clark expedition to Oregon. Their huts were made of reeds, willows and mud. When they settled on the Missouri River, the Kiowa Indians roamed the plains from the Black Hills, through eastern Colorado, on to Mexico, and being related to the Crow Indians, they and the Kiowas used the Black Hills as their hunting ground and as part of their territory. The Kiowa Indians had horses, obtained in raids in Mexico, and were very successful in hunting buffalo. The Cheyennes, shortly after settling on the Missouri River, through purchase or trade and thievery, obtained horses and soon also became huntsmen and began to fight both the Crows and the Kiowas for the possession of the Black Hills. After quite a number of years of battling they finally succeeded in settling in and around the Black Hills and had acquired a large number of horses.

There was an association between the Arapaho and the Cheyenne Indians, both belonging to the Algonquin tribe, and each battled for the other and aided and assisted in their conquests and wars. About the year 1820, the Cheyennes and Arapahoes met in council on the Cache la Poudre River, west of what is now Fort Collins. The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether or not they should leave the Black Hills and claim the country east of the mountains between the Platte and the Arkansas Rivers, which it seems was great hunting ground. At this council an old Indian, a forefather of Mary Bent, possibly the father of Owl Woman, had a vision, in which the Great Spirit directed him to proceed up the Cache la Poudre and when he came to a certain side stream or canon, to go up that stream and he would see an eagle sitting in a tree; that he was to shoot the eagle, and where the eagle fell he would find a bundle of three medicine arrows, which he was to possess, and thereafter when the Indians were in council they were to place the medicine arrows in the midst thereof, and under such circumstances the Great Spirit would guide them in their deliberations. This Indian took the arrows to the council and told of his vision, told of his killing the eagle, finding the arrows, and insisted it was all by the guidance of the Great Spirit, and that the arrows, being placed in their midst, the conclusion of the council would be the guidance of the Great Spirit.

This created a great deal of controversy. Part of the Cheyennes and part of the Arapahoes, believing the story, voted to abandon the Black Hills and settle on the plains between the Platte and Arkansas Rivers. A minority of these Indians refused to be

guided by the medicine arrows, and the conclusion of the council, and this caused a split in the two tribes, and as a result we have the northern Cheyennes and the northern Arapahoes, and the southern Cheyennes and southern Arapahoes. The northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes are settled in Wyoming and South Dakota, and the southern Cheyennes and Arapahoes are settled in Oklahoma. The Indian who discovered the medicine arrows and his family were known thereafter as the "Keepers of the Medicine Arrows."

Colonel Bent, who was the managing partner of Fort Bent, a trading post on the north side of the Arkansas River, about seven or eight miles east of La Junta, Colorado, during all the years from 1829 to his death, operated and ran large freight trains (oxen and wagons) between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Westport, carrying buffalo hides and furs from the Fort, and wool and often silver bullion from Santa Fe, and on return trips carried provisions or stocks of goods to trade to the Indians at Fort Bent, and supplies, groceries, cloth, etc., for the Santa Fe trade. I have been told by Ed Guerrier that they never had any trouble with the plains Indians, except the Comanches. His train was never assailed, and this was due to his courage, his fair treatment of the Indians, and possibly his marriage.

Mrs. Lubers tells me that after she had grown enough to understand a little, that her mother used to accompany these ox trains in one of her grandfather's ambulances, to which mules were hitched, and that she has a recollection that on one trip her mother was signaling with a looking glass; that she asked her mother why and what she was doing that for, and she told her that she had seen Indians on the hills, and if they were Cheyennes or Arapahoes, or any Indians other than the Comanches, they would understand her signals, which meant that this was a Bent train and that she was Mary Bent, and that thereafter she saw no more Indians or Indian signs.

My wife also tells me that after Colonel Bent and her father and mother had settled on the Purgatoire River, after the sale of Bent's new fort, on the north side of the Arkansas River, about opposite Prowers Station on the A., T. & S. F. (the year she doesn't remember), her mother had a candle in the window and seemed to be sitting up all night. She asked her mother why she was doing that and she told her that her Uncle Charles, who was outlawed by Governor Gilpin, was expected and it was a signal to him that the coast was clear, and she wanted him to visit with her.

The Bent children, Mary, Bob, George and Charles (not Julia), all attended school in St. Louis, living with and under the direc-

tion of their Aunt Carr. There were several of the Bent family residing in and about St. Louis. Mary Bent, attending school for quite a number of years, became the best educated of all, and as I understand was quite a good piano player. She had that reputation at Las Animas and at Fort Lyon, which was about three miles from Las Animas. The family maintained rather close social relations with the officers and their families at Fort Lyon.

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## The Colorado Origin of "I'm from Missouri"

CHAUNCEY THOMAS\*

"I'm from Missouri, you'll have to show me," is one of the most, if not the foremost, world-wide saying of America today. It is in common use, and has been for many years, wherever English is spoken, and that means the world around. Not only is it used by the English-speaking whites but also, knowingly and with full understanding, by the natives of a score of countries who can jabber a mangled English, used not only to the whites by natives, but between the natives themselves, and expressed even in their own languages. So report world travelers, naval officers, and others who round the globe.

The subtle appeal of "Show Me" with its bristling humor tinged with the cynical is relished as keenly by the Chinaman as by the resident of Pike County, Missouri—which, by the way, is perhaps the most famous county in the United States. Why, no one knows; but as Pike County's fame for some unfathomable reasons outshines that of other counties, so does "Show Me—I'm from Missouri" stand as an American slogan. And "Show Me" has long since risen to the dignity of a slogan; years ago it crossed the line of slang; and it is now in some of the best dictionaries as a colloquialism. One more step, if it survives, and "Show Me" will in due time be universally accepted by the most verbally puritanical as perfect English.

Although the origin of the famous phrase is practically impossible to determine definitely and beyond question, yet the best searching by dictionary makers and leading publications interested in such matters reveals that "Show Me" is not "from Missouri" at all, but from Colorado, and from Leadville at that. Apparently "Show Me, I'm from Missouri" was first a by-word with no complimentary inference, used in Colorado years before Missouri ever heard of it. Since then, like many another term, such as the reversed meaning of "let" as Hamlet spoke it and as used today, "Show Me" has dropped its suggestion of dumbheadedness with which it was born in Leadville, perhaps half a century ago, and has long since acquired the connotation of foxiness and semi-amused, owl-like wisdom. Hence its world popularity, no doubt.

The following letter, written by William M. Ledbetter and appearing in the *St. Louis Star* of November 29, 1921 (reprinted in the *Missouri Historical Review*, XVI, 425-6), tells its own tale:

"To the Editor: In the *Sunday Star* of November 27, the question of the origin of the now world-wide phrase, 'I'm from Mis-

\*Mr. Thomas, Western writer and historian, is often referred to as the Dean of Colorado writers.—Ed.

souri, you'll have to show me,' is discussed and through an answer to a query directed to the *Literary Digest*, the authorship of this phrase is traced to former Congressman W. D. Vandiver of Columbia, Missouri.

"Judge Vandiver modestly and gracefully disclaims any credit for originating the expression, and from his detailed explanation it is evident that he is not responsible for it, although his use of it in a Philadelphia speech was the occasion for its wide circulation through the press of the east and throughout the country. As you say, it is now current in every language and country.

"Some years ago, while managing editor of the *St. Louis Republic*, I had occasion to run down this matter, and as my investigation served to corroborate facts already in my possession, I believe the following account of the origin of this expression is correct, and in the interest of historical accuracy should be set down.

"Judge Vandiver says he first used the expression about twenty years ago. At that time it was widely current in Missouri and throughout the West.

"As a matter of fact, it came from the West and did not originate in Missouri at all. First employed as a term of reproach and ridicule, it soon passed into a different meaning entirely, and is now employed to indicate the stalwart, conservative, noncredulous character of the people of this state. Most Missourians are proud of it. Now, as to its origin:

"About 1897 or 1898, while a member of the *Kansas City Times* staff, I was in Denver, Colorado, and overheard a clerk in one of the hotels refer to a green bellhop, who had just taken a guest to the wrong room, in this language: 'He's from Missouri. Some of you boys show him.'

"Inquiry proved that the expression was then current in Denver, although it had not been heard in Kansas City or other parts of Missouri.

"Further investigation revealed that the phrase had originated in the mining town of Leadville, Colorado, where a strike had been in progress for a long time, and a number of miners from the zinc and lead district of Southwest Missouri had been imported to take the places of the strikers. These Joplin miners were unfamiliar with the methods in use in the Leadville district, and it being necessary to give them frequent instructions. In fact, the pit bosses were constantly using the expression: 'That man is from Missouri: you'll have to show him.' The phrase soon became current above ground, and was used as a term of reproach by the strikers and their friends toward all the men who were at work.

"Within a few months of the time I first heard the expression in Denver, it was current around the hotels in Kansas City, and

in the fall of 1898, when I came to St. Louis to reside, I heard it at the Planters Hotel. In fact, for the first few years its circulation was largely due to the traveling men. Then it began to get into print and finally the after-dinner speakers placed the stamp of their approval upon it.

“Like the grain of dirt in the oyster shell, however, the process of assimilation into the language of everyday life, has transformed it from a meaning of opprobrium into a pearl of approbation.”

If Mr. Ledbetter is correct, and I think he is, “I’m from Missouri, you’ll have to show me,” is perhaps the most famous thing that ever came out of Colorado.†

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## O. J. Goldrick, Pioneer Journalist

LEVETTE JAY DAVIDSON\*

O. J. Goldrick is well remembered as Colorado's first school teacher<sup>1</sup> and as Denver's pioneer Beau Brummel;<sup>2</sup> but his labors for over twenty years as newspaper reporter, editor, and publisher have received but scant attention. The following study of Goldrick's journalistic career attempts to add some essential features to our picture of one of the most interesting of early Western figures; it also casts additional light upon the nature of a few of our pioneer newspapers.

Goldrick came to Denver in the summer of 1859 at the age of twenty-six, looking for a worthy field in which to exercise the talents which he had developed as a student in the University of Dublin and in Columbia College, New York, as a school teacher, and as a book-publisher in Cincinnati, Ohio.<sup>3</sup> Finding that the private school which he opened on October 3, 1859, did not yield enough to meet the high prices then current in Denver, Goldrick turned to account his unusual ability to write fluent and picturesque English by corresponding for Eastern papers at the rate of twenty dollars per week<sup>4</sup>.

†For further discussion of other and less likely origins of the expression see the *Missouri Historical Review*, XVI, 422; XVII, 97; XIX, 86; XX, 353; XXII, 399, 551.

\*Dr. Davidson, Professor of American Literature at the University of Denver, has made valuable contributions to this magazine previously.—Ed.

<sup>1</sup>"The First School in Denver," by O. J. Goldrick, reprinted in *Colorado Magazine*, VI, 72-74; and "Early Education in Colorado," by A. J. Fynn and L. R. Hafen, *Colorado Magazine*, XII, 13-23.

<sup>2</sup>J. E. Wharton, *History of the City of Denver* (Denver, 1866), "Arrival of O. J. Goldrick," 29-30; and Frank Hall, *History of Colorado*, I, 218-219.

<sup>3</sup>*History of the City of Denver, Arapahoe County, and Colorado* (O. L. Baskin & Co., Chicago, 1880), p. 451.

<sup>4</sup>Cf. note 1.

His journalistic talent was soon recognized by W. N. Byers, Denver's pioneer newspaper man, for signed articles by Goldrick appeared in the weekly issues of the *Rocky Mountain News* for November 17 and December 8, 1859, and in the daily for April 3, 1861. The first is entitled "A Sketch of Captain Pike, and His Mission Here—The Early Adventurers of This Region Fifty Years Ago—Then, Now, and Hereafter. Reported by Prof. Goldrick"<sup>5</sup> This article gives a somewhat conventional biography of Pike and an outline of his travels, but concludes with typical Goldrick flourish: "The common school is everywhere coincident with civilization; may it be cared for in the future of this 'Far West' where—

We hear the tread of pioneers,  
Of nations yet to be:  
The first low wash of waves, where soon  
Shall roll a human sea."

The second contribution, "Sketches of New Mexico and Its Society," opens as follows: "Having spent a portion of last summer in the New Mexican Territory and acquired some items and ideas respecting the country, and its manners and customs: it has occurred to the writer that a few brief sketches of the same would not be altogether unacceptable to some of the readers."<sup>6</sup> The third signed article, published in the *Daily Rocky Mountain News*, April 3, 1861, is headed "Gold Hill, April 2, 1861. Dear Editors: Allow me to give you a brief history of this locality." At the end of about one-half of a column of material concerning the Gold Hill mining community is the conclusion, "More anon, G."

Although Goldrick's name does not appear in the *Rocky Mountain News* as a member of the regular staff before 1864, there is evidence to show that he served as local reporter for a number of years, beginning as early as 1861. From his own sketch of Denver's first schools we take the concluding paragraph: "The first regular 'public school' system was inaugurated in the fall of 1861. . . . By this time the pioneer schoolmaster had become a journalist and had flung his ferrule into the Platte, to be picked up some time or other by the old waves of immortality." Since Goldrick served for two years as Denver's first county superintendent of schools, having been elected in 1861, he evidently found the duties of that office so light that they could be combined with newspaper work.

One of Goldrick's newspaper assignments was to meet the overland stage coaches upon their arrival in Denver and to get the latest news of the outside world, for the telegraph did not reach Denver until October, 1863. Frank A. Root, who served as one of the guards on several trips of the overland mail coach, has left

<sup>5</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, November 17, 1859.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, December 8, 1859.

use a description of the arrival of the Atchison stage in Denver on Sunday, January 29, 1863, after six days on the road. After noting the crowd of between five hundred and a thousand people gathered at the Planter's House to greet the stage and to talk over the news brought by messenger and passengers, Root continues: "As soon as I had checked off my 'run' at the office, Prof. O. J. Goldrick, Denver's noted pioneer newspaper reporter, was the first stranger to greet me in search of the news along the overland line. He was on the staff of the *Rocky Mountain News*. Soon afterward I made the acquaintance of William N. Byers, founder and editor-in-chief of the pioneer paper."<sup>7</sup>

In an article entitled "Some Early-Day Reminiscences," S. T. Sopris, who worked in the Denver store of J. B. Doyle & Co. as early as 1860, paints with relish what is probably an exaggerated picture of Goldrick's Bohemian way of life at this period.

While on the *News*, Goldrick became sadly dissipated, seldom "hitting the hay" twice in the same room. He was known by everyone, and usually had no trouble in finding shelter at any hour of the night. It became the regular thing in the office, when the city editor failed to show up by noon, for the boss to say, "who will go and find Goldrick?" The *News* was then an evening paper, went to press at five o'clock, and Goldrick could output enough "copy" to fill his page in two or three hours, if he could be found in time.<sup>8</sup>

Sopris then adds the following sentimentally pleasing conclusion to his pen-portrait of Goldrick:

Going to Chicago to secure some material for the *Herald*, he met a middle-aged widow, a fine woman, and after a brief acquaintance, they were married, and now comes the surprising part of the story. From the time he met her until after her death, five or more years, Goldrick did not touch or taste liquor, and was one of the best behaved and best dressed men in Denver. It is one instance where a woman reformed a man by marrying him. As I remember it, he drank more or less after her death, and did not long survive her.<sup>9</sup>

A. D. Richardson, a travelling journalist who visited the infant city of Denver a number of times, gives the following account of an episode involving Goldrick:

It was a fascinating country for a journalist. Over his devoted head daily and nightly hung the sword of Damocles. An indignant aspirant for Congress meeting the editor of the *Denver Herald* in the street spat in his face. Mr. Byers of the *News*, whose establishment after the first murderous assault was a well stocked armory, had his office fired and his dwelling burned, but by taking a bold stand verified the proverb that threatened men live long. The Denver people, tired of improvising a vigilance committee after every outrage, organized a city government and elected a full board of officers. The

<sup>7</sup>Frank A. Root and W. E. Connelley, *The Overland Stage to California* (1901), 227-230.

<sup>8</sup>*The Trail*, vol. 7, no. 2, 5-11.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*

desperadoes—like most scoundrels, great sticklers for legality—refused to recognize its validity. The correspondent of the *St. Louis Democrat* excited the ire of one of Buchanan's shining appointees, the Denver postmaster, who was also Chief Justice of the embryo Commonwealth, under a movement for State government. One evening this functionary lured the journalist into the post office; then closing the doors, with a cocked revolver at the head of the luckless scribe, he compelled him to write and sign a statement that he knew his published allegations to be false and slanderous when he made them.

Under that influence which knows no law, the correspondent made this voluntary retraction. But the people took this matter in hand and after a fierce struggle, the postmaster, who was a man of wealth, and sustained by all the leading desperadoes, as his only mode of escape from the gibbet, succumbed to the city government, and gave bonds to keep the peace. In the great war he turned up a quartermaster in the rebel service.<sup>10</sup>

J. C. Smiley adds to this story the following explanation: "W. P. McClure was the Denver postmaster and O. J. Goldrick the intimidated journalist. . . . McClure armed and intrenched himself in his post office with several of his equally armed friends, and defied the officers who went to arrest him on November 5, 1860, charged with assaulting Goldrick with intent to kill. He practically dictated the terms for settling the matter."<sup>11</sup>

During the first six months of 1864 Goldrick served as "Traveling Agent" for the *News*. While going from place to place in the mountain regions and in New Mexico in the effort to build up good will for the *News*, he dispatched letters to his paper which appeared over his signature. Some were factual but others contained flights of rhetoric more relished in that day than now. In the issue for February 11, 1864, for example, he describes Fort Union, its people and its nature, as No. VIII in his series "From Denver to Santa Fe." The rambling nature of these letters is indicated by the headings for the one printed on February 13:

Hints to Travelers—Description of a Mexican village and Mexican architectural art—when you see one you almost see all—Golondrinas—Mora valley and Mora town—How a traveler should observe and rightly record his observations—About the Senoritas of Mora—Denver and Central City gallants advised to stay at home. The business men of Mora—A Mexican dining room and sleeping chamber—The lightness of the air—Female whitewashers—Sundry and divers items of experience in town and on the march.<sup>12</sup>

This rather long travel essay contains much good description of New Mexican landscape and village life, as well as several flowery passages and a few hits at Denver and Central City "gay and festive gallant knights" who might envy him the sight of "superb specimens of Castillian creation." He confesses to disappointed

<sup>10</sup>*Beyond the Mississippi* (Hartford, 1867), 305-6.

<sup>11</sup>*History of Denver* (Denver, 1901), 348.

<sup>12</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, February 13, 1864.

expectations, for "if there be a very beautiful member of the female persuasion in the town we haven't struck the luck of seeing her!"

Among the other articles by the "Traveling Agent" is one entitled "Waftings From the Mountain Tops, Generalizings and Particularizings," in which Goldrick elaborates upon his emotions at nightfall in Central City.<sup>13</sup> Another describes St. Patrick's Day and Goldrick's native land, Ireland, in phrases such as the following: "There sleeps upon the eastern bosom of the broad Atlantic a beautiful island, known as far and wide as civilization's wings have wafted knowledge."<sup>14</sup> From Idaho he wrote a two-column letter of "Mountain Items," discussing the weather, the claim excitement, the city of Bannack, its millionaires, saloons, theaters and hotels, and the lack of laborers in Idaho, which he characterizes as "a nice place to live when a fellow gets old and rich."<sup>15</sup>

Goldrick's masterpiece of reporting is, however, a "Sketch of the Great Deluge in Denver," which began about midnight on the nineteenth of May, 1864. Since the building and the equipment of the *Rocky Mountain News* were swept away by this flood, Goldrick's account appeared in the rival paper, the *Daily Commonwealth*, for May 24th.<sup>16</sup> This signed sketch occupies nearly four columns and attempts to communicate the emotions of observers as well as the material facts. The sub-heads are: "When and How It Commenced, Its Progress of Destruction, More About the Freshet, Origin of the Flood, Items and Incidents, Death and Damages, The Lesson It Teaches." The prevailing style is illustrated by the following:

Higher, broader, deeper, and swifter boiled the waves of water, as the mass of flood, freighted with treasure, trees, and livestock, leaped towards the Blake street bridge, prancing with the violence of a fiery steed stark mad:

"Fierce as ten furies, terrible as hell." Great God! and are we all "gone up," and is there no power to stem the tide was asked all around. But no; as if that nature demanded it, or there was need of the severe lesson it teacheth to the citizens of town, the waves dashed higher still, and the volume of water kept on eroding bluffs and bank, and undermining all the stone and foundations in its rapid course.

The inundation of the Nile, the Noachian deluge, and that of Prometheus' son, Deucalien, the Noah of the Greeks, were now in danger of being out-deluged by this great phenomenon of '64.

Following the purchase of the office material and the subscription lists of the *Commonwealth* by the *Rocky Mountain News* and upon the resumption of the publication of the *News* on June 27, 1864, O. J. Goldrick is listed as associate editor, with Dailey and

<sup>13</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, February 24, 1864.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, March 17, 1864.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, April 30, 1864.

<sup>16</sup>*Daily Commonwealth*, May 24, 1864; reprinted in *The Weekly Commonwealth*, May 25, and also June 1, 1864, and in Wharton, *op cit.*, 121-143.

Byers as owners. Further articles then appear over Goldrick's signature, under such headings as "Letters From the Hill Country,"<sup>17</sup> "Sketchings and Scamperings Over the Mountain Tops,"<sup>18</sup> and "Down the Rio Grande . . . Observations Through Alburquerque, Peratta, Fort Craig, the 'Journey of Death,' and down to Messilae."<sup>19</sup>

The next chapter in the story of Goldrick's journalistic career begins with the appearance of the following notice in the weekly edition of the *Rocky Mountain News* for May 3, 1865.

Reader, a Word with you! The subscriber would direct your attention to prospectus, in another column, of the *Daily Union Vedette*, which he has enlisted in as Associate Editor, and which he guarantees shall prove itself well worthy of your patronage, as subscriber or advertiser. He purposes canvassing immediately among his old time friends in Denver and the mountains, and trusts that they shall shower on it that liberality for which their name is noted. Now, remember.

Respectfully,

O. J. GOLDRICK.

That Goldrick's Colorado friends and enemies watched his new venture in Salt Lake City with interest is indicated by various items which appeared in the newspapers of Denver and other Colorado towns, such as the following from the *Daily Miners' Register* of Central City, for July 29, 1865: "Goldrick has little of interest in the late number of the *Vedette*. Abe Lincoln of our City, has arrived in Salt Lake."

Upon his return to Colorado, after the termination of his connections with the Salt Lake *Vedette*, Goldrick took up newspaper work in the Central City region. Early in December, 1866, *The Daily Colorado Times* began to appear at Black Hawk, with H. Garbanati and O. J. Goldrick as editors. Although this was only a four-page paper—mostly advertisements—it had to struggle hard for existence. The issue for December 19, 1866, "Vol. 1—Number 16," contains the following:

Black Hawk or Central—many of our Central friends have been urging the removal of the *Times* office to that city where we have, even now, by far the largest circulation, as well as more advertising patronage. Still we should be loath to remove the office from the point of its establishment. If our local friends will only give us a reasonable excuse for remaining where we are, we will gladly accept it. Black Hawk must decide the question.<sup>20</sup>

Since the issue for April 2, 1867, is headed "Central City," it seems that Black Hawk failed to rise to the demands of the editors.

<sup>17</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, July 26, 1864.

<sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*, July 30, 1864.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*, January 20, 1865.

<sup>20</sup>The following issues of *The Daily Colorado Times* were consulted in the Denver Public Library: December 19, 1866; April 2, May 1, September 7, 9, and 14, 1867. The latter three do not carry Goldrick's name.

That their work was noticed in Denver is indicated by the following comment, which appeared in the *Daily Rocky Mountain News*:

Goldrick has got home and in Monday's *Times* promises his readers "Denver in slices," for a week or two, "Inside views of Mormonism," for eighteen months, and "Notes of a trip to the Pacific," from time to time.<sup>21</sup>

Included in the extant issues of the *Daily Colorado Times* are such contributions in the Goldrick style—later to characterize the material in his own weekly paper in Denver, *The Rocky Mountain Herald*—as the columns entitled "Pen and Scissors" and "Select Poetry." From the former we quote: "It is well enough that men should be killed by love. Man born of woman should die of woman;" "What was the greatest bet ever made? The alpha-bet;" and "The Northern papers have much to say about what the South lost in the war. She lost a vast deal, but not her self-respect." Under "Select Poetry" appeared anonymous verses such as those entitled "They Say" and "The Serenade," probably composed by Goldrick himself. One editorial criticized the rival paper in Central City, the *Daily Miners' Register*, for advocating statehood for Colorado; another criticized "Short Dresses and Small Hoops," under the general title "Ladies' Fashions."

Since the September, 1867, issues of *The Daily Colorado Times* do not carry Goldrick's name beside that of H. Garbanati, it is to be assumed that the two editors had parted company. Goldrick's next and also final journalistic venture was to be that of editor and publisher of the weekly *Rocky Mountain Herald*, in Denver, beginning February 1, 1868, and continuing until his death on the night of November 25, 1882.<sup>22</sup> For his paper, Goldrick revived the original name of the weekly edition of Denver's first daily, the *Daily Herald and Rocky Mountain Advertiser*, which had been established by Thomas Gibson in 1860, as a rival to the *Rocky Mountain News*, to which it was sold after the great flood in 1864.

The first issue under Goldrick's editorship of the revived *Rocky Mountain Herald* contained the following editorial explanations and promises:

A Paper For The People—*The Rocky Mountain Herald*, a commercial and family newspaper, for town and country, published by O. J. Goldrick, Editor and Proprietor, Denver, Colo., \$5 a year; \$3 a half year. Independent in politics and every-

<sup>21</sup>*Rocky Mountain News*, January 23, 1867.

<sup>22</sup>The author of this article is indebted to Mr. Will C. Ferril, formerly curator of the State Historical Society of Colorado, and, since 1912, editor of the *Rocky Mountain Herald*, and to his son, Thomas Hornsby Ferril, for permission to use the former's file of the *Rocky Mountain Herald* for February 1, 1868, to December 2, 1876, and May 2, 1883, to December 31, 1904. This is the most complete file known. cf. D. C. McMurtrie and A. H. Allen, *Early Printing in Colorado* (Denver, 1935), 253-4.

thing else. Devoted to the material interests of the Rocky Mountains. Adapted alike for western and eastern circulation.

To Getters-up of Clubs. Postmasters and friends, far and near, are respectfully solicited to send us clubs of subscriptions, and retain 10% for their trouble, or have the paper forwarded free to their addresses, as they may prefer.

Important to Advertisers! Almost every county, city, farming settlement, mining camp, sutler store, hotel, and saloon in Colorado, northern, middle, and southern, the Cimarron country, and New Mexico generally, has been thoroughly canvassed for subscriptions by the Editor in person, during the past five months. Also the settled portions of Dakota and Arizona. Hence we commence with a circulation both at home and through the territories that would seem incredible to believe but for the fact we have mentioned. For business men, at home and in St. Louis and Chicago, our advertising columns offer extraordinary advantages to gain public patronage.

*Rocky Mountain Herald*—Long-winded leaders are a bore, particularly on politics. We'll have none of 'em in ours, to begin with; that's certain.

*The Herald* greets its "dear 5,000 friends" in the Rocky Mountains and through the plains. It comes to fill a want which was long felt for a wide-awake news letter for the people; one which (independent of party, cliques, and provincial jealousies), would suit the general run of men and women through these territories, and withal be what would interest the good people of the east. Whether or not we've "struck it" is not for us to say; but we may be excused for adding that we mean to come mighty near it, before many more issues appear. We have said that this journal will eschew extended articles on partisanship and palaver for the sake of sectional or selfish ends; and so "it shall," so long as we run the machine, which is solely ours, and (what's more) all bought and paid for! *The Herald* will prove to be, what its first prospectus declared, a general, commercial, and family newspaper, for home and surrounding countries. We mean to make this paper from the start a welcome visitor and eventually a necessity—to the merchant's store and the miner's cabin; to our family hearths and the frontier homes. Indeed already it has a circulation (cash paid in advance), among the masses of every city, settlement, mining camp, and military post from Cheyenne, Dakota, (down through every county of Colo.) to the Cimarron and Santa Fe, New Mexico—nearly treble that of any other paper now published in these territories. For the proofs of this fact, our subscription books are open, at the public disposal for inspection. Thus it will be seen that the *Herald* even now has advantages extraordinary for town and country advertising.

Household Matters—In establishing this department of the *Herald*, it is not claimed that we can give our country cousins regular rules for washing dishes, or for doing a lot of things with which they are already more familiar than ourselves. The music of the washboard and the "honors of housekeeping" are already too well known to them to need hints at our hands. We shall simply select from our freshest exchanges such items as may be offered in the interest of the household—To Avoid Family Quarrels, To Keep Meat Fresh, To Wash Calico, To Remove Stains, A Cure for Ear-Ache, To Make a Choice Cup of Tea, To Soften Hard Water, A Cure for a Felon.

Good Things in Store—Among the editorial manuscript contributions and correspondence on file or in preparation for early use we are able to promise much of interest to the territories and the East and to our readers.

In addition to the usual local items, editorials, clippings from exchanges, and advertisements, this weekly newspaper contained a number of features produced by Goldrick's facile pen and characterized by his highly individual style and outlook. Nearly every issue carried an original poem, an essay, and a column of odd bits of news and humor. The titles of some of the poems appearing during the first year are: The Wheel of Fortune, The Farmer, Don't Slop Over, Kourting in the Seasons, Hair Belles, The Rhyme of the Rink, Pipe and Cup, If We Knew, True Piety, Love, God Save the Plough, Spring, The Rivals, Leap Year Psalm of Life, Nature's Noblemen, Fashion on the Brain, Home and Friends, and Words of Cheer. Usually the sentiment and the versification are no worse than those of much modern newspaper poetry.

The essays, also, dealt most frequently with light, humorous, sentimental, conventional, or homely topics, as witnessed by the following titles, also from the issues of the first year: What's in a Name, All About Weddings, Talk and Talkers, The Art of Living, Small Talk, Hard Times, The Busybody, Society's Sunday, Laugh and Grow Fat, Civilization, Affectations, Chaperones, and Sleeping Dogs.

Goldrick frequently composed short stories for his paper, such as the romances entitled The First Wedding, My First Flirtation, Such Pretty Feet, Caught in His Own Trap, and A Woman's "NO." Much more entertaining and original were the columns of odd bits, forerunners of the work of our modern newspaper columnists. Instead of using the same heading for these in succeeding issues, Goldrick selected a new one for each. Among the varied heads in the 1868 file are: This, That and the Other, News in a Nutshell, Prairie Pepper, Pepper and Salt, Headings and Tailings, Hash and Hominy, Slap Jacks, May Flowers, Tit Bits, Bon Bons, Salads, June Bugs, Sardines, Tenderloin, Bunch Grass, Short and Pointed, Giblets, Mince Pie, Pyrites, Autumn Leaves, Splinters, and Winter Greens. For July 2, 1869, the column bears the title "Sharp and Flats," quite similar to the heading later made famous in a Chicago newspaper by Eugene Field, who worked on the *Denver Tribune* from 1881 to 1883.

Probably the best feature developed by Goldrick in the *Herald* was his series of historical sketches, announced in the October 16, 1875, number as follows:

#### DENVER IN EARLY DAYS

Know all men, by these paragraphs, that the *Herald* has the honor of herewith giving the first straight, comprehensive history of this city's settlement that ever appeared in print or script. We ask to be quoted and credited for such, at home and abroad. Like Livy, the early historian of Rome, we want our name to go over the trails of time, with a thankful fame for putting into print the first consecutive chain of incidents in

the early settlement of Denver, which will include that of Colorado as it was, in the early days. The early history of Denver is only another name for the early history of this whole territory. The former we shall give, in a nutshell, this week, and hereafter shall add installments of other and more minute matters, of Territorial history, gleaned from all sources and events—*quorum pars magna fui*, which being translated into the President's English means what we have witnessed, or had direct from those that did.

In nearly every subsequent issue of the *Herald* during October, November, December, and January (1876), there appeared from one-half to one and one-half columns of historical data under the heading "Denver In Early Days." That Goldrick intended to continue the series for some time is shown by the advertisement inserted in *The Rocky Mountain Daily News* for January 1, 1876: "1858-1876. The Early History of Colorado and the Wealth, Wonders and Romance of the Rocky Mountain Territories will be given in grand weekly installments, in the 'Family Favorite' *Rocky Mountain Herald*, for the Centennial Year." Perhaps Goldrick tired of the project, or perhaps he wished to save the materials for a speech which he had been asked to prepare for the celebration to be held on July 4, 1876; at any rate his paper contains little of a historical nature after the January issues.

After reading his "Historical Sketch of Denver, Colorado" to the crowd assembled in a Denver "grove" on July 4, 1876, to celebrate the national centennial and the admission of Colorado to statehood, Goldrick printed it, probably for distribution to the subscribers to his *Herald*, on a single sheet of newsprint about eight by twelve inches in size, with four columns of fine print on each side. A comparison of the printed copy of the speech with the historical items that had appeared previously in the *Herald*, suggests that the author used the scissors and paste in compiling his address but that he rounded out the story with a few additional details and with those oratorical flourishes and flights of rhetoric for which he was noted.<sup>23</sup>

The termination of Goldrick's career is described in the following obituary, probably written by Halsey M. Rhoads, fellow journalist, and printed in the *Denver Tribune* for Sunday, November 26, 1882:

Through the Shadow—The Genial Spirit of O. J. Goldrick Passes to Eternal Life. Professor O. J. Goldrick, one of the pioneers of Colorado, and for twenty-two years a newspaper publisher in the State, died of pneumonia at five minutes before 12 o'clock last night, after an illness of only five days. Last Monday he was taken sick while engaged in writing in his room in the Tappen block, corner of Fifteenth and Holladay streets, and two days he lay there uncared for, and it was

<sup>23</sup>Part of Goldrick's "Historical Sketch" is included in Hall, *History of Colorado*, II, 227-233; a copy of the sketch was inclosed in the cornerstone of the old Denver Court House, recently torn down.

not until Wednesday that the people in the block learned of his sickness, when he was removed to more comfortable quarters in the Condon hotel, where everything was done for him that was possible. Dr. Steel was called, and after making a thorough examination of his disease at once pronounced it fatal. All day yesterday the patient was delirious and at times was fully conscious that death was near, but was fully resigned.

In the evening he requested his friends to call a minister as he wished to talk with him and the Rev. Dr. Jeffery was called, and held a short conference with him in regard to his spiritual welfare, when he became more reconciled and calmly awaited the hour when death should come and relieve him of his sufferings.

Prof. Goldrick was one of the early pioneers of Colo., having come to Denver in 1859, and was probably better known than any other man in the west. . . . Prof. Goldrick was a forcible, trenchant writer, fearless and outspoken in his manner, had little regard for the conventionalities of society and heartily detested sham and hypocrisy in all its forms. Too much cannot be written in praise of his many virtues, and while he was known for his eccentricities he was beloved by all his friends, who will drop many a heartfelt tear to his memory. He was a member of the Pioneer Association of Colorado and also the Colorado State Press Association, having joined the latter at its meeting in last July.

Yesterday when it was known that Professor Goldrick was sick and fears were entertained for his recovery, his numerous friends called to pay their respects and to see if there was something they could do for him. He recognized them up to the last hour of his life, although at times he was rather irrational. Among the many callers were Wolfe Londoner, Jack Wright and others of the Association. In reply to the many inquiries in regard to his sickness, he seemed hopeful, and when they spoke of his being so low, and liable to die, he passed it off in his usual characteristic way. At 10:30 a reporter for the *Tribune*, an old friend of the Professor, called and was recognized by him, and at intervals in the conversation he remarked that he thought it was his last night on earth, and was perfectly willing to die, and made final disposition of his business. Notice of funeral will appear in the morning paper.

The *Tribune* for the twenty-seventh contains a further article on Goldrick, entitled "Incidents in the Life and Death of the Pioneer Editor of Colorado." The issue for November 28 reports the burial in Riverside Cemetery on the previous day, some of the funeral sermon by Reverend Reuben Jeffereys, and the fact that "after returning from the burial, Mr. Wolfe Londoner received a dispatch from P. Goldrick, brother of the deceased, at Delaware, Ohio, requesting that the body be sent to that place."

Amidst much sincere praise for Goldrick's personality the writer of the obituary in the *Daily Denver Times* commented as follows: "He has been content for years back to conduct a newspaper which was such only in name, to the success of which he contributes nothing of his admitted talents and which he continued

to make yield him a living by a tact which was all his own, and which was as unique as his own character."<sup>24</sup>

The *Rocky Mountain News*, in summing up Goldrick's personality and activities, stated: "In the interest of his paper the proprietor has several times traversed this entire section of country, and his fund of knowledge concerning it was remarkable."<sup>25</sup>

Halsey M. Rhoads succeeded Goldrick as editor of the *Rocky Mountain Herald*. Under his editorship the paper tended to become an organ for "the large and growing order of P. O. S. of A.," later known as the Elks. After thirteen years he sold the *Herald* to Warner Wilson and H. C. Fairall.<sup>26</sup> On January 19, 1901, he resumed the managership of the *Herald* and continued to publish it until 1912, when he turned it over to Mr. Will C. Ferril, the present editor. As early as January 2, 1897, it ran the line which characterizes it today, "The Recognized Legal Journal of Denver, Colorado."