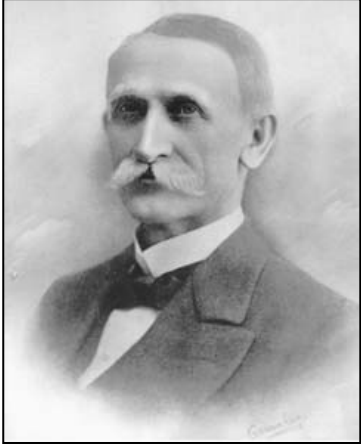




Colorado Biographies



Winfield Scott Stratton 1848 - 1902

- Winfield Scott Stratton was born in 1848 in Indiana and

died in 1902 in Colorado Springs.

- He studied carpentry in his father's river shipyards.
- In 1872, Stratton moved west, settling in Colorado Springs where he began a carpentry and building business; he earned \$3 a day.
- In 1874, he also began prospecting for gold and silver. He took classes in metallurgy at the Colorado School of Mines and geology at Colorado College.
- He married Zeurah Stewart in 1876, but they divorced within a few years.
- On July 4, 1891, Stratton filed a claim for the Independence Mine in Cripple

Creek. Two years later he found a gold vein close to the surface that was worth three million dollars.

- Stratton's yearly income averaged one million dollars until 1899 when he sold the Independence for ten million dollars.
- Although wealthy, Stratton lived a simple life and moved into a wooden house on Weber Street. He gave thousands of dollars to improve Colorado Springs, including a modern street car system, a baseball park, land on which to build city hall and the post office, the Mining Exchange building, and even bicycles for the laundry ladies.
- Throughout his life, Stratton helped the poor. His legacy, the Myron Stratton Home, still serves many people today.

Great Resources on Winfield Scott Stratton

Ayer, Eleanor. *Colorado Chronicles: Famous Colorado Men*. Frederick, CO: Jende-Hagen Book-corp., c1980. pp. 37-38.

Sprague, Marshall. *Money Mountain: The Story of Cripple Creek Gold*. Boston: Little, Brown, c1953. pp. 121-32, pp. 210-29.

Sprague, Marshall. *The King of Cripple Creek: the Life and Times of Winfield Scott Stratton, First Millionaire from the Cripple Creek Gold Strike*. Colorado Springs, CO: Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District, c1994. (This book is a fictional account of Stratton's life.)