



# Mary Lincoln Mellen “Queen” Palmer 1850-1894

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

## Quick Facts

- Born in Kentucky in 1850; name was Mary Lincoln Mellen
- At 4, mother died, father nicknamed Mary “Queen”
- At 16, Queen’s family moved to Flushing, New York
- At 19, Queen met General Palmer while on a train to New York, they were engaged a month later; they married in 1870.
- In 1870, Queen came to Colorado Springs to visit and named their future home site “Glen Eyrie” after a pair of eagles who nested high in the canyon. Moved to Colorado Springs in 1871.
- Soon, Queen rented space in a building on Cascade Ave. for a school. She had 7 students at first.
- It was Queen’s idea to name the streets of Colorado Springs after north and south streams General Palmer had explored while working for the railroad.
- Had three daughters and had her first heart attack at age 30 in 1880.
- Went to live in England for heart reasons and died at 44 in 1894.



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## Great Resources on Queen Palmer

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

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

Special Collections, PPLD

