

Business

General William Jackson Palmer – Founder of the Town of Colorado Springs. One of the railroad pioneers. Developed the first narrow gauge railroad system, the Denver and Rio Grande. Also owned the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, which for several decades was the economic center of Pueblo.

Horace Tabor – Miner, merchant, bonanza king, Tabor joined the gold rush to Colorado in 1859. He arrived in Denver, June 20, 1859, from Kansas. Engaged in prospecting, merchandising, and grubstaking in early mining camps and Leadville, Tabor achieved phenomenal financial success with discovery of silver in holdings in Little Pittsburgh Mine, May 3, 1878. He became a public figure, serving as first mayor of Leadville in 1878; and County Treasurer in 1880. He later made residence in Denver and served as postmaster of Denver, January 4, 1898, until his death. Tabor took an active interest in building up Leadville and Denver with gifts of land and buildings: Tabor Opera House (Leadville); Tabor Grand Opera House (Denver); site for Denver Customhouse and the Tabor Block.

William Bent – Along with his three brothers, William Bent developed the first trade empire in the Colorado Region at Bent's Fort in 1833. As tensions grew between white settlers and Indian natives Bent became a peace negotiator for both sides as his wives were Indian and he befriended the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

Nathaniel P. Hill – Professor Hill was a student and teacher of chemistry at Yale and Brown University. He came to Black Hawk to research smelting techniques and developed a better way to smelt. He opened the Boston and Colorado Smelting Company in 1867 which was so profitable that he had to open another plant in Argo, North Denver in 1878. After being successful in academia and business, Hill entered the realm of politics, serving as a United States Senator from 1879-1885.

Adolph Coors – Based out of Golden, Coors established his now famous brewery in 1873 using the region's famous mountain spring water. Coors is presently the nation's third largest brewer, and the family has been active in Colorado politics and philanthropy.

Charles Boettcher – Made his initial fortune during the Leadville silver boom by providing miners with supplies. He took his money and made various fortunes in many Colorado industries such as meatpacking, sugar, and railroads. His name lives on through the philanthropic work of the Boettcher Foundation.

Barney Ford – Born a slave in Virginia, Barney Ford taught himself how to read and write. At the age of twenty five he ran away from slavery to Chicago, and two years later headed west to seek his fortune. Ford went to Nicaragua and became owner of two hotels, but when slavery was restored there, Barney and his wife returned to Chicago to help slaves escape into free Canada. In 1858 Ford headed west again, but this time he went to Denver. By the time the 13th Amendment passed in 1865, Ford was already being called the "Black Baron of Colorado." Not only was Barney Ford a successful miner, but he also owned three successful restaurants and a barbershop. He was a leading activist for the rights of African-Americans, and was a prominent member of the Republican Election Commission. Ford was also the first black man to sit on a Grand Jury in Colorado and is responsible for ensuring that the State Constitution allowed "all males" the right to vote.

Bob Magness – Founder of Tele-Communications Incorporated (TCI), and by doing so made Denver a telecommunication hub. Also remembered as a generous philanthropist in his numerous donations to the University of Colorado, Boy Scouts of America, and the underprivileged.

David H. Moffat – Arriving in Denver in 1860 to create a book and stationary store, Moffat died in 1911 with claims to over one hundred Colorado mines and nine railroads. Even though one of these railroads, the Denver Northwestern and Pacific line, only reached to Steamboat Springs at the time of Moffat's death, the development of the 6.3 mile long Moffat Tunnel through the Continental Divide soon after allowed important intercontinental railroad traffic to go over the daunting Rocky Mountains. Moffat's work with the transportation industry helped to make Denver the railroad hub for the West, and as such established Colorado as a nationally important commercial and industrial center.