

The Colorado History Gazette

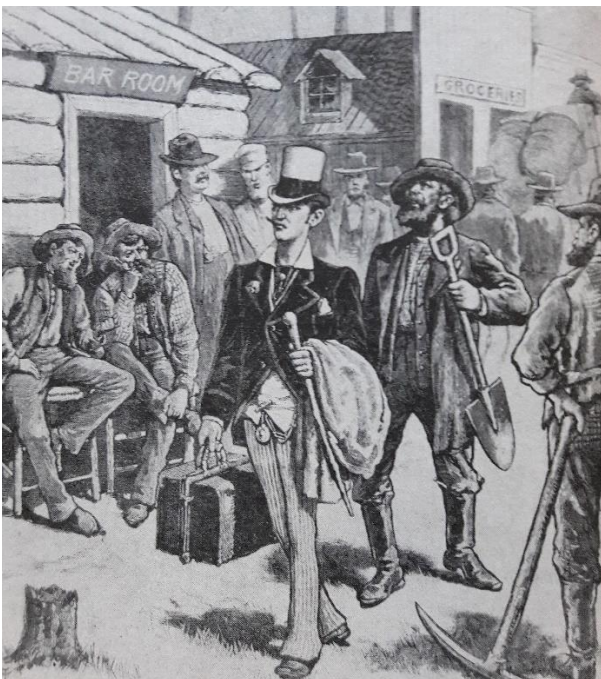
Volume 31

Denver City, May 7, 1860

PROFESSOR O. J. GOLDRICK OPENS DENVER UNION SCHOOL

TODAY, PROFESSOR O.J. GOLDRICK OPENED THE DENVER UNION SCHOOL, OFFERING TO EDUCATE ALL OF DENVER'S CHILDREN. HE, AND FELLOW TEACHER MISS MILLER, ARE BOTH ACCOMPLISHED AND WELL QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND SHOULD MEET WITH LIBERAL ENCOURAGEMENT IN THEIR UNDERTAKING. **SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL!**

LAST SUMMER, PROFESSOR O.J. GOLDRICK CAUSED QUITE A STIR WHEN HE ARRIVED IN THE CHERRY CREEK SETTLEMENTS DRIVING A TEAM OF TWO OXEN AND DRESSED IN SPOTLESS WHITE LINEN, A PRINCE ALBERT COAT, AND FASHIONABLY TIGHT, STRIPPED TROUSERS. AS HE PULLED HIS TEAM TO A STOP IN FRONT OF THE DENVER HOUSE, TOWNSFOLK STARED AT THE HIGH-BUTTON GAITERS COVERING HIS GLOSSY SHOES, HIS BLACK SILK STOVEPIPE HAT COCKED JAUNTILY OVER ONE EYE, AND THE SOFT KID GLOVES ON HIS HANDS.



SUCH ELEGANCE PROMPTED ONE GRUBBY ONLOOKER TO ASK, "WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, STRANGER?"

GOLDRICK LEANED ON THE LONG BUTT OF HIS BULLWHIP AND RESPONDED, "MAJURA VERUM IRITIA; AURI SACRA FAMES."

"SOUNDS DERN PURTY," YELLED SOMEONE IN THE CROWD THAT HAD GATHERED AROUND HIM, "BUT WHAT THE HELL KINDA TRIBE TALK IS THAT?"

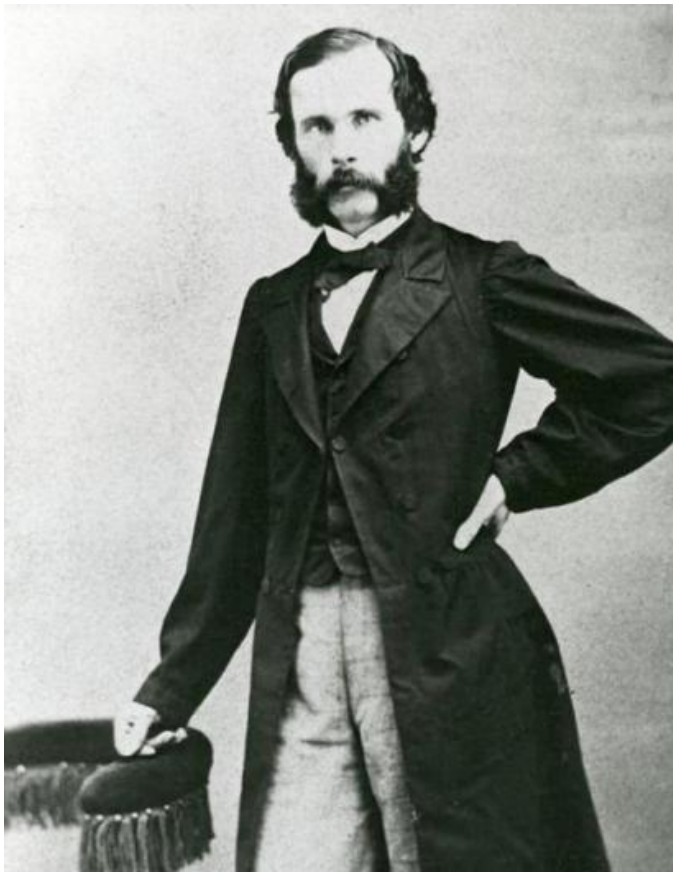
"I AM GLAD TO ANSWER YOU, MY KIND SIR," THE NEWCOMER RESPONDED IN A STRONG IRISH DRAWL, BOWING TO HIS AUDIENCE. "THAT IS LATIN AND IT MEANS, 'THE BEGINNING OF GREATER THINGS, THIS ACCURSED THIRST FOR GOLD.' FOR YOU SEE, SIR, I HAVE COME TO MINE GOLD." BUT AS WE SOON LEARNED, PROFESSOR GOLDRICK LOVED CHILDREN AND THE GOLD HE PLANNED TO MINE WAS OUR CHILDREN'S MINDS.

DENVER HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH A DANDY AND THE DAY OF HIS ARRIVAL, HE STROLLED THROUGH TOWN WITH AN AIR SO LORDLY THAT PEOPLE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BUY THE TOWN. HIS FLAIR FOR SHOWMANSHIP SOON EARNED HIM THE NAME "THE PROFESSOR" AND OUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER WROTE: "PROFESSOR GOLDRICK, THE ADONIS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, WEARS THE BEST CLOTHES, SMOKES THE FINEST CIGARS, LOOKS THE MOST A MILLIONAIRE ON THE STREET, AND ENJOYS WHAT THERE IS IN LIFE. STOCKS MAY GO UP; GOVERNORS MAY GO DOWN, BUT GOLDRICK GOES ON FOREVER."

URGED BY CITY FATHERS TO FOLLOW HIS PASSION AND FOUND A SCHOOL, GOLDRICK WORKED WITH OUR OWN AUNT CLARA BROWN, AND STARTED HIS FIRST SCHOOL IN HIS SOD-ROOFED CABIN AT 12TH AND MARKET. DAILY HE DROVE AROUND TOWN, COLLECTING HIS STUDENTS IN HIS WAGON, CHARGING JUST \$3 PER MONTH. HIS ADVERTISEMENT IN THE SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1859 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS WEEKLY READ:

**Prof^r Professor Goldrick is prepared to
"teach the young idea how to shoot."
Send your children to school.**

AIMING TO EDUCATE BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN, HE HELPED START THE FIRST LIBRARY IN THE COLORADO TERRITORY. BOTH POMPOUS AND ALOOF, THIS YOUNG IRISHMAN IS SAVED FROM BEING INSUFFERABLE THROUGH HIS SENSE OF HUMOR. SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, MORE THAN A FEW HAVE OFFERED TO "BEAT THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF HIM," BUT HIS FRIENDS SAY HIS PROPHET'S VOICE CONTAINS A TOUCH OF THE COMIC WHICH KEEPS THEM SUSPENDED BETWEEN LAUGHTER AND RESPECTFUL AWE.



DENVER LOOKS FORWARD, WITH SOME TREPIDATION, TO WHAT THIS YOUNG MAN WILL ACCOMPLISH NEXT YEAR.

REFERENCES:

1. Zamonski, Stanley W. and Keller, Teddy, *The Fifty-niners*, Sage Books, New York, 1961, pp 57-60.
2. Goldrick Colorado's First Professor, <https://www.denverpost.com/2015/08/14/noel-goldrick-colorados-first-professor/> Image of Goldrick obtained without permission from this article.

3. Newspaper Image from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, May 17, 1879.
4. Rocky Mountain News: <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=RMW18590929.2.59&srpos=5&e=01-01-1859-01-01-1863--en-20--1--txt-txIN-Goldrick-----0->
5. Rocky Mountain News: <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/?a=d&d=RMW18600509.2.52&srpos=7&e=01-01-1859-01-01-1863--en-20--1--txt-txIN-Goldrick-----0->