

Helen Hunt Jackson 1830-1885



Special Collections, PPLD

Quick Facts

- Born Helen Maria Fiske, 1830, in Massachusetts.
- Married Captain Edward Hunt in 1852.
- Both sons died of diphtheria, one as a baby the other was 9 years old.
- Husband killed in the Civil War in 1863.
- Wrote her first poem in 1865, 3 months after the death of a son.
- Began writing for magazines as “H.H.” and traveled in Europe for a year.
- In 1873, poor health brought Helen to Colorado Springs.
- In 1875, married William Sharpless Jackson.
- Author of many poems, magazine articles, and novels. *The Century of Dishonor* (1881) and *Ramona* (1884) both dealt with the poor treatment of American Indians.
- Helen was appointed Special Commissioner for Indian Affairs; she investigated the condition of the Mission Indians in California.
- Died in San Francisco in 1885 but is buried here in Evergreen Cemetery.

Bottom photo courtesy of the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

Great Resources on Helen Hunt Jackson

Ayer, Eleanor. *Famous Colorado Women*. Frederick, CO: Jende-Hagan Bookcorp., c1980. p. 7.

Bueler, Gladys. *Colorado's Colorful Characters*. Boulder, CO: Pruett Publishing Co., c1981. pp. 94-96.

Colorado College Tutt Library (2006). Helen Hunt Jackson. Retrieved January 23, 2008 from Colorado College Tutt Library web site: <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/library/SpecialCollections/Manuscript/HHJ.html>

