



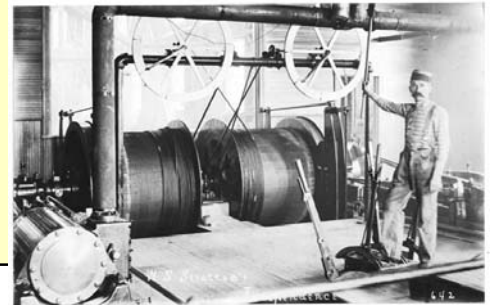
Winfield Scott Stratton 1848-1902

Special Collections, PPLD

Quick Facts

- Born in 1848 in Indiana and died in 1902 in Colorado Springs.
- 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 studied 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.

Stratton at Independence Mine
Special Collections, PPLD



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.