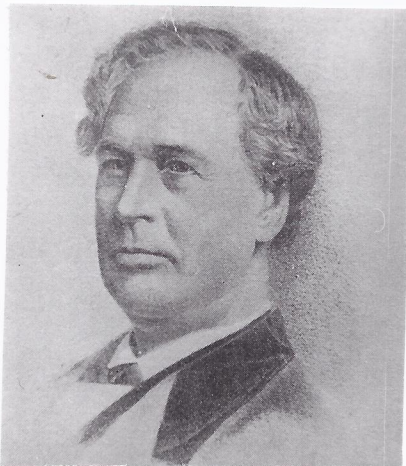


James William Denver – The Man & His Times



PURPOSE - The purpose of this exhibit is to trace the life and explain the historical importance of James William Denver from his early years in Virginia, through the end of his life in 1892. This will be accomplished with postal history items, letters and other material related to his long and fascinating life. The exhibit is essentially chronological, with minor exceptions. This presentation is a general class exhibit in the display division.

BACKGROUND - James W. Denver was born in Virginia in 1817 and moved to Ohio in 1831. After graduating from law school he moved to Missouri. He served in the Mexican War and in 1850 co-led a wagon train to California. He started a freighting business and served as state senator and secretary of state. In 1854 Denver was elected to the US House, and then appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In December 1857 he

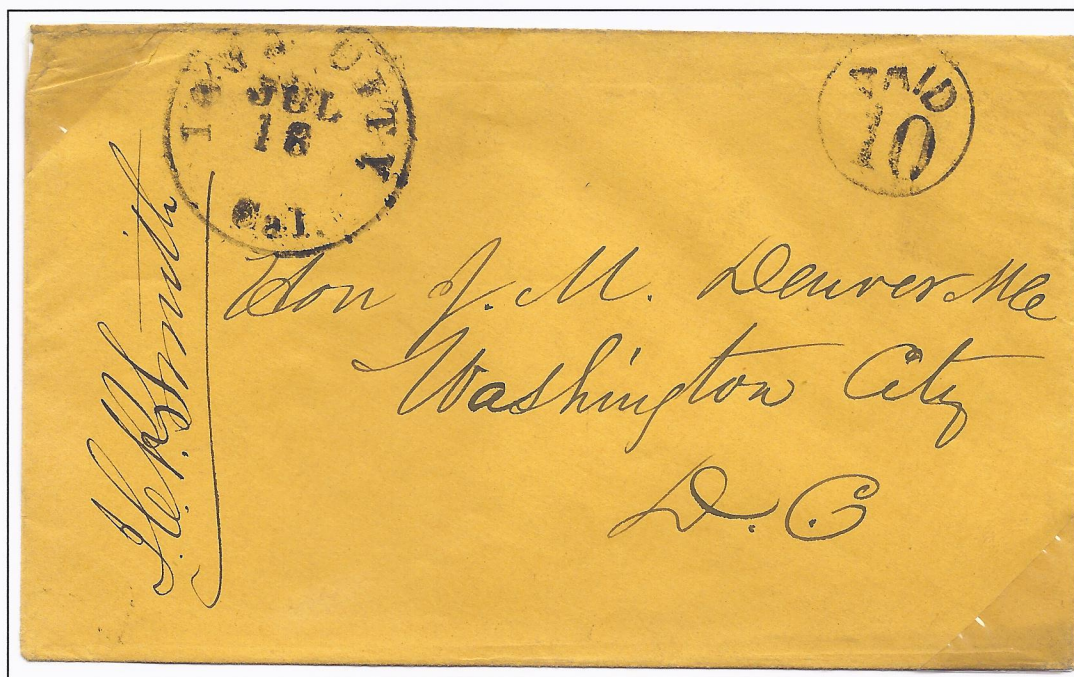
was named Governor of Kansas Territory. While serving as Governor, the new town of Denver, Kansas Territory (Colorado) was named in his honor. Resigning in late 1858 he returned to his Indian Affairs post until March 1859 when he left to return to California where he unsuccessfully ran for office.

Lincoln commissioned Denver as a Brigadier General and he eventually served under Sherman's command. Denver resigned in 1863 and established a law office in Washington DC. Denver had a very lucrative legal practice as well as numerous business investments. He also remained active in politics, and aspired to the presidency, never receiving the official nomination. Maintaining residences in both Washington DC and Wilmington, Ohio, he died a very wealthy man in 1892.

Exhibit Outline:

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|---|-----------------------------|
| I. Virginia, Ohio & Missouri Years | VII. Return to California |
| II. Early California Years | VIII. Civil War Years |
| III. Congressional Years | IX. DC Law Practice |
| IV. Indian Affairs 1 st Term | X. Other Business Interests |
| V. Kansas Territory | XI. Presidential Politics |
| VI. Indian Affairs 2 nd Term | XII. Epilogue |

***Featured items are edged in dark red.**



Iowa City Cal, Jul 18 (1856) Paid 10 handstamp to Washington DC, Transcontinental Rate.