



Territorial Daughters Dedicate Plaque

Mrs. Robert Rhodes, President ; Mrs. Virginia Razee, Secy.-Treas., Newstrom-Davis Con. Co. ; Mrs. Viola P. Enz, granddaughter of co-founder John Winterbottom

George Eichler

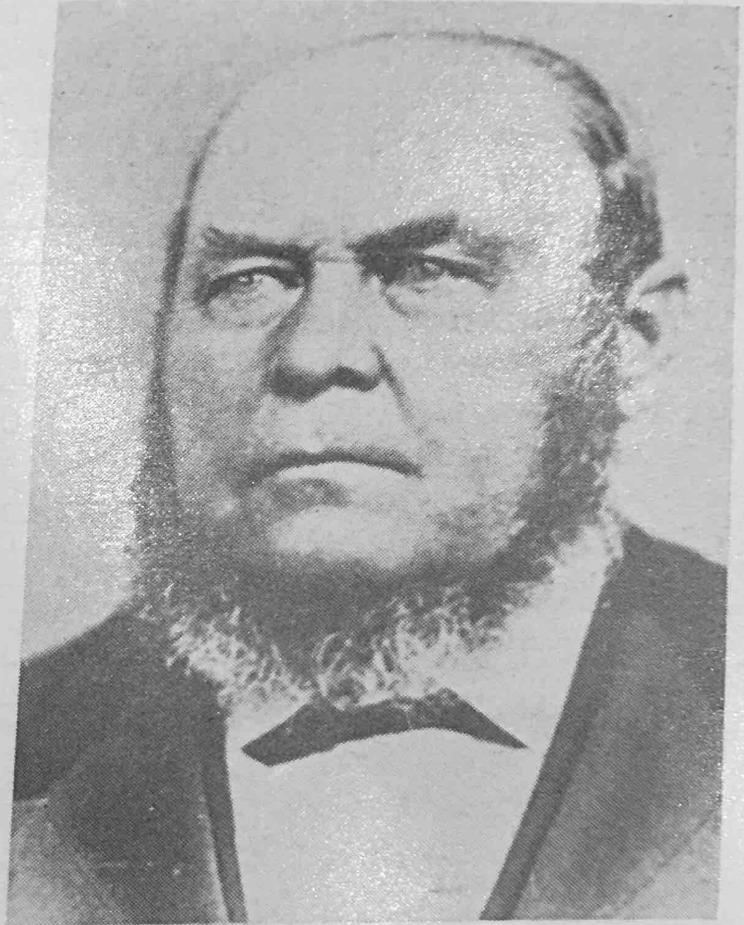
First Woolen Mill Site Marked

On December 8, thirty members of the Territorial Daughters of Colorado honored two of Colorado's early businessmen—John W. Smith and John Winterbottom—by dedicating a plaque at 2000 West Eighth Avenue, Denver, on the site of the first Woolen Mill in the Territory, built by the two partners, in 1870.

In a dedicatory talk, Arthur Gaeth, a commentator for KOA radio and television stations, outlined the highlights in the lives of John W. Smith and John Winterbottom.



JOHN WINTERBOTTOM



JOHN W. SMITH

Smith, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Colorado in June, 1860, bringing with him into the Territory not less than \$20,000. Before leaving Atchison, Kansas, he fitted out a train of ox and horse teams, which he loaded with merchandise, a quartz-mill, a planing-mill, and a small French portable buhr grist-mill. He built the American House and the Interocean Hotel in what is now West Denver, once called Smith's Addition. He was identified with ditch building, railroading, placer mining, and was president of a steam heating company and a construction company, in addition to other business activities. He was the father-in-law of Henry M. Porter, and grandfather of Mrs. James J. Waring of Denver.

John Winterbottom, born in England, became skilled in woolen milling. He married Sushannah Hinchclife in Glossop. They honeymooned on a sailing vessel which brought them to America. Winterbottom homesteaded in Missouri and later followed the gold rush to California in 1849, where he made more than \$100,000, before returning home. When the word of gold discoveries in the Pikes Peak region reached Missouri, he set out for Denver.

In 1870, before the first railway reached Denver, John W. Smith and John Winterbottom brought machinery to Cherry Creek and established a woolen mill just south of the remnants of old Camp Weld. The mill manufactured blankets, yarns, and coarse flannels and was prepared to turn out cassimeres and satinets, if required to do so. Sixteen hands were employed. Then dull times struck, followed by the 1873 panic. About 1875, the business closed down. Later the machinery was shipped to Utah, where some of it is said to be still in use.

The site of the old mill is now occupied by the Newstrom-Davis Construction Company which has operated at 2000 West Eighth Avenue since 1931. With the splendid cooperation of this company, the Territorial Daughters of Colorado placed a bronze plaque on the company's building and held a worthy dedication in the company's offices while zero weather prevailed outside.

Among those attending the ceremony was a granddaughter of Co-Founder John Winterbottom, Mrs. Viola P. Enz, who has long been interested and active in the preservation of Colorado's early history.