

# JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 125 Years of Law Enforcement

"The Old Green Book"

Dennis Potter 1984 Golden, Colorado

This historically interesting book about the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department is available in part on line at <https://www.jeffco.us/DocumentCenter/View/379/1859---1869-The-Pioneer-Decade-PDF?bidid+> The following interesting happenings were selected by Mr. Potter for the first year - 7 November 1859 thru October 22, 1860.

**November 7, 1859 Tuesday.** A Political list of Sheriffs of Jefferson County Colorado follows for the years 1861–1974. The Kansas Territorial Legislature allowed twelve new County governments to be created 600 miles to the west in the old area known as Arapahoe County. Jefferson County was one of those 12 original. The others were Cheyenne, St. Vrain, Arapahoe, El Paso, Fountain, Park, Saratoga, North, Jackson, Steele, and Mountain. William Steele, Provisional Governor of the new Jefferson Territorial Legislature headquartered in Steel's home at Mount Vernon appointed the first twelve Sheriffs today and gave them specific duties and responsibilities to last until the next scheduled election in 1860. Walter Pollard, an original member of the Boston Company who arrived in and founded Golden City in June of this year, was named the first sheriff. Besides keeping the peace along the turbulent Vasquez Fork (now Clear Creek) mining camps, Pollard was entrusted in registering citizens to vote in the 1860 election.

**December 7, 1859 Thursday**

The General Assembly of the Provisional Government of Jefferson Territory adjourned this evening at 9:00 pm. They had been in session now for thirty-one days and tonight the ink was drying on the first set of established laws for this new land in far western Kansas. Effective Jan. 1, 1860 the Sheriffs of the Territory will serve all civil process, maintain a County Jail, prevent crime, arrest all law breakers, and serve as the corner. Any Sheriff will be allowed three "constables" to assist in courtroom protection and security, and as many Deputies as deemed necessary. All Deputies, including the Sheriff, would receive wages based on a fee system. Lastly, all Sheriffs will serve as executioners, or by direction of the Courts, hand out any disciplinary lashes as necessary against the backs of offenders.

**January 6, 1860 Monday**

One thousand people from six different communities in Jefferson County voted today for their County officials. Walter Pollard was elected to the Office of Sheriff by receiving 187 total votes. Sheriff Pollard will remain in office until the next scheduled election to be held in the Fall of this year when the ballot would contain the issue of establishing a Territorial Government.

**April 4, 1860 Wednesday**

Mr. R. Fulsom was arrested for suspicion of burglary by Sheriff Pollard ten days ago after Eli Carter complained of having his clothes stolen from a Toll House owned by Colorado Wagon Road Company. Fulsom was sentenced to ten days of hard labor in the streets of Golden City, with a ball and chain attached to his leg. Without a proper jail (Pollard has used the Boston Company building) all prisoners were kept with a ball and chain continually fastened to their leg. Today, when Fulsom's sentence was over, Sheriff Pollard banished the offender from the Territory.

**September 18, 1860 Tuesday**

In his home at Mount Vernon, Governor Steele decided to hold a Fall election as outlined by the Territorial Constitution which went into effect last January. The Government was now losing its authority and credibility as the Summer of 1860 progressed. Established District Courts, for instance, were being usurped by local miner's courts, like the one established above Graham's Drugstore in Golden City last July. The next election was scheduled today for October 22, 1860.

**October 22, 1860 Monday**

On the ballot for today's territorial elections were three candidates for County Sheriff. Walter Pollard was making his bid to remain in office, while J>R> Gilbert and E.W. McIlhany were his opponents. There were nine precincts in Jefferson County. Henderson Ranch was the last precinct today to be counted, with Gilbert presently holding the lead of 15 votes over McIlhany, and 148 votes over the incumbent Walter Pollard. When Henderson's Ranch was counted, McIlhany received 73 votes while Gilbert and Pollard received none, and gave the election to McIlhany

The people of the entire Territory also approved a measure which would cause their elected legislature to create a permanent government and hold another future election. All officials were to take office on November 11, 1860.

## **Sheriffs of Jefferson County Colorado**

### Political List – 1861-1974

1861 Charles A. Clark	1894 George Kelley	1932 James H. Biggins Jr.
1862 I. R. Gilbert	1896 George Kelley	1934 Vernon E. Downing
1862 Jonas Mott Johnson	1898 Carlos W. Lake	1936 Willis Morris
1864 Charles A. Clark	1900 John Nichols	1938 Willis Morris
1864 Andrew Bacon*	1902 John Nichols	1940 Willis Morris
1867 Charles A. Clark	1904 John Nickols	1942 Howard Vincent
1868 John Keith	1906 Casper W. Wipple	1946 George E. Koch
1870 James Ward	1908 Allen W. Heater	1948 Carl E Enlow
1872 James Ward	1910 Joseph Dennis Jr.	1950 Carl E. Enlow
1874 William L. Smith	1912 Joseph Dennis Jr.	1952 Carl E. Enlow
1876 William L. Smith	1914 Joseph Dennis Jr.	1954 Carl E Enlow
1878 John W. Belcher	1916 Albert E. Jones	1956 Arthur Wermuth
1880 Jonas M. Johnson Jr.	1918 Albert E. Jones	1958 Arthur Wermuth
1882 Al Townsend	1920 Gary C. Kerr	1962 Harold E. Bray
1884 John Nichols Sr.	1922 Gary C. Kerr	1966 Harold E. Bray
1886 John Nichols Sr.	1924 Walter H. Johnson	1966 Harold E. Bray
1888 John A. Hoagland	1926 Walter H. Johnson	1970 Harold E. Bray
1890 John A. Hoagland	1928 Walter H. Johnson	1974 Harold E. Bray
1892 Samuel S. Poe	1930 James H. Biggins Jr.	

- Andrew Bacon was appointed by the temporary government of Jefferson County on July 25, 1864, and served only until the government was established