



# Colorado Biographies



## Helen Hunt Jackson 1830-1885

- Born Helen Maria Fiske, 1830, in Massachusetts.
- She married Captain Edward Hunt in 1852. They had two sons.
- Her first son, Murray, died as an infant of a brain disease; the other son, Rennie, died of diphtheria at 9 years of age.
- Her husband killed in a military accident during the Civil War in 1863.
- She wrote her first poem in 1865, 3 months after the death of Rennie.
- She 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, she married William Sharpless Jackson.
- In 1881, Helen wrote a history on United States/Indian relations titled *A Century of Dishonor*. President Arthur appointed her Special Commissioner of Indian Affairs as a result of her research in writing this book. As commissioner, she observed the Mission Indians in southern California and was inspired to write a novel, *Ramona* (1884), which deals with the poor treatment the Indians received at the hands of officials and others in authority.
- Died in San Francisco in 1885 but is buried in Colorado Springs at Evergreen Cemetery.

### 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.
- Banning, Evelyn I. *Helen Hunt Jackson*. New York, NY: The Vanguard Press., c1973.
- Duncan, E.E., *Helen Hunt Jackson: Colorado's Literary Lady*. Palmer Lake, CO, Filter Press, c2010.

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