

James Henry Gallup Family Biographies
From *History of the 2100 Block Lafayette Street*, 1987

James Henry Gallup, first president of the Colorado Optometric Association, was born near Greenfield, Ohio in 1809. Details of his childhood are not available. He entered the jewelry business, operating a store in Tiffin, Ohio. His first exposure to optometry occurred in 1858 when he sold Dr. Julius King's silver bridge "clericles."

When the Civil war began, he joined Company 'E' 55th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, a unit which first went into camp on October 17, 1861. Although Gallup began as a private, he rose in quick succession from private to first sergeant, to Sergeant Major. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on August 19, 1863, appointed Adjutant by Governor Brough on August 19, 1864, and to Captain on April 24, 1865. The 55th Ohio Volunteers were first engaged in Morefield, Ohio in early 1862. Gallup and his regiment fought an elusive and fast moving Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley. Gallup fought at the Battle of Chancellorsville, where he was wounded and Gettysburg, where he experienced shell shock which blew out one ear drum. He marched with Sherman to the Sea and in the Grand Review in Washington at the War's close. When he was mustered out with his regiment on July 11, 1865,. Gallup returned home with a shattered fortune and a shattered ear drum. He was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion.

He worked briefly in Shreveport, La, after the war repairing watches, but shortly moved to Greensburg, Indiana where he started a jewelry business, married Amelia (born Jan 1849), and started a family. Remembering the "clericles," from before the War, he went to Cleveland to study optometry with Dr Julius King. Astigmatism was a new concept that Dr. King chose to ignore, so Gallup then went to Chicago to study with Dr H.M. Martin, of the Chicago Ophthalmic College, a physician who taught both optometrists and ophthalmologists. After graduation he moved to Denver.

In 1890 he worked for Hardy and Columbian, and moved into the Cathcart commissioned house at 2129 Lafayette, where he lived until 1906. In 1893 he started the Denver Optical Co. In 1901 he took over the Geneva Optical Co from his neighbor Francis Speth, and operated that business until his death from arteriosclerosis on April 23, 1918, at the age of 79. He served as the first president of the Colorado Optometric Association in 1901 when it was reorganized under the auspices of the American Association of Opticians. He was an active member of Central Presbyterian Church for twenty-five years. Funeral services were held under the auspices of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Chaplain John L Boyd officiating, assisted by Dr. W.H. Ray Boyle of Central Presbyterian Church.

The Gallups had a son and two daughters. **George H. Gallup** became a real estate developer, and died in September 1942 (he is not the James Gallup important in the founding of Presbyterian Hospital.) It was said that "Mr. Gallup had two talented

daughters, and that their talents have been directed into business channels rather than along the usual domestic, social and matrimonial walks trod by the average girl." It was arranged that **Edith** would be the business girl. She shared her father's interest in optometry. After graduating from East High School, she studied at Northern Illinois College, returning to become a partner in the business. She was a charter member of the prestigious Physiological Branch of the American Association of Opticians, serving as Vice President in 1907-8, and vice chancellor in 1914-16. She became one of the leading optometrists in the West and was Secretary-treasurer of the Colorado State Optical Society in 1907. She served on the Board of regents of the American Optometric Association (AOA) in 1918-19, and the Executive Council (Board of Directors) of the AOA in 1919-21. Edith's writings indicate that she was one of the first feminists. Her paper on Women as Optometrists, written in 1912, sounds like a paper written in the 1970's. "For ages she worked by man's side, losing her identity in his, and without thought of recompense. Now with the increasing complications of modern life, she finds herself hampered in her financially dependant state....She has stepped forth into a new birth, advancing towards her self-dependence and greater mental, spiritual and physical development, away from the old parasitic state of dependence and disused faculties in which it were dangerous to remain without paying the penalty." Obviously she thought the new state of independence was to be obtained by becoming an optometrist. It is interesting that in spite of Edith's feeling about the importance of women, nowhere is her mother listed as other than Mrs. James H. Gallup.

Pearl first started on a business career in 1908. She worked for three years at the Merry Optical Co in Kansas City, during which time she taught evening classes in the Needles Institute of Optometry, and took licensing examinations of neighboring states just for the fun of it. She spent some time in Greensburg, Indiana, with maternal relatives, and returned to Denver for a "rest cure." Shortly thereafter she joined her father and sister in the Geneva Optical Co. After the retirement of James Gallup, the sisters continued to operate the business, first as the Geneva Optical Co, and then as "James H. Gallups Daughters" until the late 1930's. Pearl died in about 1944 and Edith in 1967. Neither married.

J.H. Gallup was everlastingly enthusiastic. The enthusiasm was shared by daughter Edith. They made a good team, enjoying all aspects of the practice of optometry, each trying to get one up on the other. Edith thought that her father was the best optometrist west of the Mississippi, and JH thought Edith was the best on both sides of the river. They lived at 2129 Lafayette during the heyday of the neighborhood, from 1890 to 1905. Gallup stood for the advancement of optometry as a scientifically based profession. He pled, thru various optical publications, for endowment of optometry by the wealthy so that better educational and research opportunities would be available. The Gallup family was socially prominent, and made an important contribution to the development of optometry both on a local and national level.

The Geneva Optical Company

The Geneva Optical Co was founded immediately after the Civil War (1869) by Andrew L. Smith, as the A.L. Smith Optical Company, of Geneva, New York. In June 1888, realizing that the West had no wholesale optical house, Smith was joined by JT Brayton and HW Henshaw who recognized that a Chicago branch would serve as an important outlet for the products of their spectacle factory. The Geneva Optical Company of Chicago was established at 57 Washington Street, and rapidly grew in size and scope, to eclipse the original New York office. Seeing additional opportunity even further West, Smith established the Geneva Optical Co of Denver in 1890 with E Merritt Cole as President and AI Agnew as Secretary. When Smith died on December 14, 1894, Fred H Smith became president of the parent firm. Advertisements for the firm in 1904 listed branches in Chicago, Des Moines, St Louis, and Geneva, New York, but not Denver. By 1915 Chicago was listed as the main factory with branches in St Louis, Minneapolis, Des Moines, and Cincinnati, but again not Denver. The firm became Standard Optical Company and later was absorbed by Shuron Optical Co.

The Denver office was opened in 1890 by EM Cole who established his residence at the Albany Hotel. John Stevens became the manager in 1896, and Francis Speth in 1901. (Speth lived at 2141 Lafayette) Gallup took over in 1902, and with his daughters operated the firm for many years. His relationship with the Chicago office is uncertain, as it is not listed in their subsequent advertisements, and the current owners of Shuron Optical Company are unaware of any connection.

The Geneva Optical Co was imaginatively creative, inventing instruments such as the Geneva Lens Clock which is used to measure the refractive power of lenses today. The company manufactured early ophthalmoscopes and retinoscopes as well as traveling cases for optometrists, and, of course, glasses. Not only did the firm publish a catalog giving the best instructions of the day for fitting spectacles, but it also published 10 000 copies of Hartridge's book on optometry. This established Hartridge as an authority, and helped many jewelers to make the transition to optometry. By 1901 the firm occupied 7,200 square feet at its plant at 63 Washington Street and employed 100 workers. The company was the first to establish branch offices in other cities, all supervised by optometric graduates. Ed F. Mckee established the St Louis branch, and Percy M. Smith, the Des Moines branch, and E Merritt Cole, the Denver Branch.

Denver Directory Listings for the Gallup family

1889	Gallup James H no listing
1889	Geneva Optical Co no listing
1890	Geneva Optical Co EM Cole Pres, AI Agnew sec'y & treas 626 16th
1890	E Merritt Cole r Albany Hotel
1890	Gallup no listing
1891	Geneva Optical Co, E Merritt Cole, Pres; AI Agnew Sec'y & treas, wholesale and retail opticians 626 16th
1891	Gallup James H r 2129 Lafayette

1892 Gallup James H jeweler r 2129 Lafayette
 1892 Geneva Optical Co add in business section- a caution about use and selection of spectacles and a lengthy reading test
 1892 Geneva Optical Co Al Agnew mgr wholesale and retail opticians 626 16th
 1893 Geneva Optical Co E Merrit Cole Pres & treas wholesale and retail opticians 676 16th (residence for Cole listed as 1236 Alta)
 1893 Gallup James H mgr Denver Optical Co r 2129 Lafayette
 1894 Gallup James H Mgr Denver Optical Co r 2129 Lafayette
 1894 Gallup James H Geneva Optical Co same as 1893
 1894 Geneva Optical same as 1893
 1895 Gallup James H mgr Denver Optical Co 825 16th r 2129 Lafayette
 1895 Geneva Optical Co 626 16th St. no owner or profiteer listed
 1896 Geneva Optical Co, John O Stevens mgr, wholesale and retail opticians 626 16th
 1898 Gallup James H optician 921 16th r 2129 Lafayette
 1898 Geneva Optical Co F Speth Sr, Pres FJ Kirschner treas. AG Cook sec & mgr 626 16th
 1899 Geneva Optical Co 626 16th St. no listing of owner or proprietor
 1899 Gallup James H optician, CE Ford 805 17th r 2129 Lafayette
 1901 Gallup James H optician 628 17th r 2129 Lafayette
 1901 Geneva Optical Co F Speth prop 1620 Calif
 1902 Gallup James H prop Geneva Optical Co 1620 California r 2129 Lafayette
 1902 Geneva Optical Co 1620 Calif JH Gallup prop
 1903 Gallup James H prop Geneva Optical Co r 2129 Lafayette
 1904 Gallup James H (Geneva Optical Co) 622 17th r 2129 Lafayette
 1905 Gallup James H same as 1904
 1906 Gallup James H (Geneva Optical Co) 622 17th r 1045 Humboldt
 1907 Gallup same as 1906
 1908 Gallup James H (Geneva Optical Co) 622 17th r 3, 609 Colfax Ave
 1909 Gallup James H optician (Geneva optical Co) rooms 5 & 6 El Paso Bldg, 16th cor California r 4, 1617 14th ave
 1910 Gallup same as 1909
 1911 Gallup James H (Geneva Optical Co) r 4,1617 14th Ave
 1913 Gallup James H same as 1911
 1914 Gallup James H same as 1911
 1917 Gallup James H (Geneva Optical Co) 320-322 Gas and Electric Building r 4,1617 14th Ave
 1918 Gallup James H Mrs. r 4,1617 14th ave
 1920 Gallup Jas Henry Mrs. r 1617 14th ave. Gallup Miss Edith optometrist (Geneva Optical Co) 319-322 Gas and Electric Building r 4 1617 14th Ave
 1921 Gallup Edith still runs Geneva and lives with mom
 1922 Gallup Miss Edith and Miss Pearl optometrists at Geneva. Mom not listed
 1923 Gallup Edith and Pearl run Geneva and live same place
 1925 Gallup as before
 1926 Gallup as before
 1927 Gallup as before
 1928 Gallup as before
 1929 Gallup Now listed as James H Gallup's Daughters (firm name) Edith still listed at 14th ave. Pearl not listed.
 1930 Gallup both listed with same home address and business name
 1931 Gallup same
 1932 Gallup same
 1933 Gallup same
 1934 Gallup same
 1935 Gallup Pearl h 214 1080 Sherman. Firm name same. Edith not listed
 1936 Gallup Edith listed at 214 1080 Sherman. Pearl same
 1938 Gallup Listed without firm name same address
 1939 Gallup same
 1940 Gallup same
 1940 Gallup same
 1941 Gallup Edith and Pearl r 214 1080 Sherman
 1942 Gallup same
 1945 Gallup same address no Pearl
 1947 Gallup Edith no Pearl
 1948 Gallup same
 1949 Gallup same listing as in 1965 & 6
 1950 Gallup Edith same listing in 1965 & 6
 1951 Gallup Edith same listing in 1965 & 6
 1952 Gallup Edith same listing in 1965 & 6
 1953 Gallup Edith same listing in 1965 & 6

1954	Gallup Edith same listing in 1965 & 6
1967	Gallup Edith clk h 820 Humboldt Apt 4.
1968	Gallup no listing
1970	Gallup no listing
1971	Gallup no listing

References

Denver City Directories Note that there is a John C Gallup (Van Law and Gallup) r 631 17th Ave (real estate and investments) listed in the 1891 directory. This is the Gallup associated with Presbyterian Hospital and is unrelated to the Gallup of Lafayette St. To complicate things further, both were prominent members of Central Presbyterian Church.

Riverside Cemetery Records: James H Gallup interred 11 Sep 1942, Riverside-next of kin Edith Gallup. James H Gallup was cremated 26 April 1918, 79 years old, at Riverside-Olinger was mortuary.

1900 US Census see "Census Summary."

Pioneer Optician, here 27 years, dies aged 79, Rocky Mountain News 24 April 1918

James H Gallup, owner of the Geneva Optical Company, and a resident of Denver for twenty-seven years, died yesterday at his home, 1617 E Fourteenth Ave, where he has been confined for several months with arteriosclerosis. Mr. Gallup passed his seventy-ninth birthday March 13. He was a captain in the 55th Ohio volunteers, marched with Sherman to the sea, was wounded at Chancellorsville and suffered shell shock in the battle of Gettysburg.

For twenty-five years he was a member of Central Presbyterian Church and at one time an officer. He served several terms as president of the Colorado State Optical Association and contributed to national optical publications

Mr. Gallup is survived by his widow, two daughters-Pearl and Edith, and by one son George.

Funeral services will be held at the Olinger Mortuary under the auspices of the Loyal Legion, Chaplain John L Boyd officiating [article contains a rotten picture]

Social Yearbooks for Denver Mrs. Hill's Blue Book for 1892 lists Mr. and Mrs. James C. Gallup living at 2129 Lafayette with James H. Gallup. The Social Yearbook of 1898 lists Miss Edith Gallup and Miss Pearl Gallup as living at 2129 Lafayette. The 1899 Social Yearbook lists Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Gallup living at 2129 with Miss Edith Gallup and Miss Pearl Gallup. In the 1901 to 1902 yearbook, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Gallup are living in 2129 with Mrs. G.W. Kennedy and Pearl Gallup. The Denver City Blue Book and Social Register of 1908 and 1909, which is the next available volume, published by White Stevens Publishing Company at 1824 Curtis St. does not list the Gallups.

Osborn, Hartwell, The fifty-fifth regiment Ohio volunteer infantry-its forty-eighth annual reunion, The Firelands Pioneer, 1914

On September 25, 1913, 86 survivors of the command assembled at the Armory in Norwalk, Ohio. there were 344 men total still alive. The total enrollment of the regiment was 1384 of which 146 were killed in action, 573 wounded, for a total of 719 hit by bullets. 79 were captured, and 422 were discharged or died of disease. 298 men of the 537 who were mustered out marched in its final parade. There is a list of the campaigns, and a note that James H Gallup has amounted to something.

Optometry Sept 1915 p 127-8

Reid, Whitelaw, Ohio in the War; her statesmen, her generals, and soldiers, More, Wilsatch and Baldwin, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1868

The Optical Journal 13(6), 510 (1904)

Optometry June 1915, Correspondence section.

The Optical Review 1(7) 59 (1907)

The Optical Journal 20(19) 668 (1907)

The Jewelers; Circular-Weekly 42(5) 58 (March 6, 1901)

Gallup, Edith, Women and Optometrists, The Optical Journal and Review 28(4) 228 (1912)

Death of James H. Gallup, Pioneer optometrist of Denver-Had a brilliant record in the Civil War, The Optical Journal and Review, 41(20) 1340 (1918)

Prominent Colorado Optical Man Dead, The Keystone Magazine of Optometry,
15(1) 66 (1918)
Geneva Advertisement, The Optometrist and Optician, March 1915 p67
Geneva Advertisement, The Optical Journal 14(14) 763 (1904)
Death of AL Smith, The Optical Journal 1(11) 352 (1905)
Wolfe, C.P. Fundamentals in focus; the Geneva lens measure, J Ophthalmic
Nursing and Technology 3: 209-11 (1984)
Geneva Optical Company, The Ophthalmologist 3(12): 255 (1902)
Geneva Optical Sale, The Focus 1(4): 188-91 (1901)
Pioneer Optician, here 27 years, dies aged 79, RMN 24 April 1918

Contributors to this reportError! Bookmark not defined.

Robert Viol, Ohio Sate Historical Society (regimental records of the 55th Ohio
Volunteer Infantry)
Maria Dablemont, Archivist of the American Optometric Association (clippings
on the Gallup family).
Chuck Whitehall, Owner of Shuron Optical Co, (descendant of Geneva Optical
Company)

The Optical Journal July 15, 1909; Colo State Optical Society held its annual
meeting in Denver on June 31. The treasurer refused to come forth and surrender
accounts. It is claimed that he went over to the medical side in some optometry
legislation. When so accused he refused to have anything else to do with the society.

Chuck Whitehill current owner of Shuron Optical 40 Humboldt St, Rochester,
NY 14609 716-288-4130) notes
1864 company founded by Ed Kerstein
1869 AL Smith & Co founded
1891 E Kerstein and Sons. Invented Sure (e.g. on your nose) On nose piece for glasses
1920 name change to Shure-On
1925 absorbed Standard Optical Co, which descended from Geneva and AL Smith
1931 Shuron Optical Co
1958 became Division of Textron
1963 absorbed Continental Optical Co of Indianapolis, founded in 1910
1976 name changed to Shuron Division of Textron, Inc
1985 sold to Jim Qualey and Chuck Whitehall