

# WATER

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Aurora, Colorado, the third largest city in the state, was once a community of Small farms and a population of less than one thousand people.

In the late nineteenth century, a developer by the name of Donald Fletcher built 36 Victorian styled houses. Each of these homes was complete with electricity and indoor plumbing.

What good is indoor plumbing without water?

Donald Fletcher knew this and had elaborate ideas for bringing water into his community, which incidentally bore his name. Aurora was once known as the Town of Fletcher.

Donald Fletcher was a Presbyterian minister, by profession, who came to Colorado, as have so many, to seek a cure for his tuberculosis. Nothing is known of his career as a minister, but he did have a knack for business. He was one of the forces behind the founding of Fairmont Cemetery, and he owned a mansion on 17th and Sherman in downtown Denver.

Let's get back to the water. The Town of Fletcher was a beginning development. Each the homes was equipped for running water, but Donald Fletcher's plan for water never materialized. Water on the Great American Desert did not exist. The Town of Fletcher had to go into debt and buy bonds to purchase water from the city of Denver.

Donald Fletcher disappeared, and the citizens changed the name of the town to Aurora. The Town of Fletcher, no longer was responsible for payment of the water bonds, but the Town of Aurora was accountable.

For over sixty years and many expensive judgments Aurora struggled to pay, not only for the bonds, but also interest and litigation fees. Finally in 1952 the debt was satisfied. In time Aurora was able to buy water from sources, other than Denver, and growth started.

So, now you know the role that water played in the growth and development of the third largest city in Colorado.