



**JOHN C. VIVIAN**  
*Former Governor of Colorado*

*John C. Vivian is the only Jefferson County native to ever serve as Governor of the State. He was born in Golden in 1887 and attended Golden schools. He graduated from the University of Colorado, earned a law degree from the University of Denver in 1913, and was admitted to the Colorado Bar the same year.*

*He first practiced law in Golden while he also worked for a newspaper in Boulder. When World War I broke out, he enlisted as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps and served from 1918 to 1919, retiring with the rank of Captain.*

*He served with distinction as City Attorney of Golden, he advanced to County Attorney and eventually became assistant to the Attorney General of Colorado. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1939 for two terms and elected Governor in 1943 for four years.*

*In 1927 John Vivian married Maude C. Kleyn, a professor of music at the University of Denver. The newlyweds built a beautiful house in Wide Acres, a secluded elite residential area east of Golden. Because there was no official home for the Governor, this charming house became the Governor's Mansion where they entertained visiting dignitaries. Each day the Governor commuted on the Denver interurban street car.*

*In 1943 he signed a bill authorizing the Colorado State Historical Society to be a part of the Executive Department of state government to assure permanent funding for the organization. As early as 1944, he set aside funds to complete the Valley Highway, which became U.S. Interstate 25. He saw the need for a direct route to Boulder and planned the Denver-Boulder turnpike. With the dawn of the atomic age, he perceived the need of atomic energy and supported the Rocky Flats project. He was instrumental in initially locating the Remington Arms plant in Jefferson County, and also worked hard to retain the facility to become the Denver Federal Center.*

*John C. Vivian was elected to the Jefferson County Historical Hall of Fame in 2001.*