

## The Rich History of Arvada

Gold was discovered here on June 22, 1850, the first documented gold strike in Colorado, by Lewis Ralston. This event is commemorated by Goldstrike Park and our annual festival every June.

The early settlers came for gold and stayed to farm. By 1860, the area was known as Ralston's point. In 1870, the railroad reached the village of 100, and Benjamin Wadsworth and Louis Reno platted a town.

In December of 1870, Wadsworth established a post office. His wife suggested the name "Arvada," after her brother-in-law, Hiram Arvada Haskins. His mother found this name on a map of the Holy Land in her Bible.



Benjamin Wadsworth ca. 1880

Arvada was soon the hub of business, social and religious life for a large portion of northern Jefferson County. The town of 600 was incorporated in 1904, and by 1960, the population was 19,000.

This heritage is still visible in the buildings of Olde Town Arvada, including the Arvada Flour Mill (1925), preserved and owned by the Arvada Historical Society, along with McIlvoy House (1897).

## Our Projects and the Community

McIlvoy House: home to our Archives and open to the public for research.

Arvada Flour Mill: a local landmark, with tours available by appointment.

Building Annex and Pavilion at the Mill: to be constructed to house our collection of early farm machinery.

History Museum at the Arvada Center: artifacts of early life in Arvada collected by the Arvada Historical Society.

The Society's work is all volunteer and funded by donations, fund-raising events, and sales of Arvada memorabilia, pamphlets, and our books.

Fundraising Events: Annual Choral Festival, Cemetery Tour, Ice Cream socials at Goldstrike and Harvest Festivals.

Arvada memorabilia: commemorative plates, snow globes, holiday ornaments, t-shirts and copies of the original town plat map. All items depict local scenes from Arvada's history.

Books: the history of Arvada in four volumes, from 1850 to 1976.

Pamphlets: wide-ranging topics, including the history of Arva-Pride flour, WWII veterans, "receipts" of Arvada residents, and the rise and demise of Arapahoe City (it almost became the county seat!).

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Visit the Archives at McIlvoy House

7307 Grandview Avenue

303-431-1261

Open Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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# Arvada Historical Society

Keeping Our History Alive  
with  
Your Membership

7307 Grandview Avenue  
Arvada, CO 80002  
[www.arvadahistory.org](http://www.arvadahistory.org)  
303-431-1261



## Our Mission

The Arvada Historical Society strives to bring together those people interested in history, especially the history of Arvada. The Society seeks to discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area. The society will establish museum exhibits and sponsor events to create an awareness of the rich history of Arvada.

## Membership Categories

**Goldstrike:** All the Main Street benefits plus:  
 -Two (2) free tickets to the Annual Meeting and Breakfast \$250+

**Main Street:** All the Arva-Pride benefits plus:  
 -Four (4) free tickets to the Annual Choral Festival \$100

**Arva-Pride:** All the Homesteader benefits plus:  
 -10% discount on merchandise  
 -Recognition on our website with a link to your website  
 -Special listing in our membership roster \$ 40

**Homesteader:** All basic membership benefits  
     Families \$25  
     Individuals \$15

**Pioneer (Seniors 60+):** All basic membership benefits \$ 10

**All members receive:**

- ☆ The *Arvada Historian*, our quarterly newsletter, with feature articles about the people and places in our town.
- ☆ Advance Notice of events, including the Choral Festival, Cemetery Tour, and the Ice Cream Social during the Goldstrike and Harvest Festivals.
- ☆ Annual picnic and reunion, embracing all Arvadans, past and present, and their guests.
- ☆ Invitation to the Annual Meeting and Breakfast, always with an interesting and exciting speaker
- ☆ Invitation to Annual Holiday Open House, an old-fashioned family affair
- ☆ *Historically Jeffco* magazine, published by the Jefferson County Historical Commission.
- ☆ Satisfaction in knowing you are helping to preserve the history of Arvada.

# Membership Application Arvada Historical Society

### Please Select Your Membership Level

<input type="checkbox"/> Goldstrike	\$250+
<input type="checkbox"/> Main Street - Business (20 or more employees)	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Arva-Pride - Small Business	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Homesteader - Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Homesteader - Individual	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer - Senior (60+)	\$10

### Member Information

Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check     Cash

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Main: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
 Arvada Historical Society  
 7307 Grandview Avenue  
 Arvada, CO 80002