

## Your Arvada Historical Society has:

- over 450 members.
- up to a 21-member Board of Directors.
- the beautiful refurbished 1897 McIlvoy Home as our home and archives, thanks to the City of Arvada.
- an excellent photo collection and a gift shop at the McIlvoy House.
- board meetings, open to the public, on the fourth Tuesday of every month, except August and December, and usually held at the McIlvoy House at 6:30 p.m.
- 57 dedicated volunteers who gave over 5000 hours in 2008.

*Yes! I'd like to learn more about volunteering for the Arvada Historical Society.*

Please check your areas of interest:

- Baking for Special Events
- Fundraising
- Gardening/Flower Beds
- Mailings
- Maintenance
- Mill Tours
- Olde Town Tours
- Publicity
- Research
- Sending Thank You Notes
- Special Events
- Other

## The Rich History of Arvada

The first documented gold strike in Colorado was made by Lewis Ralston, June 22, 1850, right here in what is now know as the confluence of Clear Creek and Ralston Creek in east Arvada.

Though the early settlers came for gold, it was the rich farm land that held them to the area. It became known in the 1860s as Ralston's Point. When Benjamin Wadsworth and Louis Reno began to plat the town in 1870, Wadsworth wanted a different name. His wife suggested the name "Arvada" after her brother-in-law, Hiram Arvada Haskins. It was thought that Mrs. Haskins found this name in the Bible on a map of the Holy Land. Also in 1870 the railroad reached the village, a big step in Arvada's growth, and Wadsworth became our first postmaster.

Arvada was soon the hub of farming, business, social and religious life for a large portion of northern Jefferson County. In 1904 the town of 600 was incorporated with Dr. Richard R. Russell elected as its first mayor. Arvada's first park came into existence in 1919 when Clemency M. McIlvoy deeded three acres of her "backyard" to the City, specifying that the park bear the McIlvoy name.

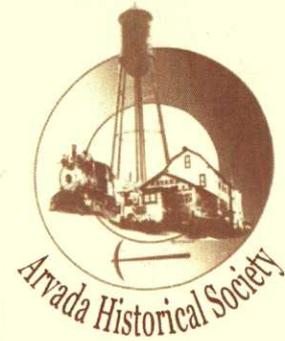
The City continued to grow. In 1960 the population was 19,000, 47,000 in 1970 and over 105,000 today. In spite of this growth, Arvada has maintained its rich, historical "Olde Town" heritage.

# 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 Statement

*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.*

The Arvada Historical Society was formed in 1972 with Lois Lindstrom Kennedy as its first president. The Society:

- Inspired and initiated the establishment of the History Museum at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities.
- Refurbished the historic Arvada Flour Mill and now operate it as a museum giving tours by appointment.
- Published four books on Arvada's rich history covering 1850 to 1976 plus published various other pamphlets.
- Worked with the City to create the History Walk in Olde Town Arvada and give walking tours upon request.
- Offers an annual walking tour of the Arvada Cemetery.
- Invites long time residents to come together to tell their stories.
- Staffs the McIlvroy House Tuesday-Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

As part of their membership, all Arvada Historical Society members receive:

- Satisfaction in knowing you are helping to preserve Arvada's rich history.
- The Arvada Historian, our quarterly newsletter which features articles about people and places in Arvada.
- Advance notice of special events, including the Cemetery Tour, annual Yard Sale at the Mill, and Oral Histories.
- Advance notice of our annual picnic and reunion, embracing all Arvada residents, past and present, and their guests.
- Advance notice of our Annual Meeting and Breakfast, always with an interesting speaker.
- Notice of our Annual Holiday Open House, an old-fashioned family affair.

### Arvada Historical Society Membership Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Level

- \_\_\_ Homesteader Individual .....\$15
- \_\_\_ Homesteader Dual/Family .....\$25
- \_\_\_ Pioneer Individual (60+) .....\$10
- \_\_\_ Pioneer Senior Couple (60+) .....\$15
- \_\_\_ Goldstrike - Benefactor .....\$250
- \_\_\_ Main Street – Business  
(20 or more employees) .....\$100
- \_\_\_ Arva-Pride – Small Business .....\$40

#### *If Business Membership, please add:*

Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Contact \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Payment

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

Donations:

Flour Mill  
 Restoration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

General  
 Operations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to  
 Arvada Historical Society**

*To be a volunteer, please look on the back.*