



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WADSWORTH**  
*Mining — Real Estate — Farming — Postmaster*

*Benjamin Franklin Wadsworth was born April 7th, 1827 in Avon Springs, New York. He was a descendant of William Wadsworth, who, with his brother Christopher, came to America in 1632. Christopher was an ancestor of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Benjamin Franklin Wadsworth's parents were Richard Wadsworth, Sr. and Susan Barns Wadsworth, who moved their large family to Ohio in 1837.*

*B. F. Wadsworth married Mary Ann Grove on October 31st, 1850. Two children were born, John Grove and Mary Emma. The family made the trip to Kansas Territory in a covered wagon in 1859, and to Empire, Colorado, where Wadsworth pre-empted one hundred acres in 1861. For the next eight years, he was active in buying and selling mining claims. The family was probably forced to leave Empire in 1869 due to the great fire on Silver Mountain. Fortunately, Wadsworth had secured one hundred sixty acres on Ralston Point by Military Bounty in 1865. There the Wadsworths settled permanently and built a lovely brick home.*

*A well-educated man, Benjamin Wadsworth saw the necessity of establishing a townsite, and he became one of the true Arvada Town Fathers. He gave his wife the honor of naming the new town; she chose her brother-in-law, Hiram Arvada Haskin's, middle name. Wadsworth was instrumental in starting schools, the Methodist Church, Clear Creek Valley Grange No. 4, and the Post Office, which was located in his home. Thus he became the first Postmaster of Arvada.*

*Wadsworth Boulevard, first called Centre, was renamed after the death of Benjamin Franklin Wadsworth and is the main north-south thoroughfare of Jefferson County, extending into Adams and Arapahoe Counties. Mr. Wadsworth was killed April 12, 1893 in a runaway horse accident in Denver, where he was taking a window from the Church for repair. He is buried in the Arvada Cemetery, where the graves of his wife, Mary Ann, son John, daughter Mary Emma, and Hiram Arvada Haskins are also located.*