



EDWARD LOUIS BERTHOUD

Engineer — Surveyor — Educator — Geologist — Scientist — Author — Soldier

Born on March 29, 1828 in Geneva, Switzerland, Edward Berthoud was of English and Swiss ancestry. In 1830, his parents moved their family to the United States. On February 28, 1858 he married his wife, Helen, in Logansport, Indiana. The next year, he and his bride moved to Colorado and helped found the city of Golden. Their home was on Eleventh Street near Washington Avenue, next to Clear Creek. It was the center of social activities during the late 1860s, '70s, and '80s. For many years, Berthoud served as Golden's city engineer, and he was mayor in 1890.

Berthoud was a small, jovial man with a courtly bearing. A true Colorado and Jefferson County pioneer, he worked tirelessly in building the state's railroads and discovered the pass that bears his name. He was a professor and a trustee at the Colorado School of Mines, and he helped build the Jefferson County education system.

He was a lifelong friend of General George West and served as Regimental Adjutant in the 2nd Colorado Volunteers, Company H. In July 1864, he was made a captain of Company D, 2nd Colorado Cavalry. He died on June 13, 1908.

Captain Berthoud's name graces one of the chief highway crossings of the Continental Divide, a city, many Colorado streets, and a hall at the Colorado School of Mines. He was chosen for the Jefferson County Hall of Fame in 1980.

Excerpts from "The Energetic Captain Berthoud," by Charles S. Ryland, as it appeared in The Denver Westerners Monthly Roundup for September/October, 1965.