



**ROBERT BOYLES BRADFORD**  
*Pioneer & Rancher*

*In 1859 Robert Boyles Bradford purchased the first acreage at what is now Ken-Caryl Ranch, a site with a sandstone cabin on it. His legacy lives today with the Bradford Perley House on Ken Caryl Ranch and Bradford Junction in Conifer. He started the Bradford Road in 1860. The road ran from Denver to Bradford, over the hill behind the stone cabin, over part of present day West Ranch, over Goddard Ranch to Bradford Junction, then on to Hamilton, Tarryall, Leadville (Oro City), and Breckenridge. The road followed the old Ute Trail used by the families and miners traveling to the mines. A toll road which operated from 1860 to 1867, made about \$500 a week. At some time in the history of the road, Bradford changed the location of the road to run over present day Morrison Road. He owned and built the Bradford Junction facilities – a ranch, tollgate, and stagecoach stop, which he sold in 1873 to Col. James McNasser. The structures were destroyed by fire in 1878.*

*Major Bradford was a well known rancher, and raised potatoes and turnips as well. He entertained his friends at a nearby cave called Mother Nature's Hall, which we now know as Colorow's Cave. The title of Major was an honorary one. However in 1859, then Governor Robert W. Steele appointed Bradford to his staff with the title of Brigadier General, Aide.*

*Bradford started an addition of a front stone mansion that was attached to the stone cabin, which he completed in 1872. This building, although in a "ruin" state, was named to the State Register of Historic Properties in 1997. In 2002 Colorado Preservation, Inc., named the house as "One of the Most Endangered Places" in Colorado. Civil War recruiting was done at Bradford in 1863 by Col. John M. Chivington, which makes the building the only remaining Civil War site still standing in Jefferson County.*

*Bradford died December 30, 1876, and was buried at Riverside Cemetery. He left an adult daughter, Mattie, and his wife Fanny. Robert Bradford was elected to the Jefferson County Historical Commission Hall of Fame October 16, 2004.*