

Wellington Bruce Wiswall was born May 7, 1836 in Farm Ridge, LaSalle, Illinois. He crossed the plains in the 1860s. He engaged in mining at Black Hawk for 10 years before moving to a farm south of Longmont. In 1872 W B Wiswall entered one span of fine mules at the annual Fair of the Boulder County Agricultural Society.

Wellington (40) married Harriette Atwood (39) in 1872. A newspaper reported that Mr. Wiswall of Longmont has pitched his tent in our camp and gone to mining in 1876. Their first son, Wilbert Wiswall, was born in 1877 in Longmont.

On Sept. 12, 1879, at about one o'clock in the morning a fire was discovered in the bakery building on the east side of Main Street. The alarm was given, but before anything could be done the whole rear of the bakery was in flames. These flames spread immediately to the hotel on the north and a drug store on the south. The heat was so intense, that the buildings on the opposite side of Main Street were charred and singed. None of the efforts of people hanging out wet blankets and throwing pails of water prevented the fire from spreading to the Carr office building and the J.B. Thompson's store on the west side of Main Street. From the drug store the flames spread to the livery stable and to the Phillip's Building. In but a few minutes the structures were consumed. After only three short hours only two buildings were left standing on the east side of Main in the 300 block.

After the 1879 fire, Wellington Wiswall became a partner with J. B. Thompson in rebuilding the hardware store. W. B. continued in retail hardware and his wife Hattie was a milliner. In 1884 the Wiswalls had another son, Harry Bruce who was born in Longmont and his older brother was attending school.

Sometime between 1885 and 1897 the Wiswalls moved to Denver where WB Wiswall was secretary and treasurer of the American Soap Company.

In March 30, 1900, the Longmont newspaper reported "our old townsman, W B Wiswall was in the city to purchase a stock of goods of the Golden Rule Mercantile Co to start a store in Fowler, a town on the Arkansas river in southeastern Colorado." Wiswall had been married for 25 years and two of their three children were living. Harry was 16 and attending school in Denver.

Business directory of 1906 - 1911 listed WB Wiswall 74, retail merchant dry goods; Harriet 73 in LaJunta, Colorado

1911 - 1913 Denver city directory - Wiswall Photo Craft Shop 1526 Stout included WB and sons H Bruce and Wilbert W

1914 - Wellington Bruce Wiswall died in Denver, Colorado