Agnes Wolcott Vaille was born a Denver native, educated in the city’s finest schools, Denver’s Wolcott School (founded by her mother Anna Wolcott Vaille, a celebrated educator) and Smith College. During WWI, Agnes served with the American Red Cross in France. After the war, in Denver, she was considered one of the city’s best business women.

Agnes had a passion for hiking and mountain climbing and by 1924, she had climbed most of Colorado’s 52 “fourteeners” (mountain peaks over 14,000 ft. above sea level). She climbed some of them by herself and some in the dead of winter.

On January 10, 1925, Agnes, along with Walter Kiener, set off to climb the infamous East Face of Long’s peak, 1600 vertical feet of sheer rock. On the dangerous climb, they fought through snow, ice, gale force winds, and temperatures that dropped perilously below zero degrees. After almost 48 hours at 4 am, they signed the summit register. By then Agnes was so exhausted and weak that she could barely walk. She did not survive the descent.

Today, on the spot where Agnes died, there is a rock shelter dedicated in her memory.

Located in Lot 17, Block 2.