

Lafayette Cemetery: What the records say

By Doug Conarroe May 3, 2026

1891 LAFAYETTE CEMETERY

T3

As the town developed the citizens wanted their own cemetery and the town board appointed a committee to select five acres for a site. They interviewed the Union Pacific Rail Road representative and started negotiations. On November 19, 1891 five acres in the S.W. corner of S.W. ¼ of Section 35, T. 1 N, 69 W. was purchased from U.P. RR. for \$50.00 per acre with ten years to pay at 7% interest.

In March of 1892 bids were asked to fence the cemetery. Pitch or cedar posts cost 16 cents each and 3 cents each for pickets. In June, Snyder and Ross were awarded the bid to fence the cemetery for \$40.00. The next month Mr. Noble was instructed to layout the cemetery as the plans submitted. The charge was \$15.00 for lots south of the circle or center and \$10.00 north of the center. For a single grave in "potters field" the cost was \$2.00. William D. Cannon bought a block for \$50.00. The next year a water hydrant was placed at the cemetery so that the families could water the flowers and grass they planted on the graves. The town made a yearly appropriation of \$400.00 for the cemetery. The town marshal had to get a team and haul all tin cans and rubbish from the cemetery grounds. It was his duty to keep the fence in repair.

Today the cemetery is a beautiful place of memories with the mature trees, flowering shrubs, perennial flowers, bright annual flower beds and manicured lawns. Memorial Day services are conducted every year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1771 and families from all over the country attend to give their respect to their deceased loved ones. It is a time of renewed acquaintances and reminiscence.

by Elizabeth Hutchison

From "Lafayette, Colorado History: Treeless Plain to Thriving City," Lafayette Historical Society, 1990

According to Town of Lafayette cemetery records, the Lafayette Cemetery did not open for burials until fall of 1892. Payment for the burial plot survey for Lafayette's NEW cemetery was made Oct. 11, 1892.

Oldest dates of death (not burial date)

Baby of M. S. Haines 1862 (east side of VFW memorial)
Baby of M. S. Haines 1864 (east side of VFW memorial)
Arizona Haines 1872-1877 (east side of VFW memorial)
George J. Brown 1876-1880
Julia Moon 1878-1880
Isabella Simpson 1843-1880
John Brown Sr. 1841-1887
Robert Abernethy 1867-1888
Ruth Abernethy 1885-1888
Ellia Moon 1880-1888
Baby of Thomas Miller 1888
Gracie Noble 1877-1889
Elmer Padfield 1889-1889
Baby of Thomas Miller 1889
Baby Quixley 1890-1890 (different than the Baby Quixley listed at right)
Sarah Reese 1889-1890
Florence A. Thomas 1876-1890
Pearl Thomas ?-1890
George B. VanValkenburg 1883-1890
Maggie P. Miller 1890-1891

Cemetery survey completed late summer/early fall of 1892, with first six burials progressing thusly:

At Lafayette yesterday the child of Will Cannon was buried. The parents have the sympathy of their many friends throughout the county.

Boulder Daily Camera Sept. 23, 1892

C. Clifford Cannon 1890-1892 (194 467)
Baby Quixley 1892
Otis R. Kerby 1886-1892
Mathew Ranson 1892
Myrtle Walters 1888-1892
Roy VanValkenburg 1892-1892



mining town history

by Carolyn Conarroe

Memorial Day and cemeteries

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was officially designated in May, 1868, to be observed on May 30.

The holiday began a year or two earlier following the Civil War as an opportunity to decorate the graves of soldiers killed in that war.

After World War I the day became a day to commemorate all those who had died in battle. Before many years it became the custom to honor all deceased veterans.

American Legion in Louisville and Veterans of Foreign Wars in Lafayette have traditionally held services each Memorial Day to honor deceased veterans.

In May, 1991, Lafayette VFW established an Avenue of Flags in Lafayette Cemetery. American flags given to families at funeral services of deceased veterans are flown on Memorial Day.

Memorial Day eventually became a day to honor deceased family members as well as armed service veterans. Cemeteries burst into bloom the last week in May as families tend burial plots and flowers are placed on graves as a memorial. The first holiday of summer becomes an opportunity for many to return to home towns to honor deceased loved ones.

The cemeteries in Louisville and Lafayette are relatively new compared to Superior Cemetery and South Boulder Cemetery.

Land belonging to the Minks family was first opened in 1873 for burial for Lottie Eggleston. In 1876 the land was deeded as the Cemetery on Coal Creek. It became known as Superior Cemetery and eventually was known as Old Louisville Cemetery.

It was one of Boulder County's early large cemeteries, but by 1976 there were only 55 known graves. The cemetery was deeded by Rocky Mountain Fuel Co. to Boulder County in 1976 and was designated as an historic landmark.

Many of the early graves were moved from Superior to Louisville Cemetery which opened in 1892. Any gravesites

in Louisville with a date prior to 1892 would have been those moved from another cemetery.

A fraternal order, Independent Order of Odd Fellows bought the land for Louisville's cemetery. Four sections were blocked out for the cemetery: one fourth owned by Town of Louisville, one fourth owned by Odd Fellows lodge, one fourth owned by Knights of Pythias Lodge, and one fourth owned by Redmen Lodge. Knights of Pythias was the last of the three lodges to be active in Louisville.

The late George Ellis, one of the last Pythian members, assumed leadership of Louisville Cemetery and kept records of the fraternal sections of the cemetery. George and Laura Ellis planted trees and assisted with many other maintenance tasks. Thanks to the Ellises and others who worked with them, Louisville Cemetery has always been well maintained in a peaceful setting.

As lodge activities ceased City of Louisville acquired proprietorship of the cemetery.

South Boulder Cemetery dates from at least 1881. Many of the burials at South Boulder are of Louisville people because it does predate Louisville Cemetery and because the South Boulder Cemetery was consecrated by the Catholic Church.

Five acres of land for Lafayette Cemetery was purchased in November, 1891, from Union Pacific Rail Road. Improvements were begun and the first burial in Lafayette Cemetery was in 1892.

Inventories of burials and gravesites have been completed by several groups.

Louisville's Saturday Study Club compiled information about Louisville Cemetery in about 1976. Vera Taylor was chairman for the project and others on the committee were Loretta Jacoe, Donna Agee, Margaret Watts and Pearl Callahan. Laura Ellis also helped with identifying gravesites. This historical information is available at Louisville City Hall.

Information about burials in Superior Cemetery and South

Boulder Cemetery has been compiled by Boulder Genealogical Society and Sanford Gladden of Boulder. This information, as well as the Louisville Cemetery information is on file at Louisville Public Library.

In November, 1976, R. Michael Collard wrote "Historical Report on Superior Cemetery." He said, "A cemetery exists in its essence as a reminder of man's mortality, and this would seem to be its end. Yet it is in fact for the living that it is commemorated and kept as a cemetery as opposed to scattered graves, and into the future. On a larger scale this is exactly what occurs in the preservation of history. History is demonstrative of man's mortality, of the human venture in the passing of time, yet we keep it for the living and the future."



By Noble sec by Leouch, that a committee be appointed to select a site for a Cemetery. of 5 acres of ground.
Leouch and Donald committee.

Town board minutes May 14, 1891

By Leouch sec by Bauer that this board incline the W. P. R. F. les. regarding land for cemetery purposes should they get no encouragement they purchase land from Mr. Thomas as per agreement.
Carried

Town board minutes July 20, 1891

By Leouch sec. by Bauer that this Board purchase 5 acres of land from the Union Pacific Land Dep. situated as follows
In the corner of the S.W. 1/4 of Sec. 36 - Twp. 1 N - R. 67 W. at 50 p. acre, giving 10 years time to pay for same, terms 1/10 of price with application and balance in 10 years with interest at 7% per annum
Carried Jan 5 May 0.

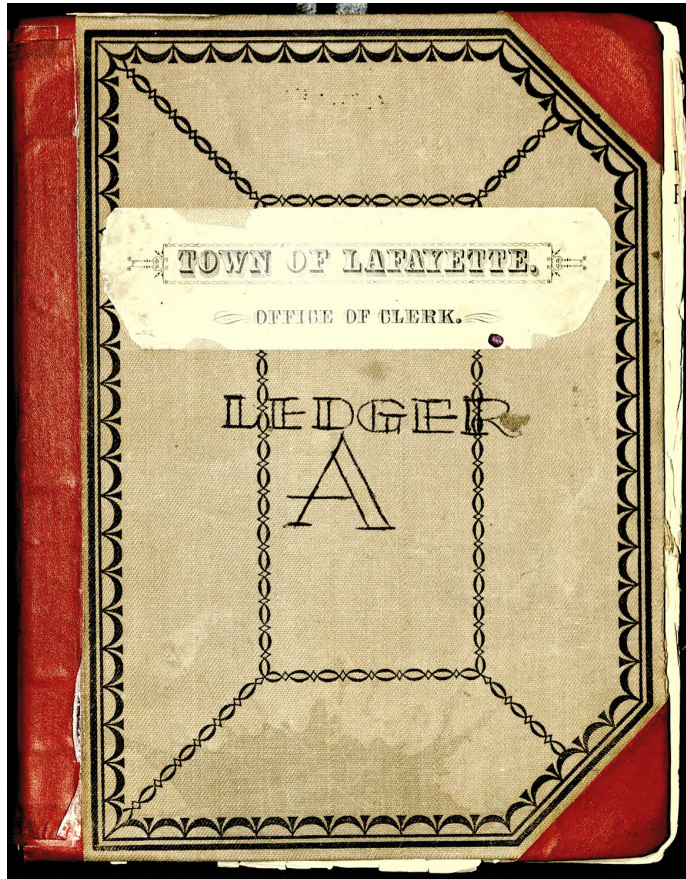
Town board minutes Nov. 19, 1891

By Rosentaur sec by Donald that Mr Noble be instructed to lay out the Cemetery according to the plan submitted by him
Carried

Town board minutes July 7, 1892

"according to plan submitted by himself"

Cemetery land purchased Feb. 9, 1892



"5 acres of ground \$50 per acre"

— Feb 9, 1892

1892 Cemetery Exp

Feb. 9	2.5 Acres of Ground \$50 per Acre	250 00
May 13	Surveying same	12 00
July 7	Wheeler Mails for fence	31 05
" "	Lumber for " "	176 60
" "	Team Work	47 50
Aug 1	Martin Kellian Work	11 25
" "	James Nobles "	4 25
" "	Nobles and Sauls. Nails etc.	4 00
Sept. 1	Jacob Snyder. Work on fence.	30 00
Oct. 11	William Nobles Surveying and Plat	30 00
Jan. 7	Jacob Snyder on full of account.	6 75
		651 60

Deed for Town of Lafayette's purchase of 5 acres from Union Pacific Railroad - 5 acres @ \$50 per acre, with the land to be used for "cemetery purposes only."

Transaction date (not recording date, which was in 1893) of Feb. 9, 1892, with ownership by UP Railroad going back to 1869.

Whereas, The Union Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company, by its Mortgage of Deed of Trust of date the 10th day of August, A. D. 1869, to John Edgar Thomson, Adolphus Meier and John Evans, Trustees, recorded in the several counties in which the lands of the said Railway Company are located, did convey to the said Thomson, Meier and Evans, all its lands granted to said Company by act of Congress in aid of the construction of said railway, upon certain conditions and trusts. AND WHEREAS, said Thomson, is dead, and said Meier has been removed from his office as Trustee, pursuant to the order contained in said deed of trust, and said Evans has resigned his office as such Trustee. AND WHEREAS, Anthony G. Dulman was duly appointed Trustee in place and stead of said Thomson, (deceased), and the said Dulman has resigned his office as said Trustee, and the undersigned, Jay Gould and Russell Sage, have been duly appointed Trustees in place and stead of said Evans and Dulman, and are the sole and only Trustees under said deed of trust. AND WHEREAS, said Evans and Dulman, were executed to the undersigned a good and sufficient deed of release of all their right and title as such Trustees in and to the lands and property embraced in said deed of trust, which deed of trust and deed of release are of record in the several counties in which said lands are located; now,

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, Jay Gould and Russell Sage, of the City and State of New York, as Trustees of the Union Pacific Railway Company, the successor by the consolidation of the said Denver Pacific Railway and Telegraph Company, by reason of the premises aforesaid, and by virtue of the authority in us vested by said deed of trust, as successors of said Thomson, Meier and Evans, and in consideration of the sum of Five hundred & fifty DOLLARS,

the same being the appraised value of the lands herein mentioned, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the Town of Lafayette, Colorado Territory, hereinafter of the County of Cherokee and State of Colorado, and unto its successors, heirs and assigns, forever, the following described real estate, situate in the County of Cherokee and State of Colorado, to-wit:

Beginning at the South West corner of the South West quarter of the South West Section (36" x 36") of Section No. Thirty four (34) in Township No. One (1) North of Range No. Forty Nine (49) East of the South Principal Meridian, thence East along the South line of said Section Four Hundred and Sixty six (466) feet, then a North at right angle to said South line Street Hundred and Sixty seven (167) feet, thence East parallel with said South line Four Hundred and Sixty six (466) feet to the West line of said Section thence South along said West line Four Hundred and Sixty seven (167) feet to place of beginning, containing Four (4) acres more or less, said above described premises to be used for cemetery purposes only.

Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claims and demand whatsoever, of said Union Pacific Railway Company, and of said Trustees, either in law or equity, now held or claimed by them or which may hereafter be acquired by the said Trustees or the said Union Pacific Railway Company of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances, reserving to said Company, and its assigns, all Coal that may be underneath the surface of the land herein described, also such right of way and other grounds as may be necessary for the proper working of any coal mines that may be developed upon said premises and for the transportation of the coal from the same.

To have and to hold the said premises, above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said

The Town of Lafayette, Colorado, its successors

heirs and assigns, forever. The Grantee herein named being liable for all taxes levied and assessed upon said land since July 7, 1892

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this Ninth day of February A. D. 1892

COUNTERSIGNED:

J. N. Mills

Auditor.

Jay Gould

Trustee. (Said.)

Russell Sage

Trustee. (Said.)

It's a new cemetery, not an old one

June 21, 1892

DAILY CAMERA

BOULDER, COLORADO, TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 21, 1892.

rumors tonight. It is whispered that an arrangement has been completed between Whitney and Croker whereby Hill is to receive a large vote on the first ballot and on the second the ballot New York vote is to be thrown to Cleveland	favor of Gorman. This statement was circulated during the time the New York delegation was in executive session and also alleged that the meeting was called for the express purpose of canvassing the situation more thoroughly. This meeting was well attended. every mem-	IN THE COAL FIELDS	Stems of Interest From Busy Lafayette.	south, claret by the bushel. That is why Marsgal Madera took in Rowland and Fleming, two painters, last night. Shep found them handily across the way from the cooler and the drag was, therefore, a short one. It is reported that	Ce less pron Thui char
---	--	--------------------	--	---	------------------------



see bristles and excitement, step over to our town on pay day.

Snyder and Ross have the contract to fence the new cemetery. Don't think we will ever need it though.

It is a common occurrence to some of our boys to bring in a mess of fish.

"Mac" (the druggist) laid in a good



Example of Date of Death, not Burial Date

Martin S. Haines bought his burial plots in 1899, then placed the bodies of his children who died in the 1860s in the family plot.

DEATH OF M. S. HAINES

Martin S. Haines died at the home of his son, Charles, Thursday morning of last week of paralysis. He had a slight stroke on Tuesday but was able to be up the evening before the final stroke came. Mr. Haines was 73 years of age, having been born in the year 1838 in Muncie, Indiana. He leaves four children to mourn their loss, a daughter and three sons. There were only the two sons present at the funeral, Charles, with whom he lived, and Harry of Colorado Springs. Also a sister, Mrs. Sarah Currier and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Appar, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Osborn and Mr. and Mrs. Shannon and their families of Loveland attended.

Mr. Haines came to Colorado 39 years ago. The funeral was held at the house at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Rev. Bingham of Louisville officiating. Interment at the Lafayette cemetery in charge of R. R. Powell.

Lafayette Leader, July 28, 1911

1899	M S Haines.				1899
Aug.	To whole of Lot #145	15.00	Sept 23	By Cash	15.00

Haines lot purchase from Town of Lafayette cemetery Ledger A, 1892-1917, page 73

Eliz & Chas. Haines Haines M. S. Daughter - Rose Swine 1494 S. Emerson 756-6160		Whole Lot No. 145	
		N BURNT ORANGE SECTION	
BABY OF M. S. HAINES 1864		CHARLES HAINES 1878 - 1953	
BABY OF M. S. HAINES 1862		Elizabeth HAINES	
RACHEL HAINES 1840 - 1908		ARIZONA HAINES 1872 - 1911	
MARTIN S. HAINES 1838 - 1911		JOHN HAINES 1875 - 1899	
		S	

Orientation and dates of death for Haines family lot, Town of Lafayette cemetery Ledger B, 1943-1980, page 166