

The Louisville Historian

Issue #110

A Publication of the Louisville Historical Museum, Louisville History Foundation, and Louisville Historical Commission

Spring 2016

Being French in Louisville

By Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

T magine a small Western town containing a **I** neighborhood in which nearly every house was owned by natives of France, with French often being spoken in the homes and between neighbors over back fences. In fact, many of the neighbors were actually related to one another because people lived near their parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings. From this modest settlement of wood frame houses, men followed the nearby railroad tracks or walked on dusty roads to reach the coal mines in which they worked. Unfortunately, this neighborhood was partially and inconveniently separated from the main business section of the town by a large mine dump that blocked the main street leading to the rest of the town, but perhaps the residents enjoyed some aspects of their isolation. Eventually, that mine closed and the mine dump came down, opening access.

These French-speaking families carried on their cultural traditions, but also became integrated into the town. One young man from this neighborhood, a miner, was killed during strike violence and his funeral was attended by 1,500 people. Another was killed in World War II and is still mourned today by people who remember him. Many members of the French families married others of French descent, but some intermarried with members of other immigrant families, such as those from Italy, England, Bulgaria, and Slovenia. Some of the women of French heritage from this neighborhood prepared and served food in the Italian-American restaurants for which the town became famous.

This neighborhood was called Frenchtown and it was located right in our town of Louisville, Colorado in the vicinity of Rex and Parkview streets. Louisville's Italian population and heritage obviously left their marks on the town, but very few of the stories about the French-speaking residents in the Louisville area have been documented. It's worth noting that besides people from France, Louisville also drew French-speaking families from Belgium. Also, some French-speaking people lived on farms and in parts of Louisville besides Frenchtown.

This issue of *The Louisville Historian* kicks off several programs and events this year that will explore Louisville's French history. In addition to two walking tours of Frenchtown to be offered in June and October, a Brown Bag presentation and discussion about Louisville's French heritage will take place on June 2nd. And on November 16, in conjunction with One Action Boulder County 2016: Arts + Immigration and the Louisville Cultural Council, I'll give a presentation about French immigrants in Louisville at the Louisville Arts Center. (See additional information in this issue for program dates, times, and locations.)



Sisters Adrianna and Marie Bodhaine of Louisville, c. 1910.

In the meantime, during the course of the year, we hope to gather more information from our readers! We do know that most of the French families in Louisville came from communities in coal mining areas in Nord-Pas-de-Calais in northern France such as Vieux-Conde and Saint-Pol-sur-Ternoise. Some worked in coal mines in Illinois or Kansas before coming farther west to Colorado.

However, there is much that we don't know. For example, what foods did Louisville's French families prepare? What holiday traditions did Louisville's French families follow? Did the families make wine, as many residents of Italian heritage did? And what do the descendants of these families want those of us who live in Louisville now to know and remember about the French?



This 1948 County Assessor photo shows 928 Rex in the Frenchtown neighborhood.



French words were inscribed on the gravestone of Joseph Bodhaine (1838-1896) in the Louisville Cemetery.

Next are three short biographies of people who lived in the Frenchtown neighborhood.

Stephanie Warembourg

Stephanie "Fannie" Warembourg was a Frenchwoman with an interesting personal history. She was born in northern France in 1875 and came through Ellis Island with her mother and siblings in 1906. She was already a married woman with the last name of Demouliez, and what happened to her first husband is a mystery. In 1907, she married Oscar Briche, a Frenchman, and they lived at 1000 Parkview in Frenchtown. After Oscar died in 1924, Fannie then married outside of the French community. She married Nick Todoroff, a coal miner who had been born in Bulgaria in 1884. They lived together in her house at 1000 Parkview until her death in 1958.

Rene Jacques

Rene Jacques lived at 829 Rex St. in Frenchtown. He was born in France in 1901 and came to the U.S. as a young child with his parents, Frank and Anna, and brother, Peter. His brother, a miner, died in 1919 after he was kicked by one of the mules used in the coal mines. In 1927, authorities killed Rene and five other miners at the Columbine Mine when hundreds of striking miners assembled at the mine in solidarity. The event is referred to as the Columbine Mine Massacre. According to a newspaper account, 1,500 people attended his funeral in an outpouring of grief and anger. He was buried in the Louisville Cemetery. His father died two years later. His mother, Anna Jacques, continued to live by herself at 829 Rex for many more years.



829 Rex, shown here in a 1948 County Assessor photo, was the home of Rene Jacques and his parents in Frenchtown.

Alfred Dhieux

Alfred Dhieux grew up at 1000 Rex St. in Frenchtown. His parents, Henri Dhieux and Julia Gosselin Dhieux, had come from France in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Alfred's was not Louisville's very first World War II death, but his death seemed to bring the reality of the global war to the small town of Louisville. Alfred had been a member of the Louisville High School class of 1943 and left school early in order to join the Marines. Alfred was wounded and was awarded the Purple Heart. After returning to combat, he was killed in the Battle of Peleliu in 1944. He was buried in the Louisville Cemetery.



Alfred Dhieux during World War II.

Don't Miss an Issue of The Louisville Historian!

Membership in the Louisville History Foundation is a must for those interested in Louisville's unique history and cultural character! Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* with substantive articles about Louisville history.

A yearly membership is \$15.00 for an individual and \$25.00 for a family. A yearly Business Sponsorship is \$100.00.

You may pick up a membership form at the Historical Museum, visit the Museum website at www.louisville-library.org to print out a membership form, or call the Museum at 303-665-9048 for assistance. You may also join and renew online at

www.louisvillehistoryfoundation.org. Please make any checks payable to the Louisville History Foundation, Inc.

French Surname List For Louisville

The following list is made up of 100 surnames of French-speaking families from France and Belgium who are documented as having lived in the Louisville area from its founding in 1878 until around 1950. The list is not intended to include surnames of Belgian families who were not from a French-speaking part of Belgium. It also isn't intended to specifically include families from Alsace-Lorraine, which has been controlled by both France and Germany and has its own unique history. Additional French-speaking families settled in nearby Marshall, Superior, and Lafayette and not in Louisville; the list would be even longer if these names were included!

If you have additional surnames to add to the surname list, or if you have information about these families who came to Louisville or photos of them, please contact the Museum as we embark on our focus on the French.

Allard/Allart	Detrez	Malot
Amblot	Dhieux	Menar
Andre	Doane	Merciez
Anselme	Dubray	Michel
Ardourel	Duhamel	Mohin
Beghin	Duez	Morel
Bernard	Duquesnoy	Morieux
Bernardon	Emblanc	Odesse
Bezinque	Faucon/Fauson	Parbois
Bodhaine	Fievet	Paret
Boulanger	Gallet	Pique
Briche	Gorce	Planchier
Brignand	Gosselin	Plumet
Broelliard	Gradel	Pol
Brunet	Guilmot/Guillemot	Popineau
Calonne	Helart	Poteau
Caron	Helart	Regnier
Chaussard	Helburg	Riviere
Chavaudra	Hernu	Salingue
Codron	Hioco	Sellier
Coet	Hombert	Senechal
Creteur	Hubeau	Sergent
D'Haillecourt	Jacques	Soupley
Dainville	Junior	Surmont
Dangreau	Kilhoffer	Terron
De Grande	LeClercq	Urbain
DeBray	LeComte	Vanderstraten
DeGabain	LeFevre	Varley
Delforge	Leger	Vennette
Delier	LeGrand	Warembourg
Demoulin	Legros	Wattelet
Des Rouffet	Levecque	Wilbaut
Desailly	Libert	
Desbin	Lucas	

City Council Honors David Ferguson

Dave Ferguson served on the Historical Commission for 22 years prior to 2015, when he decided not to reapply for another four-year term. On March 15, 2016, City Council honored him for his service on the Commission by presenting him with a plaque, and joined with City staff and current Commission members in thanking him for his years of service and dedication.



Mayor Bob Muckle presented Dave Ferguson with a plaque in recognition of his 22 years of service on the Historical Commission.

Historical Museum Celebrates 30 Years This Year!

This year, the Museum celebrates 30 years of being open to the public! After several years of preparation, during which the City purchased the property on Main Street and volunteers began to accept donations of artifacts and put up exhibits, the Tomeo House was opened on Labor Day weekend in 1986. The Jacoe Store, which is now the Museum's primary building, was opened a few years later. Thank you to all who made it happen!

The accompanying photo shows the Jacoe Store and Tomeo House as they appeared in 1987.





A large group of family, friends, and Historical Commission members surrounded Dave Ferguson outside the City Council Chambers.

LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Paula Elrod Jonathan Ferris Lynn Christopher Koglin Gordon Madonna Daniel Mellish Betty Scarpella Julie VanLaanen

Historical Museum Contact Information and Hours

The Museum is open during these times:

Tuesdays 10:00-3:00 Wednesdays 10:00-3:00 Fridays 10:00-3:00 Saturdays 10:00-3:00

This year, the Museum is not changing its hours for the warm weather months, but is instead continuing its winter hours for the rest of the year. The Museum is also open from 6 PM to 8 PM during the First Friday Art Walks! See the programming information in this issue to see what we have planned for the Art Walks this year.

Special appointments at other times are possible. Museum staff can be reached at museum@louisvilleco.gov. The Museum has a new phone number, 303-335-4850, but the old number of 303-665-9048 can still be used and will automatically direct your call to the new number.

The Louisville Historical Museum is owned and operated by the City of Louisville as part of the Department of Library & Museum Services. It is located at 1001 Main Street. Its mailing address is 749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027.



LOUISVILLE HISTORY FOUNDATION

Missy Diehl
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Tammy Lastoka
David Marks
Daniel Mellish
Catherine Wessling
Bridget Bacon (ex officio)
Beth Barrett (ex officio)

Louisville History Foundation News

By Marilyn Hunt, Board of Directors

The Louisville History Foundation is very pleased to have two new directors joining the board. Both descend from longtime Louisville families.

Tammy Lastoka is the 4th generation of the Harney-Lastoka and Hale families, both of which homesteaded in the Louisville area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Her current residence has even been in her family for over 100 years. Tammy has worked in the banking industry for 10 years and is the Operations Supervisor at FirstBank here in Louisville – which makes her especially well qualified to be the Foundation's new Treasurer!

Similarly, Paula DiCarlo Elrod's roots go back far in this community. She descends from Louisville's Ferrera family and is a lifelong resident of Louisville. Paula was appointed by City Council to the Historical Commission starting in 2013. Paula and Dan Mellish are the two members of the Commission who also serve on the board of directors of the Foundation.

In addition to Tammy and Paula joining the board and Tammy being elected Treasurer, the Foundation elected the following directors as officers to continue serving in their positions for 2016: Missy Diehl as Chair, David Marks as Vice-Chair and Catherine Wessling as Secretary.

Dan Mellish and Marilyn Hunt will continue to serve as directors. Bridget Bacon and Beth Barrett will continue to serve as ex-officio directors.

Oral History Program Update

Thank you so much to the following people for allowing the Museum to interview them about their memories of Louisville! (As a token of our appreciation, a complimentary annual membership is given to each participant who is not already a lifetime member.)

> Jim Lastoka Gordon Madonna Irene B. Madonna

Also, thank you to Bob Woody for letting Barbara Gigone talk with him and write up his personal history for the Museum's records.

Thank you so much to the team of volunteers who have been working on the Museum's Oral History Program: Barbara Gigone, Jean Morgan, Ady Kupfner, Noelle Gatto, Dustin Sagrillo, Barbara Hesson, Corrine Stewart, Betty Solek, and Tessa Greene. Welcome to new volunteer Valerie Jones!

If you'd like to help with this fun program, we have a need for more volunteer interviewers and camera operators as well as volunteers to transcribe the interviews. Training will be provided. Please contact the Historical Museum.

Guess the Kitchen Implement! By Megan Huelman, Museum Technician

On April 1st, the Louisville Historical Museum presented its first program of the year for its First Friday Art Walk series. This year's programs all revolve around food, hence our series name: Louisville's Larder. We kicked it off by focusing on kitchen implements and the quickly changing evolution of the materials with which they are made. One table was full of historic tools from the Museum's collection, another had more modern implements and the last had innovative new tools made out of silicone to show the changing industry. Over 100 people came by the Museum in just two hours.

We are ecstatic about the great feedback and overwhelming traffic we received! A big thanks to Jenni Hlawatsch and her Louisville store, The Singing Cook, for collaborating with us and providing the new silicone items. We know people loved seeing that progression from historic to new.

Thanks to everyone who came out and supported our mission, and look for more in the "Louisville's Larder" series at the Museum during the First Friday Art Walks!



Museum Technician Megan Huelman chatted with Museum visitors during the First Friday Art Walk in April while Museum volunteer Karen Dropps looked on.

Upcoming Programs

The public is invited to join us for our upcoming programs! For more information, please visit www.louisville-library.org; email museum@louisvilleco.gov; or call the Museum at 303-335-4850.

"Tiny Houses with a History," Thursday, May 5, 7 PM

In celebration of Preservation Month in May, join us for this repeat presentation. Today, the "tiny house" movement is leading many people to choose to live in smaller spaces, but in Louisville, the most typical dwellings for many decades were tiny houses. In fact, many of the existing houses in Old Town were originally modest-sized houses that were later enlarged. We'll view images of some of Louisville's original tiny houses. After the presentation, members of the Historic Preservation Commission will answer questions about Louisville's landmarking process.

Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

"Being French in Louisville," Brown Bag Presentation, Thursday, June 2, Noon to 1 PM

At the next Brown Bag program, we'll take a look at the topic of the lead article of this *Louisville Historian* issue and learn more about the French and Frenchtown. And if you are descended from any of Louisville's French families or have memories of Frenchtown, we especially

hope that you'll attend and share your information and stories!

Participants are welcome to bring their lunches. Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

"Faithful Founders: A Portrayal of Louisville Methodist Members," Wednesday, July 20, 7 PM

This year, the Methodist Church at 741 Jefferson Ave. in Louisville is celebrating a birthday – its 125th! For this program, members of the congregation will portray early Louisville residents, such as Tom Carlton and Mary Thomas, who were among the founders of Louisville's Methodist Church.

Location: first floor meeting room of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street.

"Louisville's Larder" - First Friday Art Walks at the Museum, Monthly through 2016, 6-8 PM

Louisville has a long history of serving great food. Italian-American restaurants established the town as a dinner destination, while fresh produce from backyard gardens and area farms graced the kitchens and tables of local homes. Today, the farm-to-table and artisanal food movements are thriving in Louisville as residents and restaurants embrace the values of fresh, local, and seasonal food, blending the best of time-honored methods with modern technologies.

Join the Louisville Historical Museum this year for our First Friday Art Walk series, "Louisville's Larder," about agriculture, restaurants, the history of Italian influence on the local food culture, and a look at a typical family's kitchen, garden and larder.

• Friday, May 6: The opening of Louisville
Farmers Market for the season is just around the corner, starting on Saturday, May 28th! Get ready for it by stopping by the Museum for a chat with Kelly Miller, who brought the Farmers Market to Louisville, and to find out what she has in store for us this year at the Farmers Market.

Children's Games during Taste of Louisville, Saturday, June 4, 1-2 PM

The Museum will be open from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the Taste of Louisville, and this year from 1:00 to 2:00 that day, we invite kids to come to the Museum to get experience playing a few outdoor games that children had fun playing in the past.

Walking Tour, "Main Street Stories," Saturday, May 21 & Sept. 10, 9:30 AM

Anne Robinson will reprise her fun tour covering the development of Louisville's Main Street. It leaves at 9:30 a.m. from the front steps of the Louisville Public Library, 951 Spruce Street. Suggested donation: \$5 per person.



Main Street looking north from Pine, circa 1910.

Walking Tour, Louisville's Frenchtown Neighborhood, Saturday, June 25 & Oct. 1, 9:30 AM

In keeping with our exploration of Louisville's French history this year, Diane Marino will lead this tour of the Frenchtown neighborhood that was located in the vicinity of Rex and Parkview between Roosevelt and County Road. The tour leaves at 9:30 AM from the front of the Tri-City Elks Lodge, 525 Main. Suggested donation: \$5 per person.

Evening Program on Louisville's Immigrants from France, Wednesday, November 16

As part of the One Action Boulder County 2016: Arts + Immigration Project, we're excited to tap into a lesser-known aspect of Louisville's immigrant history by sharing the stories and information that we've learned through the year about Louisville's French population. More information to come!

Location: Louisville Arts Center, 801 Grant Ave.



The Museum Corner Bridget Bacon, Museum Coordinator

Congratulations to Louisville City Clerk Nancy Varra on her retirement, after 43 years of working for the City of Louisville! Attending Nancy's recent retirement party was like walking through recent city history since 1973, as many of her current and former colleagues came to thank her and wish her well. The accompanying photo shows Nancy at her retirement party in February.

Thank you so much to Museum volunteers Mona Lee Doersam (for donating her talents and time to do the layout of every issue of The Louisville Historian). Deborah Fahey, Gail Khasawneh, Kate Gerard, Rebecca Harney, Patricia Lester, Carolyn Conarroe, Karen Dropps, Bonnie Etchieson, Christine Gray, Mary Kay Knorr, Patricia Murphy, Mary Ann Colacci, Memory Delforge, Carol Williams, Dave Hooley, Julie Schumaker, Samantha Mat, Chuck Thomas, and Ardeshir Sabeti. Thank you to former Historical Commission member Gladys Levis-Pilz for donating archival supplies. Also, thank you to Dick DelPizzo for creating and adding some buildings to the replica of original downtown Louisville that is on exhibit at the Museum based on new information, showing his continued dedication to historical accuracy. (The volunteers for the Oral History Program are thanked elsewhere in this issue.)

Thank you for people who contributed information about Louisville history. In the past few months, these people have included Jackie Lueras Meranda, who shared information about the Iarussi and Dagostino families that lived at the corners of La Farge Ave. and Lafayette St. Her grandfather, Emilio Dagostino, died in 1930 as the result of a 1923 mine accident. Thank you also to Barbara Leichty St. John, who identified her mother, Ruth Affolter, in a high school photo that appeared in the most recent Historian issue. Ruth was in the class of 1924. The Museum recently exchanged information with Sherry Evans, who is researching Louisville's Robinson family for her family's history. Benjamin and Ann Robinson are shown in old census records as living in "Cowpen Square" in Blyth, Northumberland (a densely populated city with coal mines) before coming to Louisville by the early 1890s. And Cathy Shelton and the Museum have been exchanging information about Cathy's relative, Alfred Pascoe Garrett, who was a blacksmith in Louisville and was a horseshoer for the Army during his World War I service.

The Superior, Colorado Historical Museum tells me that it is looking for donations of historical items that are specific to Superior history. Please contact the Superior

Town Hall if you have items that you would like to offer to donate, or if you have questions!

The Historical Commission, at its January and March meetings, reelected Dan Mellish as Chair and elected Paula Elrod as Vice Chair and Jon Ferris as Secretary. Paula Elrod and Julie VanLaanen will serve as liaisons from the Historical Commission to the Historic Preservation Commission. Meanwhile, Lynda Haley, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, serves as its liaison to the Historical Commission so that the two commissions can coordinate their common interests!





Thank You for Your Monetary Donations!

Thank you to the following people and organizations for their recent generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville History Foundation and Museum. Donations received after this issue goes to print will be shown in the next issue.

BK Media Group, Inc.
Bridget & Gary Brown
Sherry Evans
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Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations. Donations received after this issue goes to print will be shown in the next issue.

In Memory of Kathy Ryan (1941-2015)

The Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Louis
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In Memory of Donald Buffo (1951-2016)

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Nancy Varra
Sharon Boden
Paula Elrod
Karen DiCarlo
Eugene DiCarlo
Eugene & Virginia Caranci
Carolyn J. Conarroe

In Memory of Alvirda Williams (1918-2016)

Eugene DiCarlo Helen Warembourg

Donations to the Museum's Collection and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum accepted the following donations during the months of February through April. The City sincerely appreciates these recent donations!

John Madonna – wine press that he and his brother-inlaw, Joe D'Amato, used to make wine in Louisville.

Frances Del Pizzo – scan of a photograph taken in the early 1980s of a reunion of Louisville High School classes from the 1940s and 1950s.

Carolyn Mangus Manzanares – items relating to the Mangus family of Louisville, including Antonio Mangus's naturalization certificate; a photo of Antonio and Ursula Mangus and their children; and paper account records in a wooden box from the Mangus Store that was located on Main Street.

Grace Dionigi – four original photos showing the donor's grandparents, Michael and Katie Bosko, by their house in Little Italy and showing the home of her aunt and uncle, Frank and Anna Frause, that was located on the northwest corner of McKinley & Spruce.

Gordon Madonna – prints and scans of historical and contemporary photos of the house at 733 Garfield, including a photo showing a man and woman in front of the house when it was first constructed in circa 1907; these are believed to show the first owners, John and Mary Ewart.

Jean Morgan and Gordon Madonna – photos taken of the attendees at the going-away party given in honor of John Madonna at the Blue Parrot Restaurant on January 28, 2016.

Public Works Dept., City of Louisville – "Station Map" dated 1938 that shows the railroad track locations, including spurs, in downtown Louisville.

Jean Morgan – scans of two documents from Superior's Bruno family that were shared with the donor: a 1932 Junior Prom program from Louisville High School and a card from the Superior public school showing the signatures of a number of students, many of whom later attended Louisville High School.

Bob Canaday – Information for a driving tour of Erie coal mine locations that he supplied to Jean Morgan. Copies are available for the public upon request at the Museum.

Dick DelPizzo – two reproduction "candlestick" telephones for the Museum's education collection.

Gloria Hawkins Green – two reproduction prom corsages made with war bond stamps, similar to those that the donor made for her classmates at Louisville High School during World War II, for the Museum's education collection.

Museum Wish List

The Louisville Historical Museum would like to add to its collection the items described below. If you would be willing to donate any of the described items, please email museum@louisvilleco.gov or call 303-335-4850. If you would prefer not to part with an original photo or document, please contact us about how it can be scanned on our photo scanner. Donations to the Museum are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

- Centaurus High School Yearbooks: 1974, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999
- Composite photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes:
 - All classes before 1936 except for 1909, 1915, 1921, 1923, and 1925

- The classes of 1954, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1967, 1968, 1970, and 1971
- Coal mine photos and ledgers, and journals, letters, receipts, and other handwritten documents that relate to the Louisville area.
- Historical photos of homes and businesses in the old town part of Louisville (with or without people in the photos). Specific buildings need not be identified.
- Photos of the interior or exterior of Red Men's Hall; scenes showing Louisville's Main Street, Little Italy, and Frenchtown; and interiors and exteriors of Louisville's saloons and pool halls.
- Old home movies and negatives of photos relating to the Louisville area.
- Photos from any era showing areas of current Louisville that were outside of the town's historic boundaries, such as South Boulder Rd., McCaslin Blvd., Dillon Rd., Cherry St., and Hwy 42.
- Issues of *The Louisville Times*, or pages of it, from 1913 to 1942 and photos and information relating to Louisville's newspapers and publishers.
- Items relating to Louisville businesses, including menus, matchbooks, and ashtrays from Louisville restaurants.
- Items relating to the history of law enforcement in Louisville, including photos, records, and artifacts relating to town marshals, police chiefs, and the Police Department in general.
- Photographs, programs, *The Lookout* school newspaper, and written memories relating to Louisville schools, particularly items from the Louisville Junior High & High School when it was located at Garfield & Walnut from 1920 to 1939.



Thanks to New and Renewing Members

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Ron Buffo	Bhuvana Narasimhan	
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Karen Dropps	Melissa Nelligan	
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Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of regular member Gloria Rozzo.



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Louisville Historical Museum 749 Main Street Louisville, CO 80027

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