The Louisville Historian

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Moments That Made Us: Gold Rushes and Coal Booms

by Sophia Imperioli

2026 marks two important anniversaries in our history: it is the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 150th anniversary of Colorado's admission to statehood. This year, the City of Louisville and the Louisville Historical Museum will be celebrating key moments in the history of the nation, the state, and the city. Each Louisville Historian and museum front window exhibit will reflect upon a theme from the Declaration of Independence. These are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; the Consent of the Governed; Free and Independent States; and Created Equal. Though these words sound familiar, history often presents the opportunity to dig deeper and explore well-worn tales in a completely new light.

Three men and one woman use a "Long Tom" sluice box to search for gold in California, 1850. Provided by Wikimedia Commons.

Life, Liberty, & the Pursuit of Happiness

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Declaration of Independence opens with these lines and lists first among many rights life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Americans have exercised these inalienable right throughout the nation's history as a means to prosper for themselves, their families, and their communities, though not always without harming others. The concept of individual liberty is intrinsic to the American identity, and two succeeding moments in history that exemplify exactly that were the California and Colorado Gold Rushes.

Setting the Stage

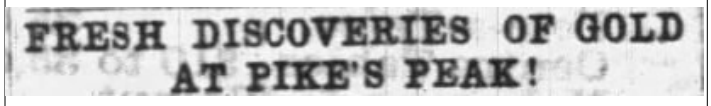
The California Gold Rush kicked off on January 24, 1848, when James W. Marshall discovered gold in present-day Coloma, California. 300,000 prospectors traversed the United States into newly ceded territory from Mexico to stake their claim and drum up a fortune in gold.

The lucrative discoveries reinvigorated the economy and contributed to California's creation as a state in 1850. The United States promoted a doctrine of Manifest Destiny, a belief that America had the divine right to expand across the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This doctrine contributed to encroachment on Native American lands and the creation of rapidly expanding population centers throughout the western U.S.

The gold rush in California also contributed to general American prosperity in the 1850s by adding a great deal more wealth to the national economy. Banks, merchants, and farmers capitalized on the upward swing of the economy by entering into more risky investments, but when market prices began to fall in 1857, panic ensued. As a result, businesses around the country began to fail, the railroad industry experienced a decline, and companies laid off hundreds of thousands of workers. The Panic of 1857 marked the first time an economic crisis impacted the whole of the United States. This was due to the telegraph, which allowed news of business failures and financial panic to spread rapidly.

The Colorado Gold Rush of 1858-59

"THE NEW ELDORADO!!! Gold in Kansas Territory!! The Pike's Peak Mines! First Arrival of Gold Dust at Kansas City!!!" The *Kansas City Journal of Commerce* published these headlines in its August 26, 1858, edition of the paper, officially hailing the discovery of gold in the western part of Kansas Territory near present-day Denver. The downtrodden turned their keen eyes towards the West once more, hoping to strike it rich in the plains just east of the Rocky Mountains.


FRESH DISCOVERIES OF GOLD AT PIKE'S PEAK!

A newspaper headline from the Kansas City Journal, December 18, 1858. Though many referred to the event as the "Pike's Peak Gold Rush," this was a misnomer because it centered some 85 miles to the north near Denver. Pike's Peak was a well-known landmark to the rest of the United States, and so it lent its name to the rush in the presses.

Prospectors in the "Pikes Peak" region of western Kansas Territory, which is today modern Colorado, c. 1858. Provided by Wikimedia Commons.

The first reports of gold began to circulate nationwide. A guidebook from the time contained several firsthand accounts from prospectors:

"We are not sorry for coming out here, for in the first place it is the most lovely country you ever saw...Gold is found everywhere you stick your shovel, paying from five to ten cents the pan."

"I arrived on the 20th of August...and at least struck a vein...$3,000 worth of gold...The vein did not seem to be exhausted to any degree."

"We found the earth pretty much impregnated with gold...It will pay in almost any way you choose to work it."

The general consensus amongst most reports of late 1858 shared that most men could pull $3 to $12 a day of gold from various waterways, which equates to about $100 to $500 in 2026. Many professed that the Colorado Gold Rush had already proved more lucrative in its first year than any prospecting done in California during the first gold rush.

These early discoveries were not enough to draw in the tens of thousands of prospectors that would eventually flood the banks of every waterway from Denver to the western slope of the Rocky Mountains. In fact, many prospectors succumbed to "humbug mania," believing accounts of gold in the region to be exaggerated and turning back for home in late 1858. One prospector, Thomas Warren, expressed his exasperation with the "go-backers" in *The Illustrated Miners' Hand-book and Guide to Pike's Peak*, published in 1859:

Gold mining via sluice in Boren's Gulch, La Plata County, Colorado, 1875. Provided by the National Archives.

> *I suppose that ere this you have heard so many conflicting accounts in regard to the new gold mines... I know there are many who...came out here with large expectations. Who, because they could not back their wagons up to a hole and fill them with gold, have become immediately discouraged, and have either written back that it is a humbug, or have gone back with lugubrious countenances...Good—let them go—we want no such chicken hearts among us.*

Fervor further died over the winter of 1858 as snow and ice made it impossible to prospect in the mountains, but as the ice thawed in the spring of 1859, new reports of struck gold flowed into newspapers. *The Cherry Creek Pioneer* reported on April 23, 1859, "On all the streams flowing from the mountains, north of the Platte Canon [Platte Canyon]...gold may be found in the beds and bars...One little gulch has already been discovered which will average $5 per day to the man with a rocker." George Jackson discovered a large placer deposit near present-day Idaho Springs. Another lucky prospector made a lode gold (gold in a vein of rock) discovery at Gold Hill.

The bountiful nature of these discoveries assured the would-be "humbuggers" that the waning, trace amounts of dust in creeks and streams were no longer the only way to become rich in this second Eldorado. Prospectors had a real chance of finding large deposits of gold further up in the mountains in both waterbeds and in the earth. The Colorado Gold Rush was on.

The *Rocky Mountain News* published a story that one man came down from Gregory Gulch in present-day Black Hawk with a vial containing $80 worth of gold (about $3,000 in 2026), and the editor of a national newspaper verified and confirmed the report in his publication. Gold fever spread like wildfire, and the number of migrants to Colorado soared. The town near the Gulch saw its population of about 4,000 people climb by 500 people per day. The majority of prospectors coming west hailed from the eastern United States, and the rest comprised immigrants from England, Ireland, and German-speaking parts of Europe. In total, historians estimate that over 100,000 prospectors made their way to the western part of Kansas Territory in search of "the colors."

Most mining operations were small-scale and involved some sort of tool or contraption that allowed miners to pour water over dirt deposits and sift out bits of gold, known as placer mining. These included panning—the most famous method—in which a prospector held a large pan to scoop up some water and swirl it around until the gold's heavier weight caused it to separate from the dirt. Some miners used larger contraptions for greater output including rockers and sluices. Sluices are long boxes with multiple gates for

water to flow through that catch heavier pieces of gold as they pass through. A rocker is a cradle-like implement that miners rocked as water was poured over dirt to sift out gold.

Lasting Impacts

The Colorado Gold Rush was directly responsible for the creation of Colorado as a U.S. territory. The Colorado Territory was formed out of parts of Utah, Kansas, Nebraska, and New Mexico in 1861, just a few short years after the discovery of gold. Congress established the federal mint in Denver in 1862 as a new hub for processing the vast wealth emerging from the Rocky Mountains. Though Colorado first attempted to achieve statehood in 1859 (and four more attempts after that), it would not succeed until 1876.

Though prospectors came West pursuing a better life, their presence had catastrophic impacts on Indigenous lifeways and accelerated the rate at which the U.S. government forcibly removed Native Americans from Colorado. The stampede of emigrants from the east to the plains and foothills of Colorado led to the occupation of traditional hunting and camping grounds of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute. The arrival of white settlers severely restricted the access these tribes had to the resources they had survived on for generations. In turn, some Native American tribes conducted raids on wagon trains for supplies and to ward off trespassers. Others relied more on the U.S. government and signed treaties giving over land in exchange for food and monetary payment. The government repeatedly ignored the terms of the treaties it negotiated and forced tribes to relinquish power by failing to make agreed upon payments and by using violence. In 1864, in flagrant violation of the terms of the Fort Wise Treaty (1861), U.S. soldiers killed over 200 Arapaho and Cheyenne during the Sand Creek Massacre. This atrocity led to the removal of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes onto reservations out of the state, stripping them entirely of their territory in Colorado.

The Pike's Peak Gold Rush is also responsible for creating environmental impacts that affect Coloradans

The Rex Mine No. 2 is one of the many coal mines that operated in Louisville; it opened in 1898 and closed in 1915.

to this day. Prospectors decimated entire landscapes, felling trees, stripping rock, and killing wildlife in the pursuit of gold. They also brought millions of tons of rock above ground. This exposure of previously buried rock to oxygen initiated a process called acid mine drainage. Sulfides in metal within the rock break down once exposed to air, which then enables the dissolved metals to drain into local waterways. Despite mining taking place during the 1800s, these materials are still highly dangerous and present in the environment today. As recently as 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency accidentally released three million gallons of wastewater contaminated with these liquefied metals from the Gold King Mine (1887-1923) into the Animas River, turning the water bright orange.

Louisville & the Coal Boom

The gold rush and increased settlement in Colorado eventually brought about the advent of an entirely new bonanza: the coal boom. Coal mining developed as gold and other precious metal mining did around the state. Coal (sometimes called "black diamonds") fueled the transportation of gold and silver ore as well as heated homes in mining towns up and down the Front Range. The earliest coal mining operations in Colorado took place in the late 1850s just miles northwest of Denver, but mines weren't industrialized on a large scale until the late 1860s. Mining companies tapped Boulder County coalfields beginning in the 1860s near Marshall.

By 1879, Louisville's Welch Mine was the largest coal mine in the state, and the town became a coal industry powerhouse in the region alongside Marshall and Erie. Louisville's closeness to the Denver market and abundance of accessible rail lines allowed easy movement of coal out of town, making it one of the top coal-producing centers in the state. From the Welch Mine's opening in 1877 to the Crown Mine's closing in 1955, Louisville had 39 mines in operation at one point or another. Louisville and its coal mining economy provided opportunities and a place to call home for thousands of miners and their families for over seven decades.

Coal mining transformed the site of Louisville from vast farmland with a train line running through it into a town of almost 450 people in a few short years. Most coal miners and their families came to Louisville from elsewhere in the U.S. or countries with established coal mining industries like England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. Soon other immigrant groups followed like Germans, Mexicans, Austrians, French, Czechoslovakians, and more, with Italians ultimately becoming the largest represented group by the early 1900s. In fact, Louisville's population was over 40% foreign-born by 1930.

Although both Louisville and Colorado came about as a result of some rush or boom, residents have spent decades making these places a home. The beautiful cities and downtown Main Streets we have now are a direct result of prospectors exercising their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and coming west in search of untold fortunes, ripe for the taking. By studying the effects of their ideals—positive and negative—we can create a fuller understanding of how best to celebrate the dual anniversaries of America and Colorado together.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Join us for these upcoming programs exploring historical topics, large and small. All Museum programs are free! For more details and to register for events, visit the Museum website and calendar at: www.LouisvilleCo.Gov/MuseumEvents.

America 250/Colorado 150 Passport Program
Pick up a pocket-sized passport at the Museum or any museum program as we commemorate and explore themes related to the American experience throughout 2026. Attend two or more programs and win a prize! More information available at LouisvilleCO.Gov/Colorado150.

Pop-up Quilting Workshops
Saturday, March 14 | 1:30-3 p.m. | 1001 Main
Wednesday, April 22 | 3:30-5 p.m. | 1001 Main
Wednesday, May 20 | 3:30-5 p.m. | 1001 Main
Join us for more pop-up quilting workshops! Harken back to the days before sewing machines and learn hand-sewing stitches and styles while gathered around a quilting frame with a community of quilters and history lovers! Registration requested.

History Happy Hour: Black Cowboys
Monday, March 16 | 5:30-7 p.m. | 604 Main
Grab a beer at **Crystal Springs** with historian Acoma Gaither and learn about the history and legacy of Black cowboys in the American West. Popular depictions of the Old West have often neglected the role and presence of Black Americans. Hear about the experiences and contributions of cowboys of color and how they shaped the culture and development of the region! Registration requested.

First Friday: Sustainability in Louisville
Friday, April 3 | 6 - 8 PM | 1001 Main
Learn about Louisville's road to sustainability! Discover what environmental movements have meant in Louisville and how the community transitioned from the days of burning coal to earning our status as a Tree, Bee, and Bird City.

History Happy Hour: Working as a Woman Welder on the Johnson-Eisenhower Tunnel
Tuesday, April 7 | 5:30-7 p.m. | 550 S. McCaslin
Enjoy a drink and snack at **Relish Food Hall** and join Karrall Heimann as she shares stories of when she worked as the only female welder on the Johnson -Eisenhower Tunnel in the 1970s! Karrall installed lighting in the tunnel and was one of only three women who worked on the project. Registration requested.

Museum Program: Legendary Ladies
Thursday, April 23 | 6-7 p.m. | 801 Grant
The Legendary Ladies are a group of historical performers who will whisk you away back in time to learn about famous women with connections to Colorado and the West: Mary Rippon, Maud Nelson, Rae Wilson, and Mabel Dodge Luhan. Registration requested.

First Friday: Freedom of the Press
Friday, May 1 | 6 - 8 PM | 1001 Main
Throughout 2026, the Museum will be exploring the founding values of our nation in recognition of the US 250/CO 150 anniversaries. Discover how Americans and Louisville residents of the past have exercised the freedom of the press by establishing newspapers and circulating opinions and ideas. Make your own journalistic voice heard with historic typewriters from CU's Media Archeology Lab!

History Happy Hour: The Memory of Place
Wednesday, May 6 | 5:30-7 p.m. | 640 Main
Historian Amy Haines will lead a community discussion about the ways that places hold memories and the way our memories hold places. Explore how urban landscapes can be considered places of public and private history, and how our own perceptions of place contribute to history. Grab a drink and enjoy this talk at **Louisville Underground**, the location of a special place in Louisville history, the former Blue Parrot Restaurant! Registration requested.

Historic Preservation Landmark Plaque Ceremony and Walking Tour
Wednesday, May 13 | 5:30-7 p.m.| 1001 Main
Join Historic Preservation and Museum staff to celebrate all the new Louisville Historical Landmarks! Meet for light refreshments in the Museum courtyard, followed by a walk around Old Town to the properties landmarked in 2025.

Walking Tour: Historic Trees of Downtown Louisville
Saturday, May 23 | 10-11 a.m. | 1001 Main
Join Chris Lichty, City Forester, as he leads a tour about historic and significant trees in Louisville. Tour will depart from the Louisville Historical Museum. Registration is required!

Preschool Program: Growing Things
Thursday, May 28 | 10-11 a.m. | 1001 Main
This is the first in a program series utilizing struc-

tured and unstructured nature play, story-time, and hands-on crafts to learn about outdoor history in Louisville. Explore gardening, plant your own seedling, decorate rocks for the garden and take home herbs and tomatoes for a homemade pizza! Classes will run through August, attend one or many. Please ONLY register for children who are participating in the crafts. Accompanying adults, siblings, and babies are welcome.

Walking Tour: Capitol Hill Neighborhood
Saturday, May 30 | 9-10 a.m. | LaFarge & Short
Explore Louisville's Capitol Hill neighborhood with Diane Marino. Capitol Hill showcases homes built in the early 20th century when thriving business owners and community leaders moved their families into larger and more affluent homes. This tour uncovers the stories behind the homes, the families who resided in them, and their place in Louisville history. Meet at the corner of LaFarge Ave. and Short St.. Registration is required!

Louisville History Book Club
The Louisville History Book Club is an informal book discussion group that meets every 4th Tuesday from 6:00–7:30 p.m. at the Louisville Public Library. Members read any book on the topic, rather than everyone reading the same book. Contact Anne Robinson at AnneRLouisville@gmail.com for more details. Upcoming Book Discussion Topics:

Mar. 24 Galloping Goose & other short haul trains
Apr. 26 Navajo history and culture
May 26 Readers Choice: Diary, journal, or autobiography in the West

Museum Corner
by Gigi Yang

Warm weather brings springtime and new faces and happenings at the Museum. We are very pleased to welcome two new Museum Associates—Eilish Brennan as the Museum Associate for Public History and Oral History, and Allison Tucker as the Museum Associate for Outreach and Communication. Eilish and Allison bring expertise in public history, small museums, and enthusiasm for working with visitors of all ages. We also welcome two new Historical Museum Advisory Board (HMAB) members—Eric Lenderman and erika winter. Please stop in or say hello at any upcoming Museum event.

In the upcoming months, we hope everyone will join us for exciting programs related to the America 250 / Colorado 150 commemorations. Please stop by the Museum to see the front window exhibit: *Moments That Made Us—Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*. Join us at a History Happy Hour—our new program series highlighting Louisville and Colorado history in partnership with local dining establishments.

We invite you to check out the Museum website (www.LouisvilleCO.gov/Colorado150) for all the ways to participate, advocate, and be a part of Louisville history, arts, and culture.

Rocky Flats Update
by Kira Boatright

Our last issue of the *Louisville Historian* covering Rocky Flats has encouraged community members to come forth and share even more memories with us about working at the nuclear weapons facility. After reading our article "Hometown Nuclear," Larry Martella stopped by the Museum and shared stories, artifacts, and photos related to his time working as a chemist at the Flats from 1971 to 2002. Larry donated two newsletters related to his chemical research from 1983 and 2002, two photographs, and two Raschig rings made of boron glass. These types of Raschig rings were used in tanks of plutonium at Rocky Flats to absorb free-floating neutrons and prevent criticality events. Larry worked on the "hot" side of the plant where workers handled radioactive materials. As the facility was closing, Larry and his colleagues instituted the use of cerium nitrate to help with decontamination efforts at Rocky Flats.

The Museum is grateful for the information and objects Larry shared with us and we invite anyone in the community interested in sharing more about their experiences working at Rocky Flats to stop in or send an email to Museum@LouisvilleCO.Gov.

Rockwell's Energy Systems Group (from left), L.J. Beach, W.I. Yamada, J.D. Navratil, L.L. Martella, and C.W. Kranker, are shown in front of the hot cell used to handle reactive material in the company's americium refinement process.

The photo above shows Larry Martella and Charles Kranker, both of Louisville, being recognized with other colleagues for award-winning research in 1983.

Oral History Program Update by Sophia Imperioli

The Oral History Program had a busy winter season organizing all 219 interviews that have been captured from the 1970s through today. This allows our team of volunteers to continue editing transcripts in anticipation of releasing interviews onto the Museum's YouTube channel. You can find that channel by going to YouTube and searching @LouisvilleMuseum.

The Museum would also like to thank the following people for completing oral history interviews and adding their stories to our ever-growing collection.

The Balsley Family
Larry & Mary Boven
Nancy Cooley & Julie Hoehing
Jean Morgan
Doris De Santis Winslow
John & Sharon Wenzel

A huge thank you to our current Oral History volunteers who continue to work on capturing these stories and getting them ready for the public. If you'd like to join the oral history program and capture the personal histories of Louisville, please contact the Museum at Museum@LouisvilleCO.Gov.

Oral History Program Volunteers:

Jeff Bradley
Nadine Grieshaber
Lucie Harrington
Roger Keeler
Ady Kupfner
Diane Marino
Jean Morgan
Kaylee Nance
Katie Rugh
Elyssa Torrence
Lena Wenzel

Volunteer Update by Kira Boatright

The Museum has been lucky to have the help of several teen volunteers over the past months. Inbar Cohen, Will Goble, Teagan Lee, Evie Martens, and Quinn Tooley have spent hours assisting with digitizing institutional records, updating object locations, creating indexes of historical data, and more! Their efforts have made Museum resources more accessible to the staff and public, making everything from daily operations to research requests run more smoothly. We sincerely thank these teens—and all our volunteers—for their continued help and commitment to the Museum.

Thank you to our continuing volunteers!

Louisville Historical Museum Volunteers:

Bridget Bacon
Michelle Baker
Inbar Cohen
Rebecca Ferguson
William Goble
Lisa Hughes
Teagan Lee
Diane Marino
Amy Marks
Evie Martens
National Charity League
William and Adam Pitts
Kristen Poppe
Anne Robinson
Quinn Tooley
Chris Torrence
Cassandra Volpe
Carol Williams

Rose Garden:
Marty McCloskey

Pioneer Award 2025 by Scott McElroy

In recognition of her longstanding efforts on multiple fronts to capture and preserve Louisville's history, Jean Morgan is the 42nd recipient of the Museum's Pioneer Award!

Jean Morgan (center) receives the 2025 Pioneer Award. Presented by Jennifer Henderson of the Louisville History Foundation, and erika winter of the Historical Museum Advisory Board at the Chamber of Commerce banquet.

For many years, Jean has volunteered with the Louisville Historical Museum and other organizations both as a concerned citizen and in official positions. Jean's deep interest in local history led her to begin interviewing senior residents of Louisville even before the Louisville Historical Museum began their Oral History Program in 2009. As a volunteer with the Historical Museum, Jean has been involved in 101 oral interviews documenting Louisville's unique history and she's always looking forward to the next interview.

Jean campaigned tirelessly for the preservation of the Trott-Downer cabins as a significant part of Louisville's story and reflective of the lives of the people who made up Louisville years ago. Through research and extensive interviews, she detailed life for the residents of these Cabins, now located near Miners Field, down to the cookware they used. Additionally, she helped locate donations of furnishings along with her own gifts of period pieces that will eventually be used in the Cabins to more fully portray the residents' lives. Her donated binder of information about Louisville's Miner's Field neighborhood is one of the Museum's cherished assets.

Jean is a passionate advocate for preserving Louisville and its history, sending countless Letters to the Editor in *The Louisville Times* and *Boulder Daily Camera,* and attending numerous meetings and hearings. She is dedicated to maintaining the town's history and architectural interest as well as informing citizens to join voices in preserving the town's character and history.

Starting in the 1970s, Jean created a masterful native garden at her Louisville home, starting with hen and chicks from a neighbor. This renowned, award winning, certified National Wildlife habitat blooms 10 months of the year under the knowledgeable, capable hands of Jean. Jean is an exuberant host, allowing tours, photographs and inviting passing walkers to visit and learn about her garden. Supporting local wildlife and what grows wild in Colorado are Jean's primary motivators, along with yet another way to demonstrate the history of our area.

Jean Morgan's determination, courage and enduring spirit are more than worthy of this year's Pioneer Award.

Donations to the Museum's Collections and Records

The Louisville Historical Museum accepted the following donations for the Museum's permanent, education, and reference collections. Thank you to the donors!

January—March 2025

Johnny Kranker – Copy of Our Boys Service Record of WWII for the Education Collection.

Patricia Dimond Murphy – Track suit c. 1980s for Louisville women's hose team.

Dale Elrod – Photograph of Wagon Wheel Inn, c. 1950s.

Pete Lindquist – Items related to Gayle Lindquist, founding Principal at Monarch K-8 – School yearbooks from 1998 7 1999, newspaper article from Boulder Daily Camera.

Maryann Adams – Photographs and documents related to Joseph and Francis Frause, Anna Frause, Irma and Pauline Frause, class photos and school related documents, a glass beer stein from Czechoslovakia. For the Education Collection: laundry fork, small iron, and carbide lamp.

Barb DiSalle – digital copy of wedding photo of Joseph Giorzelli and Stella Bottinelli.

Leo Deborski – mining pick axe owned by Thomas Liddle, found at donor's house.

Christine Wecker – three digital scans of Stephanie Warembourg, August Warembourg Jr., and August Sr. and Marie Warembourg.

John R. Steinbaugh – Items and photographs related to the Steinbaugh Store and Steinbaugh family including interiors of Steinbaugh store, photos of the Dionigi Family and of other events and people around Louisville, Louisville Fire Department Past Chiefs button, ration books and stamps from WWII, Welch Mine Payroll record from 1887. For Education Collection and Museum files – five issues of the Louisville Times c. 1942-1992, bar of Pine Tar soap from 1910; Photocopies of Welch Mine payroll and Louisville school census from 1908.

Richard J. Ross – World War I uniform (jacket, pants, and leg wraps) worn by Joseph P. Ross c. 1918, spent bullet, army jacket; Digital copy of photograph of Joseph Ross.

John Harnagel – Eldridge sewing machine c. 1909 owned by Ethel Thirlaway Andrews at her home on Jefferson, plus sewing accessories for the Education Collection.

Marie Slavec – List of Louisville and Superior residents who served in WWII for Museum files, and etched glass window from front door of Slavec family home at 1245 Main St.

November 2025—January 2026

Bill Balsley Jr. – Branded promotional items related to the family-owned Napa Auto Parts business; two Louisville Centennial coins from 1986.

Judy Dayhoff – Business receipt from Karl Stumpf who owned a soft drink distribution business in Louisville in the 1950s.

Kimberly LaBella – Branded promotional items related to Napa Auto and Bill's Auto Supply.

Lewis Lombardi – Digital copies of small game and fishing licenses c.1930s-1960s belonging to members of the Romano, Dionigi, Lombardi, and Rosser families.

Louisville Chamber of Commerce – Business directories c.1983-2020, Chamber newsletters c. 1989-2009, maps of Louisville businesses c. 1992, aerial photo of Louisville c. 1980-90, branded promotional items related to First National Bank and Taste of Louisville, 17 bundles of architectural drawings and maps of Louisville.

Kendall Ruth – 1942 photo of miners at the Black Diamond Mine.

David Varra – meat grinder and accessories used at the Monarch Mine Store c. 1940s and later at the Varra Grocery store.

Thank You for Your Monetary Donations

Thank you to the following people and businesses for their generous monetary donations, other than memorial donations, to the Louisville History Foundation.

Nancy Allen
Marie Boric
Callum James Docherty
Debra & Robert Ervin
Carol & Todd Gleeson
Fiona Hawley
Kenneth Karlsrud
Andrea Kaufman
Jeff Lowy
Erica Nevas
Gerald & Constance Pontasch
DeAndra Eberharter
Rollings Family Singing Cook
Ann and Tom Stoffel
Glenn & Bonnie Strand
Chris Torrence

Regrets

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Museum members and volunteers who have recently passed: Mary Barry, Elaine Biella, Betty Buffo, Jim Graves, Marshall Jones, Fran LaTorra, Cherahl Ross.

Memorial Donations

Thank you so much for these recent memorial donations.

In memory of Mary Kathleen (Greenup) Barry (1953-2026)
Judith & Costas Balomenos, Donna T. & Robert S. McKittrick

In memory of Elaine Biella (1933-2025) – George Brown

In memory of Betty Buffo (1935-2026)

Dave & Shelley Angell,
Bridget Bacon
Daniel & Janet Brown
Dick & Darlene DelPizzo
Judy DeNovellis
Karen DiCarlo
Barbara & Dan DiSalle
Roy Elliott
Donna Elnicki
Paula Elrod
Shirley Elrod
David & Mary Carol Ferrera
Carol & Todd Gleeson
Mark & Jodee Hinton
Theresa Jordan
Ady Kupfner
Carol & Rob Lathrop
Arlene Leggett
Peggy Leggett
Scott Leggett
Gerra Lewis
Diane Marino
Norbert & Mary Meier
Jolene Neill
Dan & Nellie McConville
Chris & Reggie Schmidt
Candy & Jerry Slavec
Marie Slavec,
Rudy & Linda Slavec
Rachael & David Schmidt Family
Lee Schreiter
Angie Spiegel
Judy Steinbaugh
Robert & Kathleen Steinbaugh
Ron & Pattie Varra

In memory of Adam Elnicki (1939-2025)
George Brown, Shirley Elrod, Diane Marino & Laurel Simmons, Dixie Martella, Larry & Kathleen Martella, Elizabeth Scriffiny

In memory of Stone Deborski (2004-2025)
Larry & Kathleen Martella

In memory of Memory Delforge (1941-2025)

American Legion Auxiliary
Mary Barry
George Brown
Janet & Daniel Brown
Carol Day
Judy DeNovellis
Paula Elrod & Karen DiCarlo
Donna Elnicki
Shirley Elrod
Barbara & Jim Gigone
Ady Kupfner
Patty Cable Lester
Dixie Lee Martella
Larry & Kathleen Martella
Judy DeNovellis
Elizabeth Scriffiny
Ron & Pattie Varra

In memory of Jim Graves (1935-2025)

George Brown, Arlene Leggett, Scott Leggett, Peggy Leggett

In memory of Keith Helart (1936-2025)

George Brown

In memory of Fran LaTorra

Dick & Darlene DelPizzo, Karen DiCarlo, Paula Elrod

In memory of Sally McElroy (1948-2025)

Scott McElroy

In memory of Cherahl Ross (1944-2025)

Arlene Leggett, Peggy Leggett, Scott Leggett

In memory of Charles "Chuck" Thomas (1949-2019) - Phyl Thomas

In memory of Sid Vinall (1938-2026) – Jean Morgan

In memory of Josephine (Joie), Lloyd (Bud), and Larry Brown
Connie Scutari—With love for my family. I was so lucky to have them. With love for Louisville and the cast of characters and wonderful memories I carry with me from our life there.

Join the History Foundation!
By Jen Henderson

If you have a passion for Louisville History and want to make a difference, consider joining the Louisville History Foundation Board of Directors. Board members help shape the future of local history through advocacy, community engagement, and fundraising. Interested? Scan the QR code to apply!
Email: info@LouisvilleHistoryFoundation.org
Visit: www.LouisvilleHistoryFoundation.org

Scan to Apply

The Louisville History Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 dedicated to preserving and celebrating our city's unique heritage by supporting the Louisville Historical Museum.

Louisville History Foundation Board

Jane Coyle	Val Igler
Jennifer Henderson	Celeste Murphy

Historical Museum Advisory Board

The Historical Museum Advisory Board (HMAB) is a seven-member board appointed by City Council. Each member serves a four year term. The primary role of the Board is to act as an advisory board to the Louisville City Council on matters relating to the Louisville Historical Museum and Louisville history.

Current HMAB Members

Jeanette Bangs	David Hosansky
Eric Lenderman	Scott McElroy
Barbara Taylor	Joe Teasdale
erika winter	

Become a Member!

Members receive the quarterly *Louisville Historian* with substantive articles about Louisville history. A yearly membership is $20 for an individual and $35 for a family. Annual membership for businesses is $125. Visit the Museum website to pay online or to print out a form to send in.

Remember to send your new and renewing membership dues to the Louisville Historical Museum. Other monetary or memorial donations can be made to the Louisville History Foundation. Your membership and donations help support the Museum with outreach, collections preservation, and professional development.

Museum Hours & Services

Museum Tours
The Museum welcomes walk-in visitors! Groups of six or more people, schools, or anyone requiring special accommodations may request tours by appointment using the online group tour form.

Open Hours
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat: 10 p.m.—3 p.m.
Wednesday: 1—5 p.m.

Donations
If you are interested in donating objects or photographs to the Museum, please contact the Museum at Museum@LouisvilleCO.Gov or 303-335-4850 to discuss your donation and arrange an appointment.

About
The City of Louisville owns the Louisville Historical Museum as part of the Department of Cultural Services, with Brandi Cummings as Director of Cultural Services. We are located at 1001 Main St. Our mailing address is 749 Main St, Louisville, CO 80027.

Staff
Museum Services Supervisor
Gigi Yang

Museum Associates
Kira Boatright – Collections Management
Eilish Brennan – Public History & Interpretation
Allison Tucker – Outreach & Communications

Thank You to New and Renewing Members!

Randi & Jason Albright
Dave & Shelley Angell
Steve Appler
Jim & Sharon Askew
John & Becky Augustine
Jeanie Balch
Bell Family
Jim & Bonita Berry
Jack Bowes Family
Steve Brauneis
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Tom Carpenter
Mark Cathcart Family
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Paula Elrod
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Kathy Valentine Family
Merle Varney Family
Robert & Mari Varra Family
Debbie Vogelsberg
Wieland Family
Mary Worsley

Thank You to the Museum's Business Members!

740 Front
Alternating Current Press
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 111
arc Thrift Stores
Ariel IT Services
Atomic Forge
Berkelhammer Tree Experts, Inc.
Bolder Insurance
Coal Creek Collision Center
Cory Nickerson - 8z Real Estate
Creative Framing & Art Gallery
DAJ Design, Inc.
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E & L Team at RE/MAX Elevate
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Louisville Cyclery
Louisville Tire & Auto Care
Moxie Bread Co.
Origin CPA Group
Paul's Coffee & Tea
Pink House
Pine Street Plaza
Premier Members Credit Union
Seward Mechanical Systems
Society of Italian Americans
Stewart Architecture
Ters Family Dentistry
The Singing Cook

Thank you to Boulder County residents for generously funding cultural facilities through SCFD for over 30 years! The Louisville Historical Museum joins the many facilities funded through your generosity!

Louisville Historical Museum
749 Main Street
Louisville, CO 80027

Return Service Requested