



Temple Israel FOUNDATION

Biographical Information

Ludwig

Henry Ludwig

Born:

Died: Leadville, October 26, 1895

Johanna Ludwig

Born: Germany, April 8, 1853

Died: Leadville, June, 1924

Martha Ludwig (Thielke)

Born: Colorado, March, 1881

Died:

Cora Ludwig

Born: Colorado, September, 1882

Died: Leadville, January 11, 1911

Hulda Ludwig (Chase)

Born: Leadville, February, 1885

Died:

Kurt Ludwig

Born: Leadville, September, 1886

Died: Leadville, February 4, 1920

Oscar Ludwig

Born: Leadville, 1889

Died: Leadville, March, 1891

Records prior to Henry Ludwig and his wife, Johanna,¹ arriving in Leadville are sparse which makes the family origins in the United States unclear. The family lived somewhere in Colorado from at least 1881, when their eldest child, Martha, was born. A second daughter, Cora, was also born in Colorado during 1882. The foursome arrived in Leadville during 1883, when they took residence at 127 West 5th Street while Henry worked as a clerk for Moheimer² Brothers.³ Henry was a member and elected official for the *Leadville Turn Verein Society*, a Freemason, a member of the Temple Israel Choir,⁴ and vice president for Leadville's Mannenchor (German men's choir).⁵ On December

27, 1883, Henry and Johanna attended the Chanukah Ball at City Hall.⁶

Johanna attended the Policeman's Ball on May 23, 1884.⁷ In early September, Henry was party to a dispute between the partners of the *Stevens, Stickley & Shaw* insurance agency. It appears that Walter Stevens had been collecting insurance premiums from clients and depositing the funds into his own pocket. Henry fell a victim to this impropriety to the tune of \$10.⁸ Henry was elected secretary of the Leadville Turn Verein Society on January 9, 1885,⁹ and in February they welcomed a third daughter, Hulda.¹⁰ Henry continued to work for the Monheimers before finding a position as a clerk for Charles Boettcher¹¹ in 1886.¹² That September, Johanna gave birth to the couple's first son, Kurt.¹³ In 1887, the Ludwig family moved to a new home at 213 West 3rd Street.¹⁴

In 1888, Henry became a clerk for Tompkins Hardware (429-431 Harrison Avenue).¹⁵ Henry was elected as a delegate to the *Turn Verein Rocky Mountain District* convention at Denver on April 18.¹⁶ On May 1, Henry was signatory to an indignation letter delivered to the city council by angry local businessmen and property owners protesting the manner in which the council handled the city's financial obligations.¹⁷

On April 2, 1889, a new silk flag was raised over Turner Hall and Henry delivered the following address in its honor:

Brethren; We are assembled here to dedicate our new flag. Let concord be its name. On one side you see our American eagle with its device, 'E. Pluribus Unum.' May this eagle always remind you of the duties which you owe this country. Whether you were born here or may have adopted this glorious country as your home and fatherland, is immaterial. Your duties are the same. Be ever true to its constitution,



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for by its principles this land has been changed from a wilderness to a heaven on earth. On the other side of the flag you find the device, "fresh, free, strong and true." Fresh, free and strong you will be when you follow the doctrines of your gymnastic teachers. True must you be to the principles which our society has laid out for you, and true to each other. United in one brotherhood, we will keep the aim of our society in mind, which is to form strong men and women through the observance of its teachings.

Let us, as true brothers, overlook each others foibles. Everyone of us is weak. Union and truth only will make us strong. To you, Brother Habnewald, whom we have chosen as our flag bearer, I herewith present this beautiful flag for safe keeping, to carry it before us in weal and woe, and faithfully we will always follow it.¹⁸

The couple's second son, Oscar, was born during 1889,¹⁹ though the exact date cannot be found.

On April 8, 1890, Johanna celebrated her thirty-seventh birthday with a small group of friends at her home. The unusual surprise connected to this celebration is that she did not inform her guests of the nature for the occasion.²⁰ Cora and Martha attended the Central School.²¹ On June 25, Henry and Johanna hosted a going away party for George Rogge who was leaving Leadville for a new home in Montana.²² On July 27, Johanna attended the birthday party for Mrs. Nollenberger.²³ On September 20, Dora, Cora, Hulda and Kurt attended the birthday party for Rose Heimberger²⁴ at Dr. Heimberger's home.²⁵ On September 29, Henry was awarded a gold cane by Dr. David Heimberger in a reception at Temple Israel for his service in the Temple Israel choir.²⁶

On February 1, 1891 Johanna attended the birthday party for Mrs. Arcularius at her family home.²⁷ Oscar Ludwig lived for only a brief time and sadly died of unknown causes, at the age of two, on March 18, 1891.²⁸ Cora and Hulda attended Central School.²⁹ On May 4, Johanna attended the birthday party for Mrs. Ulrich.³⁰ On July 16, Henry was elected as a trustee for the Leadville Turn Verein Society.³¹ Henry was one of many Leadville taxpayers who attended a county commissioners meeting to protest the bill in which County Attorney Parks was requesting \$60,000 for services rendered, which was ultimately awarded.³² On October 17, Hulda and Cora attended the birthday party for Lucille Penberthy at her family's home.³³ On November 28, Johanna attended a gathering hosted by Mrs. von Hedeman.³⁴

On February 18, 1894, Henry and his partner, Fred Hedemann opened their own hardware operation, Hedemann & Ludwig at 609-611 Harrison Avenue.³⁵ On June 9, Henry's real estate holdings took a hit when one of his rental properties at 319 West 3rd Street caught fire. The structure survived but the interior was a total loss.³⁶ Henry reported a boom in sales of agricultural equipment noting that the growing season produced a great deal of grass on local farms and ranches that was being processed for hay.³⁷ Both Martha and Cora performed piano solos for the *Friday Night Club* musicale on September 22.³⁸ In November of 1894, Henry was elected to the office of County Commissioner. This did not in and of itself pass without controversy. Henry appeared for his first commissioner's meeting on November 12, 1894, with his court signed bond, ready to take his seat on the board. This was loudly protested by the incumbent, Allingham, who was appointed temporarily after the death of commissioner Jeremiah Irwin. Allingham persisted that he was a full-fledged commissioner and would not yield his seat to Henry. This resulted in a chaotic meeting where Allingham, unable to hear without the use of a tube, was faced with being ignored the rest of the evening by virtue of other commissioners refusal to speak into the



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apparatus, or register Allingham's votes. The board finally announced that despite Allingham's persistence to sit in on all future meetings, Henry had the legal credentials to serve where Allingham did not and Henry would have his position going forward regardless of Allingham's presence or contention.³⁹

On March 14, 1895, Cora, Hulda and Martha attended the annual Purim Ball.⁴⁰ On March 31, the three Ludwig daughters attended an impromptu hop at the Hotel Vendome.⁴¹ On October 24, 1895, Henry, an asthmatic, was reported to have been suffering from edema for "some time" and concerns were evident that he may not survive the night.⁴² On October 26, 1895, Henry Ludwig died from complications associated with this condition.⁴³ Acting expeditiously, the remaining Lake County Board of Commissioners passed several resolutions to honor the memory of Henry the same day.⁴⁴ On November 3, 1895, Colorado Governor Albert McIntire appointed local county bookkeeper Andrew Dix as Henry's successor on the Lake County board of commissioners.⁴⁵

Martha attended Ellse Nollenberger's birthday party on July 23, 1896.⁴⁶ On August 6, Cora, Hulda, and Kurt attended an afternoon party thrown in honor of William Haas, while Martha attended an evening session hosted by his mother, Carrie,⁴⁷ more appropriately designed for adults.⁴⁸ In November, both Cora and Hulda were listed on the Central School's honor roll.⁴⁹

Between 1889 and 1908, there is little mention of the Ludwigs in Leadville, though they maintained the same residence and business holdings during this period. In 1889, Martha was the organist for the Leadville chapter of the *Order of the Eastern Star*.⁵⁰ On June 8, 1900, Hulda and Kurt completed their seventh grade studies at Leadville's Central School.⁵¹ On October 2, 1901, Martha married William Thielke⁵² and the couple remained in Leadville. On December 20, 1902, Johanna was elected treasurer of the Leadville chapter of the

Order of the Eastern Star.⁵³ On October 17, 1903, Kurt was elected president, and Hulda secretary, for the junior class of Lake County Public High School.⁵⁴ On May 27, 1905, Hulda and Kurt hosted a Spider Web party for their friends at the family home.⁵⁵ On June 9, 1905, Hulda and Kurt graduated from Leadville High School.⁵⁶ July 12, Hulda, who graduated with high honors, became one of only twenty-five high school students in the United States to be awarded a full scholarship by the University of Chicago.⁵⁷ On February 26, 1906 Cora attended the Turner's Masque Ball dressed as a domino.⁵⁸

In August of 1908, Hulda returned to Leadville after graduating from the *University of Chicago* to teach English and German at *Lake County Public High School*.⁵⁹ On December 11, 1908, while working as a clerk for the George Taylor Drug Co., Kurt had come to the store after closing to review the incoming mail. Inside he discovered Bid Wells, a vagrant, hiding in the store. Kurt drew his gun and fixed it on the man and asked him what he wanted, his reply; "cocaine". Kurt told Wells that he could not supply him, and ushered Wells out of the store at gunpoint to the closest police call box and triggered the alarm. While waiting, Wells became desperate, attacked Kurt, relieved him of his weapon and, shortly thereafter, what was described as a "jar of cocaine". When the police arrived at the front door, Wells dropped the weapon and fled through the same back window through which he had entered resulting in a city-wide manhunt.⁶⁰

On August 1, 1909, Kurt purchased the *Midland Drug Store* located at 224 West 3rd Street and renamed the establishment *The Ludwig Drug Co.*⁶¹ His new endeavor did not last long and, on December 7, Kurt was brought before Judge Charles Cavender to settle the matter of the felonious passing of bad checks. Kurt's behavior would be linked to alcohol and drug addiction. Before Cavender passed sentence, he delivered the following admonition to Kurt and his attorney:



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I don't know what to think. Realizing the enormity of an offense like yours, if it was committed while drunk there might be a possibility of some excuse, but in addition to that you had substantially ruined your family. You should been a help and assistance to your mother (Johanna) in her widowhood, but instead of that you have been a constant source of trouble. I have known your family for twenty-five or thirty years. I knew your father (Henry) very well, and he was a good, respectable citizen, and you should have become one too. You have proven yourself an absolute failure in life up to this time, not only for yourself, but a burden and drag upon your family.

It is one of the hardest cases that it has ever been my duty to act upon, as I know that any sentence I may impose will be inoperative in so far as doing any good, and any sentence I do place will be a punishment to your mother. If I could only believe that this would be the end of it and the you would be cured and would cure yourself of these habits of whiskey and drugs..."

Ultimately, Judge Cavender sided on leniency and an attempt at rehabilitation, foregoing a threat to sentence Kurt to the maximum seventy-five years in the state penitentiary at Canon City and instead sentenced Kurt to serve one year at hard labor at the state reformatory in nearby Buena Vista, Colorado, with the hope that this would allow Kurt an opportunity to recover from his addictions and become a productive member of society. However, Judge Cavender did also clearly add:

...when you are released if you are ever again within my punishing power, and I think that of anyone who knows the facts that mercy will not be strained, you will get the limit.⁶²

On December 15, 1909, Kurt transferred the stock and fixtures of Ludwig Drug to his mother in lieu of his pending conviction.⁶³ The family business had fallen into foreclosure. Johanna brought suit against E.D. Griffin, who owned the store's mortgage, to recover her losses.⁶⁴

In 1910 the remaining family, Johanna, Hulda, and Cora, moved to 206 West 7th Street which may have been connected to Kurt's financial issues and conviction.⁶⁵ On February 22, in honor of his birthday, Hulda lectured at the student assembly on philosophical points of the life of George Washington.⁶⁶ Cora found employment as an English teacher at Lake County Public High School.⁶⁷

On January 11, 1911, Cora died unexpectedly of unknown causes.⁶⁸ On March 10, Hulda appeared in the *Fashionable Follies* at the Elks Opera House in the role of a "colored mammy".⁶⁹

On February 11, 1912, Hulda announced her resignation from Lake County High School to accept a teaching position at a high school in Oklahoma City.⁷⁰ It is unclear if she ever realized the move, as she was again at her position in Leadville during 1914.⁷¹

During 1914, Johanna split time between a second home in Denver and the family residence in Leadville.⁷² On August 31, 1914, Hulda married David Chase at Denver, then moved on to Birmingham, Alabama, where the couple made their new home.⁷³ In October, Johanna broke her finger which was noted to have given her "considerable difficulties".⁷⁴



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In March of 1915, Johanna moved to Birmingham to live with Hulda and her family. Meanwhile, Martha and her husband William remained in the family's Leadville home.⁷⁵ In June of 1916, Johanna returned to her home in Leadville.⁷⁶ On October 12, 1916, Johanna transferred the deed to the family home to Martha for consideration of \$1.⁷⁷

Though it is unclear what Kurt did immediately following his stint at the Buena Vista reformatory, by 1919 he had become a somewhat successful painter and photographer in Denver. His brother-in-law, William Thielke, brokered an exhibition of Kurt's work at Marion Kingsbury's music studio in Leadville on April 17, 1919.⁷⁸

On February 4, 1920, Kurt was reported as one of four initial cases of influenza that spurred a public health panic in Leadville⁷⁹ and died from the disease later that day in Martha's home at 100 West 9th Street.⁸⁰ Kurt's death was the first fatality of a Leadville flu epidemic and four additional cases were reported within a week of his death. This preceded an emergency meeting of the board of health to plan for a widespread outbreak.⁸¹ By January of 1921, the epidemic had been described as "slight", however, Kurt was not the only fatality and within a week of his death the city had banned church funerals, the *Red Cross* had set up an emergency hospital, and twenty-eight persons quarantined. By the end of February it had been noted that the epidemic had passed.⁸²



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¹ Year: 1910; Census Place: *Leadville Ward 3, Lake, Colorado*; FHL microfilm: 1374134

² For more information on the Monheimer family, please visit: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/monheimer.html>

³ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. *Corbet, and Ballenger's Fourth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms Etc. in The City Of Leadville for 1883.* (Denver, CO: Corbet and Ballenger Publishers.1883). P180.

⁴ *Pleasantly Surprised.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 30, 1890. P8.

⁵ *Their Voices Stilled.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 20, 1890. P6.

⁶ *Selected Scraps.* (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Herald). December 30, 1883. P4.

⁷ *Mirth And Music.* (Leadville, CO: Carbonate Chronicle). May 24, 1884. P7.

⁸ *Steven's Smash Up.* (Leadville, CO: Carbonate Chronicle). September 13, 1884. P5.

⁹ *Leadville Turn Verein.* (Leadville, CO: Carbonate Chronicle). January 10, 1885. P7.

¹⁰ Year: 1900; Census Place: *Leadville, Lake, Colorado*; microfilm: 1240125

¹¹ For more information on Charles Boettcher and his significance to Colorado History, please visit:

<https://www.jeffco.us/1862/Charles-Boettcher>

¹² TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. *Corbet, and Ballenger's Thirteenth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City Of Denver For 1886.* (Denver, CO: Corbet and Ballenger Publishers.1886). P170.

¹³ Year: 1900; Census Place: *Leadville, Lake, Colorado*; microfilm: 1240125

¹⁴ TB Corbett and JH Ballenger. *Corbet, and Ballenger's Eighth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List Of The Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City Of Leadville For 1887.* (Leadville, CO: Corbet and Ballenger Publishers. 1887). P175.

¹⁵ JH Ballenger and Richards. *Ballenger & Richard's Ninth Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Leadville for 1888.* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger and Richards Publishers.1888). P170.

¹⁶ *Turners Going To Denver.* (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle). April 19, 1888. P4.

¹⁷ *City Council.* (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle). May 2, 1888. P3.

¹⁸ *An Imposing Ceremony.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 2, 1889. P3.

¹⁹ Find A Grave, database and images memorial page for Oscar Ludwig (1889–Mar 1891), Find A Grave Memorial no. 126630719, citing Evergreen Cemetery, Leadville, Lake County, Colorado, USA. 2014.

²⁰ *Some Social Nuggets.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 13, 1890. P4.

²¹ *In The Public Schools.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 26, 1890. P4.

²² *To Go To Montana.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). June 26, 1890. P5.

²³ *The Social Chronicle.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). July 27, 1890. P5.

²⁴ For more information on Rose Heimberger and her family, please visit: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/heimberger.html>

²⁵ *Society's Gay Flutter.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 20, 1890. P5.

²⁶ *Pleasantly Surprised.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 30, 1890. P8.

²⁷ *In The Social Swim.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 8, 1891. P5

²⁸ Nancy Manly. *Who's Where In Leadville's Evergreen Cemetery.* Leadville, CO; USA. *Historical Research Co-operative.*1981. P219.

²⁹ *Central School.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 1, 1891. P8.

³⁰ *Music And Art.* (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle). May 4, 1891. P1.

³¹ *Turn Verein Elections.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). July 16, 1890. P5.

³² *Parks Bond Matter.* Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle. August 4, 1891. P4.

³³ *Autumn Society Notes.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 18, 1891. P5.

³⁴ *In The Social Domain.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 29, 1891. P5.

³⁵ *New Hardware Firm.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 18, 1894. P6.

³⁶ *Early Morning Blaze.* (Leadville, CO: Leadville Daily Evening Chronicle). June 9, 1894. P4.

³⁷ *Sale Of Agricultural Implements.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). July 18, 1894. P6.

³⁸ *Social Season Is Waning.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 23, 1894. P3.

³⁹ *County Commissioners.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 13, 1894. P5.

⁴⁰ *It Was A Swirl Of Gaiety.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). March 15, 1895. P8.

⁴¹ *Society.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 4, 1909. P8.



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- ⁴² *Illness For Mr. Ludwig.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 24, 1895. P5.
- ⁴³ *Died.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 26, 1895. P5.
- ⁴⁴ *Resolution Of Respect.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 27, 1895. P3.
- ⁴⁵ *Dix Is Appointed.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). November 3, 1895. P6.
- ⁴⁶ *Women And Home.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). July 24, 1898, P6.
- ⁴⁷ For more information on Carrie Haas and her family, please visit: <http://www.jewishleadville.org/haas.html>
- ⁴⁸ *Around The City.* (Leadville CO: Herald Democrat). August 7, 1898. P6.
- ⁴⁹ *Leadville Public Schools Roll Of Honor For November.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 12, 1898. P4.
- ⁵⁰ *Around The City.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 24, 1899. P7.
- ⁵¹ *Public School Column.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 24, 1901. P3.
- ⁵² Manly and Wolford. *Index to Marriages and Marriage Licenses Recorded at The Lake County Courthouse.* (Leadville, CO; USA. Historical Research Co-operative). 1990. P332.
- ⁵³ *Local Lodges.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 21, 1902. P2.
- ⁵⁴ *Public School Column.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 18, 1903. P2.
- ⁵⁵ *Society.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). May 28, 1905. P11.
- ⁵⁶ *Commencement Day Is Coming.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). June 6, 1905. P2.
- ⁵⁷ *Around The City.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). July 12, 1905. P4.
- ⁵⁸ *Turner's Masque Ball Was A Social Success.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 28, 1906. P6.
- ⁵⁹ *Around The City.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). August 31, 1908. P5.
- ⁶⁰ *Police Capture Ludwig's Visitor.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 11, 1908. P3.
- ⁶¹ *To Whom It May Concern.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). August 1, 1909. P8.
- ⁶² *Buena Vista For Ludwig.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 7, 1909. P1.
- ⁶³ *Filed For Record.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 15, 1909. P5.
- ⁶⁴ *Application For Receiver.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 31, 1909. P5.
- ⁶⁵ JH Ballenger and Richards. *Ballenger & Richard's Thirty-First Annual City Directory: Containing a Complete List of the Inhabitants, Institutions, Incorporated Companies, Manufacturing Establishments, Business, Business Firms etc. in The City of Leadville for 1910.* (Leadville, CO: Ballenger and Richards Publishers. 1910). P176.
- ⁶⁶ *Spoke On Washington.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 22, 1910. P5.
- ⁶⁷ *Public School Column.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). December 11, 1910. P4.
- ⁶⁸ *Violet Circle Attention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). January 14, 1911. P4.
- ⁶⁹ *Home Talent In Great Show.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). March 10, 1911. P8.
- ⁷⁰ *Around The City.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 11, 1912. P5.
- ⁷¹ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 14, 1914. P3.
- ⁷² *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 11, 1914. P2.
- ⁷³ *Around The City.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). September 2, 1914. P4.
- ⁷⁴ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 14, 1914. P3.
- ⁷⁵ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). June 4, 1916. P2.
- ⁷⁶ *Personal Mention.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). June 4, 1916. P2.
- ⁷⁷ *Around The City.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). October 12, 1916. P5
- ⁷⁸ *Photo Work Of Former Leadviller Shown Here.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). April 17, 1919. P5.
- ⁷⁹ *Board Of Health Meets Thursday.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 4, 1920. P2.
- ⁸⁰ *Deaths And Funerals.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 6, 1920. P4.
- ⁸¹ *One Death From Influenza.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). February 11, 1920. P5.
- ⁸² *Local Chronology, 1920.* (Leadville, CO: Herald Democrat). January 1, 1921. P4.



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