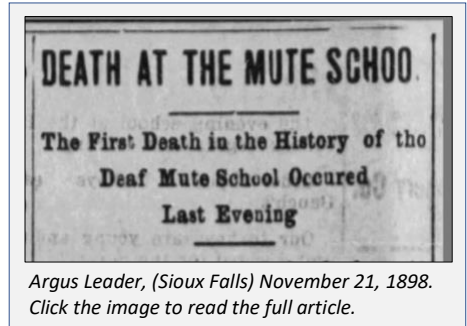


Lorraine (Lewis Lorraine) Louthan

Lorraine Louthan was a 12-year-old student at the South Dakota School for the Deaf in 1898 and is remembered as the first pupil to pass away while attending the school.

Originally from Spearfish, South Dakota, he was the son of Dr. John Meredith Louthan and Rosalia Louthan. Although the name "Lorraine" may suggest otherwise, contemporary records confirm that he was a boy.



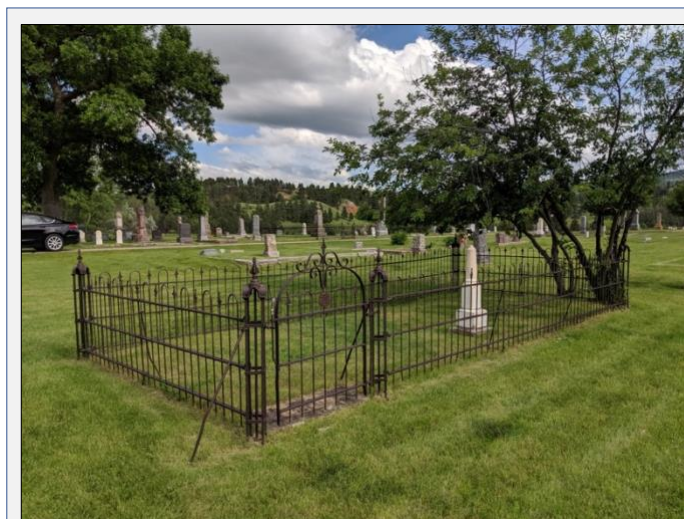
In November 1898, Lorraine became seriously ill with inflammatory rheumatism, a condition that affected his joints and later spread to his heart. As his condition worsened, his mother was notified and traveled to the school, where she remained by his side continuously during his final days.

Despite periods of temporary improvement, his condition declined, and he passed away on the evening of November 20, 1898. The cause of death was reported as secondary inflammation of the heart.

During his illness, he received dedicated care from the school staff, including the matron and instructors, whose efforts were later recognized by Superintendent James Simpson.

Funeral services were held at the school, reflecting the close-knit nature of the campus community. Following the service, his body was taken by train to Spearfish, where he was returned home for burial. Superintendent Simpson personally accompanied his mother and the remains for part of the journey.

Lorraine was remembered as a favorite among students and staff, and his passing deeply affected the school community. His story reflects the strong sense of care, responsibility, and connection that defined life at the South Dakota School for the Deaf during the Simpson era.



Burial site of Lorraine Louthan at Rose Hill Cemetery in Spearfish, South Dakota, where he rests alongside members of his family, including a younger sibling who passed away before him.