Shortly after moving to the territory of Colorado, Nathan (29 years), Ellen (25), Laura (2 ½) and Florence (under 6 mos.) Hungate were murdered on June 11, 1864 along Box Elder Creek on the property of their employer, Isaac Van Wormer. Although there was no certifiable evidence to reasonably suspect any one individual, their mutilated bodies were brought to Denver and put on public display after a coroners report was released explaining that “[They] came to their death by being feloniously killed by some person or persons to the jury unknown, but supposed to be Indians[.]” Many believed that the local Arapaho or Cheyenne Indians were responsible and their deaths were used to incite paranoia and fear of future attacks from Native Americans.

Warfare with the Indian tribes increased and eventually the Hungate Act, signed by Governor Evans, ordered Col. Chivington and the First Colorado Calvary to southeastern Colorado, where they participated in the infamous Sand Creek Massacre on November 29, 1864. An estimated 163 Native Americans (two thirds women and children) were killed in the remote, historically peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho village.

After 4 burials and 3 exhumations, the family was finally laid to rest at Fairmount in July 1892, where a monument was erected in their memory the events following their deaths.

Located in the north half of Lot 46, Block 6.