



DOCENTS NEWSLETTER



Historical Society of Dayton Valley

<https://daytonnvhistory.org>

March 2015

DOCENT DOINGS

THE MUSEUM SEASON

Had we known that all it would take to get rain and snow into Dayton was the cleaning of the museum, we would have scheduled the cleanup day a month ago! Many thanks to all those who showed up and helped ready the museum for the new season. That was on Friday the 27th; Saturday the 28th saw not one, but two, special tours go through the museum and on Sunday March 1st we opened officially for the 2015 season. We are definitely up and running and ready for action!

One tour on Saturday was supposed to be with about 25-30 people but the weather put a bit of a damper on that with only 12 showing up. The weather notwithstanding however the group was enthused and interested in Dayton history with several promising to return and spend more time with our exhibits. The tour lasted well over an hour and expanded into a bit of a walking tour of Old Town including a stop at the firehouse. A repeat of the event will be scheduled in the near future to accommodate those run off by the weather.

It is enthusiastic groups like this that remind us of the importance of our museum and its impact on visitors whether they are locals or from out of town. As we launch the 2015 season thanks go out to all of you who help make it possible. We still have a couple of gaps in our coverage schedule but also have a couple of new members expressing interest in covering the museum so going forward we should be OK. If you have ever wondered about being a part of the museum team and have any questions just give me a call. Your help would be most welcome. (246-3527 or virginiacitypat@sbcglobal.net).

HSDV President, Linda Adams, Shawna Woosley, Silver Springs, and Deb Lara, Las Vegas, pose for a picture on Feb. 11 at the Dayton Museum. This is Deb's second visit to the Museum to do ancestral research for the



Cipriani, Parlanti and Buralli families who settled in Dayton in the early 1900s. I have worked with Deb do research and shared our pictures of her. She has made us copies too. Linda Adams happened to be working in the Museum that day. Deb was so appreciative that she donated \$500 to the Society to help us keep up the important work of building a genealogy research center, a special Dayton site that is dear to my heart and I hope to complete in my lifetime. Thanks, Deb. (by Laura Tennant)



Cleaning and rearranging the Museum storage closet(s) took a few hours on February 16, but we created a lot more space for the items in the Museum that must be accessioned, and for our Dayton genealogy research center that is in the works. From left, Linda Adams, Lauri Emerich, Laura Tennant, Phyllis King and Sheilah Hodach. Worker bees included Stony, Ron Emerich and Bert the Dog.
(by Laura Tennant)

Docent Letters
By Ruby McFarland

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

Chinese Proverb

Last month I received my copy of a beautiful coffee table book called “Women’s Legacy,” 150 years of excellence. I found myself in the company of some pretty lofty women, women who are to be commended for their contribution to their communities and Nevada. I feel grateful to be in their company, especially the women of Dayton. The book hardly scratched the surface of the women in Dayton who have contributed to the good of the community. One woman in particular would be Delphine Minor, a woman I have always looked up to. I would gladly give up my page in the book for her to be recognized.

Del, as we all know her, came to Dayton as a young bride. She and her husband Gene started out their marriage on the Minor ranch raising pheasants. Del told me once that she dressed so many pheasants for market that if she never saw another pheasant it would be all right with her. They found that raising cattle was a lot less stressful, and the pheasant business went the way of all pheasant raising schemes.

Del spent her life raising a great bunch of kids and being very active in all the parent type programs in the community. She and Gene never said no to helping with community projects that involved kids.

Thanks to Del and other women of the community, we have a Historic Society of Dayton Valley. She and a few others such as Laura Tennant, Judy Harris, Lee Vecchiarelli, Grace Ricci, and others organized the HSDV. Aren’t we glad we had those women to help preserve our history.

There are a lot of other women who contributed to the community but we would have to re-write the book to recognize them all. They are no less important than all the women recognized in the “Women’s Legacy” book.

There will be a Sunday in March to come to the Museum in Dayton for a signing of the people in the book. March 22, 1-4 pm has been set aside for you all to come review the book and order one for your coffee table.

March in Dayton *By Linda Clements*

As we saw last month January and February seems to be a very bad time for flooding. However, flooding doesn't end in February, but can occur also in March, as this month's timeline demonstrates. But several other significant historic events occurred in March.

- March 1852 **GOLD CAÑON – Significant Flooding**
Flooding from warm rain falling on a heavy snow pack caused flooding in Northern California and likely caused the same problems in Gold Cañon.
- March 1854 **GOLD CAÑON – Miners Doing Fair Business and Money is Plentiful; The First Marriage... Followed by the First Annulment**
A miner, taking advantage of the absence of her father, persuaded a motherless young woman about 12 or 13 to marry him. He was thrilled that he had found a wife in this female-poor land. However, a lady who was a family friend keep the newlyweds apart until the father's return, which—after some drama—was followed by a quick annulment. The father sensibly relocated his daughter to Eagle Valley.

“The miners in Gold Canon are doing well; a few days since a slug weighing 1 lb. was found, and smaller ones, worth from ten to twenty dollars, are frequently taken out.”

A duel was also reported, although the promised follow-up report [to the Placerville seems not to have ensued.
- March 1857 **GOLD CAÑON – Miners of Gold Cañon Continue to Do Well**
“The gold from those diggings sells at \$14 per ounce.”
- Mar. 15, 1860 **WESTERN NEVADA – Intense earthquake shakes western Nevada**
Emergence from a severe winter and growing tensions that would become the Pyramid Lake Indian War distracted from reporting of this event, but in Carson City the earthquake produced a general rush for the street. The event was felt in Sacramento and slightly in San Francisco and Yreka. It may have been centered near Pyramid Lake, based on land disturbances observed there.
- Bef. Mar. 1861 **CHINATOWN, UTAH TERRITORY – Dan DeQuille Describes Chinatown**
William Wright, writing as Dan DeQuille, describes “the venerable village of Chinatown” as having about a dozen homes with the river beyond. He also describes two branches of the river that had to be crossed. The closest to Chinatown was very high and swift, and the second he described as a “bay or slough” and “sort of a cut-off” half as large as the river itself. [After the floods of 1861-1862, this cut-off became the main channel, with the larger “meander” being cut off.]
- Mar. 2, 1861 **WASHINGTON, DC – Act of Congress Organizes the Territory of Nevada**
CARSON CITY – James W. Nye begins term as first Governor of the new Nevada Territory
James W. Nye, Republican, appointed by President Lincoln as the first Governor of the newly created Nevada Territory, began his term in office. He served until Dec. 5, 1864.
- Mar. 5, 1868 **CARSON CITY – Virginia & Truckee Railroad Incorporated**
The “V & T” Railroad Company was incorporated in Nevada by principals of the Union Mill & Mining Company and the Bank of California: Darius Ogden Mills, William Sharon, and William C. Ralston. The standard gauge railroad was conceived to provide more efficient and economical transportation between Comstock ore producing mines around Virginia City, quartz reduction mills along the Carson River below Dayton, and lumber yards located near Carson City.
- Mar. 8, 1869 **DAYTON – Horses lost in stable fire**
The stable and corral of J. W. Davids, across the river from Old Town, was destroyed by fire with seven of eight horses in the stable, harness, and a lot of hay.
- Mar. 25, 1872 **SUTRO – Post Office opens**
- Mar. 1, 1881 **Rails of the Carson & Colorado Railroad reach Walker**
- Mar. 10, 1881 **The C&C RR began charging passengers 10-cents a mile to ride the train.**
- March 1890 **DAYTON – Flooding on Carson River**

Rapid Melting Causes Flooding All Along Carson River; Several Areas of C&C Track Washed Out. Mills were idled for several days. Damage to the C&C occurred as far south as Mt. Montgomery Pass.

- March 1893 DAYTON – Rock Point Mill Being Repaired and Will Start Up Again Soon.
Ore is being delivered there from the Dayton mine in Silver City.
- March 1895 DAYTON – Potatoes are Significant Crop for Dayton, Shipped to California on C&C RR
“During this month twenty-five carloads of potatoes have been shipped from here by Italian ranchers along the Carson river to different points in California. The potatoes are in fine condition, although a trifle smaller than season before last, and the prices received for them have ranged from \$10 to \$13 a ton. Considering that about 15 tons are raised to the acre, spuds are a money making crop.”
- March 1899 DAYTON – Potatoes from Dayton in High Demand
The price of spuds is higher now than it has been for years. Some months ago potato buyers bought up nearly all the spuds on the Carson river ranches for about \$16 per ton. These spuds have nearly all been shipped to California. The price of potatoes has now raised to \$22 per ton, but only two or three ranchers hereabouts have any to sell. Those who have them are now holding out for \$25 a ton.
- March 1900 NEVADA – C&C sold to Southern Pacific Railroad for \$2,750,000.
The railroad had been losing money for several years. R.J. Laws was retained as Superintendent.
- March 1902 DAYTON – Rock Point Lighted by Electricity from Their Own Plant
The Nevada Reduction Works mill at Rock Point is lighted as is the cyanide plant and the residence of the principals of the company.
- March 1907 DAYTON – Flood Takes Out C&C Trestle In Dayton
Both the C&C trestle and the road bridge across the river were destroyed. A picture taken after the flood shows that the roof of the depot still has not been trimmed back to accommodate the larger standard-gauged boxcars on the house track.
- Mar. 5, 1934 WASHINGTON, D.C. – ICC Approves Abandonment of Line Through Dayton
Interstate Commerce Commission approves SP’s petition to abandon line from Mound House to Churchill.

Sheilah Hodach appeases Bert and his stick at the HSDV on Feb. 16 when volunteers celebrated Presidents Day rearranging storage sites—they are better than ever now.
(by Laura Tennant)



