

# NEWSLETTER

## April 2022

Doña Ana County Historical Society

### Al Borrego To Speak About The Camino Real

"The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro ~ A Living Historic Cultural Landmark" will be the monthly talk given on April 21 at 7 p.m. by Al Borrego, President of the Cultural Heritage Society of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. As usual, the talk will be held in the auditorium at the Good Samaritan, 3011 Buena Vida Cir. and virtually via Zoom.

Borrego's talk is a look into the universal value of the Camino Real and Cultural Heritage Society of the Camino Real Project. He will relate what headway the project has made, and how it will benefit all the cities and towns along the route.

Borrego has deep family ties to San Eliz-

ario, Texas (just south of El Paso on the Rio Grande) and the Camino Real. In the Nov. 2018 issue of *Texas Highways Magazine*, Al was quoted, "My dad's family I can trace back here in San Elizario to about 1816, and my mom's family came to Socorro around 1880, right when the train got here. My great-grandfather on my mom's side was a Chiricahua Apache from Arizona. He was working with the railroad, and this is where he finished working on it."

He was further quoted in the magazine, saying, "We call ourselves the birthplace of the American Southwest because when the Oñate expedition came through here in 1598 he claimed New Mexico for New Spain. Oñate also created El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro from Mexico City to Santa Fe, the thoroughfare of merchandise for almost 300 years into the American Southwest."

Like our past few monthly meetings, if you cannot attend or do not feel safe yet, you can attend via the Zoom platform. We will send out the Zoom invite a few days before by email. Non-members can also request the Zoom link via email at: [19dachs63@gmail.com](mailto:19dachs63@gmail.com)

The only requirement for those attending at Good Sam is you must wear a mask inside their facility. There is plenty of room for social distancing with its large capacity.



**NOTICE -- NOTICE -- NOTICE -- NOTICE -- NOTICE -- NOTICE -- NOTICE**

Heather Reed, Director of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum, has volunteered to serve on the DACHS board of directors. To make it official, the membership will vote on it during the April meeting.

# Rio Grande Historical Collections Celebration On April 18

Our president, Dennis Daily, has offered DACHS members an opportunity to join in celebrating 50 years of the Rio Grande Historical Collections, NMSU's premier research archive of Southwest and borderlands heritage. Dennis, the Department Head, likes to point out that the Dona Ana County Historical Society played a role in establishing the Rio Grande Historical Collections.

The celebration will be Monday, April 18 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. It will take place on the fourth floor of the Branson Library - where the archives live. Don't worry, there is an elevator. Also, since it is in the

evening, no parking permit is required to park in the lots near the library.

Those who attend will have the opportunity to take a behind-the-scenes tour. Also rare historical documents will be on display. One of the highlights will be a panel discussion that will feature the likes of Rick Hendricks, New Mexico's State Records Administrator, and Austin Hoover who was in charge of the very same archives for decades.

The library does not have boundless space so they are asking you to RSVP if you would like to attend. To do so, email them at: [archives@nmsu.edu](mailto:archives@nmsu.edu)

## New Storage May Not Be Sexy But It Sure Is Good News

The permanent collection of the Las Cruces Museum System has recently been moved into a new storage facility. The collection contains over 11,000 objects, including insect specimens, historic documents and photos, two- and three-dimensional artworks, decorative arts, toys and dolls, and many other objects related to the history and culture of Las Cruces. Each of these 11,000 objects were carefully packed and moved into the new facility.

Museum staff used this move as an opportunity

to reorganize the collections, grouping like objects together to maximize available space. Groupings include art, textiles, history, natural history, toys and dolls, and archives.

The new building almost doubles the storage area for the collection, as well as providing space for a photography set-up, digitization and photo-editing equipment, offices for research and cataloging, and room for the collection to grow.

There is also space for outside researchers to work, which Collections Manager Sarah Thomson highly encourages. "We want the collections to be a resource for the museums as well as for members of the public," said Thomson.

Almost all of the objects in the collection can be viewed online through the museum's online portal: <https://las-cruces.org/museums> and go to the Collections section. This portal also showcases several online exhibits and allows the public to search or browse through images of the collections.

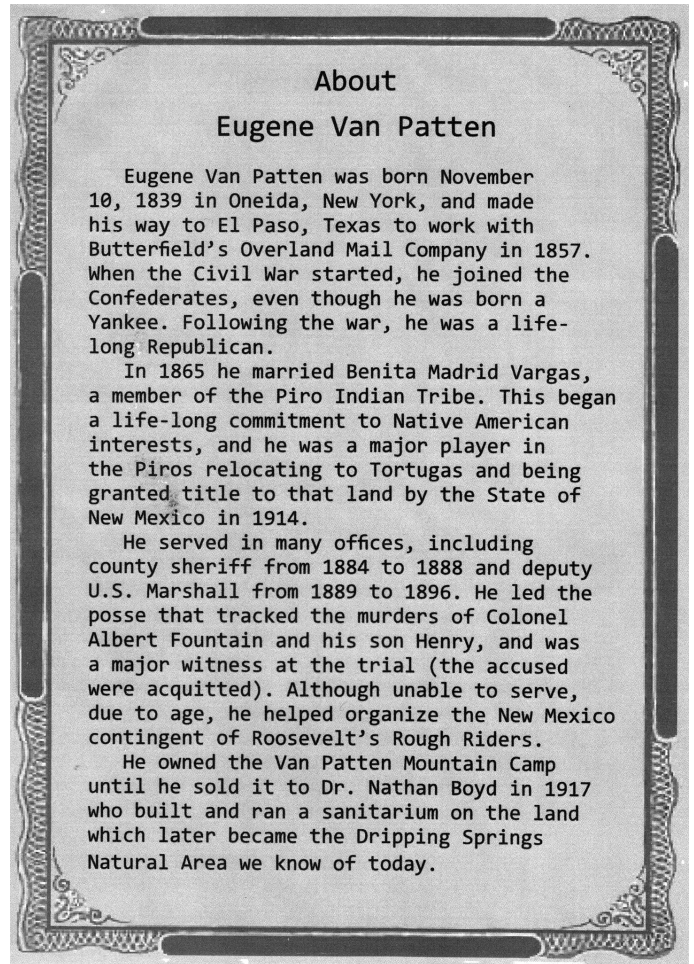


# Looking For Information About These Military Cards



I have five of these 5x7" identification cards for local military veterans - obviously "history cards." Besides Van Patten, I was given cards for John Salopek, Thomas Branigan, Dan Sosa, Jr. and Albert Jennings Fountain. There are no markings on them to indicate when they were printed and by what organization. I don't remember seeing anything like this in the DACHS past so I'm wondering if they may have been compiled by one of our local military organizations. Also, I wonder how many were created or did they run out of steam with the first five?

Do you have information about these? If so, contact Jim Eckles at [19dachs63@gmail.com](mailto:19dachs63@gmail.com).



## This Is The First Call For Articles For The 30th Edition

The Dona Ana County Historical Society is looking for original articles concerning Southern New Mexico history for its next annual *Review* (Volume XXX, January 2023). That's right, it will be the 30th edition.

Biography, local and family histories, oral history, student papers and articles focusing on the history of the Southwest and Northern Mexico will be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

All submissions must be made electronically as Word documents. Other formats can be negotiated. **Also, we would like end notes instead of footnotes.** To submit an article or to ask questions, contact Jim Eckles by email: [19dachs63@gmail.com](mailto:19dachs63@gmail.com) or by phone at: 575-521-8771. Eckles will act as the middle man..

The deadline for final articles is October.

More information is available on the society's

website at: <http://www.donaanacountyhistsoc.org/HistoricalReview/Reviews.html> Also, past editions are on the website and can be viewed or printed.

## DACHS Volunteer Jobs Available

As noted above, it is time to be thinking about the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. The job of laying out the *Review* and preparing it for printing is available. The body of the *Review* must be finalized as a single PDF document and the cover done separately as another. You can prepare those files using any software you want. Jim Eckles has been using InDesign for many years. It is then printed in town - we've been using ABC Printing.

Jim Eckman, our editor last year, has already agreed to fill that job again this year.

Finally, we could use a new webmaster - someone to keep the webpage current by posting updates, newsletters and announcements.

# San Albino Cemetery Tour Being Offered in April

Mark your calendar for April 23 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Take a walk through Old Mesilla's San Albino Cemetery and learn about the rich history of the Mesilla Valley and our Southwest. Visit the Fountain Family plot and hear the tragic story of Albert Jennings Fountain and his son, Henry. Find out about the story of James Edgar Griggs, the patriarch of the Griggs restauraners.

Remember Civil War history through general store owner, Thomas Jefferson Bull and the plots where California Volunteers of California now rest. Listen to the mystery of Agostini-Justiniani, "El

Ermitano" (the Hermit). He was a monk said to have healing powers who lived alone in La Cueva at Dripping Springs. Learn more about cemetery symbolism, fascinating gravestone carvings, even ghosts and witchcraft.

The field trip will be led by historian, Mary-Kay Shannon, the author of the San Albino Cemetery guide published by the Branigan Cultural Center.

Meet at the entrance to the Cemetery located at the southern end of Calle de Guadalupe in Mesilla. For reference, La Posta Restaurant, is on the corner of Calle de Guadalupe and the Mesilla Plaza.

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