



NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Doña Ana County Historical Society

David Thomas To Talk On The Hermit Of La Cueva

David Thomas is going to give a presentation about the “Hermit of La Cueva” at the



monthly DACHS meeting on April 18, 7 p.m. at the Good Samaritan auditorium. Most

of us know that there was a hermit living in a cave at La Cueva rocks up near Dripping Springs and that he died there. But who was he? Where did he come from?

David is going to talk about the documentary film that has just been made and is based on David’s biography of Giovanni Maria de Agostini, the “Hermit of La Cueva.” He will discuss being on location during filming with the film company in Italy, New Mexico, Peru, and Mexico, and what new information we have learned about Agostini.

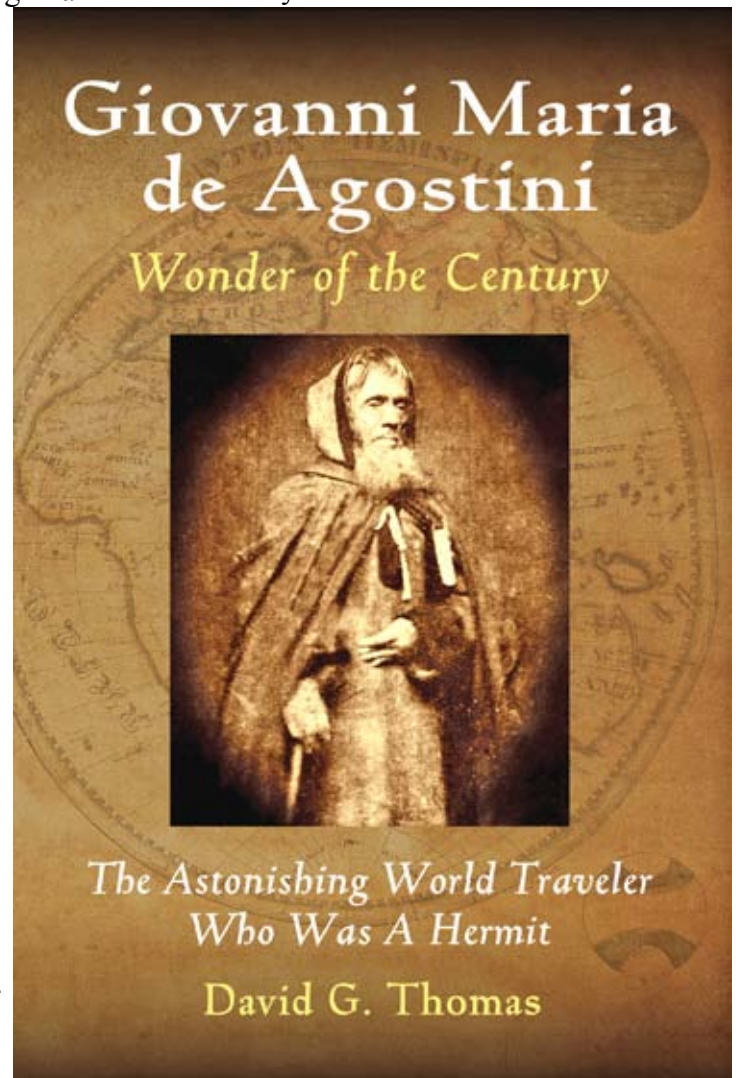
The title of David’s book is: *Giovanni Maria de Agostini, Wonder of the Century: The Astonishing World Traveler Who Was A Hermit.*

The documentary was completed in January, 2019, by Realizart Productions Audiovisual LTDA, a Brazilian Film Production Company. David was able to join the film crew on sites for shooting in Italy, Peru, Mexico, and New Mexico.

In Italy, the film crew shot in Sizzano, Agostini’s birth place. In Peru, the film crew shot the Festival de la Cruz

de Chalpon in Motupe. This festival in honor of Agostini has been celebrated his life for 150 years. In Mexico, the film crew climbed Pico de Orizabo, the third highest mountain in North America, and located and filmed the cave where Agostini lived. In Las Vegas, New Mexico, the film crew climbed Hermit’s peak, looking for the cave where Agostini lived, but was unable to find it.

David plans to show a few clips from the documentary.



DACHS Joins Facebook - Like & Follow Us

That's right, the Dona Ana County Historical Society now has a Facebook page. The idea is to provide easier access to historical society news and events.

The DACHS has had a webpage for years that lists upcoming speakers and all kinds of other society information - how to apply for a grant, who the past presidents were, past copies of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*, past copies of this *Newsletter*, and much more.

For Facebook we plan to post information about upcoming events and also tidbits about local history. For instance, currently there is a bit of trivia on our page about Baylor Pass. Jim Eckles recently hiked to the pass and photographed the poppies in



bloom at the beginning of the trail. He posted a few of his photos and recounted the myth of Baylor Pass and how it got its name.

If you have a Facebook page, please visit us at: @DACHS1963. Also, once there, it would be great if you liked the page, shared the page and followed it. Doing so will spread the word that it now exists and ensure you receive notices when we post things.

Don't worry, this is not going to be like the relative who posts photos of his or her meals everyday or the person who bombards you with political mumbo jumbo. We will only be posting things about the society and interesting facts about the area.

Southern New Mexico Historical Review: Call For Articles

We are looking for original articles concerning local New Mexico history for the next annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review* (Volume XXVII, January 2020). 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.

The editors prefer submissions electronically as Word or simple text documents. Other formats can be negotiated. We prefer photos to be fairly high resolution as JPEGs or TIFFs. It is nice to see images at 300 dpi.

You do NOT need to provide the article as a

finished product with photos already in place. You can simply provide suggested markers that your photos and captions should be near. It will be necessary to rip it apart anyway to make it fit the Review's dimensions and typography.

Also, instead of footnotes, we use endnotes. The 2019 edition is on our website as an example.

To submit an article or to ask questions, contact Jim Eckles by email at 19dachs63@gmail.com or by phone at 575-521-8771.

The deadline for final articles is October. Please help spread the word to those who might be interested in writing up something for the *Review*. It is a great opportunity to get published.

Board Member Luis Rios Takes Over Coordinating Scholarships

Luis Rios has been named as the DACHS Education Chairman for scholarships and grants. Luis is Professor of Drafting and Design Technologies at Dona Ana Community College. He is replacing Jon Hunner as our coordinator.

Although the DACHS treasury is not what it used to be, the society still offers financial assistance to scholars doing historical research. It is called, "Putting your money where your mouth is."

Currently we can offer researchers and/or students: 1) research grants up to \$500; 2) the Mary and J. Paul Taylor Scholarship up to \$1,200; 3) a National History Day Scholarship up to \$250. Information and application forms are on the DACHS website.

The History Day grant is presented annually to a high school graduating senior from southern N.M. who participates in the state competition of National History Day. The deadline for this grant is May 30.

The Day Colonel Roosevelt Visited Las Cruces

Courtesy of Las Cruces Railroad Museum

On Wednesday, March 15, 1911 at approximately 11 a.m., former President Theodore Roosevelt made a planned stop in Las Cruces as part of his train tour through the western United States. New Mexico was still a territory at that time and became a state shortly afterward on January 6, 1912. Roosevelt addressed the crowd about the statehood issue:

"I believe New Mexico will get statehood yet, and I don't believe you people got a square deal, for your territory is certainly entitled to admission into the union and should have been admitted a long time ago. However, be patient and keep up your courage, for I am confident it will only be a matter of months until New Mexico is admitted and you people get your rights."

Colonel Roosevelt, as he was addressed, was greeted by Las Cruces Mayor R.L. Young, the military band and cadets from the agricultural college (later NMSU) and "practically the entire population of this city" according to the local newspaper. Roosevelt spoke for about 15 minutes before the train departed for Albuquerque, on its way towards an important engagement outside of Phoenix.

The main purpose of Roosevelt's train travels through the West in 1911 was the dedication of Theodore Roosevelt Dam, northeast of Phoenix, on

March 18, 1911. The dam was the first major project completed from President Roosevelt's Reclamation Act of 1902. It blocked the Salt River and formed what is now called Roosevelt Lake. The Reclamation Act would also give birth to Elephant Butte Dam, north of Las Cruces, which was started in 1911 and completed in 1916.



Las Cruces mayor R.L. Young, on the right, with former president Teddy Roosevelt on the back of Roosevelt's train car.



A huge crowd of Las Cruces residents came out to see and hear Roosevelt. Both photos are courtesy of the NMSU Library, Archives and Special Collections

Membership Notes

✦ The next meeting of the Dona Ana County Genealogical Society will be on April 10 at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Branigan Library in the 2nd floor Roadrunner Room. Visitors are welcome.

There will be a presentation by Larry Taylor and Jim McKinney on what happened at RootsTech 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah between March 27th through March 30th. RootsTech is an annual family history and technology conference and trade show. Larry and Jim will also let folks know how they can watch videos of several of the presentations given at RootsTech 2019.

The schedule for events follows:

1:30 pm - Genealogy Resource Center (Keith Burke will present new additions for Family Tree Maker and distribute free DVD on basic genealogy.)

2:00 pm – Carl Hundley says bring your computer and learn about the society’s web site.

2:10 pm – Presentation – Larry and Jim

✦ Last month we mentioned that the DACHS board of directors is considering raising rates for dues. President Dennis Daily brought up the matter at the March program and asked members if they were in favor of raising the rates a bit - maybe \$5 in the lowest categories. The response was overwhelmingly in favor of such a move.

The board will soon be meeting and discussing the issue. You can probably expect rates to go up this fall. We’ll keep you posted.

✦ We are looking for an outing this summer. Do you have some place you’d like to see or some place you’d like to return to? Pass along your suggestion to a board member and we’ll consider it. President Dennis Daily has already conducted two tours of the NMSU Library Archives for DACHS members but seems willing to do it again if there are enough participants.

<p>2019 Board of Directors</p> <p>President: Dennis Daily Vice President: Vacant Secretary, Newsletter, Review & Website: Jim Eckles Treasurer: Dennis Fuller Historian: Sally Kading Past President: Dr. Susan Krueger At-Large Board Members: Daniel Aguilera Garland Courts Luis Rios C.W. "Buddy" Ritter Leah Tookey Sara Wagner Cheryl Fallstead, SNMHR Editor Luis Rios, Education and Scholarships Daniel Aguilera, Farm&Ranch Heritage Museum Liaison Santi Martinez, NMSU History student liaison</p> <p>www.donaanaacountyhistsoc.org</p>

Dona Ana County Historical Society
P.O. Box 16045
Las Cruces, NM 88004-6045

