



NEWSLETTER

September 2019

Doña Ana County Historical Society

Dr. Troy Ainsworth Will Talk Historic Preservation In The Arid Southwest -- Specifically Las Cruces

Dr. Troy Ainsworth will be our speaker at the September 19 DACHS members meeting. The presentation will be at Good Samaritan Village in the Stucky Auditorium downstairs in the main activities building, 3011 Buena Vida Cir., at 7 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.



Dr. Troy Ainsworth, Historic Preservation Specialist for the city of Las Cruces.

Troy's topic will be "Historic Preservation in Arid America." In the borderlands of the Southwest, a region Henry C. Trost referred to as "Arid America," long-standing efforts have been in practice to retain the land's unique sense of place and its built environment. With the ample number of historically and culturally significant buildings and sites throughout the borderlands, preservationists have directed

public attention to the value and necessity of ensuring the productive use and protection of irreplaceable artifacts that define the region's culture. Efforts are underway to commence a historic preservation program in Las Cruces, a step that will demonstrate a commitment to honor the past while we plan for our future.

Troy M. Ainsworth, Ph.D., is the Historic Preservation Specialist for the City of Las Cruces. A native of East Texas, he has lived and worked in the Southwest since 2007. He was conferred a Doctorate of Philosophy in Land-use Planning, Management, and Design with a specialization in Historic Preservation from Texas Tech University in May 2005. His research interests cover an array of borderlands history, including the region's architecture, settlement, exploration, and intercollegiate athletics.

We Are Still Looking For Input For The *Southern NM Historical Review*

The deadline for final submission of articles for the Southern New Mexico Historical Review isn't until the end of October. There is still time to submit an item about some aspect of history in the southern half of the state - we just need to know it is coming. Biography, local and family histories, oral history, student papers and articles as well as book reviews and museum reviews will be considered. Small monetary awards are available for some pieces.

Contact Jim Eckles at: nebraska1950@comcast.net for more information.

Field Trip To Chloride Planned For October 19

Sally Kading has arranged for members of the DACHS to visit historic Chloride, a mining ghost town, on Saturday, Oct. 19. It is a long drive but it will be your chance to visit a genuine ghost town.

Chloride sprang up in 1881 with the discovery of silver chloride along the banks of what is now called Chloride Creek. The town's post office remained in operation until 1956.

According to the *New Mexico True* website, "During the 1880s, Chloride had 100 homes, 1,000-2,000 people, eight saloons, three general stores, restaurants, butcher shops, a candy store, a lawyer's office, a doctor, boarding houses, an assay office, a stage line, a Chinese laundry and a hotel.

"Chloride and the surrounding area began to decline with the silver panic of 1893, when the country went on the gold standard and silver prices dropped about 90 percent. Today, about 27 of Chloride's original buildings are still standing, including the Pioneer Store, which now serves as a museum. Main Street is lined with false front structures, as well as adobe buildings, some restored and some suffering the effects of time.

"There are two cemeteries and the 200-year-old oak "Hanging Tree" tree still stands in the middle of Wall Street. About 20 residents, many of who are descendants of the original founders, occupy the town."

When we get there, Don Edmund will provide and short walking tour down mainstreet, explaining the town's history. We will then eat lunch. You can bring your own picnic lunch but the Chloride Bank



Cafe is up and running and will be available. After lunch you will be free to visit the museum, the gift shop & gallery and wander around a bit.

Because Chloride is so isolated, our group may be quite an influx for the cafe. So, when you make your reservation, we want to know if you will be eating at the cafe or not. We want to provide the cafe operators with an estimate of how many will dine there so they can be prepared.

We will leave at 9 a.m. from the old K-Mart parking lot on north Main - between the Telshor 12 and the Shell Station. It takes about two hours to get there.

Car pooling is encouraged and we can accomplish that at the K-Mart before we leave - so be there early.

Jim Eckles will be taking reservations but he won't begin until Oct. 1. There is no limit on the number of attendees. We'll let you know how to reserve your place in the Oct. newsletter.

Historical Society In Need Of Volunteers To Help

To some of you this may sound like a broken record but the DACHS board of directors could use some help. For instance, currently Jim Eckles is the secretary - taking minutes at the meetings and maintaining the DACHS email mailbox. He is also editing the monthly newsletter, maintaining the DACHS website and acts as the coordinator and layout person for the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. If someone would step forward and volunteer to take on just one of these jobs, it would make Jim's life more enjoyable. If several people stepped forward and took several of the jobs, that would be better.

The board could use help elsewhere as well. We have had no vice-president for a couple of years now. The vice-president's main job is to arrange for the monthly speakers, something the whole board chips in on.

In the past, the vice-president usually became the next president when his or her term expired. It is a new age now so that aspect of the job is probably negotiable. Also, we sell books at meetings. If you'd like to take charge of that effort, please speak up.

Contact Dennis Daily if you can help. He can be reached at: ddaily@nmsu.edu

Border Archive Bazaar Will Be Sept. 28 This Year

The Border Archives Bazaar is a free, fun and educational event that brings visitors face to face with fascinating historical materials from the border region. (10 a.m. to 4 p.m. @ Farm and Ranch)

Organized by the Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG), the Bazaar features rare documents, photographs, maps, publications, and more that highlight the unique history and culture of our region. The theme, Archives: Mirrors of Ourselves, highlights how archives reflect individual experiences and shared community history.

The event brings together resources from more than a dozen libraries, archives, and museums of the El Paso - Ciudad Juárez – Las Cruces borderlands. Participating institutions include: New Mexico State University's Archives and Special Collections, the El Paso Public Library, the El Paso County Historical Society, the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office, the Centennial Museum, and The University of Texas at El Paso's Special Collections Department. The Bazaar additionally highlights the role that archives

play in preserving and promoting our cultural heritage. Archivists, librarians, and museum curators will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about archives, regional history, and preservation of original documents. Scan stations will provide free (limited) digitization services for family photographs and documents brought in by the public.

The Border Archives Bazaar also includes short talks about regional history by noted borderlands historians, including Dr. Rick Hendricks, New Mexico State Records Administrator, Dr. Jeff Shepherd, professor of history at UTEP, and historian Janine Young, who will discuss women's suffrage in El Paso. Historic film footage from the region will be shown in the museum's theater during the event.

For more information, please contact: Abbie Weiser, Special Collections, University of Texas at El Paso Library, ahweiser@utep.edu, 915-747-6839, or Dennis Daily, Archives and Special Collections, New Mexico State University Library, ddaily@nmsu.edu, 575-646-4756.

Dona Ana County Genealogical Society September Events

The Dona Ana County Genealogical Society's IT Team, plus 1, will help you make using the DACGS website a breeze and open its usefulness to you. The ONE is Mr. Keith Burke who will be teaching attendees how to take it step further and make the web site our own -- REALLY! Keith has done a fabulous job of making the most of what Wild Apricot has to offer. Prepare yourself to be wowed; well, let's say REALLY WOWED!!!

If you haven't used the website before, our team will actually help you get online and into the website. Really! All you have to do is bring your laptop

with you to the meeting and you can go home with a laptop that can take you for a really cool ride!

The meeting is open to the public. Is on Sept. 11, from 2 to 3:30 p.m at the Roadrunner Room in Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.

Also, the DACGS is cohosting a Genealogy Workshop on Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at 3210 Venus St. here in Las Cruces. Your historical society will be at this event with a manned table to answer queries about the society and encourage attendees to join DACHS.

For more information: dacgslc@gmail.com

Dona Ana County Archaeological Society September Speaker

The Dona Ana Archaeological Society will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday Sept. 10, in the Good Samaritan Auditorium, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, in Las Cruces. Ms Jackson Legare, Four Corners Research, will give a presentation on Pueblo Ceremonialism in the Jornada Mogollon Region.

Her presentation will discuss Pueblo ceremonialism in terms in their use of ceremonial spaces and objects, symbolism in rock art, pottery, murals, and

as masked impersonators. The meeting is Free and open to the public. For more information, call 575-524-9497.



Membership Trivia -- did you know?

This is from an oral history transcript with George Feather and he is talking about early Las Cruces cross street names. The interviewer is L.E. Freudenthal. The interview was conducted on August 20, 1964. The transcript is online at UTEP's DigitalCommons@UTEP. We've cut out some of the background information found in the interview.

They seem to have received their names in 1880 or 1881, since after the publication of the Rio Grande Republican they seem to have become already established. This was first published in 1881. Thus Lohman Street, which was the southern most street in the town, was named for Martin Lohman. Most of the streets have some connection with the people for whom they are named..... Amador Street was named after Martin Amador..... Bowman Street was named for George Bowman.....

May Street was named for John May....Griggs was name for a merchant in Mesilla....Organ Street, of course, was named after the mountains....Las Cruces Avenue was first called Railroad Avenue.....Court Street was named for the first courthouse built in Las Cruces.....Hadley Street was named for Hiram Hadley.....Mountain Avenue was developed much later and received it name because of its nearness to Organ Street.....Lucero Street was named Joseph Lucero.....Picacho Street was the old road which led to Picacho.....Mesilla Street is so called because it was at one time the main road from Las Cruces to Mesilla.....Alameda Street was named because of a park.....Melendrez Street was named for Pablo Melendrez and Armijo Street was named for the man who had sold the land to the development company.

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