

# Project News

## Calendar

### Northern Nevada Schedule

**AUG. 12** - Steering Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - State Office, Reno

**AUG. 23-25** - Silver State Sampler Tour - Goldfield and Tonopah

**SEPT. 14** - Thunder Mountain Indian Monument Day Trip - Imlay and Lovelock

**SEPT. 19** - Women Writers of the West - Reno

**SEPT. 21** - Great Basin Book Festival Wingfield Park, Reno

**OCT. 12** - Jean Ford Memorial Hike Spooner Summit Tahoe Rim Trailhead

**OCT. 14** - Steering Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Carson City, location TBA

**OCT. 26** - Nevada Day Parade - Carson City

**MAR 22, 2003** - NWHP Biennial Conference, Reno

### Southern Nevada Schedule

**AUG. 21** - Steering Committee Meeting at the home of Molly Murphy

**SEPT. 7** - Membership luncheon/meeting at the Desert Pines Golf Club

**NOV. 16** - Sarah Winnemucca luncheon, home of Joan LeMere - more detailed information will be forthcoming

## Goldfield Centennial Featured in Silver State Sampler Tour

Co-chairs Isabel Espinoza and Cherry Jones announce that exciting plans for the Nevada Women's History Project 4th Annual Silver State Sampler have been completed and everybody is guaranteed a good time.

We leave Carson City and Reno on Friday, August 23rd. Our first stop is in Hawthorne to visit the Mineral County Historical Museum and then have lunch at Maggie's restaurant. After we check into our Tonopah hotel (Best Western), we will proceed to the Tonopah Historic Mining Park where Shawn Hall, museum director, will personally guide our tour. Dinner will be at the exotic El Marquee Mexican restaurant.

Saturday we'll have to get up early so that we can get to Goldfield and line up for the parade at 9 a.m. For our entry we have reserved a flat bed trailer to be towed by an antique truck. Bird Wilson, an attorney in Goldfield, will lead our parade entry. Some of the ladies accompanying her are Hannah Clapp, Dr. Eliza Cook, Anne Martin, and Fermina Sarras.

We have the community center reserved for the full day. We'll sell books, and authors Sally Zanjani, Mary Ancho Davis, and Dixie Westergard will be autographing their work. We'll also sell other related books as a fundraiser for the Sarah Winnemucca Project.

There is a stage at the center, and we will have entertainment all day. Sally Zanjani will read Goldfield poetry; Chautauqua performances will be given with Carrie Porter as Helen J. Stewart, Eileen Cohen as Hannah Clapp, Cherry Jones as Dr. Eliza Cook, and, of course, Bird Wilson will return to the Goldfield stage. A tour of the courthouse is scheduled. (At press time we are still working on details for a possible tour of the Goldfield Hotel.) In the early afternoon the bus will return to the hotel in Tonopah for a couple of hours and, afterwards, return to Goldfield for dinner.

Saturday night's dinner will be barbecued chicken and ribs, served by Ron Mathaini from his grill out in the street; however, we will use the center for a nice cool sit-down dinner.

After visiting the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah on Sunday we will travel to the ghost town of Belmont. A local historian will join us in the bus, and the courthouse will be open. Lunch will be at the Belmont Inn Bed and Breakfast. On our trip home, we will return through the beautiful Great Smoky Valley, stopping for photographs in Manhattan and an exciting tour of the Round Mountain Gold Mine. For safety reasons no shorts or sandals are allowed on this tour. It will be easy to just carry a pair of jeans and tennis shoes until needed.

Dinner will be at the Apple Tree in Fallon, where we have previously enjoyed wonderful meals, and then we drop off in Reno and back to the starting point.

Call Isabel at (775) 883-9035 or Cherry at (775) 267-3410 for more information.

Isabel Espinoza  
Co-Chair, Silver State Sampler



# Thunder Mountain Indian Monument



Saturday, September 14, the Nevada Women's History Project will take a trip to Imlay, Nevada, to view the Thunder Mountain Indian Monument.

This example of folk art constructed by Rolling Thunder includes a statue of Sarah Winnemucca. His oldest son, Dan Van Zant, will give us a guided tour of the facilities and its many statues.

We plan to also visit the site of Sarah Winnemucca's school and the Lovelock Museum.

Participants will meet in the parking lot at the NWHP State offices, 700 Smithridge Drive. We will car pool from there.

The tentative itinerary is:

8:00 am – depart Reno NWHP headquarters parking lot  
10:00 am – meet Dan Van Zant at Rolling Thunder  
1:00 pm – late lunch in Lovelock  
3:00 pm – visit site of Sarah Winnemucca's school  
3:30 pm – visit Lovelock Museum  
6:30 pm – return to Reno



## NWHP Leadership

### NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Holly Van Valkenburgh: Chair  
Cherry Jones: Vice-Chair  
Sarah Britt: Treasurer  
Kathleen Allred: Secretary  
Kay Sanders: Communication Co-Chair/Newsletter Editor  
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Communication Co-Chair  
Isabel Espinoza: Finance Chair  
Kathy Noneman: Membership Chair  
Mary Anne Convis: Project Review Chair  
Cherry Jones and Carleen Ernest: Program Chair  
Patt Quinn-Davis: Publicity Chair  
Carrie Townley Porter: Past-Chair

### SOUTHERN REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Joyce Marshall: President  
Mary Gafford: First Vice President  
Kaye Gray: Second Vice President  
Frankie Williams: Third Vice President  
Ann Reck: Recording Secretary  
Molly Murphy: Corresponding Secretary  
Jean Spiller: Treasurer  
Frankie Williams: Acting Nominating Committee Chairwoman  
Alice Pearson: Parliamentarian

### NWHP STATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

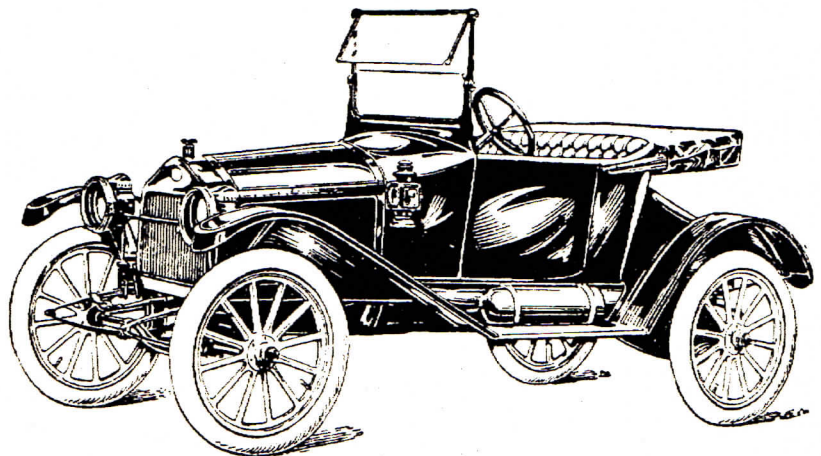
Carrie Townley Porter: President  
Joan LeMere: First Vice President  
Kaye Gray: Second Vice President  
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Third Vice President  
Jean Spiller: Treasurer  
Kathleen Allred: Secretary  
Fritsi Ericson: Nevada Women's Fund Representative  
Kay Sanders: Editor for State Newsletter  
Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster  
Mary Anne Convis: State Project Review Chair

There is a Web site that has some very interesting information: <http://hometown.aol.com/flansaasma/thunder>

Contact Holly Van Valkenburgh for arrangements at 884-4246 or [hovava@juno.com](mailto:hovava@juno.com).

## NWHP Enters Nevada Day Parade

The Nevada Women's History Project will again have an entry in the Nevada Day Parade on Saturday, October 26. The theme this year is "Nevada is Indian Territory," so our entry will, of course, feature Sarah Winnemucca. We will focus our attention on Sarah's epic ride from Sheep Ranch to Steens Mountain. The trailer "float" will also feature historic women of Nevada during that same time period. If you are interested in riding on the float and portraying one of the women, or helping to decorate the float, or participating on the committee in any other way, please contact Cherry Jones at 775-267-3410, fax 775-267-5120, or e-mail [cljnvquail@charter.net](mailto:cljnvquail@charter.net)





# State President's Report

We are deeply into a very hot summer and our members are busy with summer activities. However, I wish to report on a few things that are noteworthy.

Congratulations to our newly elected state and regional officers. It is always difficult to find members willing to undertake the commitment required to fulfill the responsibility of these important assignments. I look forward to working with you during the coming two years as we move forward on our continuing projects and develop new ones.

The Sarah Winnemucca State Project progresses steadily on several fronts. Fund raising is off to a substantial beginning. To date we have collected over \$28,000 toward the estimated \$150,000 needed to complete the project.

One of the major activities was the Pink Tea sponsored by our First Lady Dema Guinn held at the Governor's Mansion in June. It was wonderful that twenty-seven members of our Southern Region were able to attend. Having made the trip from Las Vegas to Reno many times, I truly appreciate the commitment displayed by our Southern Region members. We thank them for their support. Financially the event contributed nearly \$5,000 toward our project.

The NWHP was presented at the Pink Tea with an impressively framed photograph of Sarah Winnemucca, with a plaque of the presentation donated by our First Lady. On behalf of the membership I thank her for the gift and for hosting the beautiful event that was enjoyed by all attendees.

The Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project tri-fold solicitation brochure has been distributed to many public locations in Nevada as well as surrounding states. Each week those little forms continue to come into our state office with checks. One impressive one was a check for \$19 from a class at the Schurz Elementary School. The students held a read-a-thon to earn that money. This has become, as we hoped, a "people project." If you know of any other sites where the tri-fold could be placed,

please contact Mary Anne Convis, Joan LeMere (our Southern Co-Chair) or me and we will provide you with a supply of them.

Word is spreading of our honoring Sarah Winnemucca as Nevada's second statue at National Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. We have been approached by a very respected newsletter with national circulation, the News From Indian Country, which plans to publish two articles – one on the project and one on Louise Tannheimer, a member of Sarah's family.

I thank the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs and especially Sara Jones for their extensive help in making this project successful. The first meeting of the appointed six members of the Statue Selection Committee was held in June at the Governor's Mansion.

Work has begun on drafting the request for proposal to be sent to interested sculptors who will submit their ideas for the statue.

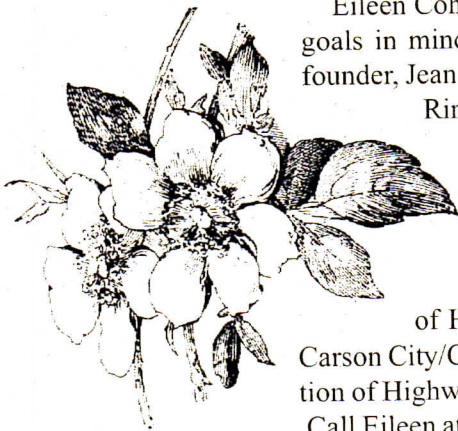
This fall we will be making an attempt to continue to organize the records designated for the Jean Ford Research Center. We have many records collected by Jean Ford for years as well as more recent ones collected by our members. We are asking for volunteers to help with this project.

Silver State Sampler Co-Chairs Isabel Espinoza and Cherry Jones have planned for August a bus trip to Goldfield to help celebrate its 100th year. We are delighted that many of our Southern members are planning to participate in the celebration. We look forward to helping this mining town celebrate its centennial.

I thank all of you who volunteer your time, money and effort to make this organization so successful. Have a good summer.

*Carrie Townley Porter*  
State President

## Jean Ford Memorial Hike Planned for October 12th



Eileen Cohen will lead a hike on Saturday, October 12th to the Spooner Summit area with two goals in mind. The first is to spread wildflower seeds at the site where the ashes of NWHP founder, Jean Ford, were scattered in 1998 and the second is to continue on a day hike of the Tahoe Rim Trail.

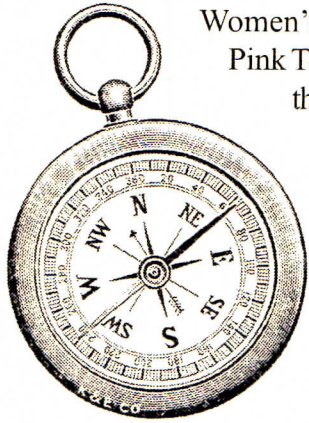
The walk from the parking area at the Spooner's Summit Tahoe Rim Trailhead takes about 10 to 15 minutes. A brief remembrance of Jean will take place at the site. Those wishing to continue on with Eileen should bring a lunch and water, wear good hiking shoes or boots and layered clothing.

Reno/Sparks area participants plan to car-pool from the Southwest Pavilion, in front of Heidi's Restaurant, leaving at 8:15 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. we will meet those from the Carson City/Carson Valley area at the Park and Ride turnout on Highway 50. It is near the intersection of Highway 395 and Highway 50 heading towards Spooner's Summit.

Call Eileen at: (775) 267-2557 for information about the hike.



## News from the North



The Annual Meeting of the Northern Nevada Women's History Project was held after the Pink Tea on June 23. The group meeting at the Lake Glen Clubhouse in Carson City included some visitors from the Southern NWHP who had come to Carson City for the Pink Tea. The Treasurer reported our funds include over \$23,000 in the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Fund and \$5,000 remaining in the Ben Snow Memorial Trust. The new office equipment is not yet being used widely

by the membership. We are considering training sessions for members who would like to learn to use the programs available to them. Carrie gave the Sarah Winnemucca Statue Project report. Joan LeMere volunteered to be on the committee. It is nice to again have a southern representative on the committee.

The election of officers included Cherry Jones as Vice-Chair and Sarah Britt as Treasurer. Sarah was re-elected to the position, but Cherry is a newcomer to the office of Vice-Chair. Welcome, Cherry, and know that we appreciate your willingness to serve in this position.

Proposed 2002-2003 programming includes Goldfield's Centennial Celebration as the impetus for the Fourth Silver State Sampler scheduled for August 23-25. Continuing the Jean Ford legacy of learning about our state by traveling and experiencing it, NWHP members will travel to Goldfield to participate in their August 24 festivities. (See Isabel Espinoza's article on page 1.)

The September 14 trip to the Thunder Mountain Indian Monument in Inlay will include stops in Lovelock at the site of the Sarah Winnemucca school and the Lovelock Museum. (See related article in this issue).

The Nevada Day Parade Committee will be again be headed by Cherry Jones. She will make the arrangements for those of us who wish to portray our historical characters in the Parade. Since the theme this year is Native Americans, we may be able to involve some of the Winnemucca descendants in our entry.

The 2003 conference will be March 22. It will be one-day, probably concentrating on the area of oral histories, and culminating in a Sarah Winnemucca fundraiser that evening arranged by Carleen Ernst. Carleen has done a wonderful

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## News from South

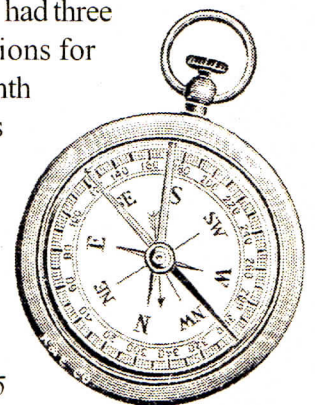
As I begin to write I am reminded of the old saying, "Everything old becomes new again," and so it is true. I am past Chair of the Southern region who is now the new Southern Chair. This is a position that took some serious consideration. Of course, my friends, Frankie Williams and Joan LeMere, took me to lunch with the resolve that they wouldn't let me leave until I agreed to serve. They may have thought this was a surprise, however, I was on to them from the beginning and had already made my decision and it was an opportunity to have a great lunch and spend time with my friends.

This is such an important organization with so many pivotal projects ongoing that the decision to step up was difficult, and yet, what an exciting time to be involved with the NWHP. After spending time with our ladies in the North and holding only our first board meeting in the South, I am overcome with pride at the dedication of the outstanding women that I will be working with.

Our First Vice President, Mary Gafford, is always ready to give her all. Even with the recent loss of her husband, Mary has not missed a meeting or an opportunity to be involved. Kaye Gray stepped into the position of Second Vice President and you will see her profiled in this issue. Frankie Williams is the Third Vice President and the hardest worker I have ever known. She is always there to shore up the ranks and step into a job that needs doing. The responsibility of Recording Secretary belongs to Ann Reck. Ann is a dedicated worker and my thanks to her for assuming the leadership role at the last meeting and presiding over the program. Molly Murphy is our Recording Secretary. She brings enthusiasm and a willingness to work and we are excited to have her. Jean Spiller took over the job of treasurer. I truly appreciate Jean's willingness to assume this position with very little notice. She is a wonderful example of the commitment in this organization.

Jean Baker is also an integral part of our organization. She chairs the Living History program, which is very exciting and extremely successful. She has had three requests from various organizations for Chautauqua presentations this month alone. The money raised in this program goes to support the Biographical Encyclopedia project.

A special thanks to Jane Olive, our outgoing Southern



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## Write Those Biographies!

We, both North and South, need our members to research and write biographies of Nevada women, no matter where they were born or what race, class or ethnic background they were. If most of the woman's life was spent in this state, and contributed in any small way to its history, that woman's story must be told.

Writing these biographies for our Web site is the most expansive way to disseminate information about these historically rich lives--not only throughout this state, but also throughout the United States and foreign countries. Never before have so many tourists and travelers, both domestic and foreign, been so fascinated by Western history than today, and never before in the world has knowledge been so easily available to so many people as is possible through the Internet.

But, do you know what else? Never before in the history of the NWHF have so few members been involved in accomplishing our mission statement. Anita Watkin's book, *Into Their Own*, contains the names of close to 200 women who are either not listed at all or only contain the vital statistics, and we ask members to start working on these women. Also, both North and South members are impersonating historical figures whose biographies do not appear on the Web! If you have enough knowledge to impersonate, it's enough to do the biography. Our committee will help you edit your notes to conform to the biographical specifications and voila! A new biography is completed.

We have other work to be done, too, the listing of names by race/ethnic background and by type of work, in addition to alphabetical and geographical divisions. All members, with or without computers, can help us do this.

PLEASE offer your time, no matter how short. Contact Kay at 775-747-1740 or Lisa-Marie at 775-849-2050 or me at 775-826-3352 and any one of us will assist you. We look forward to hearing from you!

Janet White  
Web Site Editor

### News from the North

*continued from page 4*

job this year as our Program Chair and we appreciate her efforts very much.

So many members of the NWHF have contributed to this year's activities and we all know it is the spirit of Jean that continues to move us forward.

Holly Van Valkenburgh  
Chair, Northern Steering Committee

### News from the South

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Chair, who did a marvelous job under less than perfect circumstances and has been a huge support to me. She is an inspiration and I look forward to a close working relationship. Jane is a wonderful speaker and will be assisting in the Sarah presentations.

What a fantastic time all of us from the South had at the Pink Tea. The day was beautiful and the company, outstanding! It was a treat, also, for those of us who attended the North business meeting, following the tea, to watch such a devoted group in action. We were impressed and inspired to come home and get to work. And, so, that is what I shall do.

Joyce Marshall





## *NWHP Featured Member: Kaye Labrum Gray*



Kaye was the second of four children born to Roy and Cleo Labrum in Meadow, Utah. She was raised in Milford, Utah where she graduated from high school with honors and was salutatorian of her class. Showing leadership at an early age, she served on the student council in various offices and as student body Vice President.

After getting married and living for a short time in Utah and Arizona, the young couple moved to Las Vegas with their two small children, Debra and Kevin. The year was 1964, the town was expanding and Kaye seized the opportunity to become active in community affairs by donating her time and energies to various church, civic and political endeavors. She was also a member of the Greater Las Vegas Women's Club where she served as First Vice President.

Kaye joined the Mesquite Club in 1991 where she served on the executive board as Recording Secretary for the 1993-1994 term. She has served as chairman and has been an active member of various committees and co-chaired a fundraiser that benefited the Nevada School of the Arts. The Mesquite Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an International organization where Kaye has served on its board at the State level as an

appointed chairman in various capacities from 1994 until the present.

She joined the NWHP in 1997 and has been a positive force in working and promoting the organization. In 1999, Kaye chaired the Second Annual Tea held at the home of Jeanne Greenawalt. It was the first endeavor of such a magnitude and was a huge success largely due to Kaye's hard work. She also co-chaired the "First Ladies of Nevada" video project with Joyce Marshall. Kaye remembers, "It was an honor and a pleasure for me to meet these outstanding women who are such an important part of Nevada's history." In 1998-2000, Kaye assumed the duties of Corresponding Secretary for the Southern Region and was recently elected to the position of Second Vice President for the Southern Region. In addition, she assumed the same position of Second Vice President for the NWHP State Committee.

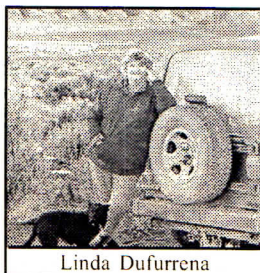
Constantly striving to make a difference in the lives of so many, Kaye gives of herself through many hours of volunteer work while managing to juggle her job at the Las Vegas Hilton, where she is a Front Office Supervisor/Trainer, and spending time with her eight grandchildren (along with the new addition of a beautiful great granddaughter). She smiles, "I have made so many lasting friendships over the years with truly extraordinary women who volunteer their time and believe in doing their part to make the world a better place. I only hope, in some small way, I can do the same."

### *Women Writers of the West September 19, 2002 in the Washoe County Library System, Reno*

This timely program will provide direct contact with six contemporary authors and artists currently writing about the land, customs and values of people who live in the West with emphasis on Nevada. Speakers will be accompanied by slide presentations. Artists, photographers, and authors who will be featured at this event are: Linda Dufurrena, Carolyn Dufurrena, Linda Hasselstrom, Linda Hussa, Sophie Sheppard, and Diane Peavey.

Attendees will learn about: new books from the University of Nevada Press, social and environmental issues of high interest to rural and urban Nevadans and characteristics of the geography and geology of Nevada and surrounding states. Sponsored by the Nevada Center for the Book and the Nevada Humanities Committee, with LSTA funding.

For further information, contact Holly Van Valkenburgh at [hvanvalk@clan.lib.nv.us](mailto:hvanvalk@clan.lib.nv.us)



Linda Dufurrena



Linda Hussa



Sophie Sheppard



# *Nevada Women's Fund 2001 Roll of Honor Recipient*

The Nevada Women's Fund (NWF) was founded in 1982 by a group of concerned women who wanted the best for the women and children of northern Nevada. Funding and programs necessary to meet the needs of women were woefully inadequate in addressing issues such as domestic violence, childcare or health services for low income, single parent families; scholarships to support both traditional and non-traditional female students; and professional development to support the advancement of women in the workplace.

With support from businesses, foundations, non-profit organizations, and individuals who share and support their vision, NWF established a scholarship program that provides opportunities for women to make a difference for themselves, their families, and their community by completing their education and upgrading their skills; and a grant program that provides funding to programs that make a difference in the quality of life for northern Nevada women and children. NWF's Professional Development Series provides women with skills and insights that will enable them to effectively move into executive levels of management.

Since 1982, NWF has awarded more than \$1.3 million in scholarships to 543 women; almost \$1.3 million in grants to 107 community groups providing immediate assistance to women and children; and provided professional development training to nearly 300 women. In addition, NWF has built an Endowment in excess of \$1.2 million to ensure future funding for these programs.

To accomplish its mission, NWF raises funds from three primary sources: special events; contributions and grants from corporations and foundations; and the generosity of individual donors. NWF sponsors four major fundraising events annually: the Salute to Women of Achievement luncheon, to be held this year on May 22; the Going for the Gold Gala dinner and silent auction, to be held October 4; a \$10,000 cash raffle, with the drawing held during the Going for the Gold Gala; and a Golf Classic, to be held September 18 in partnership with the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce. Detailed information about these events can be found on NWF's Web site at [www.nevadawomensfund.org](http://www.nevadawomensfund.org).

To ensure the future and expansion of its programs, NWF has embarked on an exciting new venture with Sweet Charity® - a new line of jams and jellies from board members' prized recipes. Beautifully packaged, these gourmet products will appeal to anyone looking for unique and delicious new jams and jellies to serve family and guests or as an ideal gift for business clients, employees, friends, and any special occasion. All proceeds from the sale of these products will be used to support programs benefiting Nevada's women and children. Sweet Charity® products can be purchased at the Parasol Foundation office in Incline Village, at numerous businesses in Reno that are listed on the NWF Web site, or online at [www.nevadawomensfund.org](http://www.nevadawomensfund.org).

In addition to its fundraising activities, NWF is actively involved in supporting programs that promote women and children's issues. NWF acts as fiscal agent for the Nevada Women's History Project (NWHP), which provides visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of information about the roles and contributions of women in Nevada history. NWF is collaborating with several public and private agencies and organizations to conduct a study on the status of women and girls in Nevada, which will lead to significantly increased visibility for the issues facing women and girls in today's environment.

Visit the NWF Web site at [www.nevadawomensfund.org](http://www.nevadawomensfund.org) for more detailed information about the Nevada Women's Fund and how you can become involved. The Nevada Women's Fund is located at 770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300, Reno, Nevada 89502, phone (775) 786-2335.

## *New Genealogy Society Available in Reno*

How many of you have always wanted to write about Grandma, or Great-Grandma, or any other relative, and never knew how to get started? Have a couple of old family letters? A photo or two? Know where the women lived, were born, were married, died? Any one of those facts and many others can help you get started.

The Great Basin Genealogical Society began holding its first educational meetings the beginning of this year, organized by some of our Washoe County Librarians who thought it was about time the libraries could assist you in this foremost world-wide pursuit.

You are invited to attend our general meetings held the last Wednesday of each month (August 28, September 25) from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Classic Residence by Hyatt, on Plumas near Moana, with scheduled speakers and instructors announced in our Newsletter. A special tour of the Virginia City Court House will be set for early fall. Dues are \$15.00 person. Contact Chuck for further information at 829-7848 or the Great Basin Genealogy Society at [gbgs02@hotmail.com](mailto:gbgs02@hotmail.com). You are cordially invited to attend any meeting and look us over.



# Featured Historic Nevada Woman

## Mary Stoddard Doten

**Born:** March 25, 1845

**Died:** March 12, 1914

**Maiden name:** Stoddard

**Married:** Edward Sperry, Alfred Doten

**Children:** five (three daughters, two sons)

**Race/nationality/ethnic background:** Caucasian

**Primary city and county of residence and work:** Gold Hill & Virginia City (Storey County), Austin (Lander County) Reno (Washoe County).

**Major fields of work:** education (teacher, Vice-Principal, Reno High School, Reno Public Schools Board of Examiners, Curriculum Committee, Nevada State Board of Instruction)

**Other role identities:** wife, mother, writer (journalist and poet), suffragist

### Biography:

Mary Stoddard was born March 25, 1845, in Westville, Connecticut. Not much is known about her early life, other than what she wrote in her diary beginning January 1, 1858, and ending with her last chronological entry dated May 6, 1866. Fortunately we can glean some idea of her life and thoughts from her writings and reminiscences of life on the Comstock.

In Mary's diary there are a number of entries and added writings that mention Edward Sperry and her love for him. There is an ambiguous entry dated Saturday, September 15, 1861, that says "Mary Stoddard and Eddie Sperry." This might possibly be the date she married Edward Sperry. Another entry in the diary, December 25, 1865, marked the occasion of the birth of their daughter Millie Abbott Sperry. Curiously no entries in the diary mention what happened to Edward Sperry. An added entry, written over an earlier entry in her diary dated May 14, 1869, from Camden, New York, "Ah, me, Father and Grandmother dead, Goodwin in Connecticut, and I a poor assistant in a Public School, with a little child on my hands to support. No husband to help me...." Mary left her child Millie in the care of her mother, left the East, and with her education and teaching experience, went West where she had family. In an article for the University of Nevada's *The Student Record* (June 5, 1896),

Mary wrote that she arrived in Virginia City in December of 1870. She stayed with her Aunt Lucy Batterman, her husband General Batterman, the Superintendent of the Gould and Curry Mines, and their two children Christopher and Annie. Lucy Batterman was the sister of Mary's mother, Sarah Stoddard.

Mary taught school in Gold Hill from 1872 to 1874. We know nothing of Mary's life during that time. What we do begin to know of Mary is from Alf Doten's journal. He first mentioned Mary in an entry dated August 4, 1872, and then briefly mentioned other evenings with Mrs. Stoddard, as he called her, at the theatre or opera, and trips to Lake Tahoe. Alf wrote in the journal on July 24, 1873 that he and Mary Stoddard were married in the middle of Lake Tahoe on a steamer in the

company of one hundred people, both invited and those who pulled their boats alongside to witness the occasion. They were married by the Reverend Mr. McGrath. After the champagne was finished, Alf wrote of the Reverend writing an account of the wedding, putting it in a bottle, and tossing the account overboard.

Until his death on November 12, 1903, Alf Doten's journals provided an almost daily account of his life. After his marriage to Mary Stoddard, he frequently wrote of her and their family. He mentioned her health conditions, the births of their children (Bessie, July 13, 1875; Sam, December 14, 1876; Alf Jr. September 2, 1877; Mary Godwin, December 5, 1880), the dailiness of their lives, the arrival of Mary's mother and daughter, Millie, in 1875. Through his journal we know: when he slept with her, when they bought furniture, when they moved to Austin, when Mary did laundry because she could not find help, and when Mary took charge of the first

grades in the public school after the teacher resigned. In Austin, through the diary, we read of Mary taking the teachers' examination which covered almost a week of intensive testing, earning her first grade certificate, and her salary of \$100 in coin. It was during this time she suffered a miscarriage which almost cost her life. Alf Doten was not a man who provided well for his family. There is no doubt about his love for his family, but he was a man who was gregarious and drank his



Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society



earnings. Mary was by necessity forced to resume her teaching career in order to make ends meet and to keep the family out of poverty.

In December of 1883, Mary applied to the Reno public schools for a teaching position. On January 1, 1884, Mary and the children were off to Reno after she had accepted an offer. Mary Stoddard Doten was one of the pioneer teachers in Reno, where she taught from 1884 until her retirement in 1903. During that time she taught most of the subjects offered at Reno High School. She loved literature and she was devoted to her students. She felt it was incumbent upon teachers to be an example for their students, and inspire them to be lovers of good books and language. Mary's career as a school teacher was long and prolific. She was re-elected annually to the Vice-Principalship of Reno High School. She was granted a life diploma in May of 1887, and that year also became the first woman appointed to the Reno Public Schools Board of Examiners. In 1888, she wrote a history of the Reno schools, which was printed in the Reno Evening Gazette. Mary was very active in the Nevada State Teachers' Institutes, which became the Nevada Education Association in 1901. Several of her essays given as speeches were printed in the addenda to the Biennial Reports of the State Superintendent of Public Education. Click here to read "The Duties of a Public School Teacher."

In addition to her teaching, Mary Doten was active in the Nevada women's suffrage movement. Click here to read "Woman Suffrage," and a letter to the editor from December 6, 1894, Reno Evening Gazette. In the Saturday, May 18, 1895, edition of the Reno Evening Gazette, is a report of the organization and first public meeting of the state woman suffrage committee, in which Misses Susan B. Anthony, Hannah Clapp and Mary Doten were in attendance and made remarks. Her independence and working experience made her an outspoken suffragist. Click here to read her poem "Idiots, Lunatics, Paupers and Women!"

By this time Alf Doten was a confirmed alcoholic, catching writing assignments and jobs from friends as he could. A poignant entry in his journal from July 14, 1891, said, "Got the two worst snubs of my Nevada life today -- JW Haines told Bob Patterson that my wife's application before the Board of Regents for a position in the State University is hanging fire on my account. She was considered competent enough but she had a drunken husband ----" One can only imagine how disappointed she must have been not to have been able to teach at the University, where she should have been teaching. This was also the period of time Mary told Alf he was never to come home again. She later relented, but continued to give him a monthly allowance for his living expenses away from the family home until his lonely death in a Carson City boarding house. All the while, Mary was a prolific writer of articles for the Reno Evening Gazette, a poet writing on a wide variety of subjects, and author of short stories about Comstock life.

In 1903, Mary went to see an eye specialist in San

Francisco. The years of teaching had taken their toll on her eyesight and she resigned from her duties at Reno High School. She continued to live in Reno in her home at 305 West Street, gave speeches at the 20th Century Club, was a charter member of the Nevada Historical Society, and wrote her reminiscences of the glorious early days on the Comstock. Family tragedy continued for Mary. Daughter Bessie died in 1905 from typhoid fever at the age of 31, and daughter Godwin committed suicide in 1911 at the age of 30, after the death of her fiancé. In 1912, Mary Doten was honored for her many contributions to public education with the opening of Mary S. Doten School, grades 1-8, with Echo Loder as Principal. The mission style school, located at West and 4th Streets in Reno, remained in use until its closure in 1974, and was eventually torn down.

Mary Stoddard Doten died March 12, 1914, and was buried in Hillside Cemetery. Mary's two sons continued to live in Reno. Samuel was director of the University's Agricultural Experiment Station, was a well-known professor, and died in 1955, at the age of 79. His brother, Alfred Jr., was part owner of a warehouse until his early death at age 48 in 1926. Alfred's obituary mentioned his stepsister, Millie, who lived in Illinois. Neither brother had children. Mary's only granddaughter was Bessie's daughter.

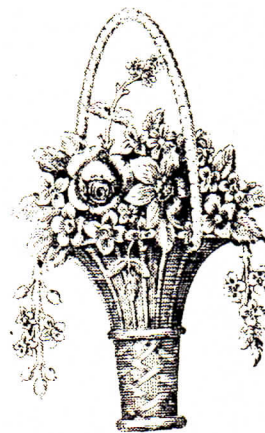
*(Biographical sketch by Lynn Bremer)*

#### **Published Works:**

Denton, Hazel. *Ironing Day*. New York: Exposition Press, 1955.

#### **Sources of Information:**

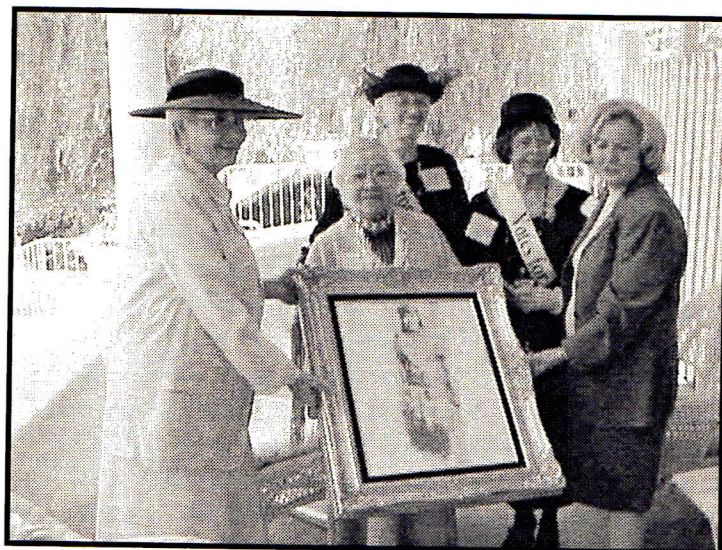
1. Mary Stoddard's diary, letters, speeches, poetry and scrapbooks. In the Doten Collection at the Nevada Historical Society, Reno.
2. Nevada State Teachers' Institute Bulletin. 9th annual session. November 26-30, 1889. Nevada State Archives, Carson City.
3. *Gold Hill News*
4. *Reno Evening Gazette*
5. *Territorial Enterprise*
6. *The Journals of Alfred Doten*. Edited by Walter Van Tilburg Clark. Reno, Nevada: University of Nevada Press. 1973.







Sheila Leslie, Nevada State Assemblywoman, Mary Ann Fulkerson, and Kathy Noneman all smiles at the "Pink Tea".



Mary Anne Convis, Louise Tannheimer, Holly Van Valkenburgh, Carrie Townley Porter, Judy Brusa circle the beautiful framed picture of Sarah Winnemucca which was donated to NWHP by Dema Guinn. Judy, secretarial assistant to Mrs. Guinn, made the presentation.

*Pink*



*Tea*

Our Las Vegas contingent posing on the steps of the Mansion. They are: Row 1 – second from left – Jean Baker, Jeanne Greenawalt, Kaye Gray; Row 2 – Mitsi Johnson, Joyce Marshall, Joan LeMere, Maureen Schnitzer, Sandy Dinsmore; Row 3 – Kathy Augustine, Kay McCauslin, Joan Fragakis; Row 4 – Doris Drummond, Bernice Fisher.



Isabel Espinoza enjoying the afternoon fundraiser.



Patricia Tripple entering the Mansion.



Mitsi Johnson ready to pour tea at the Governor's Mansion.



## Recovering:

- Rose Irwin continues to improve according to her daughter, Mary. She has done very well except for her speech and is receiving therapy regularly. Rose enjoys playing bridge with other Stroke House participants and has "taught them a few tricks." Rose and Mary have traveled to Las Vegas recently and her friends report that she looks marvelous. Her address in Kansas will be changing soon. Look for it in the November NWHP Newsletter. Rose loves hearing from her friends in NWHP
- Jane Olive is convalescing at her home in Las Vegas and is taking advantage of this "down time" by working on her family's history. She has recorded oral histories, transcribed them, and sent them off to family members who are most appreciative of her good work.

## Congratulations:

- Mary Lee Fulkerson will represent the Great Basin region in the national exhibition, "Other Materials Other Forms: Exploring Contemporary Basketry." The exhibition is sponsored by the Brookfield Craft Center, Connecticut. Her sculpture, Games People Play, will be on exhibit through August 4th.
- Esther Early was honored by the Department of English at the University of Nevada, Reno in May at a ceremony dedicating their library to her. The departmental library is located on the second floor of the Frandsen Humanities Building on the Reno campus.



PLEASE INFORM THE STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND YOUR REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS. KAYE GRAY'S ADDRESS IS: P.O. BOX 12184, LAS VEGAS, NV 89112. IN THE NORTH PLEASE ALSO NOTIFY KATHLEEN NONEMAN AT: NWHP, 770 SMITHRIDGE DR., SUITE 300, RENO, NV 89502.

## Some NWHP News Contacts

### Carrie Townley Porter

Fax: 775-857-4447 • Email: tpareno@msn.com

### Kay Sanders

Email: ksanders@unr.nevada.edu • Fax: 775-747-1642  
Tel: 775-747-1740

### NWHP - State Office

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, Nevada 89502-0708  
Tel: 775-786-2335 • Fax: 775-826-6865

South: P.O. Box 12184 • Las Vegas, NV 89112-0184

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Editor: Kay Sanders





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NWHF is a program of the Nevada Women's Fund

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Reno, Nevada  
Permit No. 568

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*New Members  
North & South*

Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi

Marcia Wolter Britton