

NEWSLETTER

May 2017

Doña Ana County Historical Society

It's Good To Be Back Home In The Archive

By Dennis Daily

At the April DACHS meeting, I had the pleasure of introducing myself to many of you as the new head of Archives and Special Collections at the New Mexico State University Library. I'm happy to be a part of the Doña Ana County Historical Society and look forward to collaborating with you to shine a light on the fascinating history of our region. There are endless stories waiting to be told of the characters and events that have shaped southern New Mexico.

This is the first of what I hope to be regular contributions to the DACHS newsletter. Through them I hope to draw attention to some of the incredible documentary materials awaiting exploration and discovery in the archive where I work, as well as in some of the other tremendous collections of historical documents located in our region.

To create a full picture of the past, it is important to understand the range of resources available for study. We are fortunate to have multiple archival repositories in our community, all with unique and valuable historical collections – the Doña Ana County Clerk's Office, the Institute of Historical Survey, the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Museum, the Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces, the White Sands Missile Range archive, among others. Those of us interested in history are indebted to these organizations, and the dedicated individuals who work in them, for preserving the records of our past and making them available.

April marked my 20th year working in the archival endeavor, my start having been right here in the NMSU Library Archives, known to many of you as the Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC). I had no way to know

when Austin Hoover and Tim Blevins offered me that first job as a microfilming technician on the Durango Microfilming Project in 1997, that it would lead to a career in the library and archives field. But I quickly learned that archives are endlessly fascinating places – deep, deep wells of historical knowledge that never seem to run dry.

The history of the RGHC is intimately entwined with the DACHS. The RGHC was formally established in 1972 as a repository at NMSU for historical materials related to southern New Mexico. As Madeleine Vessel points out in her history of the DACHS, many early DACHS members were instrumental in the establishment of the RGHC. People like Hugh Milton, Gerald Thomas, George Adlai Feather, J. Paul Taylor, Opal Lee Priestly, and Louise Garrett, among many others, recognized the importance of preserving documents of historical value to our region and believed NMSU would be a good place to do it.

After 45 years, the RGHC continues collecting, preserving, and making available to the public, records of enduring historical value for our area.

I will be highlighting in future newsletters some of the historical treasures the RGHC now holds, thanks in large part to its connections with the DACHS. I look forward to getting to know fellow DACHS members and finding ways we can collaborate to make our region's history accessible to all. I am happy to take questions from anyone in the society regarding the RGHC, or archives in general. You can reach me by email or phone at:

ddaily@nmsu.edu or 575-646-4756.

See Archive field trip info on next page

Calendar Of Upcoming Events For Members

May 18 --- Monthly Members meeting at Good Samaritan, 7 p.m. Director of the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum, Mark Santiago will present, "Humbling the Pride of the Apaches: A Spanish Expedition into Central New Mexico, 1795."

THE TALK --- Between 1795 and 1799 the Spaniards and Mescalero Apaches waged one of the most sustained, widespread, and bloody conflicts during the 18th century. This presentation will examine one of the initial Spanish operations against the Mescalero and their allies during this war giving special attention to the routes taken by the soldados.

In pursuing the Apaches the Spaniards would sweep north from El Paso, scouring the Robledos, Organs, Sacramentos, Sierra Blanca, and other mountain ranges throughout what is now central New Mexico. During the course of this expedition the Spaniards located and attacked several bands of Mescaleros, setting the stage for four years of constant attacks into the Mescalero homelands that eventually forced the Apaches to sue for peace.

BIO --- Mark Santiago has served as the Director of the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum since November of 2006. He was the Director of the New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo between 2000 and 2006. Previously, he worked for the Arizona Historical Society for 16 years at the Yuma, Tucson, and Tempe branches as a Curator, Collections Manager and Special Projects Manager.

He has published three books, *The Red Captain*



Mark Santiago

(Arizona Historical Society, 1994), *Masacre at the Yuma Crossing* (University of Arizona, 1998), *The Jar of Severed Hands* (University of Oklahoma, 2011), and numerous articles on the Spanish Colonial Borderlands. He received his master's degree in history and mu-

seum studies from the University of Arizona.

His family consists of his three grown sons, Edward age 31, twins Alexander and Justin age 27, and his wife of 34 years, Dawn.

June 24 --- Special field trip to the NMSU Archive in Branson Library, 10 a.m. Pre-registration required. This will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the archive led by Department Head Dennis Daily. That's right, you get to go into the stacks and see where the good stuff is stored.

Because the physical spaces are tight, this outing will be limited to 25 people. However, if there is enough interest, Dennis says he'll do it again for those not able to get in on the 24th. To pre-register, visit this web page: <http://nmsu.libcal.com/event/3307922>

Just fill in your name, email address and how many are coming. You'll get an automatic email verification. Also, there is a counter on the page showing how many spaces are left. I took #1.

We will gather at the main entrance to the library at 10 a.m. Since it is a Saturday, you can find free parking in several of the lots just south of Branson on Williams Ave.

A Big Thanks To Kimberly

By Jon Hunner, President

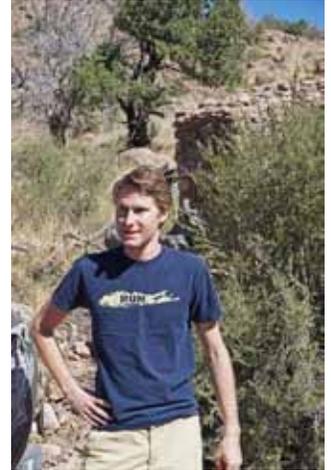
As we wrap up another lecture season at the Historical Society, I would like to mention a couple of thanks. The board for the Dona Ana County Historical Society is all volunteer, so thanks for all their work to preserve and present the history of our region. In particular, I would like to thank our Vice-President Kimberly Miller, who is moving away this summer. She has organized the speakers' series over the last few seasons and has brought some great presenters and presentations to our meetings. She is working on a slate of speakers for the fall and spring before she leaves.

Even though our lecture series takes a hiatus for the summer, Dennis Daily has invited our members to tour the Rio Grande Historical Collections-- the archive on the NMSU campus in June. Please sign up for what will be a fascinating behind the scenes visit of the archive.

Photos From The DACHS Visit To Soledad



The Issac's stone house.



Fort Bliss hosts - Belinda Mollard, senior archaeologist, and DJ Sevigny, architectural history tech.



Main Beasley house.- poured concrete walls.



George Beasley's tombstone - he brought the family to the Organ Mountains in 1888.



New Board Members

Prior to the April Camp Cody program Jon Hunner presided over the election of Dennis Daily to fill a vacancy on the DACHS Board of Directors. The vote was unanimous for Dennis to fill Doyle Piland's empty seat. Dennis was also given the microphone and a chance to introduce himself to the rest of the society.

You can read more about Dennis in the article on the front page of this newsletter.

After that, Jon announced that Luis Rios will be the new NMSU History Dept. Student Liaison, replacing Kyle Mery. Luis was also given the microphone and asked to introduce himself.

Luis is not your average 20-year-old history student. He is an older student who is smack-dab in the middle of a successful career - he is professor for design and drafting technologies at Dona Ana County Community College. He said he looks forward to working with the DACHS

Need N.M. Plate Info?

The New Mexico Transportation History Project (NMTHP) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to research and preservation of the history of motor vehicles in New Mexico, including vehicle registration records and license plates. On their website one can find a good deal of that history, and more than 2,500 color photographs of New Mexico license plates, registration certificates, vehicle titles and other related items. They have also digitized all known surviving motor vehicle registration records from the years 1912 through 1938, inclusive, and with this resource your can look up owner and vehicle information by license plate number and/or owner's name. The site's URL is: <https://www.NMplates.com> or simply: NMplates.com

The site is often used by people who research N. M. community and family history, photographs showing motor vehicles (especially those where the license plate is visible in the photo), and so forth.

DUES ARE DUE FOR YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP

www.donaanacountyhistoc.org

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