



# NEWSLETTER

## November 2017

Doña Ana County Historical Society

### It Is Time For Elections During Nov. Meeting

By Jon Hunner, DACHS President

I hope to see many of you at our November meeting on the 16th. For starters we have an interesting presentation but we also need your presence to vote on nominees for vacancies on the board of directors and to fill a few officer positions.

By the way, if you would like to nominate someone or you would like to serve on the board, please contact me before the 16th. We can always use an extra hand.

The Dona Ana County Historical Society Board of Directors met recently and approved the following slate of candidates for your review.

Vice-President Dennis Daily as President-Elect will automatically become president in 2018.

The board recommends that Jon Hunner, current President of DACHS, be elected as Vice President to assist Dennis in his duties.

The board recommends that we re-elect

Sally Kading as Historian.

For the At Large #1 board member, we recommend that Leah Tookey of the N.M. Farm and Ranch Museum be elected to replace Bob Gamboa.

For the At Large #5 board member, we recommend that Luis Rios of the Dona Ana Community College be elected to replace George Helfrich.

For the At Large #6 board member, we recommend Leslie Bergloff of the N.M. Historic Sites be elected to fill a vacant position.

We will vote on these candidates at the beginning of the monthly meeting on Nov. 16th. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [jhunner@nmsu.edu](mailto:jhunner@nmsu.edu) and 646-2490 or any other board member.

See you on the 16th.

Cheers

Jon

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SPEAKER ON THE 16th, SEE PAGE 2.*

### Dr. Kopp Stressed National Impact Of Fabian Garcia

During his Oct. 19 talk to the DACHS, Peter Kopp spoke about the biography he is working on concerning Fabian Garcia. He pointed out that Garcia's accomplishments really deserve national recognition because his impact has been felt well beyond southern New Mexico. We look forward to his book.



## SAVE THIS DATE - JAN. 27, 2018

We will hold our annual Awards Luncheon on the 27th at the Double Eagle in Old Mesilla. We will have details about cost and how to make a reservation in the December newsletter.

# We Join With HSR For A Special Presentation

Our monthly presentation on November 16 at Good Sam, 7 p.m., will be a joint effort with Human Systems Research as they celebrate their 45th anniversary. Chris Adams, a Gila Forest archaeologist, will talk about the White Mountain Apache Scouts attack on Chief Victorio's band along the Palomas River on May 24-25, 1880.

The Black Range is located within the Gila National Forest and was once the homeland of the Warm Springs Apaches, the eastern branch of the Chiricahua Apaches. Victorio was leader of the Warm Springs Chiricahua Apache and is often described as one of the greatest Apache military strategists.

The fight on the Palomas River took place between 60 Western Apache Scouts, led by Chief of Scouts Henry K. Parker, and Victorio's band of Warm Springs Apaches. This was the only engagement where Victorio was caught off guard and defeated in his own territory. This encounter was a major turning point in the Victorio War of 1879-



Christopher D. Adams

1880 and was the beginning of the end for Victorio.

The presentation will highlight the archaeological work that has taken place on this important fight that pitted Apaches against Apaches. Today the battle site is protected by the Gila National Forest and Turner Enterprises Inc. Both the site and the area continue to hold significance to the Mescalero, Chiricahua, San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes.

Christopher Adams is the East Zone archaeologist, Black Range and Wilderness Ranger Districts of the Gila National Forest. He has been with the U.S. Forest Service for 20 years as a professional archaeologist and has been working in archaeology for well over 30 years. Adams received his B.A. from Arizona State University.

Adams has been using metal sensing technology for over 40 years in North America and is considered to be one of the leading experts in the Apache Indian War Period in the Southwestern U.S.A.

## Roman Coin Found On The Camino Real Is Lost And Found

By Bob Gamboa  
Native Las Cruces

As strange as it may seem, an ancient Roman coin with the face of the great Emperor Hadrian was found in the vicinity of the Camino Real, northeast of Las Cruces. So how could such a coin be in this area? Who could have lost it?

The story goes like this. As many of the local natives used to do, ages ago, a favorite pastime on weekends was to search for Indian artifacts; such as pottery shards, arrowheads and anything else of antiquity. Most everyone in the local area knew where to search. Especially good hunting sites were old Indian campsites along the Organ Mountains or places near the Rio Grande.

It was one weekend in the late 1950's that Bob Gamboa and friend ventured east of Upham along the mountains just to search an old Indian campsite for any new finds. In those days, the area of search was not fenced off and closed by the federal government. In fact, no one told us kids it was forbidden.

After only minimal success in finding a couple of arrowheads, Bob picked up a round disk that he could not identify. The item was incrustated with sand and could have been anything from a coin to just a round rock. In fact, it was heavier than a coin or a rock of that size. For no particular reason, Bob put the object in his pocket and continued to seek arrowheads before finally leaving the area.

When Bob got home, he casually placed the object in his jewelry box which was on top of his chest of drawers and there it stayed for a number of years. When Bob came back from college and ventured off to the Army, he asked his father to keep some items for him that included a number of silver coins and the unidentifiable disk.

As time marched on as it inevitably does, Bob's father died in 1985. Unbeknownst to him, his father had kept Bob's assortment of items for him in his own jewelry box and there they stayed until his

see [Crusty Old Coin, back page](#)

# It Is Time To Renew Your DACHS Membership

If you have not renewed your membership in the Dona Ana County Historical Society for 2018, please consider doing so now. Just fill out the form below and mail it to our Post Office box or bring it with you to our November meeting on the 16th and

give it to Gerry Veara or Susan Krueger. You can make your check out to: DACHS

Also, please consider a donation to offset the publication costs of the *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*. Check the block in the form below.

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

## DACHS Membership Form

Please renew/enroll my/our membership in the Doña Ana County Historical Society. Memberships are active for the calendar year of enrollment and fees are deductible within legal limits for Federal and State income tax purposes. If you are unsure of your status or have questions regarding membership, please contact Susan Krueger, at 575 525-0654.

### Annual Membership/Sponsorship Rates

Individual \$20       Family \$25       Student \$8       Contributor \$40   
Benefactor \$150       Life \$300

*Southern New Mexico Historical Review* Sponsorship \$50

Is this a change of information? Yes  No       A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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You will automatically receive the Monthly Newsletter in your email as a PDF. Would you also like a paper, printed copy mailed later to the above postal address? Yes  No

Your membership includes a copy of the annual *Southern New Mexico Historical Review*(SNMHR). Are you willing to download the version on the DACHS website  or would you like to receive a printed copy?

Printed copies are usually first available at the annual Awards Luncheon.

# Crusty Old Coin

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mother died in 1994. In dividing the family belongings, Bob acquired his dad's jewelry box and off it went with Bob to Dallas where Bob lived and worked for 20 years.

It took Bob a few more years before he finally pulled out the jewelry box and began inspecting all the varieties of tie tacks and cuff links that his dad had possessed. Much to his surprise, there was that same incusted disk that he asked his dad to hold for him many years before.

This time there for no delay in inspecting this strange object. Contrary to the sacred code of coin collectors, Bob began cleaning the object to see what lay below the crust. Much to his surprise there was the face of a stranger, someone he had never seen before on a coin. The back was even stranger and neither side appeared to be like any American coin.

Taken back by this phenomenal find, Bob immediately began talking to coin collectors and digging

thru library books for more information on the origin of the coin. It was not long before a treasure-trove of information came pouring in. As it turned out, the face on the coin is of the Roman Emperor Hadrian AD 117-138. However, it took looking through hundred of faces on coins from the Greek and Roman periods before he could finally identity the specific individual. You'd be surprised at how many hundreds of coins were stamped for all the emperors, BC and AD.

So now to answer a few important questions: What was the metal that the coin was stamped of and what was the history of the coin? And how did a coin on an ancient emperor wind up on the desert floor northeast of Las Cruces? So back to the books Bob went to find the answers.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob will answer those questions in next month's newsletter. Stay tuned.**

[www.donaanaacountyhistcoc.org](http://www.donaanaacountyhistcoc.org)

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