The Nevada Historical Society is happy to reinvent our annual history conference. It’s been seven years since the Society hosted the last conference in 2008.

The first conference had three conference sessions, two banquets and two luncheons and was held at the historic Riverside Hotel. Governor Grant Sawyer gave an address to the attendees during the Centennial Banquet on May 8, 1964.

The session topics covered were the influence of the Mormons in the settlement of Nevada, early explorers and emigrants in Nevada, and the early development of the livestock business in Nevada.

Today, the topics might have changed but the fascination of Nevada’s history still lives on.

For 46 years, from 1904 to 1950, Dr. Jeanne Elizabeth Wier was the Executive Secretary, what is now known as Director, of the Nevada Historical Society. As a founding member of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, the University-based organization behind the Society’s origins, she was the Society’s guiding light.

Wier was essentially the Society, since she had taken it upon herself to begin collecting Nevada materials and storing them in her home. With a full time job at the University of Nevada, first as an associate professor of History and then as the head of the Department of History and Political Science, Wier still managed to create a viable society – and she did it without ever receiving a salary.

She wrote tirelessly to many ‘old timers’ around the state asking them to record their reminiscences of early Nevada. She spent most of her summer vacations on the road, in trains, wagons, and even on horseback searching the state for what she termed ‘historical relics’ to bring back to the Society’s collections. She believed that if the history of Nevada wasn’t collected immediately that it would be lost to future generations.

It is through her exhaustive and relentless work that many of the resources available for the study of Nevada exist today. It has been 111 years since Jeanne Elizabeth Wier began her quest to save Nevada’s history by preserving all types of collection materials. The Society and the citizens of Nevada continue to benefit from her vision to create what has become Nevada’s oldest cultural institution. The professional staff continue her legacy as they work with the public to actively collect for tomorrow’s Nevadans.

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At first, the Society membership rate was $1 per year. Yet even with 400 initial members statewide, the Society could not survive on such a small budget.

In 1907, the Legislature created the Nevada Historical Society as an agency of state government, yet the Society was not included in the Governor’s budget until 1909.
Friday evening lecture is ‘All Roads Lead to Nevada’
Diana L. Ahmad is an historian of the nineteenth-century American West focusing on the vice, as well as on traditional overland trails history. Her current book manuscript, “Success depends on the Animals: Emigrants, Livestock, and Wild Animals on the Overland Trails, 1840-1869,” is currently under submission.

Saturday, September 26th
8:30am – 9:00am – Admission and Refreshments (CHANGING GALLERY)
9:00am – 4:45pm – Lectures (RESEARCH LIBRARY) - Limited Seating is available.
9:00am – 9:20am: “The Boundaries of Being a Nevadan: National Reputation and Exceptionalism,” by Michael Green, PhD - author and Associate Professor of History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
9:25am – 9:45am: “New Perspectives for Native American Western History: Preparing the Western Shoshone Defense Project Records, a New Primary Source at the University of Nevada, Reno” by Jacquelyn Sundstrand, Associate Professor and Manuscripts and Archives librarian, University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections Department.
10:15am-10:30am – Break
10:35am-10:55am: “Mystery on the Mainline: What Wrecked the “City of San Francisco?”” by Christopher Mac-Mahon, student – California State University Channel Islands History Department.
11:00am-11:20am: “Mining Mercury and Tungsten in 1950s Nevada” by John M. Gomes, retired mining engineer, Mineral County.
11:50-1pm – Lunch on your own
1:00pm – 4:45pm – Lectures (RESEARCH LIBRARY) - Limited Seating is available.
Moderated Panel: Managing Nevada Land and Livestock (Commentator: William Rowley, PhD – Professor of History, University of Nevada, Reno)
1:00pm-1:20pm: “America’s Forest and Range Outback: Science and Land Management in Nevada, 1910-1930” by Ryan Powell, PhD
1:25pm-1:45pm: “Reno at the Races: Sporting Life versus Progressive Reform” by Emerson Marcus, State Historian, Nevada National Guard.
1:50pm-2:10pm: “Washoe Redux: Territory, Sovereignty, and Anthropologists” by Edan Strekal, Project Archivist at the University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections and University Archives, and Instructor of Core Humanities, University of Nevada, Reno.
2:15pm-2:35pm: “Resistance to “the Hoofed Locusts:” Nevada’s Response to Sheep on the Public Ranges, 1889-1903” by Iker Saitua, PhD Candidate, Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno

The first stated mission of the Nevada Historical Society was to collect the memories of the state’s earliest pioneers before they passed from the scene.
NEVADA DIVISION
MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

Mission: The Division of Museums and History preserves, shares, and promotes the understanding and celebration of Nevada’s natural and cultural heritage for the enrichment of all generations.

Vision: Recognized as the most trusted stewards and engaging storytellers of Nevada’s heritage.

Philosophy: We will work as a team to build consensus and fulfill our vision, putting the public’s needs first while adhering to the highest professional standards.

Presenter Bios

Diana L. Ahmad, Ph.D.
Author and Professor of History at the Missouri University of Science and Technology

Diana L. Ahmad received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and is an historian of the nineteenth-century American West focusing on the vice, as well as on traditional overland trails history. Her current book manuscript, “Success depends on the Animals: Emigrants, Livestock, and Wild Animals on the Overland Trails, 1840–1869”, explores the relationship between overlanders and animals during their journeys west and is currently under submission. She has also published a variety of other books and articles focused on topics ranging from The Opium Debate and Chinese exclusion laws to animals on the emigrant trails. She has presented at many major conferences, and teaches the history of the American West, American Pacific, Modern Japan and American Environmental History at the Missouri University of Science and Technology.
Keynote Speaker – 6:00-7:00pm, Friday, September 25th

Jackie Boor

Jackie Boor is an award-winning author with more than thirty years of research experience. Her career began in 1968 a teen correspondent for two Northern California newspapers. A resident of Sacramento, her first major work published in 2010, Inside the President’s Helicopter: Reflections of a White House Senior Pilot is an award-winning memoir of LTC Gene Boyer. Jackie first began researching Nevada’s Sheriff Tom Logan, her great-grandfather, in 1985, and the result of that effort, LOGAN: The Honorable Life and Scandalous Death of a Western Lawman, published in 2014, received high praise from leading Nevada historians. LOGAN is a 2015 Eric Hoffer de Vinci Eye Finalist for cover design and a 2015 Midwest Book Review Finalist in the history book category. Besides writing, speaking and gardening, Jackie enjoys spending time with her family – both those in the present and from the past.
Presenter: 3:50pm – 4:10pm, Saturday, September, 26th
The Quarterly’s first appearance was Summer 1957, and marked a return to a grand tradition of publication started by Jeanne Wier. The publication program had begun shortly after the Society was founded with the first NHS Biennial Reports coming out in 1908. This publication documented donations, expenses and projects being completed by the Society from 1907-1970.

The second publication was the NHS Historical Society Papers that focused upon Nevada history and documenting important figures in Nevada. Society donations and loans were mentioned in a few of the Papers. An important feature was In Memorium that documented the passing of early pioneers or members of the Society that were published from 1917-1926.

The Quarterly began in 1957 and the contents of the first issue set the pace for a number of years to come. By the 1970s, the editorial board would come to look for more scholarly content and seek out the state’s leading historians for articles.

Today, the Society is actively seeking new content for the publication as the Society continues to publish Academic history for its members.
He graduated with a M.A. degree in history from the University of Nevada, Reno and wrote his thesis on horse race betting in Reno, and lives in Sparks, Nevada.
Presenter: 1:25pm – 1:45pm, Saturday, September 26th

**Eugene P. Moehring, Ph.D.**

Eugene Moehring is a Professor of History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the author of many articles on urban history and Nevada History as well as several books, including *Reno, Las Vegas and the Strip: A Tale of Three Cities* (2014); *UNLV: A History of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas* – written for its 50th anniversary in 2007; *A Centennial History of Las Vegas*, with Michael Green (2005); *Urbanism and Empire in the Far West, 1840-1890* (2004); *Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-2000* (2000), and *Public Works and the Patterns of Urban Real Estate Growth in Manhattan, 1835-1894* (1981). Moehring is a specialist in urban history.
Presenter: 3:25pm-3:45pm, Saturday, September 26th

**Emerson Marcus, M.A.**

Emerson Marcus recently became the State Historian for the Nevada National Guard in Carson City. Before taking the Guard’s newly-created historian position in January, Marcus worked as a breaking news reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal and author of “Ask the RGJ,” a weekly column investigating reader inquiries.

He graduated with a M.A. degree in history from the University of Nevada, Reno and wrote his thesis on horse race betting in Reno, and lives in Sparks, Nevada.
Presenter: 10:35am-10:55am, Saturday, September 26th

**Christopher MacMahon**

Christopher MacMahon is an undergraduate history student at California State University Channel Islands and one of the eighteen inaugural members of the university’s Interdisciplinary Research Learning Community. His interest is in nineteenth-century American West borderlands and plans to obtain a doctorate in this field. Christopher is a long-time member of the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, and regularly volunteers with the museum in various capacities including steam train operations.
Presenter: 10:35am-10:55am, Saturday, September 26th

**Volunteering at the Society**

The NHS Docent Council is a volunteer organization that supports the mission and activities of the Society for the past 30 years.

Docents perform vital work in all areas of the Historical Society, including in the galleries as tour guides, in the History on Wheels program that provides outreach services to area schools, in the research library, artifacts, manuscript, and photograph collections, and in the front office and museum store.

To become a NHS Docent you must complete the 4-hour training class, at least two mentoring workshops, and attend at least 3 lectures a year. You must become a member of the Nevada Historical Society and the Docent Council, and commit to working a minimum of 48 hours per year for the Society and the Docent Council. Docent dues are $15 annually.

For further information, please call 775-688-1190.

**Ryan Powell, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate**

Ryan Powell has a M.A. in the history of Science from the University of Oklahoma and is a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Nevada, Reno. Ryan is the director of the History Department Writing Center and instructor of Nevada history. His research is focused on the history of public land management and the history of ecology.
Presenter: 1:00pm – 1:20pm, Saturday, September 26th

**John Reid, Ph.D.**

John Reid is a professor and Chair for History, Political Science, and Law Department at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada. He is also the Editor-in-Chief for the Quarterly journal published by the Nevada Historical Society.
Presenter/Special lecture: 4:15pm – 4:45pm

**Society’s second location—100 South Virginia Street**

Volunteering at the Society

**Ryan Powell, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate**

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Presenter/Special lecture: 4:15pm – 4:45pm

**Kimberly J. Roberts, M.A.**

Kimberly Roberts is a Photograph Curator in the Special Collections Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. Having grown up “all across the Western U.S.,” Kimberly’s family settled in Denver where she studied literature at Colorado State University, and later received her M.A. in history at the University of Nevada, Reno, specializing in landscape and the history of photography. In addition to her position as photograph curator, she serves on the board of the Historic Reno Preservation Society and is an active member of the West of Wells neighborhood, and the Truckee Meadows Park Foundation.
Presenter: 3:00pm – 3:20pm, Saturday, September 26th

**Presenters Bios**
Nevada Historical Society is home to the state’s oldest museum. It was founded in 1904 with the purpose of collecting, preserving, and interpreting Nevada’s heritage.

A bill to make the Nevada Historical Society a state agency was passed by the 1907 legislature and signed by Governor John Sparks on March 20, 1907. In 1911, the legislature appropriated $5,000 for the construction of a building, located at the entrance to the University of Nevada campus, to house and display the growing collection of Nevada materials.

The Nevada Historical Society’s mission is to receive, collect, preserve, and conserve objects pertaining to but not exclusively related to the state of Nevada, Washoe County, the Great Basin region, the Lake Tahoe area, and the West as pertaining to the history of Nevada, in order to display, research, educate, exhibit and preserve the history for the people of Nevada.

William D. Rowley, Ph.D.


Panel Moderator: Managing Nevada Land and Livestock, 1:00pm – 2:45pm, Saturday, September 26th

Iker Saitua, Ph.D. candidate

Iker Saitua is a Ph.D. candidate in the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada Reno. He received his Bachelor’s degree in history from the University of the Basque Country in 2010. Saitua’s research interests include western, labor, immigration, legal and environmental history. Saitua is currently working on his doctoral dissertation that investigates the nineteenth and twentieth century migration of Basque labor forces to the Great Basin, as well as grazing and ethnic issues on the western public lands.

Presenter: 2:15pm – 2:35pm, Saturday, September 26th

Society’s Mission

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Edan Strekal, M.A.

Edan Strekal currently works as the Project Archivist at the University of Nevada, Reno’s Special Collections and University Archives, and also works as an instructor in the university’s Core Humanities Department. Edan received his B.A. in history at UNR in 2008, and continued on to earn a M.A. in history/cultural geography from UNR in 2012 under the advisement of Dr. William Rowley. Edan is specifically interested in Nevada and the West, issues of race and ethnicity, and Great Basin Indian history.

Presenter: 1:50pm – 2:10pm, Saturday, September, 26th

Jacquelyn Sundstrand, M.A., M.L.S.

Jacquelyn (Jacque) Sundstrand is an Associate Professor and Manuscripts and Archives Librarian in the University of Nevada Reno Library’s Special Collections Department, where she has worked since 2001. She holds a master’s degree in Library Science from the University of Southern California and one in History from University of California, Riverside. As a fourth-generation Californian, she is passionate about the history of the West and has written articles on various aspects of its development. She recently was honored by being selected by President Obama to serve as a board member for the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Presenter: 9:25am- 9:45am, Saturday, September 26th

Presenter Bio Photos

Dr. Jeanne E. Wier, first Director

Preserving Nevada’s History since 1904
Would you like to become a museum member? When you join or renew your membership to Nevada Historical Society, you receive free admission at all Nevada State Museum’s, a 15% discount to the museum stores and invitations to special events.

Your generosity helps support exhibits, outreach programs and collections projects.

Memberships are tax deductible.

Invest in Nevada’s past, present and future History. Buy, Give, or Renew a Membership today.
September 25, 2015

Hello, and on behalf of the Division of Museums and History, welcome to the Nevada Historical Society History Conference.

We are honored to have you join us for the resurrection of this important gathering of historians, scholars, students, and the public, all coming together with a shared interest in the heritage of the Silver State. For many years until the recession of the last decade forced its curtailment, the conference was a much anticipated annual event. We are now actively rebuilding the capacity of Nevada’s seven State museums and with the steady hand of Sheryln Hayes-Zorn and the dedicated team at the Nevada Historical Society we are delighted to breathe new life into this convening.

Please enjoy the conference; the range of topics is exciting and sure to reveal new information and perspectives on the Silver State. After the conference ends we invite you to continue exploring Nevada’s heritage at our museums across the state for the “Heritage Lives Here!”

Warmest regards,

Peter Barton, Administrator
Division of Museums and History