State Committee President’s Message

The second state committee meeting for the year is coming up on September 15. The location shifts to the North, and Kay Sanders has graciously invited us to meet at her home in Reno.

At the last state meeting in Las Vegas in March the committee approved several changes in the NWHP Guidelines. Revised copies were sent to each committee member to review for corrections and suggestions for a couple of items that were left to decide in September, so that will be the first order of business at the upcoming meeting. If any member has anything else to put on the agenda for state consideration, please let me know, or contact your North Steering Committee Chair or South President.

The “Sarah Statue” project, although officially ended, lives on in interesting ways. Our State Archivist, Carrie Porter, was recently contacted by an associate historian with the U.S. Capitol Historic Society. The society is putting together an exhibit of “Women in the U.S. Capitol” and wants to include Sarah Winnemucca in the exhibit. Of course, Carrie was happy to provide her with information on the statue project. Carrie was told that the exhibit would eventually be a “traveling” one, so maybe we will get to see it in Nevada!

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Women’s Biographies in Nevada Newspapers Planned for March 2008

In March of 2007, biographies of 31 historical Nevada women were published in Carson City’s newspaper, the Nevada Appeal. We propose to repeat this marvelous accomplishment in March of 2008, but this time in the Carson City, Reno, and possibly Las Vegas newspapers.

We included primarily biographies of Carson City women or those of statewide interest.

The Nevada Appeal format was 400 words, plus a picture, with the exception of Jean Ford on the first day of the series. Permission and specific format requirements would have to be obtained from each of the newspapers.

The point of making this request in August of 2007 is that, if we start now, it should not be as daunting a task as it was last year. I would like to report to the State Committee at our meeting September 15 that you, our NWHP members, have enthusiastically adopted this project.

Please check the list of the 2007 newspaper biographies on the NWHP website and let me know if you would be able to contribute a short biography and picture of another historical Nevada woman.

Holly Van Valkenburgh, hovava@juno.com
State Committee President's Message
continued from page 1

The NWHP recently received mention in the Stanford Alumni Association Magazine (which arrives at our house addressed to my husband, Fred). Their November/December issue contained excerpts from the 1890’s diaries of Mary Freeman, documenting her year as a freshman at Stanford. I immediately recognized her as “our” Mary Freeman, who lived for several years on a ranch in Stillwater, Nevada, and was amused that the article lamented not knowing much about her later life and that there “were no photographs of Mary.” Mary was an amateur photographer and took many photographs documenting the lives of Paiutes working on her father’s ranch, and provided wonderful information about the history of Nevada women. I contacted the magazine, and the March/April issue contained a photograph of and more information about Mary, with mention of the Nevada Women’s History Project.

So keep your eyes and ears open—we want information about Nevada women to be in the public forum, but we want it to be correct!

Cherry Jones, State Committee President
Highlights of North Steering Committee May Meeting

The NWHP Northern Region Steering Committee met before the Annual Meeting on May 5 at Thunder Canyon Country Club. President Cherry Jones reported the election results for the two offices that were voted upon by the membership. Mary Anne Convis was chosen as NWHP North’s new president and Patti Bernard will continue for another one year term as NWHP secretary.

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot reported on the initial planning of the 2008 State Conference to be held in the North next year. The conference theme will be Women in Transportation. Committee members Mary Anne Convis, Isabel Espinoza and Lisa-Marie are seeking additional members to join this committee. Lisa Marie can be contacted at 849-2050.

North Membership Chair Grace Davis stated that there were 128 members and 14 organizational memberships. Seventeen new members had been added as of May 5th. She also reviewed with the Steering Committee members information concerning biography and website article criteria that were recently developed by the Education, Outreach and Review Committee.

NWHP activities reported on included a very successful HERSTORY AFFAIR held at the home of Karen Benna in April and a Women’s Works in Progress session held at the Jean Ford Research Center. This workshop was led by Cindy Southerland and Carrie Porter. Mary Anne Convis updated the Steering Committee on the annual NWHP Pink Tea to be held at the Governor’s Mansion on May 19th.

Patti Bernard provided information on the progress of the Native American Women Oral History Project. Carrie Porter, Grace Davis, Kay Sanders, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot and JoAnn Peden comprise the Oral History Committee and tentative plans have been made for the taping of the first interview in early August. Interested individuals who would like to join this committee can contact Carrie Porter at 322-1830 or Patti Bernard at 826-3612.

Patti Bernard

Film Showing and Pyramid Lake Paiute Cultural Center Tour Planned

On September 16th NWHP North plans a trip to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Cultural Visitor Center where members will be treated to a tour of the Center and the showing of a new film, “Sarah Winnemucca, In Her Footprints”, created by Gwendolyn Clancy. This film features Sarah Winnemucca family members and biographer Sally Zanjani.

It will start at 10:00 a.m. and members will be carpooling to the site. A picnic lunch will be available. Details and a response form will be mailed to our membership in the North. Please call Karen Benna, Project Coordinator, if you need any additional information. Her home phone number is (775) 852-7333. Directions and cost will be outlined in the flyer.

Kay Sanders
News From the North

We are back from our mountain retreat and I am thrilled that we accomplished so much. Our focus this year will be on oral histories. We have been asked by outside organizations to help with this endeavor. We hope to have a training session for those interested in this project.

Our program committee has planned our programs for the year and they are both educational and entertaining. We are grateful for their hard work.

We will not be participating in the Nevada Day parade this year, but will focus on next year's parade as it will be Carson City’s 150th birthday.

We all owe a big thank you to Kay Sanders for continuing as editor of our newsletter. As you know, she has tried to resign and we just won’t let her. She does a fantastic job.

We will have a conference in March on Women in Transportation. We hear such interesting stories about women who were pilots in the early days and those who drove trucks during World War II.

I am looking forward to the coming year. NWHP is such a great group to work with.

Mary Anne Convis, Northern Region Chair

News From the South

I first was introduced to the Nevada Women’s History Project Southern Region as a guest of Joan LeMere in November 2005. She and Nancy Sansone attended my inaugural conference of the Nevada Council for History Education the previous week and encouraged me to join NWHP. Last December at the author’s tea I was asked to do my Helen Stewart performance. Eighteen months later I am the President!

In 2002 I retired after teaching 32 years of history and government in Kansas and Virginia. During that time I received several teacher of the year awards including the Mary Kay Bonsteel Tacheau Pre-Collegiate Teacher of the Year for the Organization of American Historians, the Martha Washington Chapter DAR Outstanding History Teacher and the Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the year from the National Council for the Social Studies. After receiving national teaching honors I was invited by President Clinton to go to Russia. I eventually traveled to Russia four times, once with students.

I am a curriculum writer and have written several lesson plans including the “Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort: the Birthplace of Las Vegas” for the National Park Service and my own book “Put a Little Acting Into Your Teaching”. I continue to do research at UNLV where I met Su Kim Chung. Currently I am working with the Lost City Museum.

I know the NWHP was started over concern about the coverage of women in textbooks. My doctoral dissertation was also about coverage of historical issues in textbooks. This original mission has now reached a level of heightened concern. We need to be concerned that history is even taught at all in the

Joan LeMere, past NWHP State President, and Linda Miller, Southern Region President at the League of Women’s Voters kickoff to Women’s Suffrage Day - July 19th.

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classrooms. History is not tested under the No Child Left Behind Act and this makes it take a back seat to other subjects that are tested. So our work is more important than ever. The National Council for History Education is launching a letter writing campaign to members of Congress to help promote history teaching in the schools. We can be a part of that effort. I also hope to encourage more teachers to join the organization.

Besides being the Nevada State Coordinator for the National Council for History Education I am also involved in the Friends of the Fort, the Nevada Humanities Council, and the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation. I think that we can support each other's goals such as sending in pioneer recipes for the fort, helping with the Helen Stewart statue campaign and contributing articles for the Nevada Humanities on-line encyclopedia. We all share one goal of promoting history in Nevada. One way we could do this is to develop a teacher of the year award to honor those teachers who do a special job of promoting Nevada women's history. We all need to be advocates to help promote and preserve history in the schools.

On June 9 we participated in the first history fair at the Paseo Verde Library in Henderson. Doris Drummond and Mary Gafford also participated. On June 16 we had our first executive board meeting to plan great events for the year ahead. I look forward to working with my great executive team including Doris Drummond, Betty Miller, Mary Gafford, Su Kim Chung and Barbara Davis. I want to thank Jane Oliva for her tremendous help in the transition. My mother and father were presidents of their professional organizations several years ago, so I guess you can say that I am following a family tradition.

Some of you have seen me perform as Helen Stewart. When I was asked if I would take the presidency, I thought a moment. I am sure Helen would have wanted it.

Dr. Linda Karen Miller, NWHP Southern Region president
Caryll Batt Dziedziak, professor at UNLV and co-founder of The Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN) was the featured speaker at the May 5, 2005 NWHP-Southern Region luncheon meeting. The meeting was held at Marie Callender's Restaurant 4800 South Eastern Avenue. The attendees began arriving at 11:30 a.m. They were greeted by Southern Nevada Region officers Jane Olive, Mary Gafford, Betty Miller, Jean Spiller, Su Kim Chung, and Doris Drummond.

President Jane Olive opened the meeting at noon. After offering the meditation, she called upon Doris Drummond to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests Anne Brew and Barbara Sennenger were introduced.

After a delightful luncheon, Caryll Dziedziak spoke on Equal Rights Amendment Campaign in Nevada in the 1970's: *Lessons from our Past for Future Activism Among Women*. The power point presentation contained information used within Caryll's dissertation research. Attendees were reminded that Nevada was one of the states which voted against ratification of the *Equal Rights Amendment* of the 1970's. After open discussion, Caryll was thanked for her presentation and was presented with a copy of *Skirts that Swept the Desert Floor*.

The meeting was concluded by President Olive at 2:30 p.m. Then the Southern Region Business meeting was called to order. Southern Region Nominating Committee Chair read the names of those running for the two vacant offices. There being no nominations from the floor, Dr. Linda Miller was elected Southern Region President and Barbara Davis Corresponding Secretary. Davis has agreed to take over publication of the Southern Region newsletter.

Those remaining in their positions include Mary Gafford, First VP; Betty Miller, Second VP, Doris Drummond, Recording Secretary and Su Kim Chung as Treasurer. Jane Olive has resigned to continue her doctorate studies at UNLV.

At 3 p.m., after other business was handled, President Jane Olive closed the May 5, 2007 meeting.

*Mary Gafford*

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New and Returning Southern Region Officers: (l. to r.) Betty Miller, 2nd Vice President, Doris Drummond, Recording Secretary, Su Kim Chung, Treasurer, Barbara Davis, Corresponding Secretary, Linda Miller, President, and Mary Gafford, 1st Vice President.
Built between 1856 and 1870, the Dangberg Home Ranch located in Carson Valley is Nevada’s 26th park. The NWHP North Region sponsored its second park tour on May 20th led by Parks Supervisor Suzanne Sturdevant. Members and guests were treated to a tour of the house, outbuildings, and grounds where they were taken back to the early days when immigrants first arrived in western Nevada, prior to statehood in 1864. The park consists of five and a half acres with a lovely view of the Carson Range, Pinenut Range, and Sierra Nevada Mountains plus neighboring ranch property. The original ranch property exceeded 48,000 acres. German immigrant H. F. Dangberg (1829-1904) acquired the land and had the original buildings constructed.

Two groups were treated to a description of life in the olden days, history of the area, stories about the generations of Dangbergs who resided on the ranch, as well as people who worked for them. There is a Chinese cook’s house, a bunk house for 10, and a laundry room operated for years by a local Native American, Susie Dick. One hundred year-old Cottonwood trees grace the property as well as lawns complete with picnic tables where the groups enjoyed lunch after the tour.

Not much was ever thrown out, so the park employees had an enormous amount of items to inventory. Over 18,000 artifacts from all over the world have been identified. They are displayed on a rotating basis. The V&T Railroad used to run to Minden. It brought many visitors to the ranch. They were met by horse and carriage at the depot and whisked out to their destination.

This was the second tour of the Dangberg Home Ranch organized by NWHP. Due to popular demand there will be future excursions to Carson Valley. Program Committee Co-Chair Carleen Ernest organized both tours and did a marvelous job.

Kay Sanders
Featured Historic Nevada Woman:  
Mary Aileen Norton Evans

Born: March 13, 1899  
Died: November 3, 1993  
Maiden name: Norton  
Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian (English)  
Married: Oliver Wheat Evans  
Children: None  
Primary city and county of residence and work: Dunphy, Eureka County; Winnemucca, Humboldt County.  
Major fields of work: Telegrapher, The Western Pacific Railroad Company  
Other role identities: Wife

Biography:

Mary Aileen Norton was born on March 13, 1899 in Mitchell, Davison County, South Dakota to Ernest Nelson Norton, farmer (age 23, born in Yankton, South Dakota) and Florence Aileen (Hackett) Norton, housewife (age 24, born in Oelwein, Fayette County, Iowa).

Little is known of Mary Evans’ early life. On October 6, 1923 in Yreka, Siskiyou County, California when she was 24, she married Oliver Wheat Evans, 31, a native of New York. They had no children. Her obituary states that she began working for The Western Pacific Railroad in 1918 and retired in the 1980’s after sixty years of service (1916-1976). She was issued a very simple document stating, "The Western Pacific Railroad Company extends best wishes to Mary N. Evans upon the occasion of her retirement from the services of this Railroad. In Testimony Whereof we are privileged to bestow this Certificate of Appreciation of her many years of service and we are hopeful that her active interest in Western Pacific will long continue." It was signed by F. P. Whitman, President. Mary was one of the first women telegraphers, and the youngest at age 18, to work for the WPRR.

She was a member of the Winnemucca Rebekah Lodge and the Christian Science Church, and in her 80’s she took care of the Guest Book of the North Central Nevada Historical Society Humboldt Museum as a volunteer. Pansilee Larson, Curator of that Museum, states that she was "a lovely person to have known."

Mary was preceded in death by her husband in February, 1970, and there were no known survivors. Graveside funeral services were held November 10, 1993 for Mary at the Winnemucca cemetery, with the Winnemucca Rebekah Lodge officiating. (Research by Pansilee Larsen, Curator, North Central Nevada Historical Society, Humboldt County Museum. Written by Janet E. White.)

Sources of Information:

1. Evans, Oliver L. Certificate of Birth obtained by his step-mother, Rosa L. Evans on March 16, 1942, in Salamanca, Cattaraugus County, New York.
2. Evans, Oliver Wheat, and Mary Aileen Norton. Marriage License dated October 6, 1923 issued by Albert H. Thomas, Justice of the Peace of Siskiyou County, CA.
3. Evans, Mary. Obituary, Humboldt Sun, November 5, 1993
5. Western Pacific Railroad Co. Certificate of Appreciation, no date, to Mary N. Evans.
North Region Business Meeting Features
a Noted Anthropologist

Our Annual Luncheon Meeting took place once again at the Franktown Grill located at Thunder Canyon Country Club on May 5th. The convenience of the location between Carson City and Reno offers our members an ideal setting for this event. The combination of business meeting, good food, socializing, the historical collections so graciously shared and displayed by 3 of our members, and the wonderful speaker, Alanah Woody, PhD, made for a fun and interesting afternoon.

The meeting was called to order by President Cherry Jones, after members and guests had the opportunity to enjoy and admire the collections. The doll collection, brought by our president, included dolls representing 12 famous American Women. Eleanor Roosevelt, Abigail Adams and Pocahontas were among the 12. We were able to appreciate the different clothing styles of the past through Cherry’s dolls, the most notable being Amelia Earhart in her flying costume. The second collection for our viewing pleasure was Barbara Jensen’s buttons, showing endless variety and changes of styles over the years. The third was a collection of knives from Cindee Ashkar, which consisted of commemoratives from WWII and the Gold Rush. American made classic jackknives, and assorted knives with custom handles that can be appreciated for their beautiful and intricate work, made with semi-precious stones and wood.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Alanah Woody, Executive Director of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, was introduced by the chairperson of the event, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot. Dr. Woody schooled her audience on rock art, what it is, and specifically, rock art in the state of Nevada. She took us through an array of slides that helped to clarify many things she talked about. Dr. Woody gave us a brief history of rock art, what it is, and where some is located in the state. We learned that rock art is markings (either painted-called Pictographs or engraved-called Petroglyphs) on rock surfaces such as boulders, cliff faces or inside caves or shelters. Nevada’s rock art was made, Dr. Woody informed us, by the very first people who inhabited the area as much as 12,000 years ago. But, she told us, there are historic images incorporated into the rock art panels, such as people wearing western hats and riding on horses that tell us that they were made much more recently. Dr. Woody stressed that for a vast majority of images, we simply do not know what they mean, but without question, rock art had meaning for the people who created it, and it continues to have special meaning for modern Native American peoples and others today.

Dr. Woody brought along information on the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, how to support it, and some items for sale like pins and earrings, that have stunning copies of rock art on them. Many of us couldn’t resist buying, while we supported the foundation at the same time. This foundation’s goal is to document and preserve all rock art sites for posterity and to utilize the findings for education, and scientific and cultural heritage studies for years to come.

It was announced that congratulations go out to Kay Sanders for being elected to receive the Nevada Women’s Fund “Women of Achievement” award. Congratulations also to NWHP and all its active participants for receiving the 2007 Historic Preservation Award which was presented to Cherry Jones and Kay Sanders at the Reno City Council meeting on May 9th. Many thanks to Lisa-Marie Lightfoot for organizing this marvelous luncheon and to everyone who contributed to making this such a successful event.

Cindee Ashkar

Postscript: Speaker Alanah Woody, a Minden resident for 17 years, passed away on July 19, 2007, following a heart attack. She is survived by her husband, Angus R. Quinlan of Minden, son, Christopher Woody of Gardnerville, her father and two brothers.
Doris Drummond - Featured NWHP Member

Doris Drummond was born in Ely, Nevada and attended the Ruth Grade School, White Pine County High School, University of Utah and various colleges in Oregon, California, and Colorado. Her work experiences include teaching junior high English, literature, social studies and physical education in Santa Rosa, California, as well as two and a half years working for USAREUR Special Services in Uum and Oberammergau, Germany.

Upon returning to the U.S., she again taught junior high school in San Diego and La Jolla, California. After her marriage she continued to travel and went to Japan, Hong Kong, Okinawa, and the Phillippine Islands. The couple moved to Belleville, Illinois, where she taught fifth grade at Scott Air Force Base. Her first son was born in Belleville. Their next move was to Irving, Texas, where a second son was born. Eleven years later they moved to Evergreen, Colorado. Following their divorce, Doris moved to Las Vegas where she taught art at John S. Park and Stanford Elementary Schools.

Doris is a fine artist who has enjoyed such varied experiences as rappelling, parasailing, hot air ballooning, ultra-light rides, rafting down the Grand Canyon and the River of No Return. She has gone climbing to the top of a peak in Machu Picchu, Peru, high above the Urubamba River, backpacking on the Sierra Crest Trail in Washington and on the Red Mountain area near the John Muir Wilderness Area as well as hiking to the top of Mt. Wheeler, elevation 13,063 feet, in White Pine County.

She is now retired, enjoys visiting her two small granddaughters, and has been actively engaged in NWHP service for several years.

NWHP Receives Historic Resource Award

A beautiful plaque honoring NWHP was presented to State President Cherry Jones in a ceremony on May 9th at the Reno City Council. Several of our members were in attendance. Following the ceremony a luncheon reception was held at the Newlands Mansion in an historic neighborhood in Reno.

NWHP received the 2007 Historic Resource Award based on its commitment to promoting the research, writing and preserving the biographies of Nevada women, educating the public, recognizing the contributions women have made for our state and its inhabitants, serving as a clearinghouse for information, and offering activities related to our mission.

The plaque hangs in our state office located at 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite, 300, in Reno.

Kay Sanders
Potpourri

Congratulations to:

• Peggy Lear Bowen on her retirement from teaching. She had an outstanding career in rural schools as well as 26 years in Washoe County schools.

Of Interest:

• Mary Gafford has served for nearly 25 years as a board member of the Super Summer Theatre held at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park in Southern Nevada. She spends many summer nights volunteering there. NWHP members have enjoyed presentations at that facility over the years as part of their scheduled programs.

Announcement:

• Barbara Davis has agreed to take over as editor of the South Newsletter. She is the incoming Corresponding Secretary for the Southern Region. Jane Olive had done the job for the past several years.

• Southern Region President Dr. Linda Miller, Nevada State Coordinator for History Education, invites interested members to attend the Kaleidoscope of Early Culture in Las Vegas, September 29-30, 2007 at the new Springs Preserve and Lost City Museum. This 2 day cultural history walk back in time costs $40 – deadline is September 7th. Mail your check, made out to Nevada Council for History Education, to her address: 2319 Great Elk Drive, Henderson, NV 89052. One recertification credit for teachers is available for attending this event. For further information call Linda at: (702) 492-7742.

• Hysterical and historical "Temperance Tantrums" will be presented at Piper's Opera House in Virginia City. Performances 8/25 and 8/26 and 9/1, 9/2 and 9/3. Call for tickets and times 775-847-0433.

Please Inform the State Membership Chair and Your Regional Membership Chair of Any Changes in Your Address, Phone Number, and/or E-Mail Address. Betty Miller's Address Is: 2633 Legend Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134-8810. In the North Please Also Notify Grace Davis at: NWHP, 770 Smithbridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502.

Announcements for the November 2007 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor, Kay Sanders, no later than October 26, 2007. E-mail her at ksanders@unr.nevada.edu.

NWHP Leadership

NORTHERN REGION STEERING COMMITTEE:
Mary Anne Convis: Chair
Lisa-Marie Lighthof: Vice-Chair
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Treasurer
Patti Bernard: Secretary
Kay Sanders: Communication Co-Chair
Lisa-Marie Lighthof: Communication Co-Chair
Isabel Espinoza: Finance Chair
Grace Davis: Membership Chair
Carrie Townley Porter: Project Review Chair
Carleen Ernesti and Karen Benna: Program Chairs
Cherry Jones: Past Chair

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Betty Miller: Second Vice President
Doris Drummond: Recording Secretary
Barbara Davis: Corresponding Secretary
Su Kim Chung: Treasurer

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Holly Van Valkenburgh: Third Vice-President
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Denise Yossimer: Nevada Women's Fund Representative
Kay Sanders: Editor for State Newsletter
Lisa-Marie Lighthof: Webmaster
Carrie Porter: Archivist

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Editor: Kay Sanders
Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at www.nevadawomen.org

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Individual Membership: Dues $25/Year • Student Membership: Dues $15/Year
Organizational Membership: Dues $50/Year
Corporate Sponsor: Dues $250/Year

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Mail to North members - 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste., 300, Reno, NV 89502
NWHP: South members - 2633 Legend Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134-8810.

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Karen Rae Abbott, M.D.
Marlene Adrian
Anita Eftimoff
Diane Enewold
Jacki Falkenroth
Rev. Dr. Jane Foraker-Thompson
Nell Fozard
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