LINDA WYCOFF - 2012 NWHP WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Linda Wyckoff has lived in Reno, Nevada since 1979. Originally from New Brunswick in eastern Canada, she came to the western US with her geologist husband. She graduated from UNR in 1983 with a Master’s in Business Administration. In the mid-90’s she became an American citizen but, fortunately, did not have to relinquish her Canadian citizenship. She returns to Canada regularly to visit friends and family.

She has worked in finance, budgeting and accounting, most recently, for Abaris Training Resources which is a private technical school that teaches repair, fabrication and design in advanced composite materials. Previously she worked for a wood-trim products company, a defense electronics engineering firm and a local Reno accounting firm, Pangborn and Company.

Linda was recruited by Jean Ford to be one of the original members of the Nevada Women’s History Project. She served as its first treasurer. She has been treasurer again for the past five years. In 2012, she was the History Project’s nominee for Woman of Achievement at the Nevada Women’s Fund annual celebration. In 2013, she successfully led the NWHP to obtain 501(c )3 status from the IRS.

Other community service has included board membership at the YWCA and Washoe Legal Services. She is an enthusiastic traveler, lately to Spain and to Scandinavia. She enjoys cooking and reading and regularly attends concerts of the Reno Symphony and the Reno Chamber Orchestra. In retirement for the last two years, she has discovered UNR’s OLLI classes, especially the lively discussions from the Big Question book group.

2014 Women of Achievement Luncheon May 29. The table seats ten and it will be held at John Ascuaga’s Nugget from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The cost is $100.00 per person. The NWHP is taking reservations and if anyone would like more information please call us: 775-786-2335

Happy Birthday to the Nevada Women’s History Project

20 Years Young!
The NWHP was founded in 1994.
SALLY ZANJANI WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The “Laura” award for the best short story in 2013 on a Western woman was announced by Women Writing the West at their annual meeting. Sally Zanjani is the first Nevada author to win this nationwide competition.

The winning short story is entitled “Another Life.” Sally mentioned that this story was inspired by Ferminia Sarras, a successful copper miner in Esmeralda and Mineral Counties. Ferminia’s biography is on the NWHP website at this link: http://www.unr.edu/nwhp/bios/women/sarras.htm

The biography of Ferminia Sarras on the NWHP website was written by Victoria Ford.

Sally also mentions Ferminia Sarras in two of her publications.


To access the story, go to: http://www.womenwritingthewest.org and click on Read LAURA Journal, then click on “Read the Winning Stories Now!”

Congratulations Sally!

Submitted by Kay Sanders and Mona Reno

SUFFRAGISTS AT POLITICAL CAUCUS

On February 22, 2014, three Nevada Women’s History Project members—Kathy Noneman (Bird Wilson), Holly Van Valkenburgh (Anne Martin) and Donna Clontz (the narrator) took a trip back to February 22, 1914 to portray three heroic Nevada women who waged a successful campaign to gain Nevada women the right to vote, 100 years ago.

In front of a crowd of over 400 people gathered for the Washoe County Democratic Caucus, they reenacted the story of how these leaders laid out the plans to persuade the all-male voters of that time to vote to give Nevada women the right to vote on November 3, 1914.

Submitted by Donna Clontz

This is our new Suffrage Centennial Logo. It is a modification of the 1914 pin for the Equal Franchise Society. The logo and the website that is in development are funded by the Nevada Humanities Committee through a 2014 grant. The NWHP has hired Shannon Hataway at Tangerine Design and Web to make the logo and website. The site will be at suffrage100NV.org, when it is ready.

Thank you Nevada Humanities!
WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS AT DOUGLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What a wonderful afternoon where we chatted with several noted Nevada Women telling us how women can influence the men in their family to vote for women’s “Right to Vote.” The event was held at Douglas Historical Society and Museum on March 22, 2014 at 2 pm. We were overwhelmed with the response from the community with a wide range of ages of both ladies and gentlemen attending.

The first speaker was the noted Dr. Eliza Cook, the first licensed woman doctor in Northern Nevada. She was inspirational to us all and told us to persevere in the endeavor of woman’s suffrage.

Our second and third speakers were well known to us: Miss Anne Martin and Miss. Bird May Wilson. These two ladies are the backbone of the Women’s Suffrage movement for our state. Miss Wilson, a lawyer, is very dedicated to get the “Votes for Women” and had some great ideas to help us convince our men folk.

Anne Martin arrived a short time later and joined Miss Wilson on stage. Miss Martin told stories of her trip to England and her participation in the public marches for suffrage rights. Miss Martin with some of the British ladies were arrested and later bailed out of jail by none other than our own Hebert Hoover. She is very passionate on this subject and will talk to anyone who wants to understand why women’s suffrage is important. It’s not only good and right for women to vote but the society as a whole is enriched when woman take on that responsibility.

Our last speaker was the charming Mrs. Lillian Virgin from Genoa. Not only is Mrs. Virgin a staunch supporter of Women’s Suffrage, but also wants ladies and gentlemen of the community to roll up their sleeves, and lend a hand to the building of Genoa.

Once the speakers were done the ladies answered the many questions we had. We all left the meeting with a new sense of determination to work harder and appreciate the efforts that are being made for woman’s suffrage.

Presenters of our Nevada Women were:
Lauri Hickey as Dr. Cook;
Holly Van Valkenburgh as Anne Martin;
Kathy Noneman as Bird Wilson
Kim Copel as Lillian Virgin.

Photos courtesy Jon and Christianne Hamel
Written by Jon and Christianne Hamel.

NWHP NAME BADGES AVAILABLE

Do you have a Nevada Women’s History Project name badge?
If not, you can order one!

Holly’s has a white background, but the current badges have a navy blue background. They are available with a magnet on the back for $10 and with a pin on the back for $8.

If you have a pacemaker the manufacturer recommends the pin back.

Contact Christianne Hamel at Christianne_Hamel@msn.com or 775-851-1260
Featured Historic Nevada Suffragist:  
Laura May Tilden  
First Woman Licensed to Practice Law in Nevada

Born: April 24, 1872  
Place of Birth: Sacramento, CA  
Died: May 31, 1928  
Place of Burial: Sacramento, CA  
Maiden Name: Laura May Tilden  
Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian  
Married: Fred Ray in 1898 and Walter Curtis Wilson in 1916  
Children: None  
Primary city and county of residence and work:  
Virginia City, Storey County  
Major fields of work: Lawyer, Notary Public  
Other role identities: Suffragist

Biography:  
Laura May Tilden was born in Sacramento, Sacramento County, California on April 24, 1872 and was the fourth of six children. Her parents were Marcellus Crane Tilden and Elizabeth J. Ralston. Her father was from Ohio, and her mother was from Illinois. The U.S. Census for 1850 shows a 15 year old Marcellus living with his parents, John M. And Laura A. Tilden in Nelson, Portage County, Ohio. His father is listed as a farmer and his mother is listed as keeping house. By 1860 Marcellus is an attorney living in Sacramento, California. In 1870 he is married to Ella, has three children and still lists his occupation as an attorney. During the next 10 years this family faces many changes and losses.

In June, 1880 they are in Virginia City, Nevada. Both Laura and her four year old sister Elizabeth have been born and two people are missing from the census list: one of Laura’s older brothers and her mother. Nine year old Laura is listed as “at school.” A cousin, A.M. Crane, has joined the household and is “keeping house”. One can only surmise what impact these losses and changes had on such a young girl.

Laura next emerges as a 22 year old young woman who wants to be an attorney in Nevada. We have no record of her having attended law school so she probably studied law in her father’s law office which was a common route to joining the profession in those days. The Virginia City Evening Chronicle of July 24, 1893 credits her with obtaining the passage of a Legislative statute the previous winter giving women the same rights and privileges as males “so far as becoming attorneys is concerned.” The article goes on to say that the women of Nevada owe her a debt of gratitude for this feat and that she is the first lady to be allowed to practice law in Nevada. Laura is reported as having passed a “creditable exam” and receiving “encomiums from the entire bench for the manner in which she had borne herself.” Although she was Nevada’s first woman attorney, there is as yet no available evidence of her actually having practiced law in Nevada.

Her first victory in a California Superior Court was reported, however, in the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise of February 1, 1894. The story was said to have originally come from the Sacramento Bee. She was said to be “young and rather pretty” and had “a clear, pleasing voice which was distinctly heard throughout the courtroom.” Even though she had only recently “hung out her shingle,” she addressed the court as though she had been accustomed to doing it every day. She defended a young boy who had been accused of burglary by his foster father by arguing that the boy had had no criminal intent and should be discharged. Both the District Attorney and
the Judge agreed with her, and she won her case. Capital Women, An Interpretive History of Women in Sacramento, 1850-1920, by Elaine Connolly and Diane Self, reports that the Sacramento Bee in 1895 describes Laura Tilden as “Sacramento’s woman lawyer” and that this implies that she was the only female in the city practicing law at that time. She was her father’s law partner in an office located at 504 J Street. Connolly and Self credit Laura’s father Marcellus Crane Tilden with inspiring her interest in the law and in the women’s suffrage movement because he had signed an equal suffrage petition that was circulated in Northern California in 1870. Mary Erickson in Women Lawyers’ Male-Connectedness points out that women lawyers were typically connected with husbands, fathers or male mentors who were attorneys.

Connolly and Self report that Laura Tilden attended and spoke at a public meeting in the California Assembly chamber to give the “woman side of the woman suffrage question”. They quote a sympathetic Sacramento Bee reporter as assuring readers that the suffragists were not “pantaloontics,” or “bloomers,” or “free lovers,” or “dowdies”. The reporter described Laura as beginning her speech “with a smile that could win a thousand votes”. She went on to say that she was helping to pass around a woman suffrage petition and that nineteen out of every twenty women in Sacramento were signing it. She described women in the United States as “brainy and well educated.”

Laura’s father died on January 30, 1896. She moved to Denver, Colorado in 1901 and practiced there until she moved to Montrose, Colorado in 1916. Laura married twice that we know of, first to Fred Ray in 1898 and then to Walter Curtis Wilson in 1916.

Laura Tilden Ray Wilson died from a fractured skull suffered in an automobile accident in Colorado on May 31, 1928 at the age of 56. She is buried in her family’s plot in the Old City Cemetery in Sacramento, California.


References


Evening Chronicle, Virginia City, Nevada, July 24, 1893.

Territorial Enterprise Virginia City, Nevada, Thursday, February 1, 1894.


Guy Rocha, Stepping Up To The Bar: Female Attorneys in Nevada, Nevada State Archives, Historical Myth a Month, Myth #72, modified, 3/11/2004,

Unpublished Research: Kathleen F. Noneman, Esq.
NWHP Annual Meeting Tuesday April 29, 2014  
Honor our Suffragists!

Nevada women have been uniting throughout the state’s history for causes that benefit its citizens.  
Gaining the “Right to Vote” was one of their greatest achievements.

Join us Tuesday, April 29 at 2 pm for our annual meeting and celebrate the centennial year of Women’s Suffrage. Mr. Phillip Earl a noted Nevada author and historian will recount some of those momentous years leading up to the State Legislature’s passing the suffrage amendment in 1911 and 1913, as well as, the courageous women that led the fight to gain the vote in 1914.

The Nevada Historical Society has a special exhibit on Women’s Suffrage.

Date: April 29, 2014  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Place: Nevada Historical Society  
650 N. Virginia Street. (775) 688-1190  
Free parking at the Nevada Historical Society.

The cost is $10.00 which includes admittance fee to the Nevada Historical Society.

Light refreshments: Wine, tea, coffee and cookies will be served.  
RSVP by April 25, 2014

Christanne Hamel at Christianne_Hamel@msn.com or 775-851-1260

Send checks to: Nevada Women’s History Project  
770 Smithridge Dr., Ste.300,  
Reno, Nevada 89502.  
Attn: Annual Meeting Chairman

A 501(c)(3) Nevada Nonprofit Corporation providing visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women.  
Contributions and donations to the NWHP may be tax deductible.
2014 EVENTS

**April 29, 2:00-4:00 pm, Annual Meeting** — Nevada Historical Society, 650 N. Virginia Street., Reno.
Free parking at the Nevada Historical Society.

**May 10, 2:00-4:00 pm—Annual Pink Tea** inside the Governor’s Mansion. Attendance limited due to the size of the Mansion so get your reservations in by April 29. Invitations have been mailed. If you did not receive one or want more information, please contact Holly at hovava@juno.com.

**May 29, 11:30am-1:30 pm—Salute to Women of Achievement**—John Ascuaga’s Nugget Ballroom.
The cost is $100 per person. Reservations with NWHP: 775-786-8335.

**July Wildflower Hike** — If you’d like to go on a wildflower hike in July at Carson Pass on Hwy 88 please send an email to Mona Reno at mreno@gbis.com or call 775-846-0776. After you contact me I’ll put you on a list and keep you updated on the timing. It would be less crowded if we went on a week day, but we will probably go on a weekend. Once we know who is going then we'll set the schedule.

I just drove over Carson Pass the third week of March and the snow load is not very deep. We may have an early wildflower season this year. Carson Pass wildflower hike starts at an elevation of around 8500 feet, so be aware that the altitude may slow you down. Be sure to bring water, a hat, hiking shoes, and the other items you would normally bring on a mountain hike.
Be sure to bring your camera.

The El Dorado National Forest Interpretive Association has a phone number to call to get wildflower reports (209) 258-8606. I'll be calling them starting in June to see when would be a good time to go. We won’t be alone. Many of you may have gone on these hikes before and know that this is a popular trail.

**September 27 Vintage Fashion Show.** The Nevada Women’s History Project will be hosting a gala fashion show at the historic main ranch house at Rancho San Rafael In Reno. The theme is Decades of Fighting for Suffrage Fashionably and will consist of a series of fashion vignettes showing what Nevada women might have worn from the earliest decade of Nevada’s history of fighting for the right to vote, through the 1970s Equal Rights Amendment to today’s equal pay issues. Join us as we partake in an old fashion box lunch social of fun Nevada vintage history. Time and cost details in the next newsletter.

**October 31, 2014**  Nevada’s one hundred and fiftieth (150th) statehood celebration and the one hundredth (100th) anniversary of women’s suffrage in Nevada.

**November 1—Nevada Day Parade.** Nevada Women’s History Project will have an entry in the Carson City Nevada Day Parade. Will YOU be in it?

**Honor their Sacrifices, Register to Vote and Run for Office**

We have members who enjoy coming to luncheons and programs but we need members to help our Program Committee make those luncheons and programs a reality. Please give one of the following Co-Chairs a call and offer your assistance. Your help will be appreciated and you will have some fun while you’re at it!

Lisa Marie Lightfoot (775-851-5677) – lightfeet@charter.net,
Kathy Noneman (775-853-8393) – kathycharlie@sbcglobal.net
NEVADA WOMEN’S LEGACY PROJECT—150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

The mission of the Nevada Women’s History Project is “To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women.” This project with the Women of Diversity is an opportunity to take our mission into action and travel the state to record women’s stories.

The Nevada Women’s History Project is a cooperating organization with the Women of Diversity Productions, Inc. of Las Vegas, NV, http://womenofdiversity.org/index.htm, to collect video interviews with women in northern and western counties in Nevada.

The Nevada Women’s Legacy Project is a statewide video recording project of interviews with women in all Nevada counties. This project is an official Nevada Legacy project for the Nevada Sesquicentennial, NV150 http://www.nevada150.org/.

Each woman will have a listing on Nevada Women’s Virtual Center www.nevadawomensvirtualcenter.org/ where the video of the interview will be linked.

WOD is also planning to produce a book with photos and biographies of the women interviewed.

Members from the NWHP will be primarily working with videographer Gwen Clancy in Carson City, Dayton, Elko, Fallon, Gardnerville, Lovelock, Reno, Sparks, Virginia City and Winnemucca to record women with lives intimately linked to the life of Nevada. The NWHP will eventually make transcripts of these interviews to add to our collection of women’s history.

Submitted by Mona Reno

FALLON WOMEN’S VIDEO PROJECT

On March 6-7, 2014, videographer Gwen Clancy and NWHP Chair Mona Reno traveled to Fallon for the Nevada Women’s Legacy Project. Interviews were held at the Churchill County Museum in the Parlor Exhibit. Our coordinator in Fallon was Bunny Corkill, who made our time in Fallon very enjoyable and she provided Gwen and Mona with a room at the Holiday Inn Express. Bunny was a great pleasure to work with and she did a wonderful job of getting the ladies scheduled for their interviews.

The women interviewed in Fallon are Paulie Alles, Bunny Corkill, Rachel Dahl, Michelle Mackedon Dondero, Doris Dwyer, Trudy Erquiaga, Lorretta Guazzini, Michon Mackedon and Gwen Washburn.

Submitted by Mona Reno

DAYTON WOMEN’S VIDEO PROJECT

The Historical Society of Dayton Valley will host Patti Bernard and Mona Reno for video interviews of Dayton women on April 3, 2014. This event is being organized by Dr. Linda Clements and is also an event in the Nevada Women’s Legacy Project—150 Years of Excellence.
NEVADA SUFFRAGE HISTORY

TWO STATES VOTE TO GIVE SUFFRAGE
MONTANA AND NEVADA WON BY THE WOMEN, BOTH BY SMALL MARGINS.

The New York Times, November 5, 1914

CHICAGO, Nov. 4. — Women suffrage leaders rejoiced tonight when belated returns indicated that votes for women had been apparently granted in two of the seven States voting on the question in Tuesday’s election, with a third State in doubt. First returns had indicated refusal of the franchise to women in all seven States concerned.

Montana and Nevada, according to the latest returns, granted votes to women, while Nebraska showed such a small vote against the proposal that the women claimed the State. Missouri, Ohio, and North and South Dakota refused to grant equal suffrage, the majority against granting the franchise to women increasing with the size of the population concerned. ...

In Nevada, which seems won to the cause of equal suffrage, 105 precincts out of 240 gave 3,619 votes for woman suffrage and 2,508 against. ...

“I am not dissatisfied with the results in the West,” said Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the International Woman Suffrage Association and of the Empire State Women's Campaign Committee, who has also been campaigning in the West. “We have ten States, not counting Nevada and Montana.”

NEVADA 150 BIRTHDAY CAKE

The Battle Born Birthday Cake Celebration was held on March 21, 2014 at the Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center. The NWHP was well represented at the event with Marcia Cuccaro and Holly Van Valkenburgh attending in their “Votes for Women” sashes. Also in attendance was Dianne de Borges as Sarah Winnemucca. The cake spanned 13’ x 21’ and had 9,000 pieces of various flavors of cake. The cake weighed 1,300 lbs. with the icing. First Lady Kathleen Sandoval cut the cake using the fifth governor of Nevada Charles Stevenson’s sword.
The 16th Pink Tea will take place Saturday, May 10th inside the Governor’s Mansion.

Time: 2 pm to 4 pm
Cost for the event is $45.00 per person and includes a donation to the Nevada Women’s History Project.

An event of the NV150 Sesquicentennial, check it out at http://www.nevada150.org/

The Nevada Women’s History Project has been the only group allowed to hold an event inside the historic Mansion for some time.

Acting Governor Denver S. Dickerson and his family moved into the newly completed Governor’s Mansion in July 1909. Dickerson, youngest Governor in Nevada’s history, became acting Governor when his predecessor, Nevada’s 10th Governor, John Sparks passed away suddenly in the spring of 1908. It has been the home to Nevada’s Governors ever since then except for short times when renovations have taken place. The Pink Tea is a wonderful opportunity to visit this beautiful classical revival structure that is an integral part of Nevada’s history. While the Dickerson’s were occupants for the Mansion, a daughter June was born in the mansion and to date she was the only child ever actually born in the Mansion.

Participants are encouraged to come in period costume. Carolyn Runnells, a local entrepreneur and period costume expert will present a preview of a planned fashion show the NWHP will present on September 27th at Rancho San Rafael in Reno. Carolyn’s presentations are thoroughly entertaining and educational. She weaves personalities with fashion and history using historic clothing from her extensive collection.

The Pink Tea will be celebrating the anniversary of 100 years of women’s suffrage in Nevada and Carolyn will show what women were wearing when that historic event took place. Bring your friends and daughters and share this event with the women who capture history for all of us – the Nevada Women’s History Project.

Visit the NWHP website at www.nevadawomen.org where you can read biographies of the women who made a difference in our state and catch up on activities planned to celebrate suffrage during Nevada’s 150th birthday celebration. Also like our FACEBOOK page where we share our most current information. since then except for short times when renovations have taken place. The Pink Tea is a wonderful opportunity to visit this beautiful classical revival structure that is an integral part of Nevada’s history. While the Dickerson’s were occupants for the Mansion, a daughter June was born in the mansion and to date she was the only child ever actually born in the Mansion.

Attendance is limited due to the size of the Mansion so get your reservations in early! If you did not receive an invitation, Registration Forms can be obtained from Holly Van Valkenburgh (884-4246) or Marcia Cuccaro (883-1454)

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**Sarah Winnemucca Book in Washington, DC**

The Architect of the Capitol has purchased copies of *It Can Be Done, Nevada presents the Sarah Winnemucca statue to the people of the United States* for the Capitol Visitor’s Center Gift Shop! The Sarah Winnemucca statue is in a prominent location in the Capitol Visitor’s Center where everyone who comes to the Capitol will see her. Now the NWHP book about the statue will also be in the Gift Shop. For those of us involved in the Sarah Winnemucca statue it is wonderful to share the work and love of the people of Nevada in the making of the statue.

Submitted by Mona Reno
Financial Report
Linda Wyckoff, Treasurer
March 31, 2014

The end of March financial report shows a bank balance of $20,925.88 and a negative net income for the first quarter of 2014 of $2,227.09.

Expenses paid in the first quarter of the year include directors and officers insurance as well as general liability insurance. We paid the first installment on the new website to Tangerine Design and Web. Patti Bernard placed a deposit with the Rancho San Rafael for our September fashion show.

Membership - Donor (Calendar Year)

Membership Categories (not tax deductible)
Student: $15 • Individual: $30 • Organizational: $50 • Corporation: $250

Donor Categories (may be tax deductible)
$1-99 Fellow • $100-249 Partner • $250-499 Patron • $500-999 Benefactor
$1,000-2,499 Sponsor • $2,500-4,999 Affiliate • $5,000+ Visionary

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Mail to NWHP, 770 Smithridge Dr. Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502

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**LATE DUES REMINDER**

Is this your last newsletter? We hope not!

In the past we used a red and white label on the face of the newsletter to remind members that dues must be paid in order to receive subsequent copies of the newsletter. Because of postal regulations for bulk mail, this label had to be placed on every newsletter mailed, even if you had already paid your membership dues. This little red and white notice caused much concern and confusion since there was not sufficient space to provide an explanation.

*NWHP membership year runs January through December of each year.* The NWHP Operations Guide allows for one complimentary newsletter for those who have not yet paid their dues by March 31st.

Many of you have already paid, so please double check before sending in a second payment.

We greatly appreciate the support our members have shown over the years. We hope that we continue to earn your continued support over the coming years.

May this next year bring you good health and happiness!

Grace Davis