



Nevada County Depot and Museum

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OVERVIEW

The Nevada County Depot and Museum documents the history of Nevada County. It does this by acquiring, preserving, archiving, and displaying the artifacts, documents, newspapers, photographs and other items that show or reveal information and aspects of the life of the inhabitants of the county and their projects and accomplishments. The museum makes all possible efforts to provide the public with access to collections and resources.

THE DEPOT BUILDING

The museum is housed in a recently restored and renovated railroad depot. The facility provides central heat and air conditioning and the environment is kept around 70 degrees with moderate humidity to help preserve the collections. A centrally monitored security system and a central station fire alarm are also installed at the building.

REVENUES AND FUNDING

The Nevada County Depot and Museum relies upon membership fees, donations from the general public, and contributions or grants from various funding agencies. Here is the list of anticipated revenues for 2004:

Receipts from Annual Membership Fees	\$1,500.00
Membership dues start at \$10 per person. A core of about 50 persons has historically donated about \$1500 each year.	
Government Funding	15,000.00
The museum is asking the City of Prescott for an inter-local agreement in 2004, funded through the city's 1% sales tax. Because of extended application and review cycles, no federal grant monies are expected in 2004.	
Receipts at the "Door" of the Museum	500.00
Although the museum does not charge admission, donations are encouraged.	
Grants and Donations from Local Organizations	5,000.00
The organization feels funding is available in 2004 from Firestone-Prescott Community Fund, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Tri-Service Club, Charmett Social Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, WalMart Foundation, and Friends of the Library.	
Substantial Donations From Individuals	2,500.00
In the past, a donation of \$15,000 was made in the memory of Mrs. Julia Gann, a Prescott schools history teacher. From two requests, two anonymous donors have provided \$1,500 since the museum reopened on May 31, 2003.	
Special Projects Grants and Donations	1,000.00
Rotary Club International donated \$1,000 in 2003 for use in phase one of a plan to make the photograph collection more readily accessible.	
Total Anticipated Revenues for 2004	\$25,500.00

The Nevada County Depot and Museum is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. The federal ID number is 71-0530855. The D-U-N-S number is 945976009. The IRS probably knows the organization by the old name of "Nevada County State Park Association" (name changed in November 2002). An independent financial and compliance examination covering the financial statements for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 is available upon request.

EXPENSES OF ON-GOING OPERATIONS

The museum's largest single expense is the cost of the curator, the only paid employee. Volunteers staff the museum as tour guides and research room workers. No person is paid to conduct fundraising. Here are the anticipated expenses for 2004:

Personnel Costs		\$17,500.00
Curator at current salary level	\$15,000.00	
See "Raise for Curator" under the "Funding Permitting" section, below.		
Payroll taxes at current level	2,250.00	
Rent and Utilities		2,040.00
Building Rent, City of Prescott	Donated	
Electricity, City of Prescott	Donated	
Water and Sewerage, City of Prescott	Donated	
Natural Gas	\$1,500.00	
Telephone and Long Distance	1,000.00	
Internet at the Building	\$45/month	540.00
Internet Web Server and Bandwidth, PCFA.ORG and IOCC.COM	Donated	
Office and Exhibit Supplies and Other Fixed Costs		4,000.00
Office Supplies	\$250.00	
Copier	300.00	
Postage	250.00	
Exhibit Supplies	500.00	
Insurance	500.00	
Dues, Subscriptions, Promotions, Newsletters	450.00	
Building Repairs and Maintenance (not otherwise donated)	500.00	
Contingency	250.00	
Independent Audit	1,000.00	
Projects		1,500.00
UV film on windows and doors	1,000.00	
Outside work for exhibits	500.00	
Total Expenses for On-going Operations for 2004		\$25,040.00

EXPENSES CONTINGENT UPON ADEQUATE FUNDING

Funding Permitting:		
Salary Increase for Curator		\$17,500.00
Proposed salary increase to \$30,000/year	\$15,000.00	
Payroll taxes for proposed salary increase	2,250.00	
This allows the museum to keep Peggy Lloyd as curator. If money is available, work to index newspapers can begin (see "Newspapers" under "Planned Projects", below).		
Projects		1,000.00
Digitizing microfilm rolls (see "Newspapers" under "Planned Projects", below)	\$1,000.00	
Budget for 2004 with Adequate Funding		\$43,540.00

PLANNED PROJECTS (Contingent Upon Funding)

Newspapers

The museum has several runs of newspapers from the 1870s through the mid-1900s, including some that do not exist elsewhere. These editions report on the people, organizations and events that expose the life, the times and the very fabric of the community and region during the founding years of the County. Historically, the contents of these newspapers are especially important because Nevada County is one of the most understudied areas of one the most understudied regions of the State of Arkansas.

Experts advise is to place the museum's holdings into archival boxes interleaved with buffered tissue paper in order to remove the papers from exposure to air and light. The process is underway in October 2003 at a cost of just under \$1,000 and may be extended to some newspapers at the Nevada County Library. Working with the library and the Arkansas Historical Commission, the museum plans to put the never before copied papers onto microfilm in late 2003 or early 2004 at no cost to the museum.

The Friends of the Library plan to acquire microfilm of all Nevada County newspapers. At that time, the museum plans to digitize the microfilm onto CDROM. Anticipated cost is \$500 to \$2000 depending on the total number of rolls and is possible in 2004, and completion is dependent upon funding.

Once easily accessible images of the newspapers are available, the next step is creation of an index, a tool essential to future research of this time period. While some of the work can be done by volunteers, curator Peggy Lloyd wants to do much of the work herself because it leads to increased understanding of the history embedded in the articles.

When the project is complete, plans are to make the indexes and the digital images available to the public by adding the indexes to the museum's web site and online keyword search, adding the index to CDROM with the images of the microfilm (which is a likely source of revenue), and perhaps publishing the indexes in printed form. The museum hopes to someday digitize the text of the newspapers from the images and make that text available, too.

Building

Even though the museum is in a recently restored and renovated building, there are several projects pertaining to the building.

The building has many panes of glass that do not have any protection against damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays. In October 2003, a volunteer is installing two rolls of film (cost of \$100) to screen out the sun's rays in the research room and part of the exhibit hall. Plans are to install additional rolls of film costing about \$500 in late 2003 or early 2004. If labor is not donated, the cost increases by about \$500.

A large amount of space on the outside of the depot building is available for displays, but is insecure. The current plan is to install anchors in the brick flooring so chains can be used to secure some artifacts, such as P&NW waiting room benches, farm implements, and a whiskey still. This project is estimated at \$250 in material and \$250 in labor (if not donated). Plans are to do this in 2004.

A 75-foot spur of railroad track is located adjacent to the depot building and is the future location of a P&NW Railroad caboose and maintenance car. A pavilion-like structure is required over the tracks and the adjacent area and needs to be lighted and the area either fenced or walled-in to limit vandalism, to reduce unwanted access, and to protect against the elements. This project is estimated at \$5,000 to \$25,000 (depending on lighting, type of walls, and availability of donated labor). This project can neither be started nor completed until all funding is in place.

Photographs

The museum has several collections of photographs including several bound photo albums consisting mostly of photographs brought to the museum and copied during the first 25 years of operations. Also available are the Ellsworth Collection and the Hamby Collection that must be properly preserved, stored, and identified. Plans are to preserve and reframe several historical and rare Shraeder portraits.

A \$1,000 grant from Rotary International is paying for a high-quality scanner and high-quality photo printer that should be in place in November 2003. Plans are to have a suitable computer costing about \$1500 in place by late 2003. This equipment allows the museum to do work on the existing collections as well as make immediate copies of photographs brought into the museum, thus eliminating a donor's inherent fear of not getting a priceless photograph returned. The equipment also allows reproduction of pictures for interested persons, which can be a good source of revenue.

The museum also needs a good-quality digital camera so personnel can once again take pictures of the "current history" of the county. The technology of digital cameras is currently advancing very quickly, with top quality cameras costing about \$1,500 and consumer grade cameras in the under-\$250 price range. Plans are to purchase the camera when funding is available.

Several photo albums have been digitized and placed on the museum's web site, along with captions. An online keyword search is available for the captions. The museum's CD-ROM includes over 600 of these photographs. Future work should be released on the second edition of the CDROM (release date not yet set).

Books and Documents

The museum has many school yearbooks, voter registration lists, biographical sketches, family history folders, and other documents.

The cataloguing, indexing, and digitizing (when there are no copyright issues) of all these items are planned. Work is underway in October 2003 to place some of the materials into archival boxes.

Plans are to place the document indexes onto the museum's website with online keyword search. Appropriate methods of access are planned when content is available in digital form.

Artifacts

The museum has collections of household articles, watt-hour electric meters, clothing, civil war relics and railroad memorabilia.

Artifacts currently on display have been cleaned. All artifacts in the collection need better application of preservation procedures, which has large time and cost considerations. At this time, no cost is available. The museum hopes to obtain a grant to evaluate the current state of the collections and make recommendations for the preservation of the artifacts and for methods of access to the artifacts.

When articles about these artifacts are placed on the website, the online keyword search is available.

"The History of Nevada County"

The biggest and most ambitious goal is to research and create a thorough "History of Nevada County" written by a scholar (master's degree or better in history). Some of the topic areas include:

- Early settlers – Steven Vaughn, Nicholas Trammel, Gad Bradley, Isom Parmer, many others
- Civil War – Elkins Ferry, Cornelius Farm, Battle of Prairie D'Ane, Village of Moscow, Retreat to Camden
- The building of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad
- The timber industry
- The growth of railroad towns
- Short line railroads in Nevada County, including Reader Railroad and P&NW Railroad.
- Political history in Nevada County – Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Green-backers, Populists, Farmers' Alliance. R.K. Garland, J.A. Ansley, E.A. Warren, C.C. Hamby, J.O.A. Bush, T.C. McRae.
- African-American History. Out of Slavery, the Freedmen's Bureau, Leake Township, the interlude between disfranchisement and reconstruction (S.T. Boyd and others), blacks and homesteading, exodus from Louisiana, violence, lynching, Ku Klux Klan, Rosenwald Schools, Jeanes Teachers (Ila Upchurch), black school districts
- Agriculture History – Railroads and agriculture, diversification, growth of the cantaloupe and peach industries, railroads and experimental farms
- Medical History in Nevada County – early hospitals and nursing homes, biography of doctors, Park Sanitarium, Chastain Hospital, Cora Donnell Hospital

Some topics may be fairly quick to research, while others require several researchers (volunteers and/or paid) and a substantial time. While the curator can work on some of these topics, the full project likely requires two full-time historians about 10 years to complete. Costs per historian are anticipated at \$30,000 salary, payroll taxes and benefits of \$10,000, and travel allowances of \$5,000, for a total of \$90,000 per year.

Plans are to place any articles and indexes created in this project on the museum's web site for public access and publishing the information if financially possible.

CONSULTING EXPERTS

Among the scholars consenting to provide consultation, services, and assistance with the museum projects are:

- Dr. Ann Early, State Archeologist, Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Dr. John Graves, Professor, History Department, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas
- Marlan Green, Amigos Preservation Services, Dallas Texas