

HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Life on the Grade



The Nevada House as it was 109 years ago

Albert Lyman, a retired railroad engineer from Reno, built his home at the base of the Cuesta Grade in 1895. It was known as the Nevada house, and you can still get a glimpse of it off to the right as you're heading south from the Grade.

Mr. Lyman had spent 23 years working for the Central Pacific Railroad, and when he retired he wanted to move his family to a place with no railroads. It must have come as quite a disappointment to him when the tracks over the Cuesta Grade were laid very near the family home. All three of his sons went on to work for the railroad, and the youngest, Frank, was killed in a train accident in 1904.

Construction of the railroad was very dangerous, resulting in many injuries to the workmen. On many occasions, the Lymans would transport the injured to San Luis Obispo in the back of a buckboard for medical attention - or burial, as sometimes was the case.

Albert Lyman died in 1900 and the family continued living in the home until 1912, eventually selling to Lena Johnson - of the same Johnson family from whom we got the name Johnson Ave.

Annual Appeal 2021

Our collection has over 100,000 objects, each one critical to a portion of our county's shared story.

2021
ANNUAL APPEAL

We pay to rent two offsite warehouses in order to house our collection. Staff and volunteers work diligently to ensure that every object is inventoried, catalogued, and accessible for research.

We want to keep telling all of the stories that add up to create the history of San Luis Obispo County.

But we need volunteers and dollars to



store, preserve, catalogue, and share the photos, objects, books, and ephemera - and dragons! - that are so vital for preserving our shared past.

We can't do it without you. Will you help us?



Decemeber Carnegie Lecture

Joe Dana, great-grandson and the definitive biographer of William Goodwin Dana, will tell the story of how William Goodwin Dana and his extensive web of descendants have had such a major impact on San Luis Obispo County, especially in Nipomo and the South County.

Friday, December 10th, 5:30pm
Taking place online via Zoom

[Click here for more info or to register!](#)

Take home a piece of the Dallidet with our [2022 Dallidet Garden Calendar](#)! Each month features 3 photographs of flowers, plants, fruits, or vegetables growing in the Dallidet Gardens, along with history and descriptions of each plant. **Now only \$10 for a year of garden joy!**

Bring the beauty of the Dallidet Gardens into your home for the whole year! [Click here to order now!](#)



Holiday shopping for a fan of history? Come by the History Center bookstore, we have local and state history titles for all ages.

From the Mission to the modern era, from John Steinbeck to Pete Kelley, there's something for any fan of history.

Support your History Center while crossing off your Christmas list!

696 Monterey Street, across the street from Mission Plaza in downtown SLO. We're open 11 to 5 every day except Tuesday, so give us a visit!



Thomas Kessler
Executive Director

