



# Carson City Historical Society

Roberts House Museum & Wungnema House © May 2008

## "Reflections of Carson City"

Presents Chris Bayer lecturing on Major Ormsby,  
May 21 at 7:00 p.m. -- Carson City Library



### UPCOMING EVENTS

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MON.,  
MAY 5, 2008, 6:30 P.M.

ROBERTS HOUSE MUSEUM, 1207  
N. CARSON--

FOR ELECTIONS AND  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
OUR "THROUGH THE GARDEN  
GATE" HOME/GARDEN TOUR  
JUNE 1, TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
AT THE GREENHOUSE GARDEN  
CENTER, ROBERTS HOUSE AND  
CARSON CITY CONVENTION AND  
VISITORS BUREAU





## President's Comments by Sue Ballew



The Carson City Historical Society is located at the Roberts House Museum, 1207 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1864, Carson City, Nevada 89702. The Carson City Historical Society and the Parks Foundation are a 501 ( c ) 3 nonprofit organization and maintain the Roberts House Museum and the Wungnema House

For questions: call Sue at 882-5684

### OFFICERS

President CCHS  
Susan J. Ballew

President Foundation  
Fred Stanio

Vice Presidents CCHS:  
Janet Perry and Dorothy Dolan

Vice President Parks Foundation:  
Jo Saulisberry

Treasurer CCHS and Parks  
Foundation: Chuck Saulisberry

Secretary CCHS and Parks  
Foundation: Susan Matthes



Greetings to you! On Monday, May 5, 2008, at 6:30 pm., the membership is invited to the elections and installation of new officers. The slate of officers for the Carson City Historical Society include: Gary Cain, President; Dorothy Dolan, Vice President; Janet Perry, Vice President; Chuck Saulisberry, Treasurer. The Secretary position is still open. If you or someone you know might be interested, please let us know, or better yet, come to the meeting and nominate them. I will be on the Board as Past President.

Elections for the Parks Foundation will also take place that evening. Fred Stanio, President; Jo Saulisberry, Vice President; Chuck Saulisberry, Treasurer and the Secretary position that is shared with the Historical Society is still open for nominations.

More good news... Nina Spradlin has volunteered to coordinate our yard sales. Of course, the name is changing to Art and Antiques, or something like that. And, lots of new events are planned, such as a having an artist on site. The yard sales will be combined with the Saturday wine walk so lots of fun

activities are happening. Nina needs someone to assist her with this endeavor. She plans on having a Carson City Historical Society table with the proceeds going back to maintain the Roberts House. Tables will be sold in the yard to vendors. She would like to build up the vendor base so if you know of someone who would like to set up a table, please call Nina at 882-4726. So, two things are needed here – an assistant yard sale coordinator and ITEMS FOR OUR SALE TABLE.

Through the efforts of Fred Stanio, the Roberts House is now on the Wine Walk the first Saturday of each month. He and Sandy Stanio, man the house and pour the wine for the Wine Walkers and provide a tour of the Roberts House.

Lastly, Carson City will be celebrating their 150th birthday in August. The Society is planning an Ice Cream Social that day and will be celebrating with music and other activities, especially ice cream. I'll keep you posted.

**Dues are now due for the 2008 Year. Please mail to attention Chuck Saulisberry, c/o Carson City Historical Society, PO Box 1864, Carson City, NV 89702**





Our "Reflections of Carson City" lectures are continuing. Rusty Goe provided the first April lecture on Entertainment in the Mint Days. It will be re-run on Channel 10 in a couple weeks. His presentation was more than outstanding. I encourage you to watch it on cable... it was an incredible performance.

Next will be Chris Bayer on Major Ormsby on May 21 at 7:00 p.m.. July 22 will be David Bugli on J. P. Meder, Wally Earhart will be providing a lecture on Governor Bell, Ron James will be doing one on Mark Twain. These lectures will go on through October when Fred Stanio will portray Hank Monk on October 21. Due to cutbacks at the Carson City Library, the lectures will start at 6:30 p.m. Beginning in June. The lectures are being done to coincide with Carson City's 150th birthday.

Hope to see you Monday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Roberts House.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.ROBERTSHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.ROBERTSHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG)  
for updates and events.

## Story of the Rinckel Family...



While doing "Past Pages" I ran across an article written 50 years ago (April 4, 1958) by Louise Rinckel Blakeslee, the youngest and sole survivor of the Rinckel family. *I am reprinting in total in the newsletter as written by Louise.*

"Permit me to compliment Mr. and Mrs. John G. Macdonald on their beautiful drug store. It is a credit to Carson City to have so fine a store. "More power to you."

My father, Mathias Rinckel, bought the lot in 1876. Plans were drawn for a two story brick building and when the foundation was being laid, Mr. Chedic, who introduced himself and told of his plans, said, "Carson City needs a drug store. I'm a druggist and would like to rent this store." When the building was completed, all plans were arranged and Chedic drug store was opened.

Mr. Chedic built a home at the northern end of Carson, reared his family of two

daughters and two sons. He had a thriving business.

When Mr. Chedic was ready to retire, he sold the business to Frank Steinmetz, who operated the store for many years. Mr. Steinmetz was married and had two daughters. He was one of Carson City's respected citizens.

Then came Jake Muller, born and raised in Carson City. After a few years he hired Damon Carr as his assistant, and when Mr. Muller passed away Mr. Carr took over the drug store and conducted it for a number of years.

When Mr. Carr left Carson to accept a position in California, Mr. Anderson took over the store, then Mr. Lord, and now Mr. and Mrs. Macdonald.

In the early days, the large spacious drug store now, was divided into two stores, on one side the drug store and the other half was a gent's furnishing store, and a wonderful outfitting for the men of Carson City.

Later, half of the building was also used as a millinery and dressmaking shop by the late Mrs. Minnie Crisler; then a jewelry store owned by the late Mrs. Charles Friend, and (finally a saloon (the Ship bar), which never met the approval of the Rinckel family.

Several months ago, Mr. Macdonald spoke to Mrs.







Ella Rinckel, owner of the building, and said he would like to enlarge his store, she was glad to co-operate with him and proceeded to dismantle the bar.

The following is a brief history of Mathias Rinckel;

He was born in Altenheim, Germany in 1833 on the French border of the Rhine, where his parents were farmers and raised thoroughbred cattle. When Mathias was 9 months old the family sailed for America, having sold their holdings, and went to Warsaw, Illinois. The elder Rinckels bought acreage and built a large brick home and started a model farm.

When Mathias Rinckel completed his schooling at the age of 16, gold was discovered in California in 1849. He begged and pleaded with his parents to let him go to California in search of gold. He met five other farm boys with the same idea, the parents consented, and went forth and landed in the Feather River section of the Yuba river where they did placer mining and remained there for 10 years until the gold began to lessen.

The boys decided to find new fields, and went to Virginia City and Gold Hill where gold was discovered. At that time it was placer mining, but lack of water kept it from being a success. Next the Ophir mine (deep mining), which

the boys knew little about. They hired an English engineer to teach them and went back to school, as it were, until they were graduates as efficient engineers, positions were offered them at high wages, for in those days engineers were in demand.

The boys lived in Virginia City through the bonanza days, and when Virginia City began to fold up they came to Carson.

Mathias Rinckel, being frugal and far-sighted, purchased a number of lots. He built the Rinckel mansion in 1874 of all Nevada materials, the brick was made in Carson City. The home has a six foot foundation on granite slabs cut at the stone quarry at the prison; the pine lumber came from Glenbrook and the 9 room mansion was constructed.

Mrs. Louise Blakeslee, youngest daughter of the late Mathias Rinckel, and last member of the family, still has hand drawn pen and ink drawings made by the late Charles H. Jones of plans for the home. Jones studied at Beaux Arts school in France.

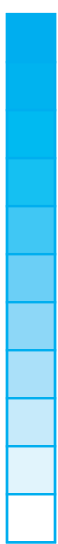
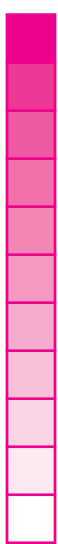
The home was completed in 1876, a truly Victorian home with French furniture ordered specially, and came on Clipper ships around the horn to San Francisco, then transferred to Reno and over the Virginia & Truckee

railroad to Carson City. All furnishings still are in perfect condition through the many years.

Mrs. Louis Rinckel Blakeslee opened the Rinckel Mansion to the public in 1941 and has had visitors from all over the world.

The second project of Mr. Rinckel was the Eagle Market on the corner of Carson and Proctor Streets. Mr. Rinckel shot a large eagle which gave him the inspiration to name his new market the Eagle market, which it has always been known as throughout the years and the large Eagle still has its place on a shelf in the market. Mr. Rinckel hired the finest butchers and purchased all the cattle himself.

The mansion, butcher shop and drug store have been in the Rinckel family through all these years.”





Carson City Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1864  
Carson City, NV 89702

**UPCOMING EVENTS: MEMBERSHIP MEETING -- ELECTION AND  
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, MONDAY MAY, 5 AT 6:30 P.M. ROBERTS  
HOUSE MUSEUM**

**Application to Join Carson City Historical Society**

Membership for Single \$25, for Family \$35  
Please fill out the attached application and send with check to:  
Carson City Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1864  
Carson City, Nevada 89702

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What events are you interested in \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to volunteer as a docent to some of our events. If so, what events are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_



