



CARSON CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CCHistorical.org
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May 2025 Newsletter

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

What a fantastic time to be alive—and even better, to be living right here in *Nevada's Most Charming Town*! Sure, HDTV made it official, but let's be honest—we've known it all along. Their judges fell head over heels for our oh-so-lovable Historic District, and honestly, who can blame them? It's the heart of our town, and we couldn't be prouder! As always, we encourage you to volunteer and share your time in support of the important work of the Historical Society.

With warmest regards,
Liz Cain

President, Carson City Historical Society
775-315-9111

■ Three Day Event Series

Thursday - Saturday, May 15-17

Thursday Opening 6-9pm

Friday Gallery 4-8pm

Saturday Picnic 1-4pm (BYOP Bring Your Own Picnic)

The Carson City Historical Society presents a three-day event series from Thursday, May 15 to Saturday, May 17 at the Foreman Roberts House Museum, carriage house, and park (1207 N. Carson St.).

Curated by Sharon Alexander, featuring artist and woodworker Darryl Trudell.

Explore mixed media archives, reprints, etched glass, rustic wood, stamps, stickers, paper, soundscapes, concrete poems, and curios.

Special thanks to FacticityFoV Sourcing and High Sierra Business Systems.

■ The History of Brothels in Nevada

Projected opening Mid-June

Far from Hollywood's glamorized portrayals, prostitution in the Old West was rarely a choice—it was often the only option for women facing poverty, abandonment, or widowhood. In a harsh, male-dominated frontier, survival meant difficult decisions.

Local collector Gary Cantrell's exhibit explores the reality behind Nevada's legal brothels—still permitted in some rural counties, though banned in places like Clark, Washoe, and Carson City. Discover the untold stories of women whose lives unfolded behind the red-light doors.

■ Society invited to help with historic Westside educational tour

Tuesday, June 3 | 9am - 1pm

The Historical Society teams up with Bordewich Bray Elementary for an end-of-year historical walk through Carson City's charming west side! We'll bring the past to life with stories and facts at the St. Charles Hotel, the Pony Express stop, Bliss Mansion and the Sears-Ferris Home.

Volunteers are warmly welcome—come help make history exciting for the next generation!





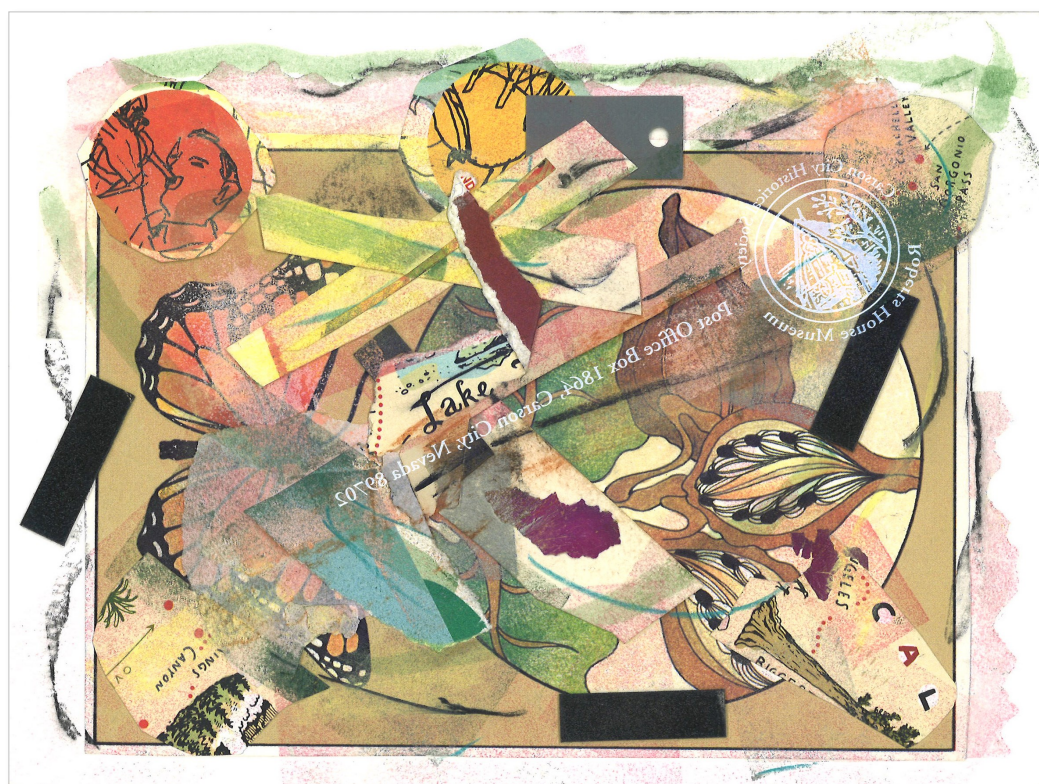
New York Public Library Digital Collection

Broken Dreams and Shattered Lives

Far from Hollywood's glamorized portrayals, prostitution in the American West was rarely a choice—it was often a matter of survival. Gary Cantrell's *Nevada Brothel History* exhibit uncovers the harsh realities behind legalized prostitution in Nevada, the only U.S. state where it remains legal—but only in licensed rural brothels. From the Gold Rush to Virginia City's boomtown days, women followed the miners west. In dangerous, lawless towns, brothels offered shelter and income, though life was often marked by secrecy, violence, and tragedy. The story of Julia Bulette—a mid-level prostitute murdered in 1867—became legend, but the truth was far grimmer.

As you visit this exhibit, reflect on the lives behind the legends. What might Julia think of Bulette Drive, named in her honor?

FREE & OPEN to the public, three-day, mid-May arts & publishing arts event series, Foreman Roberts Museum, carriage house and park. MAY 15 - MAY 17.
HOURS — Opening Thursday, 6 - 9 pm; Gallery Friday, 4 - 8 pm; Saturday Picnic, 1 - 4 pm. BYOP (bring your own picnic). Archives and selected reprints, stickers & stamps, etched glass, rustic wood sculptures, paper, soundscapes, concrete poems and other small objects in curio.



Thoughtful Note found online:

"I can think of no good reason why anyone who loves good architecture, history, and the good things of our civilization would not be an active member of their local Historical Society.

Yet every time I go to a Historical Society meeting anywhere, I am the youngest by 30+ years. There is a mismatch here. On Twitter (X), tens of thousands of people will "Like" a photograph of a beautiful old street of brick houses, or a great Cathedral, or a painting of a famous battle. There are countless young people with a serious interest in American history - and yet none of them seem to go to the Historical Society Lectures.

Why? Even when they are bad or boring, I find myself having an interesting discussion with some old person who knows things that will no doubt die with them. And often enough, the meetings are stimulating and of great interest.

I'll be making these meetings a fixture of our life as we settle, and no doubt, we'll be bringing our children to them as well-even if we are the only young people there."

Author Unknown