



HISTORY CORNER

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Genoa Town Historian

In early pioneer days it was customary for men to teach school but women finally found a place in the teaching profession.

Tests were given to applicants wanting to become a teacher. If you passed the test it didn't matter your age. Hence, many teachers were very young and possibly still in their teens when granted a teaching certificate. The very young teachers were almost always sent to the remote areas. Do you know the answers?

GENOA TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE TEST

The Superintendent of Douglas County Schools, Mr. Rice, presided over the applicant interview, or test, for a teacher. Subjects were chemistry, book keeping, grammar, geography, natural philosophy, history, arithmetic, spelling, and questions regarding school laws and the Constitution of the United States.

In the year of 1888, an examination of teachers was conducted at the Douglas County Courthouse in Genoa by Superintendent Rice. There were four applicants, Miss Alice Davis, Anna Craighead, Ellen Virgin and Miss Jennie Williams. A written test was conducted on the above categories. A few of the questions asked were:

Chemistry: Of what does chemistry treat? How many elements? Name 10.... What is the difference between an element and a substance? What is the formula for water? What gas stifled 11 men in the Gould & Curry Mine (Virginia City, NV)? Was the gas a poison?

Bookkeeping: What is the true purpose of book keeping? What does the Day Book contain? For what is the ledger used? How to ascertain the gain and/or loss during business?

Grammar: Define English grammar. Name properties of a noun and a verb. Give a synopsis of the verb "teach". What is the difference between complex and compound sentences?

Geography: Give general divisions of Geography, general divisions of land and water. Give one river system in each of the grand divisions and name tributaries. What are the chief exports of San Francisco. What Chinese ports has San Francisco an important trade? Japanese ports? What is domestic commerce? What is foreign commerce?

Natural Philosophy: What force causes liquids to penetrate porous solids? How much pressure does air exert to the square inch? How may the specific gravity of a liquid be obtained?

History: Define History. Give causes leading to the Revolutionary war and synopsis of the battle of Bunker Hill. Name three (3) statesmen and three (3) generals on both American and British sides. Name ten (10) important battles of the late civil war. What President issued Emancipation Proclamation and what did it declare?

Arithmetic: What is a prime number? What is a composite number? What are numbers prime to each other? Find cube root of 12,812,904 and leave work. What is a triangle, hypotenuse, a quadrilateral, rhombus (turn, bend), trapezoid?

Spelling: Applicants were asked to spell ecstasy, suppressed, primmer, effervesces, stanza, controllable, palatable, vacillate.

Ref.: 1880s Carson Valley News, in part.

Work Begins on Genoa Vista Trail

In April 2011, the County Board of Commissioners sitting as the Redevelopment Agency approved spending \$625,000 of Redevelopment Funds over the next two years to construct a trail from 1862 David Walley's Resort and Spa on the south side of Foothill Road traveling north to the Town of Genoa.

Work on the Genoa Vista Trail began in early October 2012, and is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.

The Trail is approximately 1.2 miles of an asphalt paved walking trail, transitioning into a paver stone foot path when entering on the south side of Genoa. The trail and walking path is intended for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. Long range plans include continuing the walking path east on Genoa Lane to the Whithall Interpretive Center and Nature Conservancy.

The trail will provide everyone an opportunity to enjoy the vistas of the Carson Valley and Genoa while walking to and from Genoa and 1862 David Walley's Resort and Spa.

A dedication program is planned at the completion of the trail.

For detailed information, please contact the Town of Genoa (775) 782-8696.