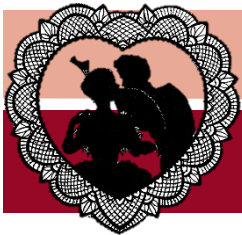


# Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

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The Official Newsletter of the Twin Falls County Historical Society Museum

# February 2025

## Board and Staff

- Steve Westphal – President
- Alex Kunkel – Vice President
- Teresa Sept- Media & Treasurer
- Gary Kaufman- Projects
- Patti Hurley – Secretary
- Doug Lincoln – Board Member
- Karen Olen – Board Member
- Jane Anderson- Board Member
- Gary Sipe – Board Member
- Ashley Haycock – Administrator



# Grant Update

Last month we announced our plans for funds awarded to us through the America 250 grant. Soon after we were notified that the grant would be on hold pending review due to the funding freeze, it remains unclear if we will be receiving only a portion of the original amount or any at all.

Although some of our larger plans will have to wait until later, we continue to work where possible.

We have been cleaning, organizing, and rearranging in the annex. We are also researching and creating small signs explaining the history and use of each item.

Did you know that we have a machine used during World War I and II to emboss military dog tags?

Recent visits to other museums have also given us plenty of innovative ideas for better utilizing our space.

We plan to take advantage of the tall walls in the annex by covering a portion with wood and attaching tool displays and additional information.

We have been able to use some materials left over from past projects and source some at a reduced price but as we all know the cost of materials and labor adds up quickly.

We are currently in need of plywood, volunteer labor, and of course, any monetary donations to help with the cost are always greatly appreciated.

We will be working in the annex on Wednesday afternoons when the weather is decent. Stop by if you are interested in learning how you can help keep this project moving forward.

# Item Highlight

## The Language of Handkerchiefs

Through the years handkerchiefs have proven to have many uses beyond blowing one's nose. Falling in and out of fashion, they always seemed to return with new styles and new uses.

During Queen Elizabeth I's reign handkerchiefs made of rich fabrics and delicate lace became a popular gift among nobility.

The queen herself is said to have used her silver and gold threaded hankies to send silent signals to her courtiers.

Perhaps inspired by the queen's means of communication, the handkerchief would take on a flirty new role in the Georgian, Regency, and Victorian eras.

Social properness was of the utmost importance during these periods. Overt advances toward your love interest were considered socially inappropriate. This need for discretion led to the creation of a new "language" for lovers.

The "handkerchief flirting code" was a subtle way of communicating without drawing attention to oneself.

Both men and women carried handkerchiefs thus making them a convenient tool to signal with.

Fans, gloves, parasols, and even table napkins were said to have been used similarly.

These "flirting codes" appeared in many publications over the years.

However, it is unclear how commonly these methods were practiced in everyday life.

### *The Handkerchief Code*

Letting it rest on the left cheek — *"No"*

Letting it rest on the right cheek — *"Yes"*

Drawing it across the cheek — *"I love you"*

Drawing it across the eyes — *"I am sorry"*

Drawing it across the forehead — *"Look, we are watched"*

Drawing it through the hands — *"I hate you"*

Drawing it across the lips — *"Desiring an acquaintance"*

Dropping it — *"We will be friends"*

Folding it — *"I wish to speak with you"*

Letting it remain on the eyes — *"You are so cruel"*

Opposite corners in both hands — *"Do wait for me"*

Over the shoulder — *"Follow me"*

Placing it over the right ear — *"How you have changed"*

Putting it in the pocket — *"No more love at present"*

Taking it by the center — *"You are most too willing"*

Twisting it in the left hand — *"I wish to be rid of you"*

Twisting it in the right hand — *"I love another"*

Winding it around the forefinger — *"I am engaged"*

Winding it around the third finger — *"I am married"*

Flirting at your side once: *"You're a flirt"*

Flirting at your side three times — *"Go to the Devil"*

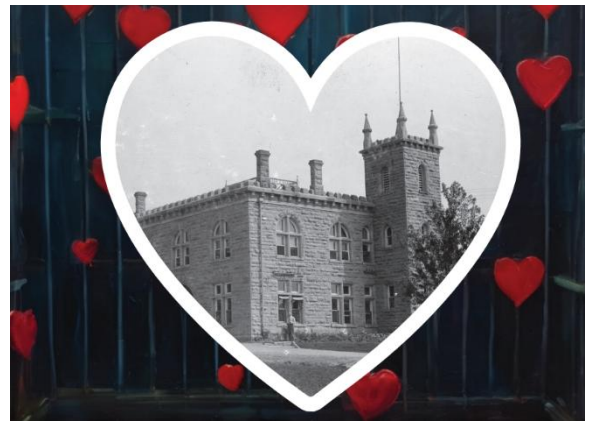
Flirting over the head — *"Go to thunder"*

# February Lecture!

## Old Idaho Penitentiary

♥ *Valentines* ♥

February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1:00pm



### Love, Betrayal, and Heartbreak in Idaho's Longest-Running Prison

Join Samuel Anderson, Research and Education Coordinator at the Old Idaho Penitentiary and host of the Behind Gray Walls podcast, as he tells true tales from the penitentiary's fascinating history as it operated as both a territorial and state prison from 1872 to 1973.

Following an overview of the site's significance and evolution, the presentation will delve into the lives of individuals who worked, served time, and even died within its walls, and the romances that defined them.

From murderous affairs and "partners in crime" to cowboys falling for dance hall girls, the Old Idaho Penitentiary bore witness to tales of romance, betrayal, and heartbreak. Uncover the human connections that thrived, and sometimes faltered, behind sandstone walls, showcasing the enduring power of love in all its forms.

*C. E. B. at "Camp Drinking C. E. B. at "Place" in lovely Hagerman*

## Donations

Valentine pillow, toys, records, etc. donated by J.L. Smith



Baby Shoes donated by Nora and Roger Howard in memory of Delpha Howard



Table Loom donated by Lori Iniguez in memory of her grandmother, Dorothy Conley



### Want to Donate?

Give us a call or stop by the museum if you are interested in donating an item with county history. Keep in mind we only accept permanent donations.

*...me hurrying she from one cliff to another  
- March 25 - 1923 Sunday - March 25 - 1923*

# New Displays!



Cards, chocolates, and hearts galore! Our Valentine's Day items will be on display for the month of February. This collection is sure to sweeten your day!

A new display of dressing table items will feature a collection of collar boxes, hairbrushes, hand mirrors, and accessories from the early 1900s.

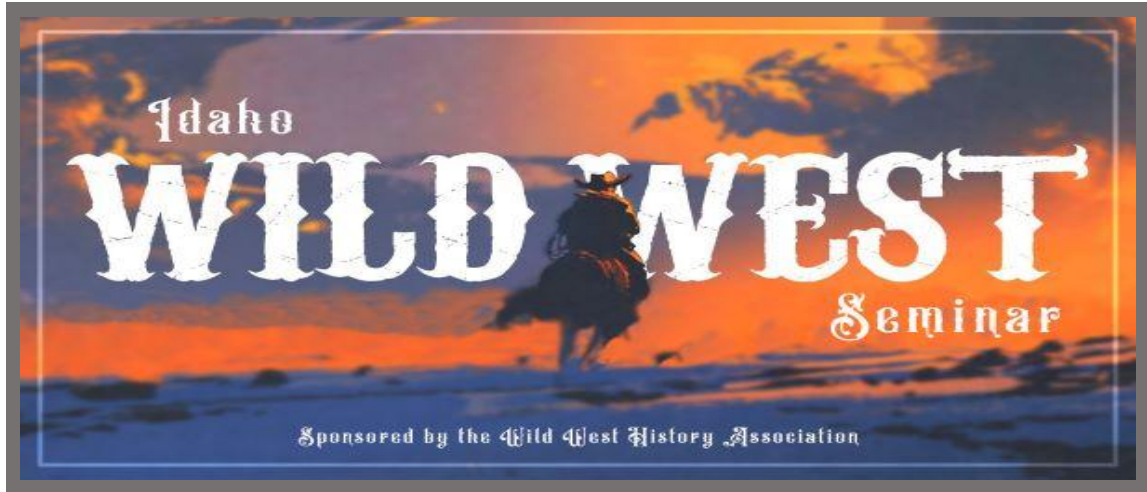


## Fun Fact!

Handkerchiefs reached their peak popularity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when inhaling snuff for pleasure became prevalent. The finely ground tobacco would leave an unattractive brown residue on the nostrils and induce sneezing leading to a need for darkly colored hankies.



We are looking for new cases. If you have information on where we could purchase lockable glass display cases, **let us know!** Send us an email at [info@twinfallsmuseum.org](mailto:info@twinfallsmuseum.org) or give us a call at 208-736-4675.



**The annual Wild West seminar will be held Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Owyhee County Museum in Murphy, Idaho starting at 9am.**

Immerse yourself in the captivating history of the Wild West in the great state of Idaho. This in-person event offers an opportunity to explore the legends and lore of cowboys, outlaws, and pioneers who shaped the Idaho frontier and beyond.

## **-AGENDA-**

- 9- 9:30- Joe Hickey- Guns of the Wild West
- 9:30- 10:15- Marie Clyne - Covered Wagon Women
- 10:30- 11:15- Jerry Schaefer- Bear River Massacre
- 11:15-12:00- Mike Youngman- Tap Duncan Part 1
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:30- Tap Duncan Part 2
- 1:30-2:15- Bob Sobba -Murders in Portneuf Canyon
- 2:30-3:15- Bill Betenson- History versus Hollywood on the Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Movie
- 3:15 -4:00- Corey Clyne- Garrison Soldiers in Combat

**The event is free but as there are no restaurants in Murphy, you can contact the Owyhee County Museum at 208-495-2319 to secure a luncheon meal.**