

Downey Centennial Book Update

December 4, 2013

The expectation was that the Centennial book was to be published and available in less than a year. Many of those who have ordered it are eager for information regarding the progress on that project. The response to the request for material for the Downey Centennial Book was much greater than expected. There is a huge collection of personal histories, photos, and human interest stories. Currently there are nearly 800 histories: personal, clubs, businesses, etc. and over 3000 pictures.

The work to prepare these materials has included:

1. Typing the articles that were handwritten
2. Scanning all pictures into JPG format
3. Scanning all type written articles and converting to electronic format with an optical character recognition (OCR) software
4. Scanning or retyping all articles which have been gleaned from old newspapers or other documents,
5. Reformatting all electronic (emailed) documents so that all the articles will be published using the same font style and size, line spacing, margins, etc. The standard for photo placement, size, caption style, was determined. Converting to JPG any photos which were submitted in many other format types.
6. Sorting all photos, histories, and other articles into categories, (chapters), i.e. personal histories, businesses, clubs, churches, etc.
7. Sorting all materials to assure there are no duplications.
8. Proofreading all documents for spelling and punctuation, content, etc.
9. Editing all proofread documents.
10. Embedded pictures in electronic documents had to be removed and saved. These photos will be reinserted during the compilation process in a manner consistent with the predetermined format.

Others of the volunteer staff have searched hundreds of newspapers and land records, visited museums, read previously written histories and LDS church records, to compile a complete chronological history of the valley.

We are happy to announce that the majority of the prep and sorting has been completed and that the actual compilation is in progress. The goal is to have the content "camera ready" which will alleviate any additional expense at the printers.

Please be patient. The finished product will be worth the wait.