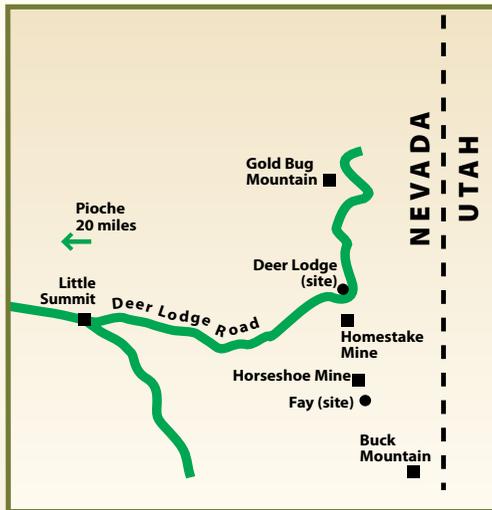


DEER LODGE AND FAY

Mining Town Life on the Nevada-Utah Line



Deer Lodge and Fay are located approximately 20 miles east of Pioche, Nevada, between Gold Bug Mountain and Buck Mountain.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

The remains of Deer Lodge and Fay are part of history. Visit, explore, and study, but please leave them undisturbed so others can enjoy and learn about our heritage. And remember to always respect private property.

This Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative Project was completed by Zeier and Associates, LLC, with funding provided by the sale of public lands by the Bureau of Land Management and approved under an inter-agency partnership authorized by the Lincoln County Land Act.



The Fay School in 1908.
Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

In late 1895, prospectors discovered gold in the Mahogany Mountains along the Nevada-Utah border. They built mines and mills and the towns of Deer Lodge and Fay. The next twenty years were a time of boom and bust—the last of the mines closed in the mid-1910s. Many local residents tried their hand at mining, then returned to cattle ranching when the boom ended. Whether life revolved around mining or ranching, educating the children was always important.



EDUCATION

Education was a highly valued part of life in Deer Lodge and Fay. Families went to great lengths to recruit teachers, build schools, and stretch the state funding they received for supplies and teachers' salaries. The five students needed to officially qualify for a school were often brothers and sisters from two or three families.



Students at the Fay School, 1908. In the back row, from left to right, George Jr., Annie, and Fred Moody, and Ruth Short; middle row, Dan Short, Miss English (first name unknown), Everest H. Hackett, and Frank Moody; front row, LaDonna Larson and Leo Moody.

Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

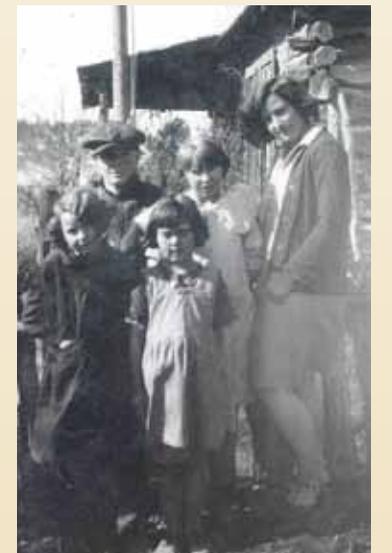
The Deer Lodge and Fay schools educated two generations of students—spanning the rise and fall of mining and the ranching, which continued after the boom. Helen Hackett, born in 1920, described her father Everest's education in the early 1900s: *He walked [from Deer Lodge] to Fay to go to school. He went from third [grade] through high school at the Fay school. There wasn't very many students, of course, but it was a one-room school and they had that many grades.*

Veronica DeVany Elliott, one of Helen's teachers, explained her introduction to



The Deer Lodge School (second log building from the left) in 1930.
Photo courtesy Mary Scott and Pete Cole

teaching at Deer Lodge during the 1926-27 school year. *Mr. Everest Hackett had been looking for someone to open a school there because they had managed to get 5 children together—that's what it took to [open a school then]. So they let me know and I went up to Deer Lodge to teach. They salvaged blackboards and other materials from the abandoned Fay schoolhouse. The Deer Lodge school was a two-room log building, with a bedroom and little woodstove in the back. I really lived more in the schoolroom than I did in the bedroom. All I had in the bedroom was a bed and a small chest of drawers. It was tiny.*



Hackett and Fogliani children with teacher Mary Fogliani in front of the Deer Lodge School, 1930.
Photo courtesy Mary Scott and Pete Cole

DEER LODGE AND FAY

Mining Town Life on the Nevada-Utah Line

The 1890s were tough years for Nevada's miners. The Big Bonanza days of the Comstock and other prosperous mining districts across the state were over. The few new discoveries could not break the depression's grip on the mining industry. But the search for the next big strike went on as always. In 1895 prospectors discovered gold in the Mahogany Mountains along the Nevada-Utah border.

For twenty years, life in the Stateline and Eagle Valley Mining Districts and the towns of Deer Lodge and Fay followed the fortunes of the mines. The "boom" never involved more than a few hundred people, but they peppered the surrounding hills with mining claims, found investors to develop mines and mills, and built homes and businesses.



Deer Lodge, ca 1908.
Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

Deer Lodge made headlines in 1896 when the main section of town burned down. But a year later it was home to about 100 people, along with a saloon, livery, and a general store. A post office soon followed.



George Moody in his Deer Lodge store.
Photo courtesy Eleanor Hammer Hanson and Ross Moody

In 1899 more promising discoveries were made about 1½ miles to the south, and activity shifted to what became the new town of Fay. Fay prospered until mining ended in the mid 1910s. The town included four saloons, a barbershop, stores, a post office, and stage service. The Fay post office continued serving the surrounding area until 1924.

George Moody was one of the leading citizens in the Eagle Valley District. He was among the first successful prospectors, helped write the district bylaws, and served as recorder for fourteen years. His family ran a general store in Deer Lodge and then Fay, and he was deputy sheriff, school trustee, postmaster, and local census-taker for the 1900 Census. The failure of the Horseshoe Mining Company in 1909 left many miners



Miners near Deer Lodge.
Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

unable to pay their bills, and the Moodys finally closed their store in 1911.



Fay.
Photo courtesy University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Special Collections



The Homestake Mill in Deer Lodge.
Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project

In twenty years of mining at Deer Lodge and Fay, only the Horseshoe became a major producer—and even this mine eventually failed. But miners and promoters were always optimistic. An early 1900s newspaper article found it beyond understanding "that a region so rich in the precious metals as State Line and Eagle districts should so long remain unnoticed ..."



Mr. Russell, a Homestake investor, and an unidentified woman holding amalgam (gold and mercury) from the Homestake Mill.
Photo courtesy Lincoln County Town History Project