

By Charlene Garcia Simms

I met Done Nelson in 1994 at the GSHA Conference in Trinidad and we became immediate friends. For almost 30 years we have worked together towards the same goal of making GSHA a reputable and professional genealogical society. Donie has always wanted our members to take pride in GSHA in everything we do. I thank her for always encouraging me towards excellence because she never expected any less in every position she held. Our shared memories are precious, especially about so many people who have come and gone; sad to say, many have died. Luckily, many of their stories were captured in the journals, newsletters or at the conferences.

Donie was a very good presenter, not just for our organization but for other genealogical and historical societies. My favorite presentation was when she and Doug Daniels and Marlow Fisher made a presentation in Santa Fe for three southwest historical societies on their mountain-men grandfathers, Ewing Young, Richard Campbell and Robert Fisher respectively. Each man married a Nueva Meicana woman, Maria Josefa Tafoya Young, Maria Rosa Grijalva Campbell, and Romalda Lopez Fisher. The presentation was informative, touching, funny and like a historical symphony between the three of them. After the presentation many of us went to Tomasita's Mexican restaurant and the presentation continued with all three imparting more of their knowledge and stories. We could hear the echo of our laughter as we enjoyed the delicious food and drank our margaritas.