

# Foote Park Project

## Preserving Art & Engineering of the Old West

The Project was established to improve the existing Foote Park Site as a grassroots effort by Janet and Mary Ann to honor two individuals, Arthur De Wint and Mary Hallock Foote. They had important impacts on the physical and cultural developments in Idaho's Treasure Valley. This project highlights the Footes who had a vision of the Treasure Valley populated with thousands of prosperous families.

Aerial View of Foote Park Site



**Foote Park** is located by the Boise River east of Boise, ID, across the river from Discovery Park on Highway 21. It is on US Army Corps of Engineers' property near the Lucky Peak Dam.

### Proposed Site Improvements

- New Interpretive Center showcases the Footes' contributions
- Improved signage and road access
- Expanded parking
- Site historical heritage markers
- Visitor facilities and security



## How You Can Help

Your contribution of time and/or money will bring a significant part of Idaho's history to life.

**VOLUNTEER!** Contact us at:

[footeparkproject@gmail.com](mailto:footeparkproject@gmail.com)

Or Call: 208-853-2599

Volunteers must be 18 or older

### Your Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATE!** Make checks payable to:

**Foundation for Idaho History/Fote**

Credit Card Payment (Check: Visa\_\_ or MC\_\_ )

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: **Foote Park Project**  
**c/o Janet Worthington**  
**8109 W Powell St.**  
**Boise, ID 83714**



Foundation for Idaho History is a non-profit organization; your donation is tax deductible.



Photos used with permission from Ann Brillhart,  
Great-granddaughter of A.D. & M. H. Foote

# Foote Park Improvement Project

**HONORING**

**Arthur De Wint Foote**

**and**

**Mary Hallock Foote**

**Pioneers whose cultural and creative  
contributions helped shape the  
Treasure Valley as we know it today**



**Foote Canyon House - Circa 1885**



**Dr. Janet Worthington**

**Mary Ann Arnold**

**Project Chairs**

**[footeparkproject@gmail.com](mailto:footeparkproject@gmail.com)**



## Mary Hallock Foote

1847 – 1938

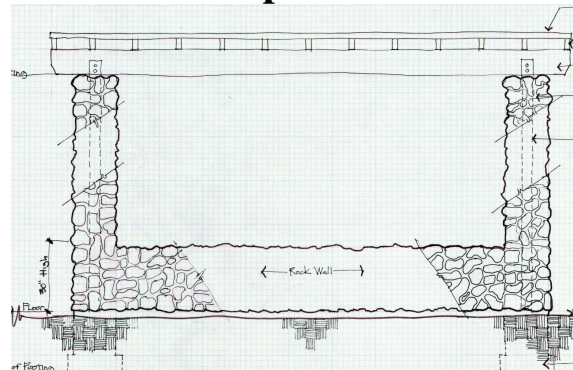
- Created illustrations for key literary figures of her time, including Hawthorne, Whittier, Longfellow, and Louisa May Alcott, making her a nationally known artist
- Began her western travels with her husband Arthur De Wint Foote in 1876 and started writing her own stories, essays, and ultimately 12 novels
- Balanced her roles as wife, mother, novelist, illustrator, and interpreter of the American West
- Created an authentic depiction of western life that featured a woman's gentler perspective

## Original Foote Canyon House

- Designed and built by Arthur Foote in 1885
- Funded by sales of literary works by his wife, Mary Hallock Foote
- Built using lava rock for the walls and native wood for floors and cupboards
- Used cement made from his own formula

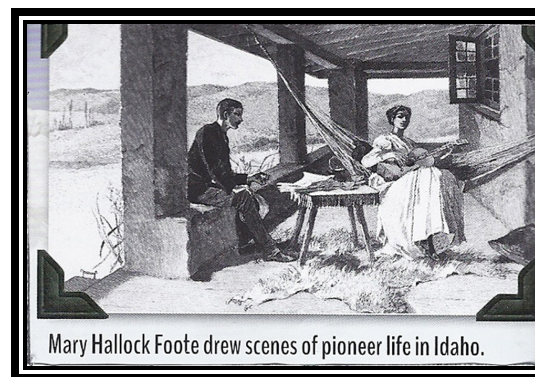
**All that remains are the  
remnants of the foundation.**

## New Interpretive Center



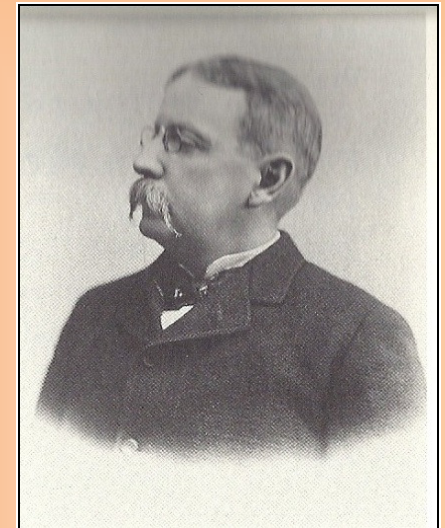
**Architect's Sketch**

The center will reflect the Canyon House as it will be a reproduction of a section of the Canyon House veranda, seen in the drawing below.



Mary Hallock Foote drew scenes of pioneer life in Idaho.

*The Pretty Girls in the West*, 1889, M. H. Foote



## Arthur De Wint Foote

1849 – 1933

- Moved his family to Idaho and devoted his talents to the Boise River Irrigation Project
- Developed an irrigation plan for the New York Canal in the Treasure Valley
- Turned his experiences in Idaho, California, Nevada, and Colorado into engineering and entrepreneurial innovations that had significant impact in the American West
- Credited by the US Bureau of Reclamation who used his plan to complete the irrigation system in 1909