

Santa Fe Trail Itinerary

June 11-13, 2010



- June 11: Lamar, Colorado to Trinidad, Colorado
- June 12: Trinidad, Colorado to Las Vegas, New Mexico
- June 13: Las Vegas, New Mexico to Santa Fe, New Mexico

Friday, June 11:

Meet at 9:00 a.m.
Lamar Depot
109 East Beech Street
Lamar, Colorado



We'll meet at the Lamar Depot which still serves as a train station for Amtrak passengers, while housing the Lamar Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Welcome Center.

Driving the Mountain Branch

The Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail through Colorado closely parallels U.S. Highway 50 and Colorado 350 and I-25. Communities along the route include:

Lamar

The Madonna of the Trail Monument in Lamar honors the pioneer mothers who traveled the Santa Fe Trail in the days of covered wagons. It is one of twelve such monuments sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Lamar was chosen to host a statue because it was located on the Old Santa Fe Trail highway.

Bent's New Fort

First known as Fort William, and then as Bent's Fort, the second stockade became one of the most prominent landmarks along the Santa Fe Trail. It was built of stone and a smaller trading post. The size was 180 feet long and 135 feet wide, with 15 foot high walls that were four feet thick. Cannons were in the bastions at the southwest and northwest corners. Cactus was planted on the tops of the walls to discourage climbers.

This trading post was a rendezvous for Fremont's expedition to the Rockies, Kearney's march to Santa Fe and Price's Mexico column. It lasted until 1852 when William Bent, bitter over his unsuccessful attempts to sell it at his price to the Federal government, moved his gear out in 20 wagons and blew up the first Bent's Fort.

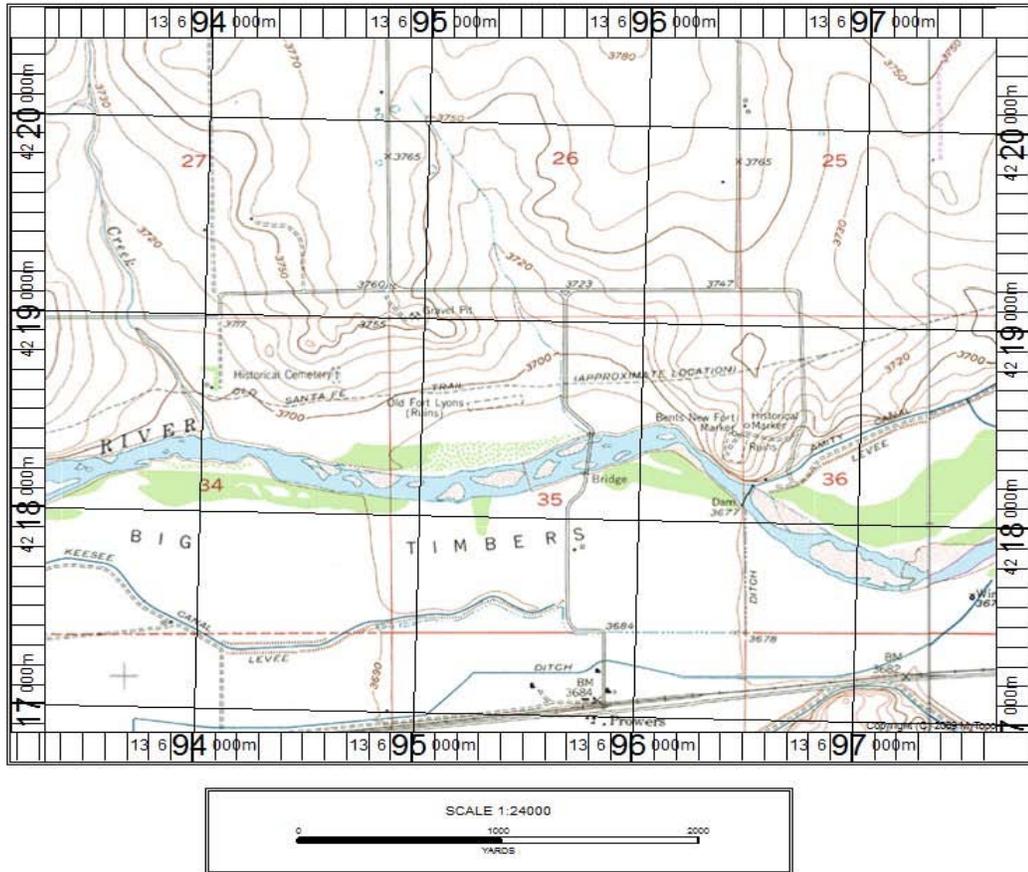
The chronology continues with this, Bent's "New" Fort, 30 miles to the east and on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River. Here he built a smaller version of his adobe establishment. It stood on a point so that it could be approached only from the north. The 16 foot high stone walls surrounded a dozen rooms and a large central court. A 55 foot long warehouse was inside. Although it had no bastions, it retained the cannon of the earlier fort and these were mounted on the corners of the roof.



Bent's reputation of fair dealing followed him and his trade kept up at the same pace as before. Then in 1859, the Army moved nearby and hinted that it might like to stay. Noting the damper that this put on his trading, Bent suggested that the Army might like to buy him out. Major John Sedgwick concurred.

"I would strongly suggest that it be purchased," Sedgwick wrote in reference to the fort, "both for the convenience and the economy. It is offered for sale for \$12,000, and I do not think that the government can put up such a work for that money."

In 1860 Bent's New Fort became Army, but only on a lease basis: at \$65 a month. Contrary to some historians, the Army never bought the fort. It paid the rent for a couple of years, then determined that Bent was only a squatter on Indian lands without legal title.



The Army first re-named the place to Fort Fauntleroy, after a Dragoon officer, then Fort Wise, after the governor of Virginia. It used the stone stockade principally as a commissary and quartermaster storehouse. The center of Fort Wise was built by Sedgwick's 350 men on the low ground next to the Arkansas a mile away.

Las Animas

Las Animas has the historic Kit Carson Chapel (where Kit passed on to the happy hunting ground in the sky) at Fort Lyon and the historic 1889 Bent County Courthouse.

Fort Lyon, also known as Fort Wise and/or Las Animas, Colorado, U.S. Naval Hospital and 5BN117, existed on the Colorado eastern plains until 1867, when a new fort was erected near the present-day town of Las Animas, Colorado. The fort was known as Fort Wise until 1862. It had been named after a southern Confederate state's governor, then during the Civil War was renamed for General Nathaniel Lyon, who was killed in the Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Missouri, in 1861. Old Fort Lyon's main claim to fame is that Colonel John Chivington used it as the staging post in 1864 for the Sand Creek Massacre, an attack on Indian tribes that were moving to a new reservation in Oklahoma. The resulting congressional investigation resulted in a national wave of public indignation at the slaughter of elderly men, women, and children, and the dismemberment of the corpses and public display of body parts.

A flood of the Arkansas River in 1866 drove the US Army to establish the location near Las Animas, completed in 1867, and angry Indians then burned the remains of the old fort. The U.S. Army abandoned Fort Lyon in 1897. In 1906, the U.S. Navy opened a sanitarium for treating sailors and marines with tuberculosis due to the dry climate and isolation of the fort. On June 22, 1922, the Veteran's Bureau assumed operations. In 1930, administration of the hospital was transferred to the newly created Veterans Administration and within three years the VA designated Fort Lyon a neuropsychiatry facility. In 2001 the hospital was closed and turned over to the state of Colorado for conversion to a minimum security prison. The Fort Lyon National Cemetery, which began burials in 1907, remains open.

South on Colorado 101 to **Boggsville Historic Site** and the original grave site of William Bent at the Las Animas Cemetery.



Boggsville is located on the Purgatoire River, two miles south of present day Las Animas on Colorado Highway 101. First, the high plains native Indians used this as campsite. Next, the Spanish ruled the area and gave it many Spanish names, which still are used today. Later, the Mexicans gained their independence and took over the landlordship from the Spanish. Lastly, the white Americans came into the picture as more settlers moved into unsettled lands. Bent's

Old Fort had been the center of fur trade in the area until shortly after the New Mexico Territory became part of the United States (1848). But, with the fur trade nearly gone, many of the traders found work in raising livestock. This settlement was founded on a branch of the Santa Fe Trail about 1862 by Thomas O. Boggs (son of a granddaughter of Daniel Boone), his

wife Rumalda Luna Bent (a stepdaughter of Charles Bent), L. A. Allen, and Charles Ritc. To the north lived William Bent, who had moved to the area around 1858. By 1866 Tom Boggs had built a new adobe nine-room house for the family in this hostile land. When the Civil War ended, the Fort Lyon Military Post moved to a point just downstream of the Purgatoire's mouth to protect travelers on the Santa Fe Trail Mountain Route. But it wasn't until around 1874 that the plains Indians finally allowed some peace to come to the land.

In 1867 Boggs was joined by John Wesley Prowers, who moved to the Boggs's ranch (now known as BOGGSVILLE). Both men had worked for the Bent brothers and Charles St. Vrain in their trading enterprises on the Santa Fe Trail, at Bent's Old Fort, and Taos (Mexican Territory). In late 1867 the noted ailing frontiersman Kit Carson moved to Boggsville, his last home before his death in 1868 at nearby Fort Lyon. Thomas and Rumalda Boggs took in five of Carson's children and raised them to adulthood. The same year, merchant John Hough (Prowers' brother-in-law) arrived.

During the period 1863 through 1873 (arrival of the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad) Boggsville was the regional center of agriculture, government, commerce, and culture. In 1870 Boggs was the Bent County seat and remained so until 1872. The railroad, however, eventually put Boggsville out of business when West Las Animas became the location of the rail station, and this town continued to grow in population.

Just a short distance from Boggsville is Pike's First View site, where Zebulon Pike first saw the "little blue cloud" which later became the famous Pike's Peak.

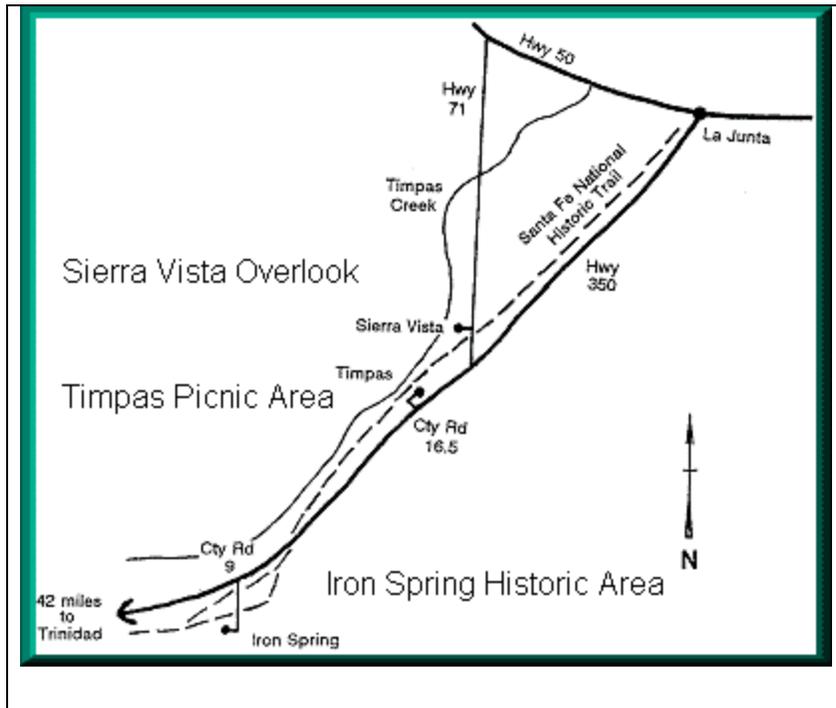
In La Junta Bent's Old Fort on Hwy. 154.



Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site has a reconstructed 1840's adobe fur trading post. This site was a major stopping point on the Santa Fe Trail for traders, trappers, travelers, and Plains Indian tribes. The original fort was built in 1833 by William

Bent and abandoned in 1849. Bent's Old Fort offers guided tours with costumed interpreters and living history demonstrations.

Iron Spring Historic Area



Iron Spring is 11 miles west of Timpas, Colorado, on US Highway 350, and then 1 mile south on a gravel road.

Iron Springs was an important water stop for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail and several different routes to the spring were used. Between 1861 and 1871 Iron Spring was used as a stage coach station. An important water supply on the trail, it was the scene of several Indian attacks. Trail ruts are visible near the

spring west of the parking lot and a few ruins remain nearby.

- **Overnight in Trinidad**

Saturday, June 12:

In Trinidad, we will visit the 1870s Hough-Baca and Bloom Mansions and the Santa Fe Trail Museum operated by the Colorado Historical Society.

Baca House was purchased in 1873 by Felipe and Dolores Baca. They traded 22,000 pounds of wool for this two-storey adobe. Baca House features Greek architectural details, Victorian furniture, other period furnishings and Rio Grande textiles that suggest the lifestyle of this prominent family.

- **Side Trip to see the K-T Boundary, Lake Trinidad State Park**

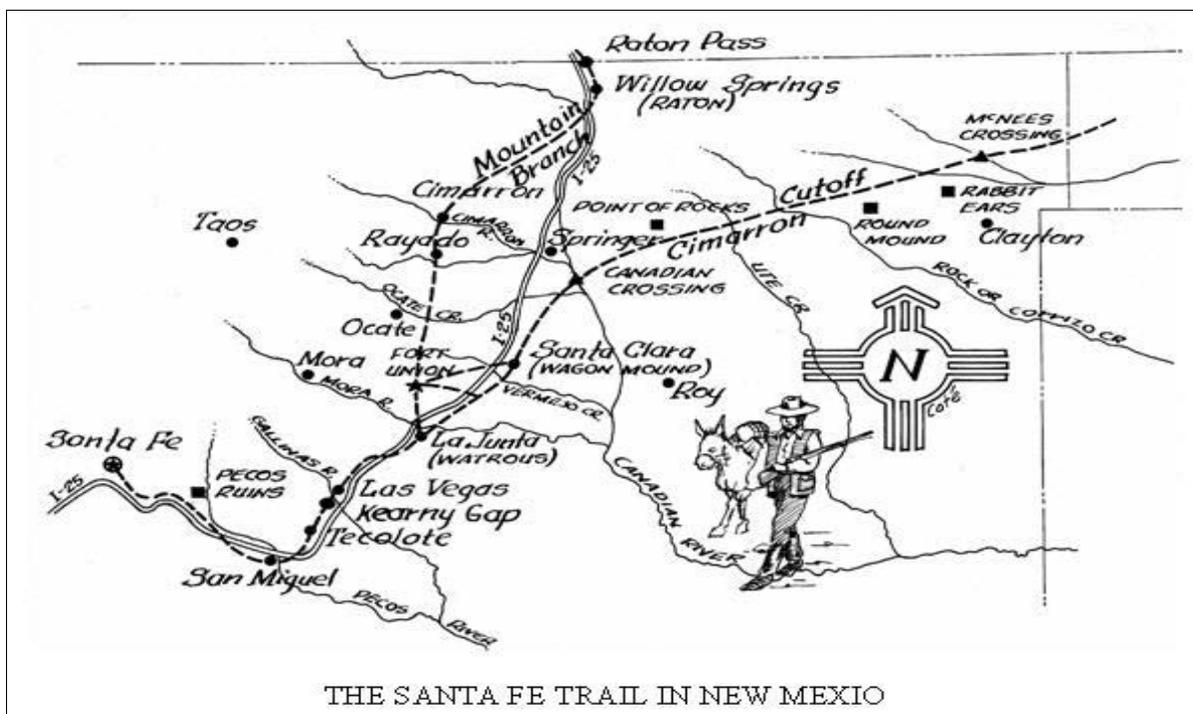
Sixty-five million years ago when dinosaurs were roaming about on floodplains and lakeshores in the western interior of the United States, an asteroid about 6 miles in diameter struck the Earth at a place now called Chicxulub on the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.



The impact explosion created a crater more than 100 miles across and 20 miles deep that later filled and has since been buried beneath younger sediments nearly a mile thick. It blasted thousands of cubic miles of pulverized rock and water vapor into and above the atmosphere dispersing debris around the globe, blocking out the sunlight, and causing months of darkness, cold, and poisonous rain. When the skies finally cleared above a devastated Earth, not only the dinosaurs, but also about 75 percent of all other living animals and plant species were extinct and the Dinosaur Era was over.

With this short side trip, we will see the world famous locale for the evidence described above.

Driving the trail in New Mexico:



Raton Pass out of Trinidad

From the 7,834' high summit, the canyons used by the SFT caravans, AT&SF RR trains and Interstate 25 motorists, drop away to the N (for a spectacular view of Trinidad and SE Colorado) and to the S (for a view of Raton and the W end of the volcanic Raton Mesa Group). The Santa Fe Trail caravans descended what is today Railroad Canyon (W of I-25) to Willow Springs (which pre-dated Raton). "Uncle Dick" Wootton blasted out 27 mi. of wagon road and put in a toll road up the N side of the pass in 1866. Photograph was taken from the top of Raton Pass looking S into New Mexico.

Raton Pass and the Mountain Route bore heavy traffic at critical moments in the history of the Trail. The Army of the West led by Brig. Gen. Stephen Watts Kearny used this route in 1846 on its way to the conquest of New Mexico. The Trail through the pass was the strongest link between the Southwest and the Union throughout the Civil War. The Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad laid tracks over the pass in 1879, bringing about an end to the SFT.

We will stop at the New Mexico Welcome Center in Raton, NM.

Wagon Mound



The 6,930' high peak, shaped like an oxen-drawn wagon in profile, is a famous Santa Fe Trail landmark and campsite. The Pilot Knobs, two other SFT landmarks, are just to the W across I-25. The onetime farming and ranching village is home to 300 people, most of them older Hispanics.

This National Historic Landmark meant a campsite and permanent source of water for westbound Santa Fe Trail travelers. The village, settled in the 1870's, has several historic homes and buildings like the 18-room Santa Clara Hotel, built in 1894.

Fort Union

Remains of a star-shaped fort (1861-62) and adobe third fort (1863-91) form the bulk of the national monument. Ruins of the first fort (1851-63) are open once a year. Call for information. Open all year. Summer: 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM. Self-guided (individual) or ranger-guided (group) tours. Museum with quality exhibits and bookstore in visitor center.

Certified Site of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Important commercial center as well as strategic military post (1851-91). Principal supply post in the SW. Provided escort and protection for travelers at west end of Santa Fe Trail. Military supplies arriving at the Quartermaster Depot were stored and then transported to outer SW posts by local contractors and military teamsters.

Watrous



Pioneer buildings are very old, some dating to the latter days of the trail, including what is probably the oldest Protestant church in New Mexico. The village is still occupied by a few families. Photograph shows the Masonic Hall in Watrous.

The principal of the Santa Fe Trail's Mountain Route and Cimarron Route. Was originally called La Junta (The Junction). In 1879, with the coming of the railroad, it was named for Samuel B. Watrous, a prominent local rancher, who established a mercantile and home here, ca. 1849. The village served as a place for wagon trains to organize before entering hostile Indian territory. Remnants of the trail can be found on the outskirts of town.

Las Vegas, New Mexico

Beautiful examples of grand Victorian architecture and one-story adobe buildings stand side by side centered around tree-shaded grassy Plaza with a gazebo. The District includes the Veeder Buildings, The Plaza Hotel, the Charles Ilfeld Building, the Louis Ilfeld Building the Romero Building and Our Lady of Sorrows. The Plaza District also includes the Presbyterian Mission and Acequias Madres. A self-guided walking tour is available.

Las Vegas Plaza is a Certified Site of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. The Plaza, heart of West Las Vegas, is the original settlement of the town. It is a fine example of Spanish Colonial tradition of town planning.

- **Overnight in Las Vegas**

Sunday, June 13:

Pecos National Historical Park – I-25 Exit 299 (25 miles north from Santa Fe) features a Spanish Mission and Pueblo Indian ruins. It is an ideal park to learn about the interaction of the Pecos Pueblo Indians, the Spanish settlers and the Franciscan priests. Later with the development of the Santa Fe Trail trade, Anglo traders who passed through the area would often observe and in some cases write in their journal accounts about the deteriorating Pecos Ruins. Stop by the Visitor Center to see a short, informative film as well as exhibits, and then follow the 1-1/4 mile self-guided trail that goes through the ruins of the Pueblo and the Church.

Kozlowski's Ranch - I-25 Exit 299 Just south of the main entrance to Pecos National Historical Park is the site of Kozlowski's Ranch and Stage Station, which was a tavern and watering stop along the Santa Fe Trail. Some of the original walls are incorporated into a newer building which served as the headquarters of Greer Garson's Forked Lightning Ranch. There is a DAR marker near the corner of the porch.

Pigeon's Ranch Referred to as "Glorieta Battlefield" and often described as the Gettysburg of the West due to a battle waged there in March 28, 1862. Only 3 adobe rooms remain of the 23 room complex located near New Mexico SR 50.

The Gettysburg of the West



Roy Anderson, artist; Courtesy of Pecos National Historical Park)

The trans-Mississippi West, New Mexico Territory in particular, was far removed from many of the passions and issues that defined the Civil War for people east of the Mississippi River. For large areas of the West that were recently won from Mexico or still organized under territorial government--where people were still struggling to survive in hostile environments--arguments over secession and states rights may have seemed rarified.

Nonetheless, men answered the call to join eastern armies, so the frontier armies were drastically reduced. Indian raids began to increase as some tribes seized the chance to regain lost territory while others turned to raiding for subsistence, their U.S. treaty allotments having been disrupted by the war. Yet, the Civil War was not strictly an eastern war, and in 1862 Confederate forces invaded New Mexico Territory.

Henry Sibley, who resigned his commission in the U.S. Army to join the Confederate Army, realized that the void created in the West could be an opportunity for the South. After raising a brigade of mounted Texas riflemen during the summer of 1861, Sibley led his 2,500 men to Fort Bliss and launched a winter invasion up the Rio Grande Valley.

Colonel Edward Canby, who had been appointed the Union Commander of the Department of New Mexico in June 1861, anticipated the invasion and had already begun to consolidate his 2,500 regular army troops. By early 1862, Canby had almost 4,000 soldiers he could put into the field.

Sibley's Brigade approached Canby's Union forces near Fort Craig in south-central New Mexico. Threatening to cut off the fort by controlling a nearby ford, Sibley drew Canby's soldiers out from the fort and engaged them in a closely contested battle at Valverde on February 21, 1862. The smaller Confederate force prevailed against Canby's troops, who retreated to the security of nearby Fort Craig. Sibley believed the U.S. forces had been defeated too soundly to present a rear-guard threat, so he advanced north. The Confederates occupied Albuquerque on March 2. Sibley then sent the Fifth Texas Regiment, commanded by Major Charles Pyron, to the unprotected territorial capital of Santa Fe. The few Union troops retreated to Fort Union, destroying ammunition and supplies.

The only thing that appeared to be standing between Sibley's Confederate Brigade and Colorado was Fort Union, the major army depot on the Santa Fe Trail. By seizing the supplies and weapons kept at Fort Union, the Confederates would be able to continue their march north through Raton Pass to Denver, the territorial capital of Colorado.

The First Colorado Volunteers, an infantry brigade of 950 miners, were quickly organized under the command of Colonel John P. Slough. They marched the 400 miles from Denver through the deep snow of Raton Pass to Fort Union in only 13 days, arriving at the fort on March 10. After a brief rest and re-supply, Slough defied orders to remain at Fort Union. Joined by some regular army troops and New Mexico volunteers, Slough's 1,350 soldiers departed Fort Union on March 22, and they followed the Santa Fe Trail westward to meet the enemy. By March 25, the Union advance troops, under the command of Major John M. Chivington, set up Camp Lewis at Kozlowski's Stage Stop east of Glorieta Pass, a gap in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Meanwhile, Pyron's Fifth Texas Regiment had left Santa Fe, following the Santa Fe Trail eastward, marching on Fort Union. After following a southward swing through Glorieta Pass, he intended to join with other Confederate troops. Pyron's Texans camped at Johnson's Ranch in Apache Canyon, just west of Glorieta Pass, unaware of the Union troops only nine miles away.

On the morning of March 26, 1862, a scouting party of Colorado Volunteers led by Chivington left Camp Lewis to locate the Texans. They discovered and captured a Confederate scouting party in Glorieta Pass, then ran into the main body of the Confederate force in Apache Canyon, about 16 miles east of Santa Fe. A two-hour scrimmage, known as the Battle of Apache Canyon, ensued. Although Chivington captured 70 Confederate soldiers, he fell back to Pigeon's Ranch. By evening, both sides called a truce to tend to their wounded.

The following day, when Union spies notified Colonel Slough that the Confederates had been reinforced, Slough decided to divide his forces. Slough's 900 soldiers would proceed west along the Santa Fe Trail and block Glorieta Pass, while Chivington and Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Chavez of the New Mexico Volunteers would take 450 men over Glorieta Mesa to attack the Confederate right flank or rearguard. Colonel Scurry decided to leave his supply train at Johnson's Ranch and march his 900 men eastward along the Santa Fe Trail the next morning to force the battle where he wanted it.

On the morning of March 28, Slough's men broke ranks near Pigeon's Ranch to fill their canteens at Glorieta Creek. Scurry's quickly advancing Confederates came upon the Union troops and opened fire on them. The Union soldiers quickly formed a defensive line along Windmill Hill, but an hour later, fell back to Pigeon's Ranch.

Scurry's Confederate soldiers faced the Union artillery at Pigeon's Ranch and Artillery Hill for three hours, and finally outflanked the Union right. From Sharpshooter's Ridge they could fire down on the Union troops, so Slough ordered another retreat, setting up a third battle line a short distance east of Pigeon's Ranch. The Texans charged the line shortly before sunset. Slough ordered his soldiers back to Camp Lewis leaving the Confederates in possession of the field. Both sides were exhausted after six hours of fighting, each having sustained more than 30 killed and 80 wounded or missing.

Believing he had won the battle, Scurry soon received devastating news. After a 16-mile march through the mountains, the Union force led by Major Chivington had come upon the Confederate supply train at Johnson's Ranch. They had driven off the few guards, slaughtered 30 horses and mules, spiked an artillery piece, taken 17 prisoners, and burned 80 wagons containing ammunition, food, clothing, and forage. Scurry was forced to ask for a cease-fire.

Lacking vital supplies, Scurry could no longer continue his march on Fort Union so he retreated to Santa Fe. Two weeks later, General Sibley ordered his army to retreat from Santa Fe and relinquished control of Albuquerque. There was no further Confederate attempt to invade the

western territories. The Battle of Glorieta Pass had decided conclusively that the West would remain with the Union.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Santa Fe Plaza (a registered National Historic Landmark since May 1961)

The plaza marks the end of the 1,000 mile Santa Fe Trail. It is one of the oldest historic sites in America dating back to 1610.

In the early days of the Santa Fe trade, Missouri merchants unloaded and sold their wares in the open air. Custom negotiations were carried out in the plaza. But soon they began to rent space for stores in the surrounding adobe buildings. Today, it remains the social and commercial center of Santa Fe.

The Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe is one of the oldest public buildings in the United States. It dates from the Spanish Colonial period and was erected in 1610. The first governors of the frontier of "New Spain" were responsible to the Viceroy of Mexico, representing the King of Spain.

In 1609, the Viceroy appointed Don Pedro de Peralta to found a new Capital site more centrally located than San Gabriel, the Capital site established by Don Juan de Oñate. It took more than a year for Peralta, his soldiers, Franciscan Priests, and Indian men and women to make the arduous journey from Zacatecas, Mexico to what became Santa Fe, New Mexico. Peralta relocated the San Gabriel settlers to Santa Fe and began laying out the Villa according to the plans for a Spanish town. Building materials in the high plateau desert were scarce especially wood. Adobe was used for the Palace walls, making small windows and dirt floors. Peralta's government headquarters faced the plaza with the Palace of the Governors being the main structure. A new Governor was appointed in 1614 and Don Pedro de Peralta returned to Mexico.

La Fonda on the Santa Fe Plaza 100 East San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, NM

This historic hostelry was entirely rebuilt in 1920. It was known as the Inn at the End of the Trail. The hotel was host to many of the Santa Fe Trail travelers and traders. Its fame extended all the way back to Missouri. Today, this full service hotel features specialty shops, historic photographs, comfortable rooms and La Plazuela restaurant.

San Miguel Mission located at 401 Old Santa Fe Trail - The simple earth-hue adobe mission is the oldest church in Santa Fe and one of the oldest in the United States. San Miguel Mission

was built by the Tlaxcalan Indians of Mexico, who came to New Mexico as servants of the Spanish between 1640-1680. It was subsequently destroyed during the Pueblo Revolt and rebuilt in 1710. All the trade caravans coming from the eastern United States passed by San Miguel Mission on their way to the Santa Fe Plaza.

- **Overnight in Santa Fe**

Adios to all and we hope that you enjoyed this journey.



The Santa Fe Trail, Kentucky Roots



Susan Shelby Magoffin

Eighteen-year-old Susan Shelby Magoffin left Independence, Missouri, to travel “Down the Santa Fe Trail and Into Mexico” in June, 1846, accompanied by her husband, Samuel Magoffin, a variety of servants and employees, and her dog, Ring. She was one of the first Anglo-American women to travel the Trail and enter New Mexico. Her trip coincided with that of the US invasion and occupation of New Mexico. Most importantly, Magoffin kept a detailed journal of her day-to-day activities giving modern readers insight into what daily life was like along the Trail and in New Mexico.

Born to a wealthy Kentucky family on July 20, 1827, Susan Shelby spent her childhood on her family's plantation, in a sheltered upbringing. Just a few decades earlier, however, Kentucky itself had been considered the “frontier.” The Shelby family had established a history of moving from the known to the unknown, from settlement to frontier. They moved from Pennsylvania to Tennessee and finally to Kentucky where Susan met and married Samuel Magoffin on November 25, 1845. Samuel Magoffin, also from a wealthy Kentucky family, was much older than Susan, and had known life on the frontier. By the time of Susan's trip in 1846, Samuel Magoffin and his brother James had been involved in the Santa Fe trade, which linked the

United States (through Missouri) and Mexico (through Santa Fe), for almost two decades. The Magoffins, like other Anglo-American merchants, had economic ties that spread northeast to New York, where Samuel and Susan honeymooned, and south to Chihuahua and Saltillo, where the couple planned to travel.

Susan kept her journal to share her experiences with her family back home. Early entries in the diary reflect the enthusiasm of a young bride, sharing a “pioneer” experience with her husband. Susan Shelby Magoffin clearly adored Samuel Magoffin and referred to him as *mi alma* throughout. “My journal tells a story tonight different from what it has ever done before,” gushes Magoffin in her first entry. Her life on the trail would be radically different than what she had experienced in Kentucky though it would also be somewhat eased by the amenities of wealth. She noted early on in her travels that her tent was “a grand affair indeed,” and was the first house she kept as a married woman. Indeed, she called herself a “wandering princess” and traveled in relative comfort on the trail, with her tent, servants, and Ring, the dog.

The first part of her journal resembles that of Josiah Gregg's *Commerce of the Prairies*, of which Magoffin was clearly familiar. The journal recounts the people, animals, and plants that she encountered on the plains of present-day Kansas: “Passed a great many buffalo (some thousands),” she wrote, describing the creatures as “very ugly, ill-shapen things with their long shaggy hair over their heads and the great hump on their backs...” but her unique point of view as a woman is obvious in her concern with the mule driver’s language, saying that they “scarcely... need be so profane” and by her many stops to gather flowers – at one point asking her servant, Jane, to do so for her. Susan and Samuel Magoffin and their entourage arrived at Bent's Fort on July 26, 1846, some six weeks after they left Independence. Bent's Fort, the trading center in present-day southeastern Colorado, was also the launching point of the American invasion force, the “Army of the West,” into New Mexico. The Army was at the Fort when the Magoffins arrived. Susan noted the prevalence of gambling by the soldiers and other male denizens of the Fort, including the presence of “a regular race track,” “the cackling of chickens” for cock-fighting, and “a regularly established billiard room!” There were other women at the Fort as well. Susan recounted socializing with “*las señoritas*,” including Native American and Hispanic women. Susan suffered a miscarriage while at the Fort, delaying the Magoffins' departure. She lamented: “In a few short months I should have been a happy mother and made the heart of a father glad.” She called the miscarriage the work of “the ruling hand of a mighty Providence” but noted that “he does not leave us comfortless!” often invoking religious sentiments in her journal.

At the time of Susan’s miscarriage, an Indian woman at the fort “gave birth to a fine healthy baby.” Susan’s description of the new mother's actions provides insight into the ethnocentric

assumptions of many Anglo Americans in the mid-nineteenth century but also shows that Magoffin was also somewhat empathetic. She states in her journal that the woman “went to the River and bathed herself and it [the baby]” only half an hour after giving birth, and then goes on to say: “No doubt many ladies in civilized life are ruined by too careful treatments during childbirth, for this custom of the heathen is not known to be disadvantageous, but it is a 'heathenish custom.'”

The Magoffins left Bent's Fort on August 7, 1846. After the difficult journey through “the Raton” [Raton Pass], they arrived at the first New Mexican town along the Santa Fe Trail, “Mora creek and settlement,” on August 25th. Susan's first impression of the New Mexicans she encountered reflected common Anglo stereotypes of the time. She described the houses she encountered as “genteel pigstys in the States,” but tempers her initial response by saying that “within these places of apparent misery there dwells that 'peace of mind' and contentment which princes and kings have oft desired but never found!”

Magoffin's journal detailed the ways in which she both mimicked and transcended her society's stereotypes of New Mexicans. The day after reaching Mora, the Magoffins arrived in “the Vegas” [Las Vegas]. Susan was shocked to see children “in a perfect state of nudity,” and women “clad in camisas and petticoats only; oh, yes, and their far famed rabosas,” and some women breastfeeding babies in public. Just a few days later, and in the context of her new surroundings, her opinion had changed. She confided, “I did think the Mexicans were as void of refinement, judgement & c.[ulture] as the dumb animals till I heard one of them say “bonita muchachita” [pretty little girl]! And now I have reason and certainly a good one for changing my opinion; they are certainly a very quick and intelligent people.” This quick change of perspective was often the case with newcomers. Interaction with fellow settlers was often an equalizing and humbling experience.

The Magoffins reached Santa Fe not long after General Kearny and the Army of the West, on August 31, 1846. The Army had faced little organized military opposition at the time of their invasion of New Mexico. James Magoffin (brother of Samuel and brother-in-law of Susan) had arrived in Santa Fe not long before the Army and may have bribed New Mexico's governor, Manuel Armijo, to not organize the New Mexican militia in resistance to the U.S. takeover.

Susan quickly became part of Santa Fe's high society, which in the months following the US invasion consisted of an eclectic mix of American Army officers, wealthy Anglo traders, elite Hispanos, and some Native American visitors. She met Senora Dona Gertrudes Barcelo, also known as Doña Tules, who Magoffin described as “the principal monte-bank keeper [monte was a card game on which people gambled] in Santa Fé, a stately dame of a certain age, the

possessor of a portion of that shrewd sense and fascinating manner necessary to allure the wayward, inexperienced youth to the hall of final ruin." Josiah Gregg, in his book *Commerce Of The Prairies*, is more magnanimous when he says: "She is openly received in the first circles of society: I doubt, in truth, whether there is to be found in the city a lady of more fashionable reputation than this same Tules, now known as Senora Dona Gertrudes Barcelo."

Magoffin's descriptions of New Mexican culture are at once dismissive yet at times reflective as when she describes a priest's style or lack thereof at a Catholic Church service she attended. She says that he "neither preached nor prayed, leaving each one to pray for himself; he repeated some Latin neither understood by himself or his hearers." She then acknowledges that her observations are influenced by her Protestant religious background.

Many of the observations and descriptions of New Mexico and its people are unique to Magoffin's journal. Her descriptions of her daily activities in Santa Fe, for example, centered on housekeeping, particularly managing servants and shopping for household goods but also on her daily interactions with locals. She befriended a young girl of "not more than six years old" who sold produce near the Magoffin household. She called the girl "my little protégé" and shows her attachment to her by saying "she is quite conversant in all things... Just to see the true politeness and ease displayed by that child is truly [amazing], 'twould put many a mother in the U.S. to a blush." She also made the acquaintance of "Dona Juliana" who helped her speak Spanish, and introduced her to "an Indian chief" from the "tribe known as Comanche."

The Magoffins left Santa Fe on October 7, 1846, about ten days after the Army of the West also moved on. Though she had been excited to set up housekeeping in an actual house, instead of a tent, Susan now reported that she was "impatient to leave." On the journey south (down the Camino Real), Magoffin encountered "the Pueblos or descendants of the original inhabitants – the principal cultivators of the soil..." including people from Sandia pueblo. She also became privy to the ways of commerce on the trail. At "an Indian village," she reported, there was a ready market for empty glass bottles. "We can buy in the States the filled bottles for three or four dollars a dozen, drink the liquor, and then sell the empty bottles for six dollars per doz."

The Magoffins stayed for some time at San Gabriel, where Susan fell ill with a fever. While there, she learned some of the traditional New Mexican ways of "housekeeping," again affording a perspective lacking in male accounts of life in New Mexico. She learned to make tortillas in San Gabriel, commenting that the work was "a deal of trouble" and which she had expected to be only "half the work" it turned out to be. The same "old lady" who taught her tortilla making also showed Susan her knitting techniques. Susan shared her own knitting technique which she termed "the much easier mode of the U.S."

Although the Mexican War ran like a thread through the Magoffin's time on the trail, Susan mentioned it only occasionally, spending more time on domestic concerns and describing the new people and sights she encountered. The month of December, 1846, was particularly stressful for the Magoffins because of constant rumors that James, Samuel's brother and business partner, had been arrested and/or killed.

In late January, 1847, the Magoffins left San Gabriel and again headed south. They had heard news of the rebellion at Taos, which Susan called "a perfect revolution." Rumor held that the population of New Mexico was "rising between us and Santa Fe...and in truth we are flying before them." On February 1, 1847, Susan wondered if she would "ever get home again?" The Magoffins traveled in a state of constant fear, of not only an uprising against Americans, but also of nature itself: they were now traveling south through the Jornada del Muerto (journey of death), a hostile and waterless stretch of desert.

The Magoffins reached Doña Ana on February 9, 1847 and then continued to head south. The rigors of travel began to take their toll on Susan and she began to regret having come on the journey. They reached El Paso and continued south to Chihuahua and Saltillo, following the route of the American army under General Doniphan. Her journal ends on September 8, 1847 though it is known that she became sick with yellow fever and at the same time, gave birth to a son in Matamoros, Mexico. The child did not survive.

Bad health plagued Susan on her trip down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico and throughout the rest of her short life. Following their journey to Mexico, Samuel Magoffin retired from the Santa Fe trade and moved the family to St. Louis. Susan gave birth to a daughter, Jane, in 1851, but soon after the birth of a second daughter, Susan, in 1855, Susan Shelby Magoffin died. Though she did not survive to see her thirtieth birthday, Susan's words live on in her diary and provide a unique perspective on life and travel from Missouri to New Mexico on the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico during the mid 1800s. She lies buried beside her *mi alma* in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Kit Carson

Eleanor's three eldest sons were drawn into the American Revolution, serving under General Wade Hampton. After the war was over, Lindsey and Robert went to South Carolina. There Lindsey Married Lucy Bradley, with whom he later returned to Iredell County, where they lived until the urge to follow Daniel Boone drew



them Westward." (probably between 1773 and 1782). In 1793 Lindsey Carson loaded a wagon with his wife Lucy, and their four children - William, Sarah, Andrew, and Moses -- and followed where Boone had led over the uneven, rutted Wilderness Road. Soon after their arrival in Kentucky a second daughter, Sophie, was born. Not long afterward, Lucy died. Two years later, Lindsey married Rebecca Robinson from Greenbrier County, Virginia. Six of their children were born in Kentucky: Elizabeth, Nancy, Robert, Matilda, Hamilton, and Christopher Houston. Kit came into the world the day before Christmas, 1809, making thirteen persons to share the log cabin Lindsey had built on Tate's Creek in Madison County." In 1811 Lindsey sold his Madison County farm and headed West. Lindsey took up land in the Boonslick area. Lindsey lost his life working at his endless project of clearing land. One day in early September 1818, while he was working near a burning tree, a flaming limb broke away and fell on him, killing him instantly. He was sixty-four years old."

Christopher Carson, better known as Kit Carson was an explorer, scout, trapper, Indian agent, rancher and soldier during his 40 years of travels throughout the southwest. Born on Christmas Eve in Madison County, Kentucky, in 1809, Kit was the 9th of 14 children. When he was still an infant, the family moved to Howard County, Missouri where Carson spent most of his early childhood in Boone's Lick. His father died when he was only nine years old, and the need to work prevented Kit from ever receiving an education. At the age of 14, Kit was working as an apprentice to a saddle and harness maker. However, the young man soon became restless and after about a year he joined a wagon train heading west on the Santa Fe Trail in 1826.

From Santa Fe, Kit went north to Taos where he worked as a cook, errand boy and harness repairer. When he was 19, he was hired for a fur trapping expedition to California, where, in spite of his small stature (he never exceeded 5 and a half feet) he soon proved himself able and courageous.

Between 1828 and 1840, Carson used Taos as a base camp for many fur-trapping expeditions throughout the mountains of the West, from California's Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Rocky Mountains.

As was the case with many white trappers, Carson became somewhat integrated into the Indian world; traveling and living extensively among Indians. His first two wives were Arapahoe and Cheyenne women, one of whom bore a daughter in 1836 and died shortly thereafter. Carson was evidently unusual among trappers, however, for his self-restraint and temperate lifestyle. "Clean as a hound's tooth," according to one acquaintance, and a man whose "word was as sure as the sun comin' up," he was noted for an unassuming manner and implacable courage.

Around 1840 Carson was employed as hunter for the garrison at Bent's Fort, Colorado, soon becoming its becoming the chief hunter.

In 1842, while returning from Missouri, where he took his daughter to be educated in a convent, Carson happened to meet John C. Fremont on a Missouri Riverboat. Fremont hired Carson as guide for his first expedition to map and describe Western trails to the Pacific Ocean. Over the next several years, Carson helped guide Fremont to Oregon and California, and through much of the Central Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin. His service with Fremont, celebrated in Fremont's widely-read reports of his expeditions, quickly made Kit Carson a national hero, presented in popular fiction as a rugged mountain man capable of superhuman feats. After returning to Taos from California in 1843, Carson married his third wife, Maria Josefa Jaramillothen.

Carson's notoriety grew as his name became associated with several key events in the United States' westward expansion. He was still serving as Fremont's guide when Fremont joined California's short-lived Bear-Flag rebellion just before the outbreak of the Mexican-American War in 1846. Carson would serve in the war, playing an important part in the conquest of California.

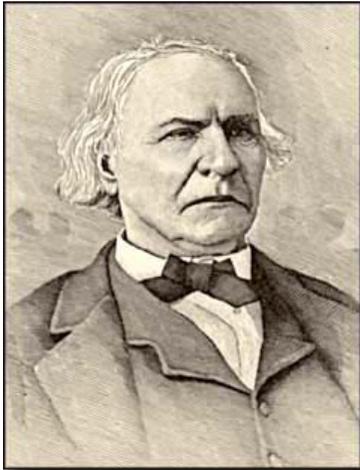
Carson also led the forces of U.S. General Stephen Kearney from Socorro, New Mexico into California, when a California band led by Andrés Pico mounted a challenge to American occupation of Los Angeles later that year.

On December 6, 1846, these forces were attacked by Mexicans at San Pasqual, about 30 miles north of San Diego. On the third night of this battle, Carson and two others snuck through enemy lines and ran the entire distance to San Diego, where they brought help for Kearny's pinned-down forces. At the end of the war, Carson returned to New Mexico and took up ranching. Carson spent the next few years carrying dispatches to President James Polk in Washington, DC. At the end of the war, he returned to Taos and took up ranching.

By 1853, he and his partner, Lucien Maxwell, were able to drive a large flock of sheep to California, where gold rush prices paid them a handsome profit. In 1854 he was appointed Indian agent for the Ute and Apache at Taos, New Mexico, a post he held until the Civil War imposed new duties on him in 1861. During the American Civil War he helped organize New Mexican infantry volunteers, which saw action at Valverde in 1862. Most of his military actions, however, were directed against the Navajo Indians, many of whom had refused to be confined upon a distant reservation set up by the government.

Beginning in 1863, under orders from his commanders in the U.S. Army, Carson waged a brutal economic war against the Navajo, marching through the heart of their territory to destroy their crops, orchards and livestock.

Richens Lacy Wootton



When the Ute, Pueblo, Hopi, and Zuni, who for centuries had been prey to Navajo raiders, took advantage of their traditional enemy's weakness by following the Americans onto the warpath, the Navajo were unable to defend themselves. In 1864 most surrendered to Carson, who, following orders, forced nearly 8,000 Navajo men, women and children to take what came to be called the "Long Walk" of almost 300 miles from Arizona to Fort Sumner, New Mexico, where they remained in disease-ridden confinement until 1868. In 1865 Carson was given a commission as Brigadier General and cited for gallantry and distinguished service.

In the summer of 1866, he moved to Colorado to expand his ranching business and took command of Fort Garland. Ill health forced him to resign the following year, and in 1868 the family moved to Boggsville, near present-day La Junta, Colorado. He died in nearby Fort Lyons on May 23, 1868. The following year, his remains were moved to a small cemetery near his old home in Taos, New Mexico.

Richens Lacy Wootton was born May 6, 1816, in Mecklenberg County, Virginia. When he was 7, the family moved to Christian County, Kentucky, where Richens lived until he was 17. Then he went to an uncle's cotton plantation in Mississippi for almost 2 years. At that point, he headed west to Independence, Missouri. That was 1836.

He took a job with a wagon train run by Bent, St. Vrain & Co., headed for Bent's Fort in Colorado. That began a long adventure with Dick Wootton becoming known as a mountain man and one of the best frontiersman/trapper/guides in the West. He fought with, and traded with, many of the different Indian tribes. He traveled over almost the entire western half of the country as a trapper and later as a military guide.

By 1840, trapping had become far less profitable. Wootton took a job at Bent's Fort as a hunter. The primary game was buffalo and he hunted them only for food. Over the years, though, the "skin hunters" hunted the buffalo almost to extinction, hunting them only to feed an Eastern

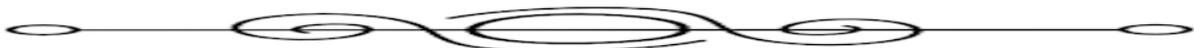
market that was hot for buffalo skin robes. Wootton tried an experiment with buffalo farming in the vicinity of where Pueblo is now. He raised buffalo and cattle together for three years, then drove his herd east along the Santa Fe Trail to Kansas City. There he sold them all for a good profit to a man who then took them to New York.

Over the years Dick did whatever was necessary to feed his growing family. In 1859 he signed the incorporation papers for the city of Denver (one story says he signed as chief tavern-master).

In 1866 he came to Trinidad with permission from the territorial governments of Colorado and New Mexico (and a lease from Lucien Maxwell, owner of the Maxwell Land Grant) to build a toll road over Raton Pass. As most folks thought the work was too hard, Dick hired a tribe of Utes under Chief Conniache to help him. He improved some 27 miles of the toughest part of the road. "There were hillsides to cut down, rocks to blast and remove," he said, "and bridges to build by the score. But I built the road and made it a good one."

He erected a tollgate in front of his house and charged \$1.50 for 1 wagon or buggy and 25 cents for a horseman, prices that he changed from time to time. But he always allowed the Indians to use the road free of charge. His home near the toll road was always open to stagecoach passengers who found a hot lunch and an abundance of good stories waiting at his table. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad bought the right of way from Wootton in 1879 and built the railroad all the way to Santa Fe in 1880, ending the era of the Santa Fe Trail. At first the railroad offered him \$50,000 for the road but he turned that down. Instead he sold it to them for \$1, a monthly stipend and grocery money for his wife for the rest of her life.

The timing was good for Uncle Dick because he was going blind, a condition that afflicted him for several years until a newly arrived doctor tried an experimental surgery on him and it worked, sort of. Where before he could hit a target dead center every time with a rifle, now he could at least hit the barn behind it. But he did pass the last few years of his life in relative ease and comfort in his house high on Raton Pass. He died in 1893, having outlived all of his 5 wives and 17 of his 20 children. 1893 is the same year the US Census Bureau declared an end to the "American Frontier."



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