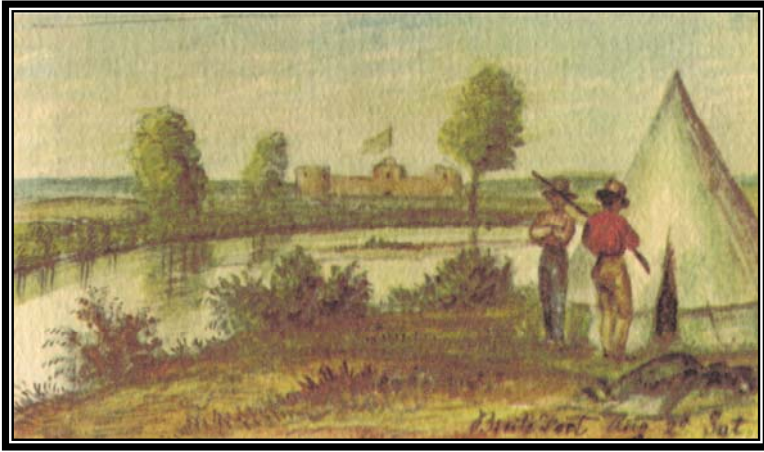


Bent's Old Fort

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bent's Old Fort
National Historic Site
La Junta, Colorado



Fur Trade Encampment October 10-12, 2008

The sights, sounds and smells of the 19th- century fur trade, the Santa Fe Trail and Bent's Fort come to life during the Fur Trade Encampment. Living historians interpret the lives of trappers, traders, teamsters, domestics, laborers, Plains Indians and craftsmen. This year's event features living history portrayals of fur trapper Kit Carson, John Fremont's 3rd expedition and traveler Susan Magoffin. Visitors will be able to stroll through the trader, trapper, military and Indian camps along the Arkansas River, the boundary between the United States and Mexico during most of the fort's history. Susan Magoffin, one of the few white women to travel the Santa Fe Trail, will tell about her trail life experiences. John Fremont's 3rd expedition will tell of their exploration and trip to California, where they became embroiled in the War with Mexico.

Trade vignettes, camp and trail life demonstrations, trapping, cooking, carpentry and blacksmithing will be performed all day Saturday and through noon Sunday. A special evening program on Friday night will feature a performance by John Carson as mountain man Kit Carson and a lecture by author- historian Michael Moore about the quintessential mountain man: Thomas Fitzpatrick. Saturday night's "Old Fashioned Fandango" will be presented by Dr. Lorenzo Trujillo and Excier Rodriguez. Visitors will be taught dances to the music of the Southwestern colonial period.

Bent's Old Fort was a cultural crossroads where Plains Indians, trappers from the mountains, traders and the military converged for trade. The Fur Trade Encampment will be based on the diaries, journals, paintings and archeology of the site. Over 40 volunteers from 4 states with years of experience will provide historically accurate representations of fur trade times. The fort and the Santa Fe Trail played an enormous part in the western expansion of the United States. The fee is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for 6- 12 year olds. Further information is available by calling 719- 383- 5023. The park is located 8 miles east of La Junta, Colorado on State Highway 194.

Daytime Schedule

Saturday, October 11: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday October 12: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Ongoing blacksmithing, cooking, and carpentry, period games and music, trade vignettes, livestock use, camp life, frontier medicine, trapping, fur scraping and pressing, adobe work, storytelling, Plains Indian life, military drills.

Evening Schedule

Friday, October 10, 7 to 9 p.m.

"Kit's 'Happiest Days of My Life'" – First person portrayal by great- grandson John Carson.

and

"The Quintessential Mountain Man" – lecture on the life and times of Thomas Fitzpatrick, one of the most documented individuals in fur trade journals by author- historian Michael Moore. Mr. Moore is the author of "Life in the Early West."

Saturday, October 11, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

"Old Fashioned Fandango" – a presentation of traditional Southwestern colonial period music including instruction on dances of the period by Dr. Lorenzo Trujillo and Excier Rodriguez.

Map of Trail to Camps South of the Fort

