

Saddlebag Newsletter

September 2025

Pam Potter, Editor
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A supplement to the WWHH *Journal*
Available On-Line via www.wildwesthistory.org
Welcome to the Saddlebag Newsletter. Here is the latest information from WWHH. Previously posted Saddlebag newsletters will be found by date further down this section in the list of available newsletters. All earlier information will be retained for reference.

If you have Wild West news, please contact the editor at the e-mail address shown at the top of the Saddlebag page. We reserve the right to include or not include any materials submitted to us.

Our **YouTube** page: <https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos> is now monetized so WWHH gets paid for views. **Please subscribe, watch and like our videos, and you are contributing to WWHH. It is free. We now have over 9000 subscribers.**

Several WWHH members attended the memorial for Chuck Parsons. Missing from the photo are Doug Dukes and Donnelly Brice. It was a lovely service, showing how well respected, loved and committed Chuck was to his church and community of Prairie Lea, Texas. Notice the book he is holding.



WWHA attended **DOC HOLLIDAZE** in Prescott, Arizona over the weekend of August 15-17. Jean and Chuck Smith, Madison and Donna Harrell, Alan Blanchette, Pam Potter and Eddie Lanham worked the table and the crowd for WWHA. Victoria Wilcox and her husband, Ron, attended and Victoria was a speaker. Mike Mihaljevich was also a speaker. Mike and Malinda Mayberry were spotted in the crowd. Bob Boze Bell opened the history forum with how he got involved in Western history. Thank you to the Prescott Heritage Center and Brad and Wendi Courtney for their hospitality and class act event. I am sure more of us will want to attend next year. Prescott is very dedicated to their Western heritage.



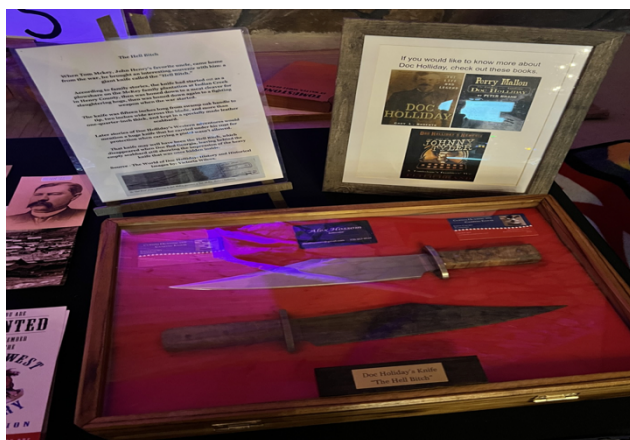
Wild West History Association members at the Rocky Mountain Book Fair booth in Castle Rock, Colorado. We are talking 2026 Albuquerque, July 15-18 at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Steve Friesen, Tim and Ellen Hagaman, David Bradshaw, Don McCubbin,. Not pictured Bob Pulcifer and Ed Bathke.



From Dave Guyton, who was there handing out WWHHA flyers. On Saturday, August 23. Old West Educational/Living History Group, "Spurred West", participated in a fundraiser for Alzheimer's. A Night to Remember Foundation held their annual Adult Prom at Taylor Estate in Rome, Georgia raising \$150K for Alzheimer's Research. Several members of Spurred West were on hand as the night's theme was the Wild Wild West. They set up a Faro bank and taught attendees how to play the Wild West's favorite gambling game. Additionally, they discussed some of the Wild West's most famous characters who hailed from Georgia such as Doc Holliday, Charlie Bowdre, Heck Thomas, Soapy Smith and others. Spurred West is based in the Atlanta area but participates in various Wild West Events throughout the southeast. Their primary focus is the period 1870-1900. In addition to educational displays and living history, they perform historically accurate gunfights reenactments and are regulars at the annual "Doc Holliday Festival" held in Griffin, Georgia each September and "West Fest" at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia each October.



Notice the WWHA rack cards in the photo below?





A few more pictures from the Roundup. There are more in last months Saddlebag and there will be many in the Journal which will be out soon.

Wild West History Association YOUTUBE CHANNEL NEW Feature!

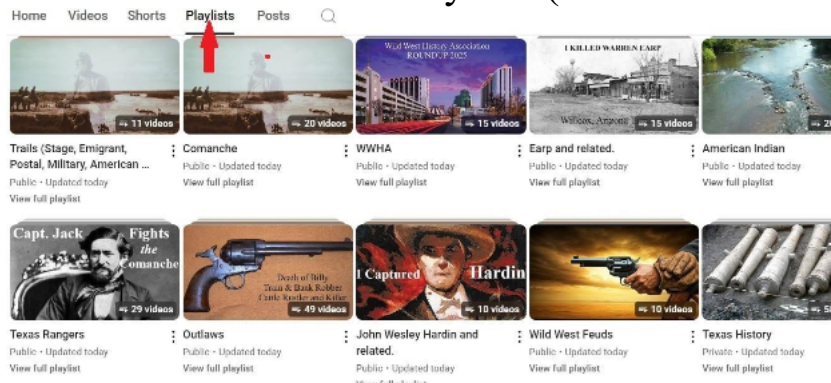
We have added PLAYLISTS. Example: If you are interested in the Earps, there is a playlist labeled "Earp and Related."

We have about 17 different Playlists.

Instructions: Open link. Click on PLAYLIST, which will show complete list. Instructions:

Open the WWHHA YouTube Channel. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos> Click on Playlists (see red arrow below)



[\[https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos\]](https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos) [\[https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos\]](https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation/videos)



Preserving the West

by
Mark Teshera

Among the rolling, picturesque hills of southeastern Washington, lies the Whitman Mission National Historic Site, named after the Whitman Massacre involving physician and missionary Marcus Whitman and his wife Narcissa. The site represents a tragic but important, chapter in Western history, as it tells the story of the massacre and the ensuing repercussions.

The Whitmans arrived in Oregon Country (primarily present-day British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) in 1836 and established the Waiilatpu Mission just west of modern Walla Walla, WA. Whitman built his mission among the Cayuse Indians, who were initially receptive to his presence and proselytizing. However, things gradually soured as the years passed and ever-more white settlers continued to arrive in the traditional Cayuse homelands. Most alarming to the Cayuse were the increasing numbers of deaths among their people because of various diseases, brought by the numerous caravans of whites that passed through the mission. To make matters worse, Whitman was generally able to cure the whites, but not the natives. This led to the suspicion among the Cayuse that he was poisoning their people. A particularly bad measles outbreak in 1847 decimated the tribe, and that proved to be the last straw. On November 29, 1847 several Cayuses arrived at the mission pretending to need medical supplies. At the opportune moment, Marcus was killed with a tomahawk from behind and Narcissa was fatally shot. Eleven others were killed at various locations around the mission.

The 138-acre site can easily be covered in half a day. There is an updated 25-minute introductory video, museum, and gift shop, and perhaps the most worthwhile feature are the self-guided walking trails. The shorter loop will guide you through where the mission once stood, with signs indicating where prominent buildings and locations were (there

are no extant structures). Although a slightly longer uphill loop, it is highly recommended to hike up the short incline to the Whitman Memorial. Here you will have an incredible view of the mission itself as well as the beautiful Walla Walla Valley. As you descend the hill you can visit the Great Grave, where the Whitmans are interred, and the general location of the burial site of their daughter, Alice Clarissa, who drowned in the Walla Walla River in 1839 at the age of 2.

This scenic and poignant location represents a catalyst and turning point for Anglo-Indian relations in the Pacific Northwest. It set the stage for the impending Cayuse War and numerous subsequent Indian Wars of the Pacific Northwest, the last of which concluded with the Sheepeater War in 1879. A visit to this site is highly recommended.

Me standing on the approximate location where the Whitmans were killed (confirmed by the ranger). This location was the kitchen in the Mission House (first stop on the shorter loop). I normally don't like myself in the pictures, but thought readers would be interested to know the spot where they fell.



Whitman Monument

If at any time, you would like to donate “In Memory of” a recently deceased or any other WWH member who has gone to the Last Roundup, you can mail a check to Jean Smith, WWH Treasurer

993 E. Jennings St. Be sure and tell her what it is for.
Safford, AZ 85546.


Jeff Broome is a busy man. He is giving talks and has a new book coming out soon.

With Special Guest THE LINCOLN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PROUD TO PRESENT Chris Daring

AN EVENING WITH JEFF BROOME

Wednesday October 8th Doors open at 6:00 pm
Lincoln County Historical Museum Complex
216 West Lincoln Ave Lincoln, Kansas

Jeff Broome




Jeff Broome has authored several books that dive into the history of the Indian Wars and the experiences of settlers in the Central Plains region, including Lincoln County and the Lincoln County Indian Raids. Join us as we hear about Jeff's latest book and the tragic ordeal of Mary Jane Bacon on August 10, 1868.

There will be an opportunity to purchase books to be signed by Jeff, following the program

An Unforgettable Night
Featuring the Enchanting Sounds of: Chris Daring, Jeff's new bride.

Chris is the 1996 National Adult Fiddling Champion and was Inducted into the National Traditional Country Music Hall of Fame in 2015.

Please Join Us
in experiencing Chris's musical talents while enjoying refreshments before Jeff's Program at 7 pm




This Event is free to the public . Donations to Lincoln County Historical Society are Greatly Appreciated.

directorichm1@gmail.com Contact Dana with any questions 785-524-9997

Plain Tales of the Plains

Indian Raids and Captivity, Pioneer Life and Trail Tales in Early Colorado Territory



Julia S. Lambert and Jeff Broome

LINCOLN
FORT STANTON
HISTORIC SITES



Greetings from Lincoln and Fort Stanton!

Lincoln and Fort Stanton Historic Sites have a host of exciting events and programs to enjoy during the end of summer monsoon season and into Fall.

This Sat., Aug. 23rd, we're hosting our annual event, Fort Stanton Live, held in partnership with the friend's group, Fort Stanton Inc. The day includes infantry demonstrations, presentations from writers and historians, blacksmithing, weaving, and pottery demonstrations, a quilt show, food vendors, and live musical performances. Dancers from the Mescalero Apache Tribe and Zuni Pueblo will perform on the parade grounds. Visitors can also explore our buildings to see many of our recently completed restoration projects.

Our Lincoln Lecture Series is going strong. On Sept. 6th, Mary Lavin, Manager of the Smokey Bear Historical Park, presents "Becoming a Wildfire-Adapted Community." Lavin, a forester by trade, has played a crucial role in helping us develop fire mitigation plans for both Lincoln and Fort Stanton. We'll also host a lecture during Fort Stanton's Living History Day on Sept. 13th, with US Forest Service District Archaeologist Christopher Adams who will discuss the archaeological remains from the 3rd Cavalry's campaign against the Mescalero Apache, which began at Fort Stanton in 1869.

Some other fun activities ahead include our popular Fort Stanton Flashlight Tours where participants can explore areas closed to the public that are extra spooky at night. Adding to the spooky vibes, we're hosting

our annual Halloween Trick or Treat Trail at Fort Stanton, as well as Lincoln After Dark, co-hosted with The Friends of Historic Lincoln and Oso Productions, and Lincoln's annual Day of the Dead celebration. See our event listings as you scroll down.

Be sure to like and follow the New Mexico Historic Sites [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), as well as Lincoln and Fort Stanton's [Facebook group](#) to keep up to date on new events and programs. If you are interested in volunteering at Lincoln or Fort Stanton, or both, please contact Alanea White at alanea.white@dca.nm.gov or Oscar Navarro at oscar.navarro@dca.nm.gov.

Sincerely,
Oliver Horn, Ph.D.
Regional Site Manager, Lincoln and Fort Stanton Historic Sites

Old Lincoln Days was a total success! Our educational teams impacted the lives of many children with activities such as maraca-making, tin art, and sheep's wool weaving. The Office of Archaeological Studies attended with their mobile touch museum and doll-making activity, and the Wonders on Wheels.



*Visitors enjoyed live music during Old Lincoln Days.
Photo by Robert Mulé aka "Wizard Bob."*

**Instructional Coordinator
Supervisor, Alanea White**

We have had a wonderful series of lecturers for Fort Stanton Living History so far this year. Chris Adams will present September 13th on archaeological evidence that tells the story of a fight between the Mescalero Apache and 3rd Cavalry forces in 1869 near the Rio Hondo River. This lecture will be part of the last Living History of the season which will also include a flag-raising ceremony, tour of the 1855 cemetery, and exploration of the fort.



Lincoln Lecture: Becoming a Wildfire-Adapted Community | Sat., Sept. 6, 1 - 2 p.m. | Mary Lavin from Smokey Bear Historic Park will present "Becoming a Wildfire-Adapted Community" at our monthly series.

Fort Stanton Living History | Sat., Sept. 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | See history come alive through a variety of activities. Watch a flag raising, take a ranger-guided tour of the cemetery, and listen to guest lecturer Chris Adams talk about the history of an Apache raid on Casey Ranch in Lincoln County in 1869.

Fort Stanton Flashlight Tour | Sat., Sept. 27, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | **\$25/person** | Take a flashlight walking tour of the grounds after hours and enjoy a chance to explore areas generally closed to the public under the cloak of night. Tickets go on sale two weeks prior to the flashlight tour on our website.

Lincoln Lecture: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife of Lincoln County | Sat., Oct. 4, 1 - 2 p.m. | In this last lecture of the series, Fort Stanton and Lincoln Interpretive Ranger Amy Hoffman who will talk about at-risk wildlife in Lincoln County.

Fort Stanton Trick or Treat Trail | Sat., Oct. 25, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | **Free** | Families are invited to dress up and get spooky for our Trick or Treat Trail. Stroll along the parade grounds and historic buildings and collect goodies from local organizations and businesses.

Lincoln After Dark | Sat., Oct. 25, 5 - 9 p.m. | **\$10/adults, \$5/children** | Enjoy historic Lincoln under the cloak of night for an unforgettable journey back in time at "Lincoln After Dark," a mesmerizing event co-hosted by The Friends of Historic Lincoln and Oso Productions.

Fort Stanton Flashlight Tour | Sat., Oct. 31, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | **\$25/person** | It's Halloween and what spookier way to celebrate than to join us for our after-hours Fort Stanton Flashlight tour?! Tickets go on sale two weeks prior to the flashlight tour on our website.

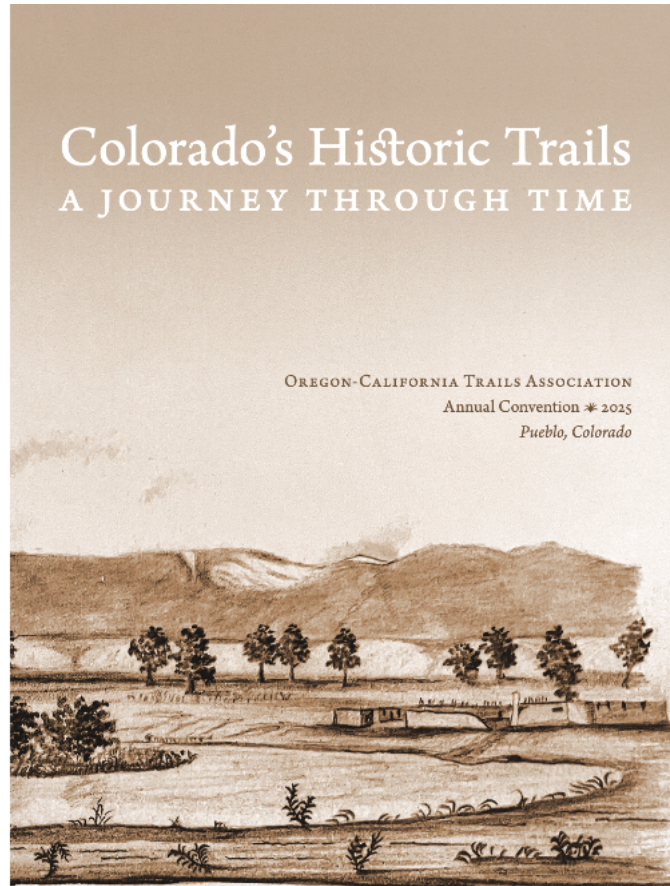
Día de los Muertos in Lincoln | Sat., Nov. 1, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Join us for the annual town celebration of Día de los Muertos or Day of the Dead, which celebrates this tradition in honor of the early Mexican settlers of the area.

All programs listed are included with general admission unless otherwise noted. Adults \$7, children 16 years and younger free.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Our President, Paul Marquez has announced WCHA has table space at the Oregon California Trail Association Annual Convention September 7th -12th. He is looking for people to help man the table. It is a great way to experience the convention, meet people and contribute to WCHA. It can be a lot of fun. Contact Paul at marque64@comcast.net





It's all about Time.

Time is measured differently now than it was 150 years ago.

Many Moons, a Day's ride, or another phrase, "Ten Sleeps" Ten sleeps away from the next town.

As Wild West History Association members, we gauge time by Wild West observation markers, i.e. Wild Bill Hickok's Gunfight Springfield's town square July 21, 1865, or his untimely death in Deadwood, the James/Dalton boys failed and deadly attempt at a bank robbery in Northfield September 7, 1876, Billy the Kid's daring escape from jail in Lincoln, and his untimely death in Ft. Sumner, how about the Gunfight near the OK Corral in Tombstone, and so on and so on.....My point is, this timeline we all speak of is another great commonality we share. There is very little that keeps us apart and more which keeps our friendship going, I enjoy every moment spent talking to you all about these events and encouraged to find more. WWHA is working on bringing members together more frequently in many ways like our Regional Roundups or attending Western History gatherings in and around your local areas. Let us help you create more of this. Thank you everyone. See you all soon. Paul Marquez

Happy Trails