

# 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 1830s and 1840s fur trade times, the Santa Fe Trail and Bent's Fort come to life during the Fur Trade Encampment. Living Historians perform as trappers, traders, teamsters, domestics, laborers, Plains Indians and craftsmen. This year's event features the living history portrayals of fur trapper Kit Carson, Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny and Susan Magoffin. Visitors will be able to stroll through the trader, trapper, military and Indian camps along the Arkansas River which was the boundary between the United States and Mexico during most of the Fort's history. Susan Magoffin, one of the few white women to have travelled the Santa Fe Trail, will tell about her trail life experiences. Stephen Watts Kearny is leading an 1845 expedition exploring the country and laying the groundwork for future forays into the west.

Period trade vignettes, camp and trail life demonstrations, trapping, cooking, carpenter and blacksmithing work techniques will be performed Saturday through noon Sunday. A special evening program on Friday night will feature a performance by John Carson of mountain men 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 colonial dance to the music of 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, painting and archeology of the site. Over 40 volunteers from 4 states with years of experience will provide historically accurate representation 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 719-383-5026. The park is located 10 miles east of La Junta, Colorado on State Highway 194.

### Day Schedule

**Saturday, October 11 – 12 noon Sunday October 12**

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

### Evening Schedule

**Friday, October 10, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

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

"The Quintessential Mountain Man" – lecture of the life and times of Thomas Fitzpatrick, the most written about individual in the fur trade journals by author-historian Michael Moore. Michael 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 southwest colonial period music and the teaching of dance by Dr. Lorenzo Trujillo and Excier Rodriguez.

### Map of Trail to Camps

