



BUGLE CALL

FORT STANTON

NEW MEXICO'S NEWEST STATE MONUMENT

On 23 February 2007, Governor Bill Richardson announced the creation of New Mexico's seventh and newest State Monument embracing the heart of the historic old (1855) Cavalry fort in the picturesque Bonita River Valley of Lincoln County. The Governor's Proclamation includes the 60-70 buildings and 124 acres surrounding them. It leaves undetermined the status of the 1,200 acres of State land immediately surrounding the Fort which was the center of a bitter contest between historic preservationists and real estate developers in 2005. A plan to place 600-1800 houses on the hills around the Fort would have reduced the Fort to a park in a subdivision and a heated campaign led by Fort Stanton, Inc halted the program by arousing the Lincoln County public to the threat. This disputed land is surrounded in turn by 22,000 acres of BLM land reserved as a special environmental and recreational zone. The Fort, as the original holder of water rights in the area is also under threat by local interests wanting the water for development.

The Governor also provided another \$ 1 M for the reconstruction of the Administration Building, originally built in 1855, and destined to be the new "Fort Stanton Museum." This is in addition to \$500,000 from an earlier appropriation and \$210,000 from a Federal grant. Contracts are scheduled to be let in late 2007.

The Fort, for the near future, will be administered under the Lincoln State Monument. Two drug rehabilitation programs under the State Corrections Department that use some of the Fort buildings will also remain temporarily.

The Monument Proclamation was delivered by Lt Gov. Diane Denish and Bill Hume, the Governor's Chief of Staff at an impressive ceremony during "Fort Stanton Live" 11 August,

Governor Vetoes Veteran's Cemetery at Fort Stanton

Governor Bill Richardson vetoed the funds needed for the creation of a new regional Veteran's Cemetery at Fort Stanton. The measure, which had been approved by a previous administration, would have used Federal funds to upgrade the old Merchant Marine Cemetery to Federal standards. However, operation and maintenance would thereafter become a State responsibility. This last provision is what brought on the Governor's veto, on the grounds that Veterans are a Federal, not a State, responsibility. Negotiations between the State and National Governments are continuing. As some of these funds were also to be used to renovate the old Administration Building, the Governor gave \$1M to complete this part of the project.

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FORT SUMNER

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Boots and Saddles Website

Funded by a \$2,000 grant from the New Mexico Dept. of Tourism, the Boots and Saddles Foundation now has a website. The professional looking site was created by Ed Whitted who remains the webmaster. It can be accessed at <http://www.bootsandsaddles-nm.org/>. It is a "living website" in that it will be updated frequently.

Each webpage has a colorful background appropriate for New Mexico. Historic military music plays for the visitor. There is a description of the Foundation and its purposes and an invitation to join our group on the opening webpage. There are links to "President's Message" and information on joining the Foundation. Each of the member Forts has a webpage with a short historical sketch, location, major features, pictures, and weblinks to the Fort's websites and to their "Friends" groups.

The new website is first rate and will give a big boost to our efforts to make the public aware of the important historical legacies of our Forts.

El Rancho de las Golondrinas hosts

18th annual Civil War Weekend

La Cienega, NM May 5-6, 2007. El Rancho de las Golondrinas (www.golondrinas.org), an outdoor historical museum, in partnership with the New Mexico Civil War Commemorative Congress hosted the 18th annual Civil War New Mexico weekend event. Civil war reenactors from NM, CO, AZ, and CA participated. Civil War reenacting units included the 4th Texas Volunteers, 1st New Mexico Volunteers, 5th Texas Mounted Volunteers, 5th Texas Light Artillery, Artillery Company of New Mexico, Ladies League, and the 5th US Infantry.

There was a battle each day with Saturday's battle reenacting the Battle of Apache Canyon and Sunday's battle reenacting the Battle of Glorieta. These two battles occurred March 26 and 28, 1862 respectively, and only about 40 miles from El Rancho de las Golondrinas. In addition to the battles both CS and US military camps hosted several demonstrations such as infantry, artillery, and cavalry drill.



The weekend's weather was not the best with some rain and very cool temperatures particularly on Saturday. Nonetheless all reenactors and spectators had an enjoyable time. For the first time a candle lantern tour for the public occurred just after sundown on Saturday. A candle lantern tour is a series of vignettes each lasting about 3-5 minutes and illustrates typical life-scenes that occurred during the Civil War period in or near a military encampment.

Fort Craig

Founded in 1854, Fort Craig was one the largest and most important western forts. It was sited to control the Rio Grande corridor and as a base for campaigns against the Apaches. It played a key role in the Civil War. The Battle of Valverde was fought nearby and the CSA failure to capture the Fort probably doomed their invasion of 1862. Through most of the period from 1854-1885, Fort Craig was a key logistics and operational base for military forces chasing the elusive Apache raiders.

Abandoned in 1885, the Fort fell into private hands until donated to the US Government. Managed today as a BLM Special Management Area, Fort Craig is on the National Register of Historic Places



Glorieta Battlefield Coalition launches effort to build battlefield trail

Pecos, NM, March 21, 2007. After months of discussion and study, the campaign is underway to design, build, interpret, and fund the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail within the Pigeon's Ranch Unit of the Glorieta Battlefield. The project will be a cooperative effort of the National Park Service, the Friends of Pecos, and the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition. Conceptual plans call for the construction of a 2-2.5 mile trail that will provide an opportunity for visitors to the Glorieta Battlefield to enjoy panoramic views of the 3-day battle which has been called the "Gettysburg of the West." The battlefield trail will traverse portions of the actual battle site, including Artillery Hill and Windmill Hill. The trail will be in the area of some of the heaviest fighting during the 3-day battle which has become known as the Battle of Glorieta Pass, covering the flanking movements along the Confederate right and their efforts to turn the Federal left at Pigeon's Ranch. Interpretive opportunities will include the place where Major John Shropshire was killed while leading the Confederate assault, as well as the determined resistance by the Federal forces. The trail will also be near the area where a Confederate sergeant actually advanced through the Federal lines and, after being warned by a Federal officer (who mistook him for one of the Federal troops) to take precaution from being shot by the rebels, he escaped back to the Confederate lines by offering to charge and flank the Confederate line.

A CALL TO ARMS – BUILD THE TRAIL Jim Houghton, president of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, said, " Design of the trail is underway, through the collective effort of National Park Service staff, historians, reenactment groups, and other organizations with an interest in the preservation and interpretation of the Glorieta Battlefield. Construction of the trail will follow. Simultaneous with the design and construction of the trail, interested persons are assisting in the interpretive opportunities available to include all

aspects of the 3-day engagements at Glorieta Pass, with particular emphasis to the battle at Pigeon's Ranch."

Bill Zunkel, President of the Friends of Pecos; Rich Higgins, Trail Project Chairman; and Jim Houghton, President of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, have launched the fundraising campaign to make the Glorieta Battlefield interpretive trail a reality within the next six months. A special battlefield trail account has been established within the Friends of Pecos for this campaign to cover anticipated expenses that will include parking facilities, construction of the trail, and appropriate interpretive components to make the trail an experience for all to enjoy.

Friends of Pecos and the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition have been working with the NPS and the Civil War Preservation Trust to make this project happen and will be seeking the support of all organizations and individuals interested to get this trail built. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of Pecos and designated for the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail Campaign and sent to the attention of the Treasurer of the Friends of Pecos at P.O. Box 23, Pecos, New Mexico 87552. The Friends of Pecos is a federal 501(C)(3) organization. The Friends of Pecos will provide donation confirmations for tax purposes. The Glorieta Battlefield Coalition's website is www.glorietapass.org.

Boots and Saddles Foundation Wins Non-Profit Status

On 30 May 2006, President John Boretsky announced that the IRS had finally determined that the Foundation was eligible for non-profit status as a 501-c-3 corporation. It is an important development for the Foundation, because only as a legal, non-profit corporation can it apply for most grants, Federal, state or private.

PRESIDENT RESIGNS

On 10 August 2007, President John Boretsky announced his resignation from the Board of Directors and the Presidency of Boots and Saddles New Mexico Foundation. The Board of Directors will soon announce a date for a general membership meeting and a call for nominations. This is required by the Bylaws in order to elect a new slate of officers. The meeting date will be between 15 October and 15 November.



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c/o Tom Brunton, Treasurer

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