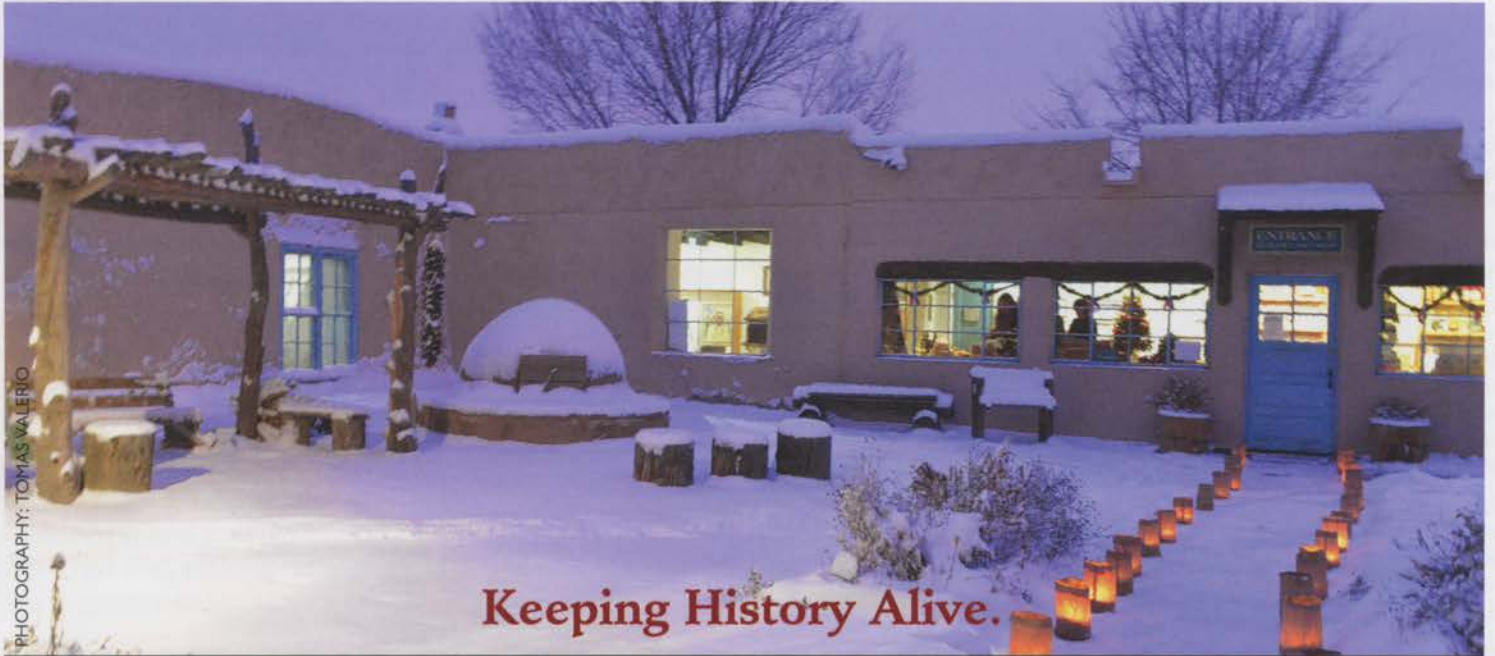




# The Carson Courier

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM

FALL 2014



## Keeping History Alive.

The mission of the Kit Carson Home and Museum is to inform the public about the life, accomplishments and experiences of Christopher "Kit" Carson during America's expansion to the West and to preserve the Carson family home and artifacts for visitors and future generations.

## KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM HISTORIC COURTYARD

The Museum's courtyard was a stunning place this summer. Our hollyhocks were in full force with the addition of a rare violet-colored specimen. Hundreds of tourists throughout the summer enjoyed snapping photos of the historic courtyard and garden. The Museum would like to thank Los Jardineros for their generous support for the upkeep of the gardens and Melissa Serfling of Red Cat Antiques in Taos for her creative planning and planting of the garden beds. Packets of seeds from the courtyard hollyhocks are available for purchase in the KCHM Gift Shop.



## NEW BOOK ABOUT JOSEFA CARSON

The Museum is undertaking its first book publishing project with a new book about Josefa Carson. The book will be written by Barbara Schultz and designed by Janet Caldwell-Cannedy who worked together to produce *The Couse Collection of Santos* for the Couse Foundation. This project will be funded by grants and donations.

Josefa Jaramillo Carson was the heart of the Carson home and it is well documented that Kit, during his travels, was always trying to get home to Josefa and the children. We ask that if anyone, perhaps someone among her many surviving descendants in Taos, has information or photographs of Josefa, that they please contact the Museum at 575-758-4945.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear KCHM Member and Supporter,

As Fall approaches in Taos, we at The Kit Carson Home and Museum send you best wishes for a truly happy upcoming holiday season. With your help, 2014 was a very successful and productive year for the Museum.

Our first summer fundraiser, *The Taos Rendezvous*, held at the Thom Wheeler Gallery, was a huge success and raised over \$10,000 for the Museum. We thank all who attended for their support of the Museum, and Thom and Lavinia Wheeler for their gracious generosity. The event was great fun and an indication of the level of support in our community for preserving our history! I hope you enjoy these photos of the event.

Our second Summer Lecture Series was informative and well attended despite the rains! Thank you again to the New Mexico Humanities Council for their grant to the Museum supporting the series. Look for all new speakers and topics for the KCHM 2015 Summer Lecture Series.

And a special thank you to all who gave to the Museum through GiveGrandeNewMexico this past May. The museum received \$750 from this effort.

This past summer representatives of the Museum attended two Town Council meetings and met privately with the Mayor about the proposal to change the name of The Kit Carson Memorial Park. We understand this is a controversial topic and have offered resources to the community for encouraging more open discussion about the issue in hopes of finding ways to better understand the complex history of Taos and the Southwest. We thank the Taos News for their coverage of this issue and to Hampton Sides and Paul Hutton, PhD for their comments, at our request.

This summer also, the Museum's book and gift shop greatly expanded its offerings of insightful books on the history of Kit Carson, his contemporaries, and books of regional interest. Our gift shop offerings have also expanded to include interesting and fun items from local artisans to one-of-a-kind collectibles. Look for coming holiday events at the Museum and be sure to visit the shop for unique holiday gift ideas.

Finally, please continue supporting our mission by becoming a member, donating or volunteering at the Museum. Your support helps visitors to the Museum learn about our history and allows us to do the demanding work of preserving this important historic site.

Thank you for your support.


Martin Jagers, President

## The Kit Carson Living History Weekend

seeks to "bring to life" the span of Carson's life, with participants dressed as mountain men and Santa Fe traders from the 1820's and 1830's, and Civil War soldiers from the New Mexico Territory, circa 1862. There will be displays of camps, tents, saddles and horse gear, tools, and weaponry of the period. Music of the period will be performed throughout the day by local musicians Chipper Thompson and Daniel Pretends-Eagle, both members of "Paddy Graydon's Independents." Mark "Doc" Gose will bring his trumpet and perform with Thompson and Pretends-Eagle, as well as occasionally blasting out a bugle call. Courtyard activities free to the public. Admission fees apply for touring the Museum's interior.

## KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM

Kit Carson Home and Museum, Inc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of New Mexico and governed by a Board of Directors. The home of Kit and Josefa Carson has been owned and supported by Bent Lodge #42 AF and AM since 1911, when the Freemasons purchased the property.

 113 Kit Carson Road, Taos NM 87571  
575.758-4945, kitcarsonmuseum.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**THE CARSON COURIER** is published semi-annually and is available in print, email attachment and on our web site. We welcome brief articles, book reviews and other material relevant to Kit Carson and his family, as well as life in 19th century New Mexico. Submissions should be less than 250 words and submitted in February or August, to the director.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Kit Carson Home and Museum is a remarkable site. Saved from ruin in the early 1900s by the local Masonic Lodge the site has gained recognition as a National Historic Landmark and today welcomes over 20,000 visitors a year. Kit Carson's history lives on despite controversy and misinformation. I would like to thank each of you, our supporters, for helping us in our efforts to preserve the home of Kit and Josefa and for making the difficult work of preserving history possible. Please feel free to call me with suggestions, ideas, donations or for private tours. **We are here because of you.** Thank you.

Karen J. Douglas  
575-758-4082 Museum Office

## Kit Carson's Hawken Rifle

In our last issue we ran an article about the replica of Kit's Hawken Rifle. The replica is on display in the Museum. Charles Randall and Ed Kollen sent in some interesting additional facts about the making of the replica Hawken. We ran out of room in this issue but look for an expanded history of the rifle in the Spring 2015 newsletter.

# KCHM 2014 SUMMER FUNDRAISER

Our first summer fundraiser, The Taos Rendezvous, was a great success! Almost 200 guests enjoyed Thom Wheeler's delicious barbecue, music from Chipper Thompson and Daniel Pretends—Eagle, while Hampton Sides spoke and signed copies of his book, *Blood and Thunder*. We want to extend our deepest thanks to Thom and Lavinia Wheeler for their great generosity in hosting our event. The fundraiser successfully raised much-needed operating support for the Museum. We would like to thank each and every guest for attending and for making the party a fun and successful highlight of the summer season.



Photos from the KCHM 2014 summer fundraiser.

**"As I started getting rich, I started thinking, 'What the heck am I going to do with all this money?'**  
**... You have to learn to give." Ted Turner**

Kit Carson Home and Museum  
113 Kit Carson Road  
Taos, NM 87571

"I have found that among its other  
benefits, giving liberates the soul  
of the giver."

—*Maya Angelou*



## FRIENDS OF THE KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM

### Become a Member and Invest in History!

All membership categories include membership card, free admission, notice of upcoming events and **The Carson Courier**, the Museum's semi-annual newsletter.

- Senior (62+), Student or Youth (18 and under)** \$20
- Individual or Freemason** receive a complimentary Kit Carson lapel pin. \$35
- Corporate and Nonprofit** receive a complimentary Kit Carson lapel pin plus mention of sponsorship in the Carson Courier. \$45

**Donor** receive a complimentary Kit Carson lapel pin plus a 10% discount on all Museum purchases. \$100 - \$499

**Patrons of the Museum** receive all the above benefits plus a copy of *Blood and Thunder* signed by author Hampton Sides. \$500 - \$999

**Lifetime Museum Benefactor** includes all benefits plus a private tour of the Museum with a local historian. \$1000

**Donation**—I would like to make a donation to the Museum.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes!** I want to be a member! I will pay by  Check (payable to The Kit Carson Museum)  
 Credit Card \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_ AmEx

Name (as it appears on credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (MM/YR) \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support! All memberships are annual (except Lifetime Museum Benefactor) and commence from date of purchase. The Kit Carson Home and Museum will never share or sell personal or financial information. The Kit Carson Home and Museum is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit organization and your membership and donation are 100% tax deductible.

Please return form to **The Kit Carson Home and Museum, 113 Kit Carson Road, Taos, NM 87571.**