



Kit Carson Home and Museum
 113 Kit Carson Road
 Taos, NM 87571
 WWW.KITCARSONMUSEUM.ORG
 575.758.4945

Life, liberty and the pursuit of history!



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 \$100 - \$499 pin plus a 10% discount on all Museum purchases.
- Patrons of the Museum** receive all the above \$500 - \$999 benefits plus a copy of *Blood and Thunder* signed by author Hampton Sides.
- Lifetime Museum Benefactor** includes all benefits \$1000 plus a private tour of the Museum with a local historian.
- 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

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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.**



The Carson Courier

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM

FALL 2015



Chipper Thompson, Mark Gose, Martin Dilger, Joseph Godfrey
 photograph by Kim Treiber

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.

The Kit Carson Home and Museum is the original adobe home of Kit Carson. Built circa 1825, Kit purchased the home in 1843 for his bride, Maria Josefa Jaramillo, one of the daughters of a prominent Taos family. The one-story home was built in the traditional adobe style, with thick walls and surrounding a central courtyard. The home is a rare glimpse into old Taos and remains an icon of Taos history and culture thanks to the Freemasons who purchased the home in 1910, as a memorial to Kit Carson. Visit the Museum soon to see new acquisition items and our expanded shop.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The summer was busy at KCHM. We were happy to welcome many people to the Museum from other parts of the United States, Europe and Australia! The history of Kit Carson and Taos is well-known to people the world-over and we are proud to be able to keep that history alive. We had a summer of interesting lectures and we have plans to expand our lectures series starting this winter. History is about the continued study of note-worthy people, events and movements - in the coming year we are planning a moderated discussion on Kit Carson's role in American history, with historians, scholars and interested citizens all welcome.

Also, I would like to personally thank each and every member, donor, contributor and visitor to the Museum – the preservation of history is such a worthwhile pursuit and all of you make it possible to preserve, protect and steward this important site where American history was made.

And one last comment – our newly enhanced Museum store is bursting with new and exciting items. Don't forget to stop by and find something great for your holiday gifts – a double gift as your purchase will also support the Museum!

Thank you again and my best wishes to all for a *historical* Holiday Season!

Sincerely,
John Smedly, Jr.

JANUARY 2016 LECTURE AT KCHM



**Friday, January 22, 2016
at 5:00 pm at KCHM**

Navajo storyteller, Sunny Dooley, will speak at the Museum on Friday, January 22, 2016 at 5:00pm. Sunny will tell Navajo Blessingway stories passed down from her family, elders and clans. These Origin stories present the worldview of the Navajo people and their relationships with their surroundings. The stories are the social versions of the sacred chants. Sunny has told the stories throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Africa for the past ten years. This talk is free to the public.

KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM

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

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THANK YOU

The Museum extends its sincere appreciation to our members, donors, volunteers, Bent Lodge #42 and all of our supporters - we would not be able to do the important work of preserving history without your help - thank you.

OUR BELOVED FRIEND

Ernest Leavitt passed away in September. Ernie was a supporter of the Museum and a lover of history. We are grateful to have known Ernie – he is missed.

DONATE TO THE KIT CARSON HOME AND MUSEUM at *Pieces, Re-sale Shop!* If you take items to *Pieces* for re-sale please tell Becky or Patsy that you would like the proceeds to go to the Museum! What an excellent way to clean out the house, downsize and contribute to the support of history! Contact *Pieces* at 575.737.0500.

KIT CARSON'S MASONIC RING



We were fortunate to recently have a visit from a Carson descendant who showed us Kit's original Masonic gold ring. The ring was made, he believes, from a solid gold nugget that Kit might have obtained on his trip to Sacramento, California, where he traveled with herds of sheep to sell. He was probably cash-rich after the sale and could have gotten the gold and had the ring cast. The gold in the ring is mixed, meaning there is rose gold and a brassier looking gold. These mixed alloys indicate the ring was cast from a solid nugget of combined golds. One side of the ring is worn down, which could have been the result of Kit or one of his sons, wearing the ring while riding, the leather reins wearing down the gold on the ring. A copy of Kit's Masonic ring will be exhibited in the Museum soon. Copies will also be available for sale.

THE ADVENTURES OF KIT CARSON

"I had gone about a mile and discovered elk. I was on the side of a ridge. I shot one and immediately after the discharge of my gun, I heard in my rear a noise. I turned around and saw two very large grizzly bears making for me. My gun was unloaded and I could not possibly reload it in time to fire. There were some trees at a short distance. I made for them, the bears after me. As I got to one of the trees, I had to



drop my gun, the bears rushing for me I had to make all haste to ascend the tree. I got up some ten or fifteen feet and then had to remain till the bears would find it convenient to leave. One remained but a short time, the other remained for some time and with his paws would nearly unroot the small aspen trees that were around the one which I had ascended. He made several attempts at the one in which I was, but could do no damage. He finally concluded to leave, of which I was heartily pleased, never having been so scared in my life." (Carson is said to have called this experience his "worst difficult.")

From, *Kit Carson's Own Story of His Life*, as dictated to Col. and Mrs. D.C. Peters circa 1856-57



LIVING HISTORY DAY AT THE MUSEUM

Mark "Doc" Gose playing reveille on a civil War era bugle announcing the start of "Living History Day" on Oct 3.

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Don't forget to go to the "Kitapedia" page on our new website at www.kitcarsonmuseum.org and add a comment, question or historic anecdote.



FIRM HANDSHAKE!

These are the hands of Kit Carson III (left) and his brother, Billy, grandsons of Kit Carson. This photograph was taken by Paul F. Moloney in 1970.