

*Home to Colorado's
First and Oldest*

Featured Museum – Fort Garland Museum

With a tagline of “[It's More Interesting Than You Think](#),” this historic military fort does provide a very *interesting* opportunity to step back in time to the last half of the 1800's. Established in 1858 in southern Colorado, Fort Garland, with its garrison of over 100 men, served to protect the earliest settlers in the San Luis Valley. Today you are invited to walk the parade ground of the fort and tour the adobe buildings, which feature a re-creation of the commandant's quarters during Kit Carson's time. Rich in military history, Fort Garland highlights the archaeology of the fort and history of the Valley. Fort Garland was built after [Fort Massachusetts](#) proved vulnerable. The [Capote band of Utes](#) occupied the southern end of the valley at the time of the first contact.

The Fort was also a station for a garrison of 200 men of the Ninth Cavalry of the Buffalo Soldiers from 1876 to 1879 after having served in Texas. In 1876, troops marched to the La Plata region to prevent conflict between the Utes and white prospectors. The following year, they helped remove white settlers from Ute reservation lands.

Events/Exhibits

2016 - Fort Garland Museum – Japanese Oral History Exhibit

July 13th - Fort Garland presentation by Dr. Goddard on archaeology field work at Fort Massachusetts

Jul 16th - Rio Grande County Museum – Native American Exhibit Open House

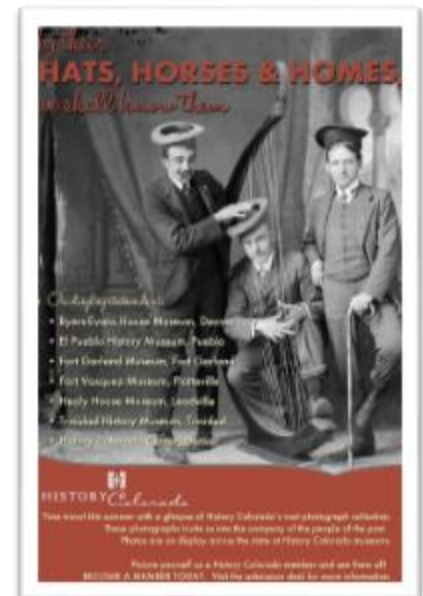
Jul 16th – SLV Historical Society hosts field trip to Fort Massachusetts

Jul 30th – The town of Saguache hosts Hollyhock Festival with Saguache Museum hosting a booth.

See our [calendar](#) for a full listing of events at the

Projects and Exhibits

- A troop of **Boy Scouts** came to the Fort from Boulder Colorado. They helped outline the old commissary building with adobe bricks as one of their service projects. Then they made adobe bricks and toured the museum.
- The Fort is hosting a History Colorado state-wide exhibit, **By Their Hats, Horses and Homes, We Shall Know Them** - The photographs in this exhibit were taken by Timothy O'Sullivan, a photographer with the Wheeler Expedition which came through Fort Garland in 1874. The photographs taken by O'Sullivan were reproduced as stereo graph cards. Visit the fort, see the exhibit, and experience for yourself this very first form of virtual reality.





Buy your **Get Caught Up in History** t-shirt at any of our museums!!

Santa Ana y Santiago Festival – the town of San Luis, Colorado (Colorado's oldest town) will be hosting its annual Festival on Saturday, July 30th.

Covered Wagon Days – the town of Del Norte will be hosting its annual Covered Wagon Days that includes a parade, Hayrides into History and an Ice Cream Social at the rio Grande County Museum.

Road Trip – Looking for a turn-by-turn road trip through some of Colorado's earliest history - read article: <http://www.museumtrail.org/news/valley-adventures-los-caminos-antiguos-scenic-byway>

- The museum is hosting their second **Junior Archaeology Camp**. The camp was made available for local students between 8th grade and High School that starts July 18th - 22nd. The camp is funded by the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and is in partnership with Fort Garland Museum, The Great Sand Dunes Park and Preserve, the US Forest Service San Luis Valley Field Office and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Monte Vista CO. If you visit the museum during these days you might get a chance to see some future archaeologists at work.
- **A Journey of 6000 Miles**, an exhibit and oral history project about the Japanese farmers here in the San Luis Valley during World War II. The Oral Histories are also featured in the San Luis Valley Historical Society's - Historian. The exhibit runs through to Dec 31st, 2016.

Stop by the Fort for an in-depth look at the importance of this Fort in the history of the San Luis Valley.

Free Admission

Kids get free admission into Fort Garland Museum, ALL Summer, EVERY Day!! Valley residents (of all ages) also get free admission with ID.



Huerfano County Historical Society

We'd like to support our history buffs to the east so we are sharing some of their adventures:

- **August 6th - 8:30am - 1:30pm: D&RG Railroad Tour with David Steffan, Celebrating 140 years of Railroad in Huerfano County.** Register between 8:30 - 9am on August 5th at the La Veta Train Depot. \$12 for adults/ \$10 for H.C.H.S. members/ Free to children under ten. Bring snacks and plenty of water for a four-hour tour. Participants furnish their own transportation; carpooling encouraged. For more details, contact dvdsteffan@yahoo.com or telephone (719) 742-5315.
- **August 6th – 2pm: 74th Annual Chuckwagon Dinner in Gardner.** Celebrate the era of large ranches, open-range round-ups, and jovial Western hospitality. Dinner includes pit roasted beef; buttered corn-on-the-cob; potatoes & gravy; biscuits; sliced pie; beverage, all for \$10 per adult/ \$5 per child. For more details, contact ergarcia69@hotmail.com.
- **August 13 - 8:15am – 2pm: Taos Trail Tour.** Register at Walsenburg Mining Museum, 112 W. Fifth Street between 8:15 – 9am on August 13th. \$12 for adults/ \$10 for H.C.H.S. members/ Free to children under ten. Follow the Trail to Taos and learn about Huerfano Butte, historic cottonwood grove near

St. Mary's settlement; Badito; Yellowstone Church; Valdez Cemetery; Maes Creek Penitente Morada; and other historic landmarks along the trail. Bring snacks and plenty of water for a five-hour tour. Participants furnish their own transportation; carpooling encouraged. For more details, contact carlynewmn@aol.com or telephone (719) 738-2840.

- If you have general questions about these events, email averykb@aol.com.

D&RG Railroad Tour Celebrating 140 Years of Railroads in Huerfano County

William Jackson Palmer built the first railroad in southern Colorado. He finished laying track from Denver to Colorado Springs in 1871, extended his line to Pueblo in 1872, to La Veta in 1876, and on to Alamosa in the San Luis Valley by July 4, 1878. This tour emphasizes railroad history east and west of La Veta Pass. For more details, contact David Steffan, dvdsteffan@yahoo.com or telephone (719) 742-5315.



The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad on La Veta Pass: Locomotives No. 99 and 46 descend the pass below Dump Mountain eastbound. (O.T. Davis Collection: Monte Vista Historical Society.)

Points of Interest:

- ◆ La Veta D&RG Structures ◆ Tropic Spur Intersection ◆ Oakview Mines
- ◆ Gun Turrets for 1913-14 Coal Strike ◆ 600-ft Standard Gauge Tunnel
- ◆ Occidental Mine Trestles ◆ Middle Creek Canon Road ◆ Mule Shoe Curve
- Windy Point ◆ Old La Veta Pass ◆ Uptop 1876 Depot & Ghost Town

Registration: 8:30 – 9am, August 6, 2016, at the La Veta Train Depot Cost: \$12 for adults/ \$10 for H.C.H.S. members/ children under ten free Tour's End: 1:30pm in time to attend the Gardner Chuckwagon Dinner Supplies: Bring snacks and plenty of water for a four-hour tour.

Note: Participants furnish their own transportation; carpooling encouraged. General Questions: Contact averykb@aol.com.