

PRESENTATION CATALOGUE

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Bio

Matthew J. Barbour holds BA (2002) and MA (2010) degrees in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico and has worked for the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs since 2002. Currently, Mr. Barbour is the Deputy Director of New Mexico Historic Sites and the Interim Director of the Office of Archaeological Studies. Throughout his twenty-year career, he has published over 200 nonfiction articles and monographs. In 2012, and again in 2014, Mr. Barbour was awarded the City of Santa Fe Heritage Preservation Award for Excellence in Archaeology. In 2018, under Mr. Barbour's management, Coronado Historic Site received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Then in 2019, Jemez Historic Site received the Archaeology Heritage Preservation from New Mexico Historic Preservation Division.

Presentations

Africa's Golden Age, AD 500 to 1500

Nestled between Antiquity and the Colonial Era, Africa's Medieval Period was one of prosperity and innovation. Large native-ruled kingdoms emerged across the continent. It was both a figurative and literal "Golden Age" in which gold served as the pivotal trade good fueling the development and expansion of many of these state-level societies. This presentation will provide a broad overview of Africa during the Medieval Period.

An Archaeological Perspective on Hunting in New Mexico

Hunting has always played a pivotal role in Native American subsistence and culture. While much is made of the megafauna hunters of the Paleoindian Period, later agriculturalists created their own specialized hunting practices. This presentation explores the archaeology and history of hunting in New Mexico from the arrival of hunters and gatherers to the twenty-first century.

An Archaeological Perspective on Turkeys in New Mexico

Turkeys are among the largest birds in North America. Historically, the raising and hunting of turkeys played an important role in many Native American cultures. Not only were the feathers, bones, meat and eggs used in a variety of ways, but the simple presence of the turkey in the fields was vital for pest control. The American Southwest is traditionally home to three subspecies of turkeys with Euroamericans introducing many more "heritage breeds." This talk examines the history of human-turkey interactions in New Mexico from the perspective of an archaeologist, hunter, and breeder of these magnificent birds.

Archaeology and History of Jemez Historic Site

Jemez Historic Site (formerly Jemez State Monument) in Jemez Springs, New Mexico protects and interprets the archaeological remains of Giusewa Pueblo and San José de los Jemez Mission. The site, designated LA 679, was first opened to the public in 1935. Today, visitors of Jemez Historic Site are free to explore the ruins and learn about New Mexico's past. However, much of public remains unaware of this treasure and the role it played in the history of New Mexico and the greater Southwest. This is its story.

Archaeology of the Fort Marcy Military Reservation, 1846 - 1904

Established with the conquest of Santa Fe by General Stephen Watts Kearny on August 18, 1846, the Fort Marcy Military Reservation served as the military and administrative center for the Territory of New Mexico throughout much of the nineteenth century. Situated directly north of Santa Fe's plaza, Fort Marcy transformed a preexisting dilapidated Spanish- and Mexican-period presidio into a symbol of a new imperial power. Excavations conducted in recent years throughout downtown Santa Fe, in conjunction with archival research, have begun to paint a detailed picture of life at the fort. From these investigations, Fort Marcy emerges not simply as a base from which war was conducted, but as a mechanism for acculturation of the local population into the greater national identity.

Agricultural Ingenuity & Expertise among the Jemez People

The Jemez Mountains with its forested slopes, narrow valleys, and rocky crags appears at first glance unsuitable for cultivation. Yet, some of the earliest evidence of maize (corn) in the New Mexico is found there and a Spanish account from 1583 estimates that this rugged terrain may have produced an agricultural yield large enough to support a population of as many as 30,000 people. All Pueblo Peoples were masterful farmers, but the agricultural practices of the Jemez People are nothing short of extraordinary. This presentation will examine agriculture in the Jemez Mountains from its beginnings in the Archaic Period to its collapse in the eighteenth century.

Battle of Glorieta Pass Confederate Mass Grave, 1862

The Battle of Glorieta Pass is referred to by many as the "Gettysburg of the West." Following early victories by a Confederate Army attempting to conquer New Mexico Territory, the battle represented a turning point in the war. Destruction of the Confederate supply train by Union forces led to the retreat of the Confederate Army south, never to threaten Union supremacy in the American West again. In 1987 while building his house, a New Mexico resident unearthed a Confederate mass grave associated with the battle. This presentation examines the archaeological and forensic findings associated with the soldiers buried therein.

Corn & Cotton: Archaic Life along the Mimbres River

In 2011, the Office of Archaeological Studies conducted data recovery on an archaeological site along the Mimbres River, just north of Deming, New Mexico. These efforts resulted in the documentation of 25 features and the collection of 2,091 artifacts and samples. Analytical results suggest that principal occupation of the site occurred during the Late Archaic/Early Agricultural Period with an emphasis on corn and cotton production. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the archaeological investigations while substantiating and improving upon our knowledge of early human habitation in the Mimbres Basin.

Coronado, Onate, and the Mixton War, 1540 - 1542

The Mixton War, which occurred between 1540 and 1542, was a rebellion by Native American peoples against the Spanish. It was a brutal war fought on the fringes of what was then northwest New Spain. Few New Mexicans have ever heard of it. Yet, the figures of the war and the events that occurred leading up to it, during it, and in its immediate aftermath factor very heavily in New Mexico's history. This presentation explores the war in-depth.

Elephants at War

Elephants have been utilized in war throughout much of human history. Sometimes referred to as 'living tanks,' their strength, height, and intelligence make them ideal for a number of tasks, including destroying enemy fortifications and serving as mobile platforms for sharpshooters. While most commonly used in India and Southeast Asia, the animals were also employed along the Mediterranean and in the Middle East. This presentation will explore the use of war elephants through time and across the globe.

The Era of Late Antiquity

Late Antiquity is a term used to characterize Europe, the Mediterranean, and Near East between the 3rd and 8th centuries AD. This era was a time of profound cultural, political, military, and religious change as old empires evolved and new ethnic groups emerged to reshape the historical narrative. This lecture will provide a broad overview of the period examining the decline of the Roman Empire and the rise of Islam.

Era of Pike & Shot

Military historians often characterize the 16th and 17th centuries as the “Era of Pike and Shot.” The Spanish were the first to introduce to the battlefield a mixed formation of arquebusiers and pikemen during the Italian Wars. The Dutch and Swedes would go on to perfect this formula until wide-scale adoption of the flintlock musket and bayonet by French and German armies in the late 1600s ushered the era to a close. This presentation will look at the military developments and conflicts which characterized the period.

Fascinating Finds: Seven Bizarre and Extraordinarily Informative Artifacts found behind the Palace of the Governors

Between 2002 and 2004, the Office of Archaeological Studies performed excavations behind Santa Fe’s Palace of the Governors in preparation for the construction of the New Mexico History Museum. This project recovered over 700,000 artifacts, each with a story to tell. Yet, some of these items are -by their very nature- more fascinating than others. Objects, such as an Aztec bowl with the power to cure acne and the slag-lined cupel from Battersea Works in England, have the potential to shed light on lesser-known aspects of New Mexico’s often sordid and colorful past. This presentation will examine seven of the most bizarre artifacts found during the archaeological excavations and the history behind their use and disposal at the Palace of the Governors.

First Contact: The Taino & Their Legacy

The Taino of the Caribbean were the first Native American people to encounter Spanish explorers. Historical accounts and the archaeological record indicate a dynamic culture rich with artistic and religious expression and ideally suited for life among the islands. This lecture will provide an overview of the Taino, examine their acts of accommodation and resistance to colonization, and explore how their legacy has- and continues- to influence peoples and cultures around the world.

Fort Sumner and the Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation, 1862 - 1869

Fort Sumner was established in 1862 to enforce the confinement of rebellious Indian populations at the newly minted Bosque Redondo Indian Reservation, on the Pecos River. Colonel Christopher “Kit” Carson brought approximately 400 Mescalero Apaches and 7,000 Navajos to Bosque Redondo. However, widespread pneumonia and dysentery resulted in the death of roughly a quarter of the population. In November 1865, the Mescalero fled the reservation, but the Navajos remained until permitted to return home under the terms of the Treaty of Bosque Redondo in June 1868. Deemed an absolute failure, the post was abandoned by the US Army in 1869. This is the tale of one of America’s most notorious concentration camps.

Gunpowder Empires: Islam in the 16th and 17th Centuries

The Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires are often collectively referred to as the “Gunpowder Empires.” These three Islamic states rose to prominence in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their armies were able to conquer large swaths of the Old World, uniting culturally diverse populations under large, centralized bureaucracies. In doing so, the “Gunpowder Empires” set the stage for later developments in the Middle East, Balkans, and Indian Subcontinent. This lecture provides a brief overview of these three Islamic states.

History of Jemez Province

Located along the southern flanks of the Jemez Mountains, the Hemish of Jemez Pueblo have always represented a distinct cultural group among the Pueblo peoples of the Rio Grande. Unlike their Keres neighbors who congregated in large farming communities along major rivers and produced a distinct polychrome pottery,

the Hemish historically lived in much more dispersed settlements high atop forested mesas and away from permanent water sources. They relied heavily on rainfall to sustain their agriculture and continued the manufacture of black on white pottery long after the practice was abandoned by other Puebloan groups. This presentation explores the unique history of the Hemish from their migration into the region in the 1200s to the present day.

History of the Fort Marcy Military Reservation, 1846 - 1904

Between 1846 and 1904, the Fort Marcy Military Reservation occupied much of the downtown Santa Fe area. It served as both the administrative and military center for New Mexico Territory throughout much of the nineteenth century. During this time, the post played an important role in numerous conflicts including various campaigns against the Navajo, the Taos Revolt of 1847, the American Civil War, and the Spanish American War.

Italy & the Italian Wars, 1494 – 1559

The Italian Wars were a series of conflicts in which the great powers of Europe vied for influence and control over the various Italian states of late 15th and early 16th centuries. The impact of these wars on the Italian peoples and their Renaissance was catastrophic. This lecture provides an overview of the Italian Wars by examining the major events and their role in helping to shape the modern world.

From Jinete to Soldado de Cuera: Spanish Light Cavalry in the Medieval & Early Modern Periods, AD 711 to 1848

The Islamic Conquest of the Iberian Peninsula demonstrated the effectiveness of Berber light cavalry. The Latin Kingdoms of Aragon, Castile and Portugal all copied these troops which they labeled “jinetes.” The “jinetes” proved pivotal in the Reconquista and were exported to the New World. On the frontier of Northern New Spain, they would continue to evolve into the iconic “soldado de cuera” that challenged Native Americans, and later the United States Government, for control of the American Southwest. This presentation will examine the Spanish light cavalry tradition from the Umayyad Invasion of Spain in 711 to the end of the Mexican American War in 1848.

Lesser Known and Unexpected Conquistadors

Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro are well known for their conquests of the Aztec and Inca Empires. However, the exploits of these men did not occur in a vacuum. Many other conquistadors came before and after them. They included the Portuguese Afonso de Albuquerque in India and the Native American Ixtlilxochitl II in Central America. This presentation will explore some of these lesser known conquistadors and the impacts of their conquests on the early modern era.

Mining Camps of Cookes Peak

The mountain northeast of Deming, known as Cookes Peak, was once a flourishing industrial center. Miners in the late 1800s established three major camps in the area: Cooks Town, Hadley Town, and Jose Town. These communities expanded and contracted with the price of silver until the area was largely abandoned in the mid-twentieth century. Traces of the camps are evident on the mountainside today and their legacy remains an important part of history to the City of Deming and the people of Luna County.

Native American Conquistadors: The Mesoamerican Conquest of the New World

Mesoamerican cultures at the time of the arrival of the Spanish were incredibly advanced. Their military institutions consisted not only of peasant conscripts, but of a professional warrior class. The Spaniards realized this immediately and utilized these forces to great effect in their subjugations of Native Americans throughout the New World. This lecture will explore the role of Mesoamerican Indians in the Spanish colonial enterprise of the 16th and 17th centuries.

New Mexico Central Railway

The New Mexico Central Railway, affectionately known to many as the “Bean Line,” was founded as the Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Pacific Railroad in 1900 and was in operation until 1926. Success of the railway was tied to agriculture in the Estancia Basin and to markets in Santa Fe, El Paso, and beyond. Recent archaeological investigations in Santa Fe, the northernmost stop for the New Mexico Central Railway, have unearthed much of the infrastructure which once serviced the line. Examining these archaeological phenomena provides evidence as to the speculative nature of the enterprise and the lack of capital investment which ultimately led to its demise.

New Mexico’s Game Animals

When one thinks of game animals in New Mexico, Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer are often the first species that come to mind, but the state is also home to impressive herds of oryx and ibex. There are no fewer than four different quail species and three different turkey subspecies. New Mexico is a land of plenty in terms of both types of animals and public lands on which to encounter them. This presentation is geared towards helping hunters, photographers, and wildlife enthusiasts find and properly identify these animals.

Nomads on the Pontic-Caspian Steppe, AD 400 - 1200

The Pontic-Caspian steppe is a large grassland which connects Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. During Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, various Turkic-speaking nomadic groups, including the Huns, Bulgars, and Khazars, emerged from this region to wreak havoc on the great Christian and Islamic states of the period. This presentation will focus on the cultural history of these peoples and their broader impact on Europe and the Near East from approximately AD 400 to 1200.

Philip II of Spain, 1527 - 1598

At various points in his life, Philip II was King of Spain, King of Portugal, King of England and Ireland, King of Naples and Sicily, Duke of Burgundy, Duke of Milan, and Lord of the Netherlands. He ruled, through these and other titles, the most extensive empire the world had ever seen. Yet, his reign is often remembered more for its failures than its achievements. This presentation will examine the life of this enigmatic monarch.

The Portuguese Empire, AD 1415 to 1668

Beginning with the capture of Ceuta in 1415, Portugal sparked a colonial enterprise that would transform the small medieval kingdom into a vast and wealthy empire. Dynamic leadership and religious zealotry fueled exploration and conquests in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. In doing so, the Portuguese revolutionized maritime travel, constructed elaborate trade monopolies, and developed the plantation system. This presentation explores Portugal’s triumphs and tribulations during the Age of Discovery.

Prehistory & Early History of Los Luceros Historic Site

Los Luceros Historic Site is a place of great beauty and an amazing location from which to explore the history of Northern New Mexico. For many visiting the site, history begins with the Martin Serrano Family in the 18th century, but this narrative fails to account for the archaeological record and oral tradition of the indigenous peoples. This presentation seeks to expand upon the narrative by placing the Historic Site in a broader cultural context and exploring the evidence for Spanish occupation at Los Luceros prior to the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.

Pueblo Identity & the People of Kuaua Pueblo

The term “Pueblo” is problematic. It was used by the Spanish to refer to many different ethnic groups living in the American Southwest at the time of European contact. All of these groups shared the trait of living in villages but had different languages and customs. This presentation explores the multi-ethnic composition of the people referred to as “Pueblo” through the lens of the occupation history of Kuaua Pueblo, known today as Coronado Historic Site.

Pueblo Warrior, AD 750 - 1750

Recent popular histories of the American Southwest have highlighted the ferocity and military prowess of the Apache, Comanche, and Navajo. While this is certainly true, the Pueblo peoples too had a very proud and long-lasting military tradition. From the 8th to 18th centuries, it was Pueblo culture and military power which dominated the area. Only after a century of death to infectious disease and European weaponry did this military supremacy by Pueblo peoples begin to decline. This presentation explores the equipment, organization, and history of these southwestern warriors.

Recent Archaeological Research at Jemez Historic Site

Between August 2018 and April 2019, New Mexico Historic Sites conducted archaeological investigations at Jemez Historic Site. The goal of this research was to address long held questions about the Jemez people involving their origins and how their lives changed after the arrival of the Spanish. It resulted in the collection of over 20,000 artifacts and the documentation of a room thought to have been abandoned during the seventeenth century. This presentation will discuss the results of the research and the impacts it is already having on the interpretation of the site.

Religion and Rebellion in 17th Century New Mexico

The Pueblo Revolt of 1680 did not occur in a vacuum. It represents the nexus in a broader century of religious and political conflict between the Spanish and Native American in New Mexico. This presentation will discuss the arrival of the Franciscan missionaries and the impacts Catholicism had on Pueblo culture resulting in both conflict and accommodation. Underlying these interactions is a lesson of tolerance, which remains relevant to this day.

Renovatio Imperii: Justinian, Theodora, and the Later Roman Empire

Emperor Justinian I is sometimes referred to as the “Last Roman.” His reign, from 527 to 565, represented a high point for the later Roman Empire in which large portions of Spain, Italy and Northern Africa were reincorporated into the state centered at Constantinople. Yet, it was also a time marked by great cruelty, famine, and, if Procopius is to be believed, lewdness. This presentation will explore the life and times of Emperor Justinian, Empress Theodora, and the empire they ruled.

That Sink of Vice and Extravagance

Established with the conquest of Santa Fe by General Stephen Watts Kearny on August 18, 1846, the Fort Marcy Military Reservation served as the military and administrative center for the Territory of New Mexico throughout much of the nineteenth century. Situated at the junction of three major trade networks—El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Old Spanish Trail, and the Santa Fe Trail—Fort Marcy transformed a preexisting dilapidated Spanish- and Mexican-periods presidio into a symbol of a burgeoning imperial power. The military post would go on to play an important role in numerous conflicts, including various campaigns against the Navajo, the Taos Revolt of 1847, the American Civil War, and the Spanish American War.

Excavations conducted in recent years throughout downtown Santa Fe have revealed a plethora of archaeological finds associated with the military reservation, such as foundations associated with the fort’s structures, plumbing/ sewage systems, and pits filled with kitchen and domestic refuse. Portable artifacts collected in association with these features consist primarily of imported items such as European and Oriental porcelains, rubber combs, children’s toys, medicinal products, and lots and lots of liquor bottles. In conjunction with archival research, these materials have begun to paint a detailed picture of life at the military reservation and for Santa Fe as a whole. Fort Marcy emerges not simply as a base from which war was conducted, but a testament to changes in regional trade networks brought by United States control of the American Southwest.

Urban Archaeology in the Capitol Complex Historic Neighborhood

The Prohibition and Great Depression Eras represent a fascinating point in United States history. Recent archaeological investigations into the Capitol Complex Historic Neighborhood of Santa Fe, New Mexico examined the lives of New Mexico families living at eleven different structures during this period. Cultural materials collected from these investigations were utilized to examine ethnic, socioeconomic, contextual, and temporal differences in consumption and discard patterns among residents of the individual structures and how these differences (or similarities) characterized the neighborhood as a whole.

Vikings & Vampires: The Founding of the Polish State, AD 900 - 1100

The founding of the Polish State is surrounded in legend and mystery. Arising from the Dark Ages of Europe, the state had its origins in the Wielkopolska Region of Western Poland. It effectively combined Slavic, Nordic, and Teutonic cultures to form one of the largest and most powerful kingdoms in Europe during the reign of Boleslaw I Chrobry in the late tenth and early eleventh centuries. Told through folklore, history, and archaeology, this presentation examines the rise of the Poles from their agrarian beginnings to their far-reaching military campaigns in England and Russia.

With Fire and Sword: The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, AD 1569 – 1795

While officially established under the Union of Lublin in 1569, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had its roots in the marriage of Queen Jadwiga of Poland to King Wladyslaw Jagiello of Lithuania in 1386. The ceremony tied the Crown of Poland to the rulers of Lithuania and converted the Lithuanian Nobility to Christianity. “With fire and sword,” the two nations marched across Eastern Europe crushing Cossack, Teutonic Knight, and Turk to create a vast empire. Explore this multi-ethnic and religiously tolerant nation from its inception to demise.

The Worst of the Worst: Pedro de Alvarado

Most Spanish conquistadors, even among favorable of sources, are viewed as complicated individuals motivated by a mixture of greed and religious fervor. However, there is one conquistador who is almost universally hated and maligned. That man is Pedro de Alvarado. This presentation follows the brutal conquistador from his initial forays in Cuba, to his massacre of festival goers in Tenochtitlan, through his campaigns against the Maya, and ending with his death at the hands of rebellious Caxcanes.