



Fort Union Days

The 1876 - 1881 Campaigns

June 20 - 21, 2015



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Welcome to Fort Union National Monument's 2015 Fort Union Days Event



Fort Union *The 1876 - 1881 Campaigns*

Welcome to Fort Union National Monument's Fort Union Days Event. This year we are focusing on one of the most impactful periods in Fort Union's tumultuous 40-year history...the years of 1876 to 1881. It was during this time that Fort Union and its troops (primarily the soldiers of the 9th US Cavalry) were tasked with multiple duties that would press both soldier and the fort to near breaking points.

During this time period, duties included patrolling the Santa Fe Trail along with the newly established cattle trails, providing security details for the railroad construction, and leading simultaneous campaigns against the Ute and Chiricahua Apache tribes. As a result, this five year span one of the most frenzied and pivotal chapters in Fort Union's history.

We invite you to explore, learn, and discover the stories that wait for you during this special Fort Union Days event.

- The staff of Fort Union National Monument



Saturday, June 20

- 9:30 AM - Ranger led Tour of Fort Union
10:00 AM - Raising of the Colors
11:15 AM - *19th Century Artillery and Small Arms Demonstration*
Artillery Company of New Mexico and
3rd Regiment New Mexico Volunteers
12:30 PM - Musical Presentation:
“Music From the Ranch and the Open Range”
By: Steve Cormier
1:30 PM - *“1876 - 1881: Fort Union and the Years of Ultimate Change”*
By: Ranger Ron Harvey Fort Union National Monument
2:45 PM - *“Medal of Honor: 9th US Cavalry Muster Call”*
By: All Living History Personnel
3:15 PM - *19th Century Artillery and Small Arms Demonstration*
Artillery Company of New Mexico and
3rd Regiment New Mexico Volunteers
4:30 PM - Lowering of the Colors
8:30 PM - 10:30 PM: Fort Union Star Party

Fort Tours - Living History Military Encampment

Talks and Presentations - Live Music - Black Powder Demonstrations

Saturday Evening Astronomy Program - Kids Activities and Crafts



Sunday, June 21

- 9:30 AM - Ranger led Tour of Fort Union
- 10:00 AM - Raising of the Colors
- 11:15 AM - *19th Century Artillery and Small Arms Demonstration*
Artillery Company of New Mexico and
3rd Regiment New Mexico Volunteers
- 12:30 PM - “Civil War Veterans in New Mexico” By David L. Geary, Ph.D.
- 1:30 PM - “1876 - 1881: Fort Union and the Years of Ultimate Change”
By: Ranger Ron Harvey Fort Union National Monument
- 2:30 PM - *19th Century Artillery and Small Arms Demonstration*
Artillery Company of New Mexico and
3rd Regiment New Mexico Volunteers
- 3:15 PM - 19th Century Military Marching and Drill
3rd Regiment New Mexico Volunteers
- 4:30 PM - Lowering of the Colors

Photographs by: Richard Gonzales

About Fort Union 1851 ~ 1891

Established in 1851 near the convergence of the two main routes of the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Union was the largest US military outpost in the American Southwest during the 19th century. In addition to responding to and leading campaigns against Native American tribes, Fort Union was the main supply center for the US military in the Southwest. Over 40 military outposts within a 500+ mile radius relied on Fort Union's essential supplies to maintain military operations in Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma, and the New Mexico Territory. By 1891, campaigns against the Native Americans had almost concluded and the once bustling Santa Fe Trail lay quiet and dormant. As a result, Fort Union had become obsolete in the eyes of the US military. The fort was abandoned on May 15, 1891.

On June 27, 1954, after over 63 years of rampant salvage, the historic remnants of the fort became protected and preserved with the establishment of Fort Union National Monument.