

among other things, a Hawkins rifle.

The number of people killed in the Fort el Pueblo massacre, has been variously stated. Some have said that it was more than twenty. Stevenson says, "Seventeen men lost their lives as the result of Christmas hospitality extended to Indians." But there seems to be no doubt that, as stated by Mrs. Simpson and Mr. Beard, the number of inmates killed, was fifteen. "We have one official statement of the affair, which, though brief, is the only contemporary printed and direct notice of it that I have seen. On the 31st of January, 1855, General Garland, commanding in the Department of New Mexico, wrote to Army Headquarters as follows: "I regret to be compelled to report to the general-in-chief, that on Christmas day a war party of over one hundred (100) Utahs and Jicarilla Apaches, (who have taken shelter among them,) destroyed a settlement on the Arkansas river, above the mouth of the Huerfano, killing fifteen (15) men, capturing two women and children, and running off all the stock of the settlement. They have also committed some minor depredations, leaving no doubt of the hostile disposition of the Utahs, a numerous and warlike band."

"Uncle Dick" Wootton, who ~~as we have seen~~ was living <sup>at Huerfano creek settlements</sup> lower down the Arkansas, at the time of the slaughter, and who tells of nine Cherokee Indian teamsters and of other persons being killed by the Utes during their raid in the Arkansas valley, additional to those massacred at the Pueblo, says, as reported by Conard, "Of the seventeen persons whom the Indians found in the fort, all were killed, with the exception of the wounded man whom we found there, and a woman and two children who were carried away as captives. The woman, a good looking young Mexican girl, was killed before the Indians left the valley. We could never learn what became of the children, but they probably met the same fate." Of the wounded man he elsewhere says, "We found but one person alive in the fort; that was an old Mexican who had been badly wounded, and died a few days later."

In his work above cited, Peters says, "Among the slain was a Canadian who fought so skillfully and desperately before he was dispatched, that he killed three of his assailants. When his body was found, it was literally pierced through and through with lance and arrow wounds, while the hand with which he had caught hold of some of these weapons, was nearly cut to pieces. Around ~~near~~ his corpse, there were a dozen horses' tails which had been cut from the horses which were owned by the dead warriors, and left there, as a sign of mourning, by the Indians." A man, who escaped by concealment and

Peters' "Life of Kit Carson," says the "Utahs and Apaches... killed and carried off, a total of fifteen settlers."

"The Indians  
killed in 1859."

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Utahs and Apaches... killed and carried off, a total of fifteen settlers."

Besides those who were in the fort at the hour of flight; and two boys, taken captive and later released, the massacre, Stevenson says, "One of the occupants of the fort had gone to the St. Charles [creek] with his team on the day of the slaughter, and on his return he found his wife alive to tell the tale, and that man died a short time afterward." Mrs. Sandoval, the commandante's wife, who in some manner escaped the massacre and lived to recover her sons from the Indians, may have been spared through her having been living temporarily, and at just the critical time, with friends in New Mexico.

~~Massachusetts, Mrs. Wootton's family, etc.~~ This seems more probable than that she was one of the two women mentioned by General Garland as having been carried away captive; for none of the other accounts mention any other captive woman from the Pueblo than <sup>the one</sup> ~~blain~~ on Salt creek, and <sup>as</sup> the circumstances of the recovery of the commandant's wife from the Indians, had that transpired, would surely have been noted by some one, it seems likely that General Garland was mistaken in his understanding that there were two women captives.

At the time when the Utes made their raid down the Arkansas, there was another and more recent Mexican settlement, or rancho, not far below the Pueblo, and that contained in a sort of stronghold, about the same number of people as the latter. It was <sup>but little east of Fountain creek and was</sup> generally known, from a certain tough resident there, as Juan Chiquito's place; but it was, more properly speaking, the colony of Marcellina Baca, the latter being the principal man. After ~~had~~ destroying the colony at ~~the~~ Fort el Pueblo, the Indians went over to the Baca settlement, intending to wipe that out also. They approached the establishment, and professed they were friendly and wanted to come in and talk. To this, most of the Mexicans were inclined to assent, believing the Indians sincere; and the latter would have been admitted, but for the furious opposition of one experienced old fellow who perceived that the Utes were dissembling, and declared that, whatever the others might do, if the Utes tried to come in, he would begin to shoot. ~~had~~ One shot, of course, meant a fight; <sup>so</sup> the Indians were told to pass on, — that they could not come in without a fight. As the place could then be taken only by a protracted assault, and the probable loss of some braves, which was no part of the Muache program, the Utes gave up the game at this place and went on down the valley. Had the Baca settlement been wiped out by the Utes, few regrets would have been wasted down at the Huerfano; for Doyle, Wootton and Autobee had many a loss of stock from their ranches to attribute to the light-fingered Juan Chiquito, and would fain have seen his scalp, at least, go dangling with the Muaches, and thus have been ~~spared~~ spared the future necessity and difficulty of closing his operations themselves. <sup>But as for the Baca-ites, to their</sup> ~~had~~ <sup>great</sup> subsequent rejoicing, ~~had~~ <sup>their</sup> wise and inflexible old compañero had saved them the day.

The massacre of which I have here been writing, occurred about four years before the arrival of the first settlers of modern Pueblo. But the old fort was never reoccupied. It was even reported to be haunted; and this reputation it bore, even after it stood — so much of it as was not abstracted for incorporation in other adobe buildings — in the modern City.

But for these earlier Puebloans injudiciously letting the Indians into the fort, and then inviting vivisection by celebrating their Christmas holiday with the devil's own anæsthetic, some of the people of the old fort might have become ~~useful~~ founders and useful citizens of the Greater Pueblo (for Sandoval, at least, I take it, was a man of some ability), and the Pittsburgh of the West might ~~have~~ boasted a continuous history, as a center of trade and agriculture, back to 1842.

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OLD FORT EL PUEBLO

copied from illegible note of  
F.W.C.

The old Fort El Pueblo the forerunner of the modern city of  
Pueblo was the residence of a small community of whites and  
Mexicans that settled at the junction of the Mountain Creek  
and the Arkansas River over sixty years ago for purposes of  
agriculture and trade. It was located on the left bank of the  
river about miles in a straight line west of the Mountain  
a short distance south west of the A.T.&S.F. freight station.  
It was a square adobe structure built around a (square) after  
the usual plan of larger Mexican dwellings.  
The noted mulatto, mountain man and crow sub-chief, Jim Beck-  
with claimed to have built it. In Bonner's "Life of Beckwith"  
the redoubtable Jim makes himself the central figure of the  
transaction as of many others, he also claimed proprietorship  
of the place as late as 1846. After relating his adventures  
as the hero of a great horse stealing expedition to California  
he very early in that year according to his account with many  
horses to what he calls my fort on the Arkansas where he  
remains until the animals have fattened in the early spring grass  
and he drives them down to Bent's Fort and sells them to  
General Kearney for the purposes of the Mexican War. In reality  
the fort was built some time before (Oct, 1842) which he mentions  
as his connection with it. (and so unless he came to the  
locality at least 2 or 3 months).

Dr. Simpson ('46.)

Surgeon (during Mex war),  
at Albuquerque, Dec, 1846.

Can it be old Dr. Robt. Simpson was a  
Surgeon in Mex War? Or is this another Simpson?

Worshipped at 8.2 P.M. by 97.

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# Description, Location: El Pueblo

Pueblo, Colo.

Early times

(Early names relating to region or locality)

Neposta (Arkansas river) <sup>or Tawend?</sup> Comanche <sup>or Arapahoe?</sup>

Rio San Carlos (St. Charles cr.) Spanish

Boiling Spring river (Nat. equivalent)

Sources of the Arkansas.

"the Grand Forks" of the Arkansas (El Pueblo)

Front of Pueblo, Pueblo San Carlos, etc.

Front El Pueblo,

Early times  
[of Colorado]

"The first settlement and cultivation of the soil by civilized beings took place in the spring of 1842, at a point within the present limits of the city of Pueblo, though prior to this in 1838, a small patch of corn had been planted further down the valley, but was destroyed by Indians. The first actual settlers who cultivated the soil within the present limits of Colorado were a party of seven named Fisher, Sloan, Spaulding, Kinkaid, Beckwith, Hale and Simpson, first names wholly forgotten. They raised excellent crops of corn, for wheat, as may well be imagined, there was a great demand." (Page 236, Vol. II, Hall's Hist. Colo.)

Locality of  
Pueblo of St. Charles <sup>before the Pueblo</sup>  
at the place <sup>about 100 miles above</sup> ~~between the Bent's~~ Fort <sup>1840</sup>  
Peter C. of Kit Carson was afterward  
built is where Kit Carson <sup>with</sup> + Bill  
Williams, Willie New <sup>Medora</sup> and Colorado  
Mitchell reached Arkansas river in re-  
turning from Fort Union (frontal side of  
Utah) to Bent's Fort in the summer of  
1840. (See p. 161, Peter C. of Carson.)

Front El Pueblo. 1840, inc.

See p. 765 of Hist. of Pueblo County, in  
Stephens's Hist. of Pueblo County, in  
See p. 765 of Hist. Ark. Vol.

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Fort El Pueblo. (Early 18c.)  
"a settlement  
called St. Charles", top "built  
in often years"; that is, after  
1840. (p. 161, Peters' Life of  
Carson.)

A few points on the massacre  
given, same page.

### El Pueblo de Rio Grande.

Hale (Kings, Vol. 135) erroneously  
calls it "El Pueblo de San Carlos".  
The San Carlos settlement was a  
smaller one, on St. Charles creek.

### Old Fort Pueblo.

~~on S. bank~~ See Melville, p. 91.  
(Two houses, on forest.)

Fort El Pueblo. See book for rough  
sketch of location of  
El Pueblo.  
Statement of Steve Smith (came to Pueblo in '69.)  
The fort had rooms, he thinks, on all sides; the  
main entrance was on the N. side; another  
entrance on the S. (river side). (Over)  
(N.B. Can it be that Steve confuses it  
with E for main entrance, owing to forgetting  
position & orientation of the fort which was on  
a bend of the river.)

### Pueblo de San Carlos.

At delta bet. Ark. R. & Mountain  
creek. (Sage, Fremont,  
Beckwourth, &c.)

## The Pueblo, on Arkansas

In Oct, 1842, Jim Beckworth (he says) "creat-ed a trading-post, <sup>and opened a successful business.</sup> A little with 15 or 20 ~~other~~ free trappers with their families, in a adobe fort sixty yards square <sup>the</sup> "Big-fog" spring, we had government with a little settlement, and we gave it the name of Pueblo." (p 464 of Birkin's Life of Jim Beckor)

On p. 475, again he calls it "my fort on the Arkansas", he having returned thither fr. Calif. in 1846, bring a large no. of horses loaded for the market over Los Angeles, which he sold to Gen. Kearny.

### Fort El Pueblo (1843-44)

From Donisthorpe's 1st arr. there July 14, 1843.  
(See p. 116, of Rep. of his 2d expd.).  
His 2d arr. there June 29, 1844.  
His 3d (p. 287. of same).  
His 3d arr there was in 1845.  
See his descp. of it and statement  
as to building (Gulden) & owners.

The Pueblo. (a fort at  
mouth of Colorado r.)  
Built in 1842. by company of  
indep. traders on com. property system.  
10 or 12 Americans mostly married to  
Mex. wives = occupants <sup>20-21</sup> Sep. 22, 1842.  
(See p. 172, Sage's "Wild Scenes".)

### Fort El Pueblo (de San Carlos)

John Beckwith not only claimed  
to have built it in 1842, but refers  
"my fort on the Arkansas" (p. 475)  
to it as "my plantation and ranch".  
p. 476  
"I sent all my remaining horses [stolen from  
1842] back to my plantation"; and  
p. 477, "my ranch; but on p. 475 he  
calls it "my community". His going  
thither, in connection with these  
operations, were in 1846. [Pages above cited  
refer to Donisthorpe's life of Beckwith, 1st ed.]

### Fort El Pueblo (1847)

For Fitzpatrick's letter <sup>1 Sept 1844</sup>  
30th Cong., 1st Session, Senate  
Exec. Doc. No. 1. (See therein,  
append. to Rep. Com. Ind. Aff.)

### On hist. Pueblo vicinity,

see parts of footnotes 44, 45-  
451-454] of Com. Pikes' expd.

### Fort El Pueblo (early 60s)

For Major Driggs' rather indefinite  
(though doubtless partly true  
as far as on) see footnotes, p. 369  
Chittenden's Hist. N. W. Frontier

17.

Below the name of ~~thus~~ (1875) Pueblo, Colo. (1846-62) 100 or  
long house, of one story, (say 120 ft. long)  
and divided up into compartments, house  
built of mud or adobe, was as late as 1862 still standing, in dilapidated condition  
the walls mostly fallen down, but its north  
end still high enough to show there had been a  
door there, on the S. side of the Arkansas river  
about 7 (Fay's straight line to #) miles above Pueblo's  
present Union Depot (It was at head of the 1/2 mile long  
flame of the Arkansas, Goodnight ~~you~~ before the river, ~~you~~

### Fort El Pueblo (1846-71) To. Pa. Inv.

Common settlement at  
winter of '46-'47; description of  
set of log shanties, with  
church, or "temple", at end, (See  
p. 261-2 of Ruston's Life in  
the Far W.)

### Fort El Pueblo (1847.) To. Pa. Inv.

See interesting statement concerning it  
in Rep. Ind. Aff. for 1847, by  
Thos. Fitzpatrick, (regular separate  
ed. (or Sec. Doc. 1<sup>st</sup> ed.) ~~it~~ is nearly  
from the House Ex. Doc. 2d, which  
is the early 2d. I have; but his  
statement on the Pueblo is ~~given~~ trans-  
cribed on p. 157 of Smiley's Hist.  
of Denver.

### El Pueblo ~~Colo.~~

at mouth of Fountain w.  
Referring to Fourth Exped. of Fremont, Benton  
calls this Pueblo San Carlos, in his Thirty-  
Years View (p. 719 of Vol. 2.)