

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~~ ^{at Huerfano creek settlements} was living 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 ~~his~~ 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." and a man, who escaped by concealment and

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

the fort was published in 1869.

Printer please insert as paragraph after that ending 'a few days later.'

son says ^{One of the occupants of the fort had gone to the St. Charles [creek] with a team on the day of the massacre, and when his return he found that only one man alive to tell the tale, and that man died a short time afterward.} flight; and two boys, taken captive and later released. ^{Besides those who were in the fort at the hour of the massacre, Steven} 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, where Mrs. Wootton's family had been born.~~

slain

~~Massachusetts, where Mrs. Wootton's family had been born.~~ 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 ^{The one} on Salt creek, and ^{as} the circumstances of the recovery of the commandante'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 ^{but little east of Mountain creek and was} the same number of people as the latter. It was 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 ~~the~~ 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. ~~One~~ One shot, of course, meant a fight; ^{so} 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.} But as for the Baca-ites, to their ~~great~~ great subsequent rejoicing, ~~their~~ their 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 anaesthetic, some of the people of the old fort might have become ~~founders~~ 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.

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 Beckwith claimed to have built it. In Bonners, "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 (Pio)
(1846.)

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?

Description, Location: El Pueblo

Pueblo, Colo.

[Early Source]

[Early names relating to region or locality]

Nepasta (Arkansas river) ^{or Tassard?}Rito San Carlos (St. Charles cr.) ^{or Tassard?}

Boiling Spring river (Ind. equivalent)

Sources of the Arkansas.

the "Grand Forks" of the Arkansas (2nd Fork)

Fort El Pueblo, Pueblo San Carlos, etc.

Fort El Pueblo,

[Early Source]

[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, Elate and Simpson, first names wholly forgotten. They raised excellent crops of corn, for which, as may well be imagined, there was a brisk demand." (Page 236, Vol. II, Hall's Hist. Colo.)

Locality of

at Pueblo of St. Charles

[Early Source]

[before that Pueblo]

(about ten miles above ~~Pueblo~~ the Bent's)

Fort") where this Pueblo is called in

Peter Life of Kit Carson was afterward

built is where Kit Carson ^{(with} + BillWilliams, William New ^{and} Colorado

Mitchell reached Arkansas river in re-

turning from Fort Union (present site of

Utah) to Bent's Fort in the summer of

1840. [See p. 161, Peter Life of Carson.]

Fort El Pueblo.

Gr. Po. rev.

Stearns's Hist. of Pueblo County, in

See p. 765+ of Hist. Ark. Vol.

1451
Fort El Pueblo. (Early Geo.)

"a settlement
called St. Charles", ^{to} "built
in after years"; that is, after
1840, (p. 161, Peters' life of
Carson).

A few points on the map are
given, same page.

El Pueblo de Riospasta.

Hale (Kam. 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.

~~He is on S. bank~~ See Melnie, p. 91.
(Two Thoshis, on horse.)

Fort El Pueblo. See back for rough
sketch of location of
El Pueblo

Statement of ~~Steve~~ Smith (came to Pueblo in '57,
+ lived here ever since)

The fort had rooms, he thinks, on all sides; the
main entrance was on the N. side; a smaller
entrance on the S. (river side). (Over)
(N.B. Can it be that Steve confuses N.
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. + Fountain
creek. (Sage, Fremont,
Beckwourth, &c.)

Fort El Pueblo (1843 & 44)

Fremont's 1st arr. there, then, 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 3rd arr there was in 1845.
See his descrip. of it and statement
as to building (children) & owners.

The Pueblo. (a fort at
mouth of Rio Grande in)
Built in 1842. by company of
ind. traders on com. property system
10 or 12 Americans mostly married to
Mex. wives = occupants Sep. 20, 21, 1842.
(See p. 172, Sage's "Wild Scenes.")

Fort El Pueblo (de San Carlos) ^(Pueblo Ent. to B. File)

Jim Beckwith not only claimed
to have built it in 1842, but refers
to it as ^{"my fort on the Indian reservation (p. 475)}
"my plantation and my ranch".
I sent all my remaining horses [stolen from
"my ranch"; and
p. 476] back to my plantation"; and
p. 477, "my ranch; but on p. 478 he
calls it "my community". This goes
further, in connection with these
Johns, were in 1846. [pages above cited
refer to Donner's Life of Beckwith, 1st ed.]

Fort El Pueblo ^(Yard R. Ent) (1847.)

For Fitzpatrick's Letter of Sept 18, 1847
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 (pp.
451 - 454) of Com. Pike's expd.

(1845) Fort El Pueblo ^(Early 60s) (Hardyville)

Jim Major Gripper rather important
(though doubtless partly true
as far as in) see footnote, p. 369
Chittenden's Hist. N. A. Forts

176
= Indian Pueblo
below the river
Canyon 5 miles up the river, Colo. (1846-'62) 100 or
long house, of one story, (say 120 ft. long)
and divided up into compartments, houses
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 (English) miles S. of and above Pueblo's
present Union Depot. (It was at head of the 1/4 mile long
flume of the arts, Gooding's mill below the dam, 1862)

First at Pueblo (1846-7) (To, Po, Jour)
Indian settlement at
winter of '46-'47; description of
street of log shanties with
church, or "temple", at 1 end, (See
p. 201-'2 of Ruxton's Life in
the Far W.)

First at Pueblo (1847.) (To, Po, Jour)
See interesting statement concerning it
in Rep. Ind. Aff. for 1848, by
Thos. Fitzpatrick, (regular separate
ed. (or Sen. Doc. 1 ed.) ^{It is report} ~~It is~~ coming
from the House Ex. Doc. 2d, which
is the early 2d. I have; but his
statement on the Pueblo is ~~untrans-~~
scribed on p. 157 of Smiley's Hist.
of Denver.

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