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TOUR OF GLORIETA BATTLEFIELD

 Posted by Dave Hughes on October 1, 2009 at 8:30am [View Blog](#)

Our Old Colorado City Historical society sponsored another successful , pretty low cost, two-day Historical Tour of the battlefields and encampments where the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment defeated the haughty Texas Confederates in New Mexico early in the Civil War while Colorado City was young.

We ranged from Fort Union east of Las Vegas, New Mexico – to the Glorieta Pass Apache Canon battlefield to the west on which the Union decisively defeated the South in the 'Little Gettysburg of the West.'

Thirteen Society members and others who read about the tour signed up, which took us – in a 15 passenger van the 275 miles, first to the Fort Union National Historical Monument. Where, in spite of the fact most of our older members had canes and limped, we were guided, and walked around the adobe and brick remains of that 1860s fort which lay right on the Santa Fe trail. Fort Union was the only serious obstacle between San Antonio and Denver for the Confederate Invasion. The Park entry fee was just \$3.

Then we drove to the top of 7,000 foot Glorieta Pass and stayed overnight in really nice accommodations we reserved in advance – open to all – at the very large and well run Glorieta Baptist Convention Center. Room rates off season were a ridiculously low \$54 per very nice room, with just \$18 for an ample supper and breakfast. And we got a free conference room thrown in. It is a perfect and peaceful base camp from which to tour the area.

We drove down in the morning to the Pecos National Historic Park, where, besides picking up a volunteer guide for a ridiculous \$2 each, we got a three hour, two van tour to five places across the 8 miles of battle ground where the Union-Confederate forces marched, encamped and viewes the very ground over which the battles took place.

I was particularly interested since I - as a two war Infantry officer - am the only historian that dug out the fact that 38 of my fellow 1850s West Point graduates and 5 ex-cadets (including Colorado Territorial Governor Gilpin) did battle against each other on both sides in that little known Civil War Campaign in the far west in 1862. I was pleased the volunteer guide had it quite right even though I filled in some facts for him. But I also learned things I did not know about the campaign. So my web program about the Glorieta Campaign at our web side is still valid. Just click here [.OLD COLORADO CITY HISTORY](#)

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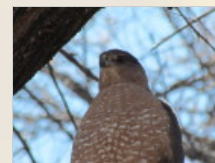
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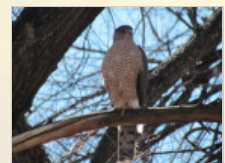

PHOTOS



COOPER'S HAWK

by Tanja Britton

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COOPER'S HAWK

by Tanja Britton

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The entire trip, van rental, gas, rooms and meals, from 8:30 AM Friday at the History Center through 5PM Saturday cost each of us just over \$100. A great historical tour bargain! We will do something like that again!



The whole Tour Group at Pecos National Historic Park Headquarters



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The remains of Fort Union - right astride the original Santa Fe Trail



The open-to-all large Baptist Convention Center at Glorieta Pass on I-25



Two budding young historians above Apache Canon where Major Chivington surprised and overran the Texans on March 26th, 1862 and captured 80 of them,



. The only surviving 1862 building at Pigeon's Ranch around which the main battle ranged, including an artillery duel - West Pointers against West Pointers



The Incredible vertical Cliff around behind the rebel Army down which 1st Colorado Troops rappelled on March 28th to, spike the cannon, destroy the rebels entire Supply Train, and kill all the animals - dooming the Texas Army and the Invasion. Jo and Sandy listening to the park Ranger in the foreground.

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