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## FORT CARSON'S MILITARY HERITAGE

Posted by Dave Hughes on March 18, 2010 at 10:30am [View Blog](#)



COLONEL 'Kit Carson' who commanded a Union Regiment in the Civil War

Most El Paso County residents think that local Military History started with Fort Carson and WWII. The tip off should have been in the very name selected for the 1941 post - 'Camp (Kit) Carson.'

In fact, the earliest settlements in Pikes Peak region were directly involved in fighting two wars – The Civil War campaigns in the Far West and the Indian Wars around them. With both the US Army and locally raised Volunteer Militia needed to protect the settlers.

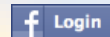
That was over a decade before Colorado Springs – which lived through neither war, was even founded. Some of these local wars mirrored the kind of fighting soldiers from Fort Carson now face in the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. For confederates in southern Colorado ran guerilla campaigns and ambushed wagon trains to raise supplies for the Confederacy, which they shipped eastward along the Arkansas. They built a secret training camp near where Beulah is today, while Indians, especially

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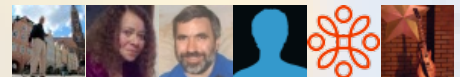
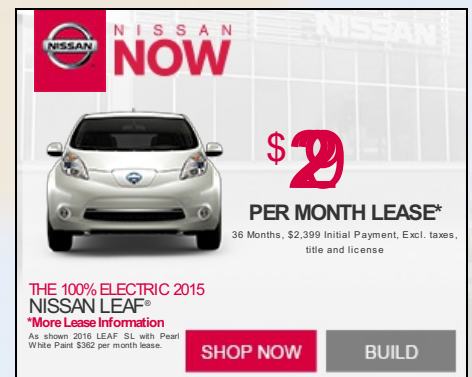
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## PHOTOS



### DR. EINSTEIN'S GRAVE STONE

by Tanja Britton

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### DR. OTTO EINSTEIN

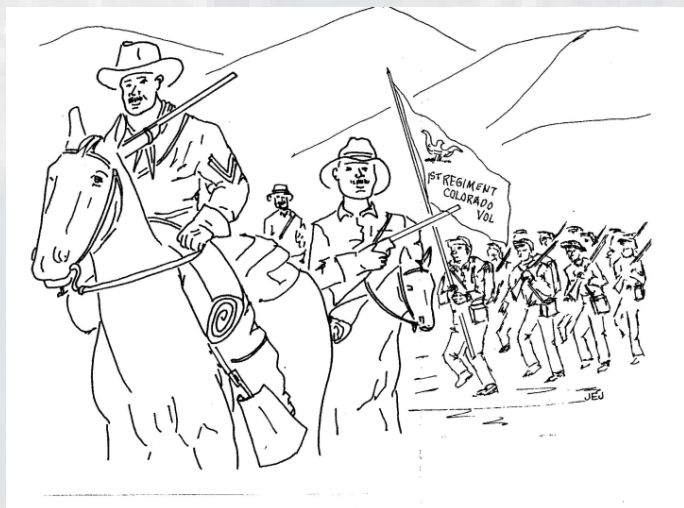
by Tanja Britton

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the Cheyenne and Arapahoe raided settlements, sometimes cooperating with the rebels. The US Army had to learn how to counter insurgency while protecting ‘the population’.

Kit Carson is popularly remembered mostly only as a buckskin-clad Frontiersman who guided Lieutenant John Fremont the ‘Great Pathfinder’ through the western wilderness in the 1840s (while passing right through Bijou Basin east of our Black Forest on one trip) But he was also a Colonel Commanding a Volunteer Regiment in 1862 at the Civil War Battle of Valverde against Sibley’s Confederate Texas Army when Jefferson Davis attempted to invade Colorado Territory to capture our gold. At one time he was even brevetted as a Brigadier General.




The 1st Colorado was a Volunteer Infantry Regiment with one Company of Mounted Troops

Did you know that the original Colorado City, now Colorado Springs Westside was the Capital of Colorado Territory when the 1st Colorado Volunteer Infantry Regiment foot marched over 400 miles through it enroute to Fort Union, New Mexico before it decisively defeated the rebels at the Battle of Glorieta Pass? That was branded ‘The Little Gettysburg of the West.’ Or that Recruiting Ads were printed in the 1861 Colorado City Journal? One mounted Company of the 1st Colorado travelled south 18 days and brought back 44 captured Southern civilian-clothed ‘combatants’ – not POWs – and marched them through Colorado City under a US Marshal to be tried for ‘treason’ in Denver. Arguments over whether they were enemy civilian ‘combatants’ or Prisoners of War raged as much then as it has over Guantanamo, and civil or military trials of terrorists today. Or that the 1st Colorado – which later became the Colorado National Guard - encamped and drilled right on Fountain Creek across from ‘Old’ Colorado City in December 1862 as it was outfitted with horses to become the 1st Colorado Volunteer Cavalry to deal with the growing Indian threats that had sealed off Denver?

Oh yes, there were many Army encampments in early El Paso County long before ‘Camp’ Kit Carson.

That fits in with the fund-raising efforts being made to erect a brand new publically accessible Mountain Post Historical Center right outside the main gate at Fort Carson – now as historical a Post as Fort Riley or Leavenworth. Where tourists, members of the surrounding community, soldiers and their families can learn about the long, especially Army, military heritage of the region and post. While it will certainly contain the displays and programs of the myriad units – 11 Army Divisions - who were stationed at Fort Carson during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, I hope it will properly honor the part of regional Military Heritage that goes back into the 1800s.


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## PHOTO GALLERIES




## EVENTS



**THE ARC PPR 4TH ANNUAL ACHIEVE WITH US FILM FESTIVA**  
March 23, 2016 all day – [Stargazer's Theatre and Event Center](#)



**PINE FOREST SPRING SHOW & SALE**  
April 23, 2016 at 10am to April 24, 2016 at 3pm – [Lewis Palmer High School](#)



**JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE WITH JIM CURRY**  
May 13, 2016 from 7pm to 9pm – [Stargazers Theatre](#)

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**Miner's Supplies Generally.**  
**Recruits Wanted**  
 FOR  
**COMPANY A.**  
**FIVE RECRUITS** are wanted for Company A  
 1st Regiment Colorado Volunteers at Camp  
 Weld. Apply to  
**E. W. WYNKOOP,**  
 Captain Co. A 1st Reg't Col. Vol.  
**HARPER'S MAGAZINE**

Recruiting Ad for Company A , 1st Colorado in the November 28th, 1861 Colorado City Journal

Views: 363

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Comment by [Travis Duncan](#) on March 18, 2010 at 11:42am  
 Here's a link to the Mountain Post Historical Center's Web site:  
<http://fortcarsonmuseum.com/>

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