

T• Museum Times



NEW MEXICO HISTORY MUSEUM | PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS | HISTORY LIBRARY | PHOTO ARCHIVES | PALACE PRESS | PORTAL PROGRAM

We're Winners Times Two

It took a village to mount the *Cowboys Real and Imagined* exhibit, but all that work from all those people has paid off with two recent honors.

At its September conference in St. Paul, Minn., the American Association of State and Local History will give the museum an Award of Merit for Leadership in History in recognition of the 2013–14 exhibit, its public programs and the publication of *Jack Thorp's Songs of the Cowboys* by the Press at the Palace of the Governors. Based

in Nashville, the AASLH is a non-profit that works to preserve and promote history with training workshops, books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine and monthly newsletter.

Now in its 69th year, its awards are the most prestigious

recognition for achievement in state and local history. This year's 77 national awards honor people, projects, exhibits, books and organizations—"the best in the field."

As if that wasn't enough, in its September edition, *True West* magazine names us the Best Western Museum with a sweet promo atop the cover. Said Executive Editor Bob Boze Bell: "New Mexico History Museum's dedication to excellence, and their mission of preserving and interpreting our great Western history for all generations, is inspiring. They keep the Old West alive."

We're thrilled and thank everyone who helped us reach these recent heights.



Conservation work on Segesser II gave us a closeup of one of the hides' bison (above). Mark MacKenzie secures a paint sample (below).

Seeing Red in the Segesser Hides

For centuries, the blood of a tiny female cactus beetle has produced a red dye that colored oil paint, wool and even women's makeup. Next year, the Museum of International Folk Art will produce an exhibit on the color red. To help out, Department of Cultural Affairs conservators have scoured museum collections for evidence of red from the cochineal beetle, along with other local and imported dyes.

Earlier this summer, that effort led to a morning spent exploring one of the Segesser Hide Paintings with Conservation Director Mark MacKenzie and archaeologist Cordelia "Dedie" Thomas Snow. They began by working with exhibition preparators to take the Plexiglas covering off Segesser II, offering a rare treat: A clear view of the Aug. 13, 1720, skirmish between New Mexico Lt. Gov. Pedro de Villasur's soldiers and French troops with their Pawnee and Oto Indian allies on a field near Nebraska's Platte River.

While looking for red sections or portions that had faded into browns, MacKenzie and Snow spied details they'd missed before, including outlines of the original "cartoon"—the drawing that guided artists.

MacKenzie planned to run two tests on the microscopic samples he took from the surface. The first will use new equipment, a 1064 nm laser Raman spectrometer, which "sees" past the fluorescence of irradiated specimens. He'll back that up with the Conservation Lab's trusty High Performance Liquid Chromatography, which separates the unknown color into its basic parts to identify elements like *continued* ▶



Calendar

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS

Through October 11, Monday through Saturday, museum-trained guides extend the museum's educational mission beyond our doors, while raising money for future programs. \$10; children 16 and under free when with an adult. (No tours on days when big events take over the Plaza.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

"Print to Painting in New Spain" 6 pm, *Painting the Divine* gallery

Join curator Josef Díaz for a Free First Friday Night gallery talk on how New World artists based their religious works on prints created by European masters. Free museum admission from 5–8 pm.



SATURDAY, AUG. 2

24th Annual Navajo Rug Auction 9 am–2 pm, Palace Courtyard

Over 150 museum-quality rugs are up for bid starting at 11 am (preview 9–11 am). A program of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation's Museum Shop benefitting education, acquisitions and other programs. Free; bid card \$5.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

"Echoes of Mary" performance by Schola Cantorum, 2 pm, museum lobby

Back by popular demand and in honor of *Painting the Divine*, Santa Fe's popular a cappella group performs seldom-heard music from the cathedrals of Mexico City, Cuba and northern New Mexico. Free with admission; Sundays free to NM residents.

Segesser Hides *continued*

carminic acid—the principal component of carmine, or cochineal red.

Besides the red exhibit, the work is important for the museum's curatorial understanding of any one of our artifacts, and the lore of cochineal red plays an important role in that. "Cochineal is fascinating because in Mexico they began domesticating it 3,000 years ago," Snow said.

Modern-day weavers throughout New Mexico still use it as a dye. Folk Art staff working on the exhibit have discovered it in artifacts as old as pre-Columbian Andean textiles from ca. 600–750 AD. When you look at don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco's ca. 1758 map in the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, you're seeing cochineal red.

Is it also in the Segesser Hides? Stay tuned. The lab is still running its tests.

Memory, Poetry and Photography Makes One Frabjous Day

How do you conjure a frabjous day? Invite Gary Glazner and his Alzheimer's Poetry Project into the museum, add folks with memory illnesses, their loved ones and caregivers, and ladle on a dose of Lewis Carroll's nonsensical fun. That's just what we did in late



June with a 90-minute play date that will soon give birth to a daylong workshop.

Glazner is a Brooklyn-based poet with strong New Mexico ranching roots who directs the poetry project, which has won international acclaim. He's brought it to the museum before, but this was the first time he had the psychedelic images and cameras of *Poetics of Light: Pinhole Photography* to work with.

About 30 participants, including a few staffers, took part. Joined by Palace Press Director Tom Leech, Glazner began in the museum's main lobby, leading participants through a poem, calling out a line then encouraging them to repeat it. Add a rhythm section! Encourage a hip bump. Cut a dance move. Laugh all the way.

The group then moved upstairs to *Poetics of Light*. After a few short exercises in different parts of the exhibit, participants gathered around Bethany de Forest's *Rosetvliders*, an imagined landscape of impossible flowers and lighter-than-air butterflies. Glazner asked the group what the painting looked like, felt like, smelled like, sounded like. A cacophony of answers followed. Honey. Oranges. Morning rain. Bzz-bzz-bzz. One woman spied a rabbit and hopped up, scrambling around the group in imitation of a bunny. Another flapped her arms as elegantly as a ballet dancer. Alice in Wonderland came to one man's mind.

Finally, Chimayó poet Michelle Holland, who had kept careful track of the answers, turned them into a call-and-repeat poem that ended with a lengthy (if slightly amateur) version of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

What's next? On Oct. 25, the museum will host a Dementia Arts Conference, "Celebrating Creativity in Elder Care: A Day of Learning." For \$35 (includes lunch), participants will learn how to use literature, music and museums to connect with people who have memory illnesses. For registration details, log onto www.dementiaarts.com. We welcome anyone who has a passion to learn or just a desire to shout, Lewis Carroll style, "Callooh! Callay!"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

**"Conversation on Collaboration:
Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman"
6:30 pm, St. Francis Auditorium at
the Museum of Art**

Meet the artist and photographer, who talk about how they create individually and as married partners. Moderated by Merry Scully, curator of *Local Color: Judy Chicago in New Mexico, 1984-2014* (New Mexico Museum of Art), and Mary Anne Redding, curator of *Donald Woodman: Transformed by New Mexico* (New Mexico History Museum). Free.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

"Pinhole to Pixel," 6 pm, auditorium

California pinhole artist Peggy Ann Jones talks about how she designs and builds inventive cameras, which are included in the exhibit *Poetics of Light: Pinhole Photography*. Free.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

**Museum Guides meeting, 9 am coffee
and conversation, 9:30 am meeting,
10 am program, Meem Community Room**

Tey Marianna Nunn, director of the Museum and Visual Arts Program at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, speaks on "La Reina de las Americas: Contemporary Versions of the Virgin," highlighting the visual contributions of contemporary artists and the roles they play in continuing colonial traditions.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

**"Crash Course: How to Take an Oral
History," 1-3 pm, classroom**

Join Interim Director Jon Hunner and curator Meredith Davidson for an exclusive workshop on gathering and archiving oral histories. This session is full. We look forward to seeing everyone who made a reservation.

Sister Blandina and the Miracle on Washington Avenue

Born Rose Maria Segale in 1850 in Italy, the woman known to us as Sister Blandina might have seemed a saint to the likes of Billy the Kid. As a young nun sent to help tame the West, she first confronted him on a potentially murderous rant in Trinidad, Colo., and later visited him in the Santa Fe jail, where the two built an uncommon friendship.

In June, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe announced that it was putting her name up for potential sainthood, a process that could take as long as a century while the church hunts for examples of her miracles. Local reporters and officials from Blandina's Ohio-based Sisters of Charity began besieging Photo Curator Daniel Kosharek with requests for her image.

He had one, a rare version of her as a young woman ensconced in Santa Fe while building the original St. Vincent Hospital—years before she began earning a humble sort of fame back in Ohio. But after receiving a second request for the print, Kosharek discovered that the image had disappeared. "It was just a copy print, not an original," he said. "And that happens. Things get misfiled."

The CFO for the Sisters of Charity asked him who might have an original. Kosharek didn't think the Photo Archives did, but the question gave him an idea, so he dove into further research. Using a numerical system developed by one of his predecessors, he tracked down the original accession record and discovered that Blandina's actual photo—an original, not a copy print—had been part of a 1976 donation from Don J. Madtson, a Santa Fe antiques dealer. It also said the photo was a "cased image"—usually small daguerreotypes or ambrotypes tucked into folding cases to protect them from light and air. That meant it likely lay somewhere in one of the archives' boxes containing hundreds of cased images.

Kosharek went digging and, you bet, he found it. The treasure lay inside a palm-sized black lacquer case with inlaid mother-of-pearl. On the right side, someone had placed Blandina's carte de visite image. On the left, they had glued a small image of Archbishop Lamy—the Catholic official whom the headstrong nun once alternately helped and vexed.

"I was so surprised to see it," Kosharek said, then joked: "Is that a miracle or not?"

The Sisters of Charity immediately offered to purchase the image, but Kosharek isn't budging. At least on ownership. Should Blandina's order put together an exhibit on the good sister, he said, he's happy to loan them this gem that once was lost but now is found.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Reception for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, 6:30–8 pm, Gathering Space

Join members of the archdiocese for a special reception, music by AnnaMaria Cardinalli and tour of *Painting the Divine* in honor of the 300th anniversary of La Conquistadora Chapel, the oldest part of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Free.

AUGUST 16–24

Native Cinema Showcase

In partnership with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian, the museum presents the latest in Native documentaries, shorts and features during the SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market. For films and times, log onto www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. Free.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

“The Civil War in New Mexico: The War for the Southwest,” Noon, Meem Community Room

Georgetown University doctoral student Oliver Horn delivers a Brainpower & Brownbags Lecture. Free.



SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 AND 24

Portal Artisans Celebration 10 am–5 pm, Palace Courtyard

Take a break during the SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market to enjoy music, hand-crafted art, raffles, a Native specialties food booth, and traditional Indian dances. Free.

FRIDAYS, BEGINNING AUGUST 29 History of New Mexico college course 9 am–noon, classroom

Santa Fe Community College Assistant Professor Stephen C. Martinez teaches a credit-earning 16-week course. Register by calling (505) 428-1270. SFCC rates begin at \$39.50 per credit hour; senior rate available.

Summer Camp Memories at the Museum

Beginning in the 1930s, the Cimarroncita Ranch Camp for Girls provided a summer adventure for thousands of girls interested in everything from horseback riding to ballet dancing. Nestled in the heart of the Cimarron Canyon, between Taos and Raton, the camp was once part of the vast Maxwell Land Grant. A boys camp eventually joined it, but nothing lasts forever. The camps closed in 1995, and the current owners are starting to bid farewell to their memories.

Late in June, curators Meredith Davidson and Daniel Kosharek, along with Operations Manager Seth McFarland, took a road trip to review the camp’s materials for a potential donation to the museum.



Old trees give shade to cabins of the Cimarroncita Ranch Camp.

“The lengthy existence of the camp meant that often multiple generations of young girls in a single family might all attend the camp at some point,” Davidson said. “You can just imagine the energy of young girls throughout the buildings.”

The camp was started in 1931 by Minnette Thompson. Eventually, her cousin, Minnette Burges, and Burges’ husband, Alán Huerta, acquired it. On the appointed day, Huerta invited the museum group into the old dining hall where, surrounded by hand-painted murals, they enjoyed a hearty lunch of ham-and-cheese sandwiches and homemade cream of spinach soup. Huerta told them a bit about the camp, then took them through a screen door and into a cabin, where the camp archives are stored.

“The jewels within the collection are really the approximately 150 reels of 8 and 16 millimeter films dating back to the 1930s and 40s,” Kosharek said of footage that includes children plunging into an outdoor swimming pool and bounding across fields on horses.

Other highlights include hand-crafted photo albums, shelves of trophies, and games.

“Camps such as Cimarroncita have helped shape the lives of millions of children over the last century,” McFarland said. “Records of those adventures have been kept alive in the archives of Cimarroncita, and may be preserved by the New Mexico History Museum so that their legacy can live on for future generations.”

Davidson said the museum’s collections committee will next talk about the archive and determine what it might consider adding to our vault. She’s already sweet on a 1951 songbook she found. “Mothers and daughters may have both at some point sung those songs,” she said, “and I could imagine they might even be able recite the lyrics to some of them.” All together now:

*We hate to think the time we’ve spent,
Here at CRC will have to end.
The days go by so fast,
The weeks do not last,
And suddenly we find the summer has passed. ...*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

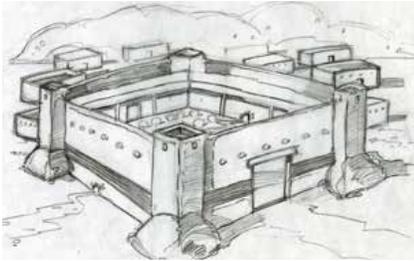
Early closing

In honor of the Santa Fe Fiestas and the burning of Zozobra, the museum will close at 5 pm.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Labor Day holiday

Most staff members will declare a day of rest, but the museum is open 10 am to 5 pm.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

"A Palace in Need of Repair: 1660–1720," 6 pm, auditorium

Archaeologist Cordelia "Dedie" Thomas Snow delivers this year's Fiesta Lecture, sponsored by the Palace Guard. Piecing together historical records, Snow creates a visual image of how the Palace looked before and after the 1680 Pueblo Revolt. Free to members of the Palace Guard; \$5 others, at the door. To join the Palace Guard, call (505) 982-6366, ext. 100.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

"Mirror of Time: Cased Portraits from the Dawn of Photography" 6 pm, museum lobby

From 1839 into the 1860s, daguerreotypes and ambrotypes tucked into hinged cases held treasured memories. Join Photo Curator Daniel Kosharek at this Free First Friday Night event as he pulls a few from storage for a special one-time viewing. Free museum admission from 5–8 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Fiesta Procession

The annual journey of La Conquistadora to the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi begins from the Palace of the Governors' Blue Gate at 9:30 am.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Museum Guides meeting, 9 am coffee and conversation, 9:30 am program, Meem Community Room

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of a Mary Colter masterpiece, La Fonda on the Plaza, with Ed Pulsifer, director of sales.



INTERN PROFILE

Ashley Stanley

St. John's College student Ashley Stanley has joined the education team this summer. His main gig: taking an inventory of the education collection to make it handier and to fill "discovery drawers" in the *Telling New Mexico* exhibit. Get to know him.

Where are you from originally?

I am an East Coast guy, or maybe even a Far East Coast guy. I was born in Japan, and then moved to Massachusetts when I was 7 years old. Through the years, I've moved back and forth for school, work, and various projects.

What are some of the challenges of your work here?

The biggest challenge is getting the work done within a reasonable span of time. There are so many fascinating artifacts and books that it's really hard not to stop and take a deeper look.

What's cool about working here?

Getting to see what happens behind the scenes of the museum. The opportunity to see the work that goes into making the museum and its exhibits happen is a first for me.

Do you have a favorite artifact, place in the museum, or particular event?

While taking inventory, I came across a small display of pictures and artifacts from the raid of Pancho Villa in Columbus, NM, back in 1916. It was a very raw moment to see some of the bullets and casings from the actual event with pictures of the aftermath together. It was almost scary how vividly the artifacts told the story in the picture.

My favorite place, at the moment, in the museum is the *Poetics of Light* exhibit.

You're a student at St. John's College. How does this play into your studies there?

At St. John's, through reading many classics, we take a good look at the progression of Western thought from the ancient Greeks up to modern political philosophy and even quantum physics. Given such context of thought, my work here in handling these artifacts and learning the history behind them fills in many gaps and makes the events feel so much more immediate. A look at history is not just learning what happened, but is an opportunity to take a look at who we have become.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
“Edmund G. Ross: A Profile in Courage”
Noon, Meem Community Room

Author Richard Ruddy delivers a Brainpower & Brownbags Lecture about the onetime New Mexico territorial governor. Free.

WEDNESDAY–FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10–12
Colfax Country and 10,000 Years of History

The Palace Guard hosts a tour that includes the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch, St. James Hotel, Raton, Folsom Man, the Santa Fe Trail and more. For info on the trip cost and to make reservations, email Rosa Carlson at journintl@prodigy.net. To join the Palace Guard, call (505) 982-6366, ext. 102.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 3–5 PM
Los Compadres meeting, Meem Room

A regular meeting of this key support group to the museum.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1:30 PM
Los Compadres and the Corrales Historical Society

Outreach efforts extend to members of the Corrales Historical Society with a reception and tour of *Painting the Divine: Images of Mary in the New World*.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28

Painting the Divine Symposium: Mary in the New World
9:30 am–3 pm, auditorium

Curator Josef Díaz brings together scholars and art historians to delve more deeply into the function and reception of Marian images in the Americas; *monjas* (nuns) and their use of Marian imagery in colonial Mexico; and dressed statue paintings in the Americas. Check our online calendar for the complete schedule. Free.

Looking ahead...

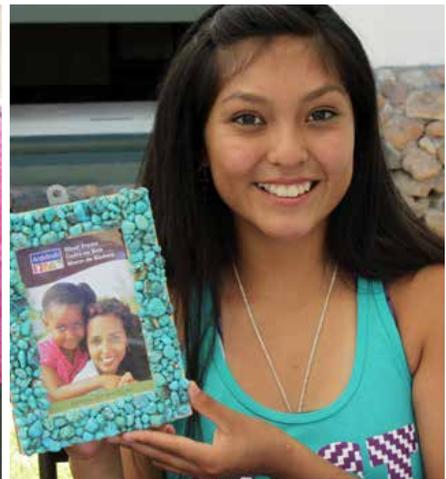
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
“Broken by Secrets: Robert Oppenheimer and the Early Atomic Age”
6 pm, Meem Community Room

Interim Director and author of *J. Robert Oppenheimer, the Cold War, and the Atomic West*, Jon Hunner explores the complicated life of the atomic bomb’s father in this Free First Friday Night talk. Free museum admission from 5–8 pm.



Young Native Artists Strut Their Stuff

Offspring of the Portal artisans held their summer arts and crafts show in July. Arrayed in the Palace Courtyard, they proved that the next generation of Native artists is alive, well and hard at work honing their skills. Check out the happy faces of good kids doing neat work. Photos by Allen Brown.



Docents' History Library Moves and Grows

To help museum guides expand their knowledge of New Mexico history, we've long offered a library of books for free check-out. Traditionally, it was located in the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, but recently moved into the education area of the museum's administrative offices on the second floor.

Giving its shelves extra weight are new copies of John Kessell's excellent history, *Kiva, Cross and Crown: The Pecos Indians and New Mexico, 1540-1840*, courtesy of the New Mexico Book Association. The museum is one of the two organizations that the association donated books to this year.

A statewide nonprofit, the NMBA describes itself as "passionate book people who have come together through our common interests to preserve, protect, and promote the book in all its forms. Our members include book creators, writers, editors, publishers, illustrators, librarians, booksellers, book designers, typesetters, printers, literacy advocates, agents, reviewers and avid readers."

Other titles in the guides' collection include Hampton Sides' *Blood and Thunder*, Marc Simmons' *The Old Trail to New Mexico* (among other books by him), Gottfried Hottz's *The Segesser Hide Paintings*, and the ever-engaging *Place Names of New Mexico* by Robert Julyan. A thorough reader of all the books would learn about medicinal plants, the Tiffany Mine, santeros, penitentes, Doña Tules, Will Shuster, and even more.

Stop by before or after your next tour and give it a look.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Doug Svetnicka

In 1985, shortly after being hired as spokesperson for the then-Office of Cultural Affairs, Doug Svetnicka helped oversee the grand opening of the Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque. Soon after came the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, El Camino Real International Heritage Site "and, of course, the New Mexico History Museum."

After helping with that much growth, you might think he would want to rest upon retiring last January. Instead, Doug's become a weekly volunteer at the Palace of the Governors Photo Archives, where he scans images to be added to the digitized archives. Lately, he's been working with images from the *New Mexican's* photo files, utilizing his familiarity with late-1980s Santa Fe.

"Last week, I found a photo of Javier Gonzales as Don Diego Vargas in the Santa Fe Fiesta files," he said.

That knowledge of photos, along with photographers, brings an important strength to the archives. "In my job, I had to deal with photography quite a bit," he said. "Plus, I worked with photographers in putting together the department's *New Mexico Treasures* calendar. I'd have lunch with them and we'd talk about photography.

"I didn't spend 26½ years with Cultural Affairs just because it was a job. I truly did love the department, the museums, the art programs, historic prez, the library programs. When I retired, I missed that. So volunteering is a way to stay in touch with the department that I love."

He puts in six hours a week, some of that time talking Badger football with fellow Wisconsinite Daniel Kosharek, some of it helping us beef up our digitized offerings to the public and a little of it wondering where the time went. At that opening of the Natural History Museum, his twin sons were little boys. Today, Doug's a grandpa.

"Growing up with the department was a blast," he said. "It always impressed me that the people of New Mexico felt strongly enough about their art, history and culture that they would make the investment—in a small state without a lot of resources—to have what's become one of the largest state-run museum and arts agencies in the nation."

Acquiring Minds

What's new in the collections vault? Here's a peek at some of what we received in May and June:



Two **rugs** woven at the Carlisle Indian School, ca. 1915, donated by Ann Van Arsdall of Albuquerque.

Two **Fred Harvey La Fonda Thanksgivng menus** from the 1960s, donated by Overa Gibson of Albuquerque.

A **handwritten poem** by Charles Lummis, a letter by Mabel Dodge Luhan, New Mexico and Arizona maps from 1901, and a report on the Sand Creek Massacre.

A 1949 **Philco Radio-TV console**, purchased by Governor Mabry's agent and possibly the second TV in the state, donated by Judy Reed of Santa Fe.



Don Carlson (from left) joins his wife, Joan Carlson, her cousin Camille Guerin-Gonzales, and Camille's partner, Susan Johnson, during a visit to the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library.

Watrous: The man, the town, the maps

Take I-25 north out of Las Vegas, NM, and you'll soon swoop down into lush valley named after Samuel B. Watrous. Who was he? We learned a bit more in July, after his great-great-granddaughter, Joan Carlson of California, along with a handful of other relatives, dropped off a donation of maps and family documents to the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library.



A Vermont native, Watrous came west in 1835 as a young man and soon began clerking in a Taos store, then traded goods in mining camps, homesteaded in the Mora Valley and, after the Civil War, built a wool mill. Along the way, he rubbed shoulders with New Mexico's elite, from Charles Bent to Charles Ilfeld.

According to a bio written for the State Historian's website by Shirley Cushing Flint and Richard Flint, Watrous bought a half interest in the John Scolly Grant in 1849 and crafted a hacienda that eventually housed storerooms, a granary, a rosewood piano, mahogany furniture, vaqueros, herdsmen, hunters and servants.

In his heyday, Watrous' fortunes were aided by the ranch's proximity to Fort Union. But by 1886, the fort was on the wane. Watrous was 70 and deeply in debt when he died and was buried on a hill overlooking his beloved ranch. The Flints say he was described as having had a life that "exemplified the American pioneer of a bygone era."

His hacienda is now owned by the Watrous Valley Ranch, whose website notes the great amount of trees he planted that still survive on the property. For one of his other legacies, you'll need to visit the library to see the maps and materials donated by his family. During their visit, Librarian Patricia Hewitt said, they "had a chance to see the facility where their family treasures will be housed and stayed for a while to look at photos of Samuel Watrous in our Photo Archives. They recognized many buildings and even some family members."