



Stories from the Borderlands Program Series 2024



Map courtesy of the Florida Center for Instructional Technology.

The Fall of Bent's Fort: 175 Years Later—Saturday, August 17, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Bent's Old Fort NHS and 2:00 p.m. at Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta. On August 21, 1849, William Bent abandoned his "old" fort. This action has become shrouded in mythology and this program will explore the events leading to the end of Bent's first post along the Arkansas River.

The Smell of Death—Saturday, September 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Bent's Old Fort NHS and 2:00 p.m. at Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta. What a difference a generation makes! This program will explore the distinctly different procedures between Buffalo Hunting for the Robe Trade at Bent's Old Fort in the 1830s and 1840s, and the Great Slaughter of the 1870s.

Significantly Others—Saturday, October 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Bent's Old Fort NHS and 2:00 p.m. at Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta. The success of the Bent, St. Vrain Company was due in no small part to the ways in which each business partner became embedded in local communities. This program will explore the Native American and New Mexican spouses and partners of the Bents and St. Vrains.

From Trade to Tragedy—Saturday, November 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Bent's Old Fort NHS and 2:00 p.m. at Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta. This program will explore what happens to William Bent's Family from the Abandonment of Bent's Old Fort to the Aftermath of the Sand Creek Massacre.

Pike's Peak or Bust—Saturday, December 7, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Bent's Old Fort NHS and 2:00 p.m. at Woodruff Memorial Library, La Junta. Learn how the discovery of gold in 1859, and the settler boom that followed disrupted the equilibrium of the Southern Plains and led to the Colorado War of 1864.