

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



VILLA PHILMONTE, CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO

THE PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH  
CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO  
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2026



***Preliminary Program***  
**2026 New Mexico History Conference**  
**Cimarron, New Mexico**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026**

**Vendor/Exhibitor Setup**

THURSDAY 12:00 NOON-4:00 PM, Assembly Building

**Registration**

THURSDAY 4:00-6:00 PM, Maxwell Building

**Villa Philmonté Historic House Tour**

THURSDAY 4:00-5:00 PM and 5:00-6:00 PM (Limit 24 per tour)



*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era — like a seven-headed shower and steam heat — alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

*Donated to Scouting America as part of the historic Philmont Scout Ranch, the beautifully preserved Villa Philmonté now welcomes visitors as an historic house museum. Join us for a guided tour to experience the grandeur of the mansion up close and discover the Phillips family's immense generosity and enduring legacy of service.*

**Vendor/Exhibit Room Open**

THURSDAY 4:00-6:00 PM, Assembly Building

## **Dinner and Plenary**

THURSDAY 6:00-7:30 PM, BBQ and Music on the Greensward

Welcome by **Andrea Watson**, Vice President and General Manager of Philmont Scout Ranch

## **POST-DINNER SHENANIGANS**

### **Legends by Lantern Light Tour of Cimarron**

THURSDAY 8:00-9:30 PM including travel time, \$15 (No credit cards)

*Enjoy an evening stroll through many of Cimarron's historic sites by lantern light. Features ghost stories of the St. James Hotel. To book please email [contact@legendsbylantern.com](mailto:contact@legendsbylantern.com) or call/text Jared at (407) 607-0850.*

### **Shadows of the Santa Fe Trail: The Rayado Lantern Tour**

THURSDAY 8:00-9:30 PM including travel time (Limit 24 per tour)

*As the sun sets over the rugged New Mexico mesas, experience history in a completely different light. Guided by the flickering glow of handheld lanterns, this evening tour transports you back to the 1850s at Rayado—the historic frontier outpost founded by Lucien Maxwell and legendary mountain man Kit Carson. Walking among the shadows of the historic adobe hacienda and old cottonwoods, you will hear the true stories of the traders, soldiers, and homesteaders who braved the dangerous Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Far from the modern world, the crackle of the lanterns and the cool evening breeze bring the triumphs and struggles of the old Southwest vividly to life. Join us for an unforgettable journey into Philmont's storied past after dark.*

## **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026**

### **Lover's Leap Sunrise Hike**

FRIDAY 4:45-7:00 AM, 3.2 miles round-trip; Difficulty level: Easy (Limited to 30 hikers)

*Lover's Leap is an iconic Philmont destination that starts at the Lover's Leap Turnaround. The trail features inclines, declines, and narrow sections, offering unique views of the Tooth of Time as you gain about 300 feet in elevation.*

### **Breakfast**

FRIDAY 6:45-7:20 AM, Dining Hall

## Morning Plenary

FRIDAY 7:30-8:15 AM, Assembly Room

**David Werhane**, Director of the National Scouting Museum and Philmont Museums Director, will discuss the history of Scouting.

## Villa Philmonté Historic House Tour

FRIDAY 8:30-9:30 AM (Limit 24 per tour)

*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era — like a seven-headed shower and steam heat — alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

**SESSION 1A - BUSTER BROWN WAITE** FRIDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

## From Dinosaurs to Astronauts: A Mostly Human History of Philmont Scout Ranch

Session sponsor: Valencia County Historical Society

Presenters: **David Werhane**, **Scott Ingram**, **Jeff Fredine**, and **Dennis Gilpin**

Philmont Scout Ranch contains evidence of more than 1,500 years of human history, as well as the first confirmed *Tyrannosaurus rex* track found in North America. Each year, approximately 20,000 Scouts and adult leaders learn about and experience this history. This presentation describes the history of this landscape from Paleo-Indigenous peoples, Ancestral Puebloans, and the Jicarilla Apache through the Santa Fe Trail, the Maxwell Land Grant, and the Colfax County War. It also covers the modern era, including Oklahoma oilman Waite Phillips' philanthropic gift to Scouting. Ultimately, this session aims to inform your sense of place regarding the conference location. Presenters: **David Werhane**, Director of the National Scouting Museum and Philmont Museums Director; **Scott Ingram**, Associate Professor of Archaeological Anthropology, Colorado College; **Jeff Fredine**, Environmental Division Manager, Parametrix; **Dennis Gilpin**, Research Associate, Museum of Northern Arizona.

**SESSION 1B – MIRANDA** FRIDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

## Writing Women into New Mexico History

Session Sponsor: Rebecca Ullrich

Presenters: **Sylvia Ramos Cruz**, **Kathleen Dull**, and **Brit Swart**

“Great Woman Gone: Ada McPherson Morley (1852-1917)” – Ada McPherson was born in Iowa where she earned a degree in English Literature before marrying Raymond Morley and moving to

Cimarron, New Mexico, in 1873. He was the manager of the Maxwell Land Grant. Throughout her life she used the “impress of her trenchant pen” to oppose the ills she saw around her, including the Santa Fe Ring. When her husband died of a shotgun injury, she moved with her children to a ranch in Datil, New Mexico. Despite managing cattle, cowboys and children alone, she continued her activism for temperance, laws to protect women and children, and woman suffrage until her death. **Sylvia Ramos Cruz** is a community historian who believes New Mexico women’s history needs to be brought into the limelight.

“And Cleofas: Reexamining and Reprocessing Archives” – Cleofas Jaramillo is a New Mexico author and folklorist, but until recently her name was not included in an archival collection containing love letters written to her. Listen to the journey of how an accidental discovery led to connecting her to documents held at the Museum for decades, and that led to reexamining and reprocessing the collection. Join us to see how a new look at the collections was turned into a dynamic online resource, increasing awareness and access to a notable figure in New Mexico history. **Kathleen Dull** is an archivist at the New Mexico History Museum Library.

“Notable Women of Clayton, New Mexico” – Dustbowls to blizzards, booms to bust. Life in a small town where everyone knows you has benefits and downsides. How a person navigates these hurdles says more about them than a presenter ever could. However, like these ladies before me, I like challenges and am going to present them in a way that leaves you admiring them, too! One of these women is Lacie Cook. Lacie moved to Clayton in the 1960s, a single mother with two young boys. Her life would soon turn upside down once more, but she was determined to stay in this town she loved. And she did! **Brit Swart** is the Executive Director of Herzstein Memorial Museum in Clayton, New Mexico, recognized for its collection of WPA works.

**SESSION 1C – MAXWELL A&B** FRIDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

## **The Wolf at the Door: Early Ranching in New Mexico**

Presenters: **Karl Laumbach** and **Tai Kreidler**

“The Evolution of Ranching in Northeastern New Mexico” - East of the Sangre de Cristos and north of I-40, ranching began with livestock herders ranging from Mexican period land grants. When disenfranchised from those grants, the herders remembered the water sources and established homesteads to the east. Meanwhile open range allowed ranchers to graze both sheep and cattle without benefit of a lease. Early 20th century homesteaders found temporary prosperity in dryland farming, but ultimately drought forced abandonment. The presenter will showcase experiences of his ancestors who participated in the various phases of changing land tenure and use. Raised on a

ranch between Springer and Cimarron, **Karl Laumbach** has pursued an archaeological career in southern New Mexico since 1974.

“Ranching, Westerns, and the Code of the West: Taylor Sheridan Style” - Taylor Sheridan, who is now the hottest screenwriter in Hollywood and a golden-touch director who converted his lucrative multi-million film contracts in the acquisition of the most iconic and legendary ranch in history – The Sixes, otherwise known as The 6666 Ranch — is, first and foremost, a cowboy raised on a tough-hard-scrabble family ranch near Cransfill Gap, Texas. Without oil wells to subsidize operations, he scrambled to convert The Sixes into a profitable ranch fueled by his own Western cowboy code and the belief that life is a constant fight against the wolf at the door. **Tai Kreidler**, Executive Director for the West Texas Historical Association, is an Archivist at Texas Tech University.

**SESSION 1D – BEAUBIEN** FRIDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

### **Los Alamos Ranch School: Archiving, Accountability and Access**

Session Sponsor: Heather McClenahan

Presenters: **Katy Jones-Gulsby** and **Stephanie Yeamans**

“Los Alamos Ranch School: Transparency and A.J. Connell” - This presentation offers a contextual biographical overview of Albert J. Connell, first headmaster and later director of the Los Alamos Ranch School. It examines how institutional structures, cultural norms, and power dynamics may have enabled the alleged sexual abuse of students. It will review documented references in the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives and Collections while acknowledging archival silences and presenting this history with care, transparency, and respect for those affected. **Stephanie Yeamans** is the Museum/Collections Specialist for the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives & Collections.

“Archival Responsibility: Accessing Ranch School Records” - This presentation discusses how the Los Alamos Historical Society has approached providing access to complicated, sensitive historic materials. It looks at how past archival cataloguing and processing practices failed to clearly describe allegations of sexual abuse at the Los Alamos Ranch School and shares the ongoing work to address these past practices through reparative cataloguing, including clearer descriptions, better connections between records, and improved access, to more responsibly represent harm, support transparency, and facilitate research into abuse-related materials. **Katy Jones-Gulsby** is the Archivist for the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives & Collections.

## Dino Hike

FRIDAY 8:30 AM-12:00 NOON, 2.25 miles round-trip; Difficulty level: Easy (Limited to 30 hikers)

*Philmont features one of only two confirmed Tyrannosaurus Rex footprints in the world! Ponil Canyon has little shade, so remember to bring water and sun protection.*

## On-Site Presentation and Tour at Rayado

FRIDAY 8:30 AM-12:00 NOON including travel time (Limit 24 per tour)

“Those who came before” - When Apaches and Utes arrived at Rayado, they expected to be fed. Native hospitality called for this courtesy, and to the Apaches, this was their country. They had lived here for centuries despite attacks by tribal enemies and the US Army. Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell tried but weren't always successful in maintaining good relations with area tribes. **Sherry Robinson** is author of *I Fought a Good Fight: A History of the Lipan Apaches and Apache Voices*.



Grounds at the Lucien Maxwell House in Rayado, New Mexico

*Step back in time to the rugged days of the American Southwest with a scenic bus ride to historic Rayado. Your journey travels through a storied landscape that began as a massive 1841 Mexican government land grant awarded to Carlos Beaubien and Guadalupe Miranda.*

*By 1848, legendary mountain man Lucien Maxwell founded a colony right on the grant along the rushing Rayado River. Just a year later, he was joined by his close friend, the famed frontiersman Kit Carson. Together, they established a booming ranch that became a crucial haven and supply stop for the many traders traveling the historic Santa Fe Trail. Today, this historic ground forms a vital part of the expansive Philmont Scout Ranch.*

*On this tour, you will explore the beautiful adobe museum built on-site by Scouting America in 1950. Named in honor of Kit Carson, this immersive interpretive area vividly recounts the dramatic exploits of Maxwell, Carson, and the brave settlers and traders who shaped the Wild West.*

## Villa Philmonté Historic House Tour

FRIDAY 10:30 -11:30 AM (Limit 24 per tour)

*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era - like a seven-headed shower and steam heat - alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

**SESSION 2A - BUSTER BROWN WAITE** FRIDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

### **True Grit on the Santa Fe Trail**

Session Sponsor: Rebecca Ullrich

Presenters: **Joy Poole** and **Doug Hocking**

“The Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: Rowland Willard’s Travel Diaries 1825-1828” - Few Americans knew much about New Mexico when Willard set out from St. Charles, Missouri, where he had completed a medical apprenticeship. Growing commerce with the Southwest presented opportunities for the ambitious doctor, who met and began traveling with mountain man Hugh Glass on the Santa Fe Trail. He practiced medicine in Taos for two months, visited Santa Fe, then traveled south to Chihuahua. Willard treated patients in Mexico for two years. He guided American traders, attended mass and observed saints’ holidays. When the Mexican government expelled Spanish-born citizens, Willard returned to Missouri in 1828. His travel diaries and autobiography are among the earliest American accounts of the Santa Fe Trail and El Camino Real. **Joy Poole**, an expert on western trails, retired from the New Mexico State Library as Deputy State Librarian.

“Terror on the Santa Fe Trail” - “As a child, I heard the Jicarillas’ own stories of their past,” presenter Doug Hocking writes. “Finding this difficult to reconcile with history books, I delved into their past and learned that they were the people the closed the Santa Fe Trail three times, who fought and won spectacular victories, and who were the last to be placed on a reservation as everyone feared them and refused to have them nearby. Kit Carson was by turns their opponent, friend and neighbor, Indian agent, and finally led their last war party. These are stories of blood and honor, courage and bravery.” **Doug Hocking** is the author of many books of Southwest History. Raised on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, he retired from the US Army.

**SESSION 2B – MIRANDA** FRIDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

### **Singular Characters in Our Legal and Political History**

Session sponsor: Friends of the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts

Presenters: **Alan Downs**, **Heather McClenahan**, and **Cynthia Shetter**

“The Curious Career of Abraham Rencher” – This presentation is a brief examination of New Mexico’s fourth territorial governor’s pathway to the Palace of the Governors and the evolution of

his agenda during his tenure in Santa Fe, paying particular attention to his relationship with the army both at Fort Union and at Fort Defiance. The presenter will also flesh out the circumstances behind Rencher's removal in 1861 and the continuation of his ties to the New Mexico Mining Company. **Alan Downs** is an associate professor of history at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia.

"A Research Rabbit Hole: The Mysterious Death of New Mexico's first Congressman" – Harvey B. Fergusson is little remembered in New Mexico, even though he was the first representative elected to Congress after statehood, the man responsible for the state's educational land trust fund, and the father of two famous writers. Married into one of the most prominent families in Albuquerque and a political rival of Thomas Catron, Fergusson died under mysterious circumstances. Was it apoplexy, suicide by hanging, or a cut throat? Let's follow the evidence and decide! **Heather McClenahan** is a native New Mexican and retired executive director of the Los Alamos Historical Society.

"Lola Armijo and New Mexico's First Gender Discrimination Case" - Following admission as the 47th state of the Union in 1912, New Mexico's newly formed government faced immediate challenges regarding public appointments. This presentation explores the historic legal battle of Maria Dolores Elizabeth Chaves Armijo (Lola Armijo), who served as State Librarian during this pivotal transition. Soon after William C. McDonald became the first New Mexico governor, an attempt was made to replace Armijo with Mrs. Mary M. Victory. This executive maneuver sparked what became New Mexico's first gender discrimination case. This talk examines the political environment surrounding McDonald's cabinet appointments, and the lasting significance of Armijo's fight to retain her office as a female public official. **Cynthia Johnson Shetter** directs the Los Lunas Public Library and its branch library, the Museum of Heritage & Arts.

**SESSION 2C - MAXWELL A&B** FRIDAY 10:30 AM –12:00 NOON

### **Of Policy, Promises, and Civilizing Influences: New Mexico Railroads**

Presenters: **Fred Friedman, William Itoh, and Suzanne M. Stauffer**

"Railroads as Implementers of US Federal Policy" - In addition to being the physical image of Manifest Destiny, railroads became a prime implementer of congressional and presidential intent, from nineteenth-century transport of Native American students and prisoners to resettlement of Japanese American internees, orphan train passengers, and others witnessed the impacts of these legislated events. Amtrak and the Rail Runner Express are current examples of this initiative. **Fred Friedman's** focus is on territorial and state railroad development. He lectures frequently on railroad-related subjects.

“Promises on Paper and New Mexico's Railways” – Constructing the first railroads in the New Mexico Territory required vast expenditures of equipment and labor which in turn needed huge capital resources. This illustrated lecture tells the story of the early railroads in the Territory and the financial instruments, primarily stocks and bonds, used to raise that critically needed capital. William Itoh is a retired Foreign Service Officer and was Assistant Professor of History at California State University, Humboldt.

“Santa Fe [Railroad] Reading Rooms” - The Santa Fe Railroad established reading rooms throughout the Southwest to serve as a ‘civilizing’ influence on railroad employees and towns. Initially restricted to employees and their families, these reading rooms soon became the social and intellectual centers of their communities. Most closed between 1929 and 1940, due in part to the Great Depression. This presentation will look at their rise and fall, with a focus on reading rooms in New Mexico. **Suzanne M. Stauffer** is Professor Emerita at LSU. Her research focuses on the history of the American Public Library.

### **Lunch and Mid-Day Plenary**

FRIDAY 12:15-1:15 PM, Dining Hall

In celebration of the centennial of the *New Mexico Historical Review*, **Durwood Ball**, NMHR editor and Associate Professor of History at the University of New Mexico, will explore the history of the *Review* from the time of its founding by the Historical Society of New Mexico in 1926.

### **Villa Philmonté Historic House Tour**

FRIDAY 1:30-2:30 PM (Limit 24 per tour)

*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era - like a seven-headed shower and steam heat - alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

**SESSION 3A - BUSTER BROWN WAITE** FRIDAY 1:30-3:00 PM

### **Scholarly Encounters: the *New Mexico Historical Review* at 100**

Founded by the Historical Society of New Mexico, the *New Mexico Historical Review* published its first issue (volume 1, number 1) in January 1926. The journal began operations during the rise of regionalism in history and culture in the United States. No state in the Union was more unique and

offered a more complex field of historical study than New Mexico at the time. The journal's first editors, Lansing Bloom and Paul Walter, dedicated the journal to publishing scholarly articles on New Mexico and the Greater Southwest in the broadest outlines, from the earliest Spanish exploration and settlement of the region through Mexican Independence and US territorialism, and finally to early statehood. Their successors have sustained and elaborated on their editorial and publishing legacy through the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Panelists in this roundtable discuss "encounters" with the *New Mexico Historical Review* in a specific endeavor during their career. Chair: **Sandra Mathews-Benham**, Professor of History, University of Nebraska, Wesleyan; Research: **Rick Hendricks**, PhD, State Records Administrator, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe; Libraries/Archives: **Suzanne Schadl**, PhD, Director, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Author: **Enrique Lamadrid**, Professor Emeritus, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; History Department Faculty/Chair: **Jason Smith**, Professor of History, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Editor/Publisher: TBD; Editorial Assistant: TBD.

### **SESSION 3B – MIRANDA** FRIDAY 1:30-3:00 PM

#### **Why Choose This Place?**

Session Sponsor: Rebecca Ullrich

Presenters: **Linda Goff** and **Harding Polk**

"Pioneer Jews Northeastern New Mexico: Who Knew?" — While much has been written about the well-known pioneer Jews in Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces, there were lesser known but prominent Jewish merchants, ranchers, and businessmen in the more remote areas of Northeastern New Mexico such as Clayton, Roy, Wagon Mound, and Springer. **Linda Goff** is co-President of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society holds a PhD from Washington University and MA from the University of New Mexico.

"Boaz, New Mexico: An Island in a Prairie Sea" - This presentation presents a brief account of the story of the town of Boaz, New Mexico and its inhabitants, also recounting some unexpected results that came about as a byproduct of that research. **Harding Polk** has been a historical archaeologist for over 50 years. After 22 years he recently retired from the BIA, Southwest Region.

### **SESSION 3C - MAXWELL A&B** FRIDAY 1:30-3:00 PM

#### **Living Through Dangerous Times**

Session sponsor: Troy Hays, Roswell, NM

Presenters: **Troy M. Ainsworth**, **Donna Blake Birchell** and **John LeMay**, and **Kathleen Dull**

“Warren Fay Shedd: A Murky and Mysterious Life in the Organ Mountains” – Warren Fay Shedd (1821-1904) earned a suspect reputation during his three decades in the Organ Mountains east of Las Cruces, New Mexico. While Shedd was among the first Anglo stockraisers in the Tularosa Basin, he was also rumored to traffic in stolen horses. Shedd's life has become conflated with the biography of a man similarly named, adding to the murkiness that surrounds his actual life. **Troy M. Ainsworth**, PhD, is a borderland historian and a denizen of the Chihuahuan Desert.

“Robert Clay Allison: A Walking Contradiction” – When gunfighter Clay Allison stepped into the Lambert Inn in Cimarron (now the St. James Hotel) for a drink, direct eye contact was averted in the hopes Clay was in a good mood and not already drunk. Known as a killer without a conscience, Allison thought nothing of inflicting the type of justice he thought right. When not drinking, he was a well-respected member of his community, even serving as legal counsel for those opposing the powerful Santa Fe Ring on at least one occasion. **Donna Blake Birchell** is a native New Mexican and author of over seventeen books on the state's history. **John LeMay** hails from Roswell and has authored, at last count, over sixty books on a wide range of subjects, especially New Mexico.

“Tinson Family Collection Foreshadows Colfax County War” - “The Company President and Vice President were indicted for murder today.” Henry Tinson was unprepared for the reality of life as the Secretary of the Maxwell Land Grant & Railway Co. in Cimarron in the early 1870s. A rare collection of family letters, now at the New Mexico History Museum, was recently digitized and transcribed. Join us for a freshly uncovered account of a tumultuous time and how you can access this unique collection. **Kathleen Dull** is an archivist at the New Mexico History Museum Library.

**SESSION 3D – BEAUBIEN** FRIDAY 1:30-3:00 PM

### **Archives: Portals to the Past and the Future**

Session Sponsor: Rebecca Ullrich

This session provides insight to various archives across the state of New Mexico. A roundtable panel of archivists from different institutions with archives of varying sizes will discuss their focus, their holdings, and how historians can best access and make use of the collections. Panelists TBA

### **CHASE RANCH TOUR**

FRIDAY 1:30-3:30 PM including travel time (Limit 10 per tour)

*Discover a cornerstone of New Mexico's frontier history with a visit to the Historic Chase Ranch in Cimarron. Carved from the legendary Maxwell Land Grant and founded in 1869, this historic property offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of early western pioneers. Your tour features an*

*exclusive look inside the Main Chase Ranch House, where generations of ranching history come alive. Afterward, take a peaceful stroll across the expansive, scenic Chase grounds. You will have the chance to wander through the lush Chase orchards and step inside the original Chase tack room, which houses vintage equipment that tells the story of the ranch's working heritage.*

### **Dino Hike**

FRIDAY 1:30-4:30 PM, Distance 2.25 miles round-trip; Difficulty level: Easy (Limited to 30 hikers)

*Philmont features one of only two confirmed Tyrannosaurus Rex footprints in the world! Ponil Canyon has little shade, so remember to bring water and sun protection.*

### **Villa Philmonté Historic House Tour**

FRIDAY 3:30-4:30 PM (Limit 24 per tour)

*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era – like a seven-headed shower and steam heat – alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

**SESSION 4A - BUSTER BROWN WAITE** FRIDAY 3:30-5:00 PM

### **Reformatting the Story of New Mexico**

Roundtable: **Sandra Mathews**, **Bruce Gjeltema** and **Sonia Dickey**, Moderator

The panelists spent the past two years reviewing the 4th, 7th, and 9th grade New Mexico history textbooks, mapping the updated New Mexico State Standards, and then completing major revisions. Learn about the results in this overview. **Sandra Mathews**, Senior Professor of History at Nebraska Wesleyan University, also has contracts with Routledge for a new synthesis of women of the US West and is series editor for Women and Gender in the North American West with Bloomsbury Publishing. **Bruce Gjeltema** is Professor of History at UNM-Gallup. His specific archival projects have included history of United States Indian Policy, Navajo History, and history of Gallup and the Colorado Plateau region. **Sonia Dickey**, PhD, is the Acquisitions Editor in Landscape Studies, Environmental History, and Modern Archaeology for University of New Mexico Press.

**SESSION 4B – MIRANDA** FRIDAY 3:30-5:00 PM

### **Little-known New Mexico History**

Presenters: **Heather McClure**, **Naomi Sandweiss**, and **John LeMay**

“The Enduring Partnership: New Mexico Skiing and Public Lands” - Starting in the 1930s in New Mexico, skiing evolved from a snowy romp in the woods to a business. To achieve this mission, the ski industry and the United States Forest Service formed “an enduring partnership.” Addressing the emerging historic topic of sport and business in the West and evolving definitions of “recreation,” this presentation looks at public land use and commodification past, present, and future. This presentation will pay particular attention to the Carson National Forest, a highly popular ski destination in New Mexico. **Heather McClure** is a librarian and archivist at the Fray Angelico Chavez History Library at the New Mexico History Museum.

“Beyond camp and cookies: A history of the New Mexico Girl Scout movement and Mobile Archeological Program” – This presentation will provide an overview of Girl Scouting in New Mexico with a special focus on the Girl Scouts known as “Dutton’s Dirty Diggers.” In the 1940s, New Mexico archeologist Bertha Dutton introduced senior Girl Scouts to extraordinary archeological and scientific experiences throughout the Southwest. **Naomi Sandweiss** is a former Girl Scout and Program Manager for the New Mexico Girl Scout Council, author of *Jewish Albuquerque* (2010), and co-President of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society.

“New Mexico Monsters” – This presentation focuses on mystery animals, or cryptids, emphasizing folkloric “monsters” of northeast New Mexico, including several creatures said to inhabit Urraca Mesa at Philmont Scout Ranch and the “Hex Cat of Cimarron.” Bigfoot (“El Abuelo” in Hispanic folklore) served as a boogeyman for children, and then there is “Bighoot,” a gigantic owl seen in northern New Mexico. Hellhounds, called *cadejos*, have a healthy presence in Las Vegas, as does the *chupacabra*. Newspapers reported a trial of the Mora Frogman, a man accused of turning into a frog and biting his wife in 1941. Lastly, attendees can learn how and why Ghost Ranch got its name. **John LeMay** hails from Roswell and has authored, at last count, over sixty books on a wide range of subjects.

**SESSION 4C - MAXWELL A&B** FRIDAY 3:30-5:00 PM

## **War Stories**

Presenters: **Lillian Bowe**, **Chuck Hornung**, and **Joshua Mika**

“Civil War Prisons: Bosque Redondo and Andersonville” - As the Civil War was raging in the East, acts against humanity were being committed against the Diné and Ndé. However, the East had its own atrocities in Andersonville. Union soldiers were starved, killed and placed in horrible

condition much like what happened in Fort Sumner. These sites are far more connected than once thought. The 1867 Peace Commission were heavily influenced by what happened at Andersonville, thus the 1868 Treaty was written thusly. This treaty ended the Bosque Redondo reservation and the Diné went back to their homeland. **Lillian Bowe** is a Bosque Redondo Memorial Interpretive Ranger, with an MA in Museum Science from Texas Tech University.

“Henry Lambert, the St. James Hotel, and the Colfax County War” - Henry Lambert, a Frenchman by birth but a New Mexican by choice, was a central figure in the Colfax County land grant war [1875 to 1887] and his hotel was the focal point of major events. The activities of mountain men, gold miners, cattlemen, sheepmen, Indians, Buffalo Soldiers, gunfighters, cow-boys, lawmen, gamblers, land speculators, homesteaders...and even Wyatt Earp all swirled around his St. James Hotel in Cimarron. Henry personally captured one of the suspects in the murder of Parson Tolby; he was also a crew member of America’s first submarine on the Union side during the Civil War. **Chuck Hornung**, a former program director of Philmont, is the author of eight books and an HSNM Speakers Bureau member.

“Misinformation and War: New Dimensions on an Old Conflict” - This presentation examines the overlooked role that spurious intelligence, unsubstantiated rumors, and misinformation played in the Confederate invasion of New Mexico in 1861 and 1862. Union and Confederate agents, civilians, and Native peoples all engaged in spreading rumor and misinformation during the invasion. Spurious intelligence concerning the invasion often spread like a contagion, becoming embedded in the national presses of the Union, Confederacy, and Mexico. Not only did this affect the behaviors of borderlanders, but it also crafted jaundiced perceptions in national imaginaries. **Joshua Mika**, a PhD candidate in history and teaching faculty at the University of Oklahoma, graduates in December 2026.

**SESSION 4D – BEAUBIEN** FRIDAY 3:30-5:00 PM

### **HSNM Award Winners Speak**

Moderator: Dennis Dailey, HSNM Awards Committee Chair

Each year the Historical Society of New Mexico receives nominations of outstanding publications in the area of New Mexico and borderlands history for its annual awards program. Individuals and organizations are also nominated for their outstanding work promoting New Mexico history and cultural preservation. In this session, authors and editors of 2026 HSNM award-winning publications, and service award winners, will discuss their works in a potpourri of New Mexico historical topics.

## **Tour of Cimarron**

FRIDAY 3:30–5:00 PM including travel time (Limit 24 per tour)

*Where the Santa Fe Trail meets the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the town of Cimarron still echoes with the footprints of frontiersmen, outlaws, and pioneers. This guided tour invites you to explore Northern New Mexico's most untamed history, tracing the roots of the Old West through its beautifully preserved structures.*

## **Reception**

FRIDAY 5:30-6:30 PM, Scouting Museum

Cash bar (beer & wine)

## **Awards Banquet**

FRIDAY 7:00-8:30 PM, The Pavilion

## **POST-DINNER SHENANIGANS**

### **Legends by Lantern Light Tour of Cimarron**

FRIDAY 9:00-10:30 PM including travel time, \$15 (No credit cards)

*Enjoy an evening stroll through many of Cimarron's historic sites by lantern light. Features ghost stories of the St. James Hotel. To book please email [contact@legendsbylantern.com](mailto:contact@legendsbylantern.com) or call/text Jared at (407) 607-0850.*

### **Shadows of the Santa Fe Trail: The Rayado Lantern Tour**

FRIDAY 9:00–10:30 PM including travel time (Limit 24 participants)

*As the sun sets over the rugged New Mexico mesas, experience history in a completely different light. Guided by the flickering glow of handheld lanterns, this evening tour transports you back to the 1850s at Rayado—the historic frontier outpost founded by Lucien Maxwell and legendary mountain man Kit Carson. Walking among the shadows of the historic adobe hacienda and old cottonwoods, you will hear the true stories of the traders, soldiers, and homesteaders who braved the dangerous Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Far from the modern world, the crackle of the lanterns and the cool evening breeze bring the triumphs and struggles of the old Southwest vividly to life. Join us for an unforgettable journey into Philmont's storied past after dark.*

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026**

### **Lover's Leap Sunrise Hike**

SATURDAY 4:45-7:00 AM, 3.2 miles round-trip; Difficulty level: Easy (Limited to 30 hikers)

*Lover's Leap is an iconic Philmont destination that starts at the Lover's Leap Turnaround. The trail features inclines, declines, and narrow sections, offering unique views of the Tooth of Time as you gain about 300 feet in elevation.*

### **BREAKFAST**

SATURDAY 6:45-7:20 AM, Dining Hall

### **MORNING PLENARY**

SATURDAY 7:30-8:15 AM, Assembly Room

"A Sample of 100 Significant Objects in New Mexico History" – The University of New Mexico Press has just published Richard Melzer's truly unique new book, *A History of New Mexico in 100 Objects*. The author discovered these objects in museums across New Mexico and as far away as Washington, DC. Reflecting New Mexico's rich diversity, the book's collection includes photos of and stories about such valuable artifacts as Mimbres pottery, the original Storyteller, an American POW's makeshift garment, and a hippie van from Taos. The author has chosen a sample of these significant objects to present and describe in a colorful PowerPoint presentation. **Richard Melzer** earned his PhD in History at UNM in 1979. He taught history at the University of New Mexico's Valencia Campus from 1979 to 2019, retiring as a UNM Regents professor of history. He is a past two-term president of the Historical Society of New Mexico.

### **VILLA PHILMONTÉ HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR**

SATURDAY 8:30-9:30 AM (Limited to 24 per tour)

*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era - like a seven-headed shower and steam heat - alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

**SESSION 5A – BUSTER BROWN WAITE** SATURDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

### **Marking Milestones: Historical Commemorations**

**Rebecca Ullrich**, Moderator/presenter, and roundtable **Debbie Post, Diane Schaller, Janet Sayers**, and **Gordene McKenzie**

“75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of Sandia National Laboratories” – In 2024, Sandia National Laboratories celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This presentation provides an overview of the organizing, preparing, and deploying of the multiple events related to that commemoration. Attention will be paid to success, failure, challenge, and the easy parts. **Rebecca Ullrich** is a historian focused on the technical and social histories of American nuclear weapons development.

“The Marking of the Route 66 Centennial Speaker Series” – How does a committee of four volunteers with no budget pull together a successful Route 66 historical series, with different speakers at twelve locations for every month in 2026? How can you do this, too, for your community or region? Come and learn how we recruited speakers, engaged the interest and support of twelve venues in the greater ABQ area, orchestrated twelve simultaneous talks each month, and advertised with social media, TV, radio and newspapers. Learn about the breadth of perspectives this series brought to the public eye, and gain insights for doing a similar program. **Debbie Post** is president of the East Mountain Historical Society; **Diane Schaller** is president of Historic Albuquerque, Inc.; **Janet Sayers** is a longtime leader for historical societies, including the Albuquerque Historical Society and HSNM; and **Gordene McKenzie** is a civic and business leader in Los Ranchos and is compiling oral history.

**SESSION 5B – MIRANDA SATURDAY 8:30-10:00 AM**

### **Future of the Past: National History Day**

Moderator/presenter: **Stephanie Wilson**

National History Day (NHD) has the goal of bringing middle and high school students to an understanding of history – particularly the cultural and historical context in which they live. An annual set of competitions for which students prepare throughout the school year, NHD provides opportunities for diving into historical questions, conducting research, and refining the answers into a final project that takes the form of a documentary, a website, an exhibit, a paper or a performance. Their interests, curiosity, and creativity drive their projects. Teachers are critical to the program, and this session will include representatives from them. Because of their commitment and efforts, New Mexico’s students do very well at the National competition.

**Stephanie Wilson** is New Mexico Contest Coordinator for National History Day; participants TBD.

**SESSION 5C - MAXWELL A&B** SATURDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

## **Building Northeastern New Mexico: Historic Architecture**

Moderator: Troy Ainsworth

Presenters: **Joseph Britton** and **David Caffey**

“Edward Buehler Delk: Architect for the Phillips Family” – The Villa Philmonte was designed in 1927 by Edward Buehler Delk (1885-1956), a well-known midwestern architect most noted for his Spanish Colonial Revival buildings, especially in Kansas City. During the 1920s, Philmont’s owners Waite and Genevieve Phillips engaged Delk not only for their retreat home in New Mexico, but also the monumental Villa Philbrook and impressive Art Deco Philtower in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This session will help us to appreciate the Villa Philmonte by setting it in the context of Delk’s other remarkable work. **Joseph Britton** is an independent historian from Albuquerque and Hillsboro, New Mexico. He currently serves as President of HSNM.

“The One that Got Away: Lucien Maxwell’s Hacienda on the Santa Fe Trail” - This presentation provides glimpses of Lucien Maxwell’s “manor house” on the Cimarron, from accounts of visitors who saw it during his time as owner of the Beaubien and Miranda or Maxwell Land Grant in the 1860s, or in the corporate ownership era that followed. Impulses to preserve and restore the property came late and fell short, but indicate an awareness of the home as a significant historic feature. In its day, it was a crossroads of cultures and a nexus of activity at the center of the Maxwell grant, an object of prolonged, sometimes violent struggle in the post-Civil War Southwest. **David Caffey**, a staff member and chief ranger at Philmont, 1965-77, is the author of historical works on the area.

**SESSION 5D – BEAUBIEN** SATURDAY 8:30-10:00 AM

## **LEGACY: A 100-year History of Japanese-Americans in New Mexico**

Presenters: **Nikki Nojima Louis**, **Victor Yamada**, and **Aiko Allen**

A 100-year history of New Mexico's Japanese American community is chronicled through two short documentary films and live presentations: “Japanese American Women on the Mother Road,” on New Mexico's early 20th century immigrant families, and “Confinement in the Land of Enchantment,” oral histories from inside and outside the barbed wire of New Mexico's Japanese American internment camps. **Nikki Nojima Louis**, **Victor Yamada**, and **Aiko Allen** represent New Mexico's Japanese American Citizens League in their quest to bring the little-known history of Japanese Americans to New Mexico audiences. Dr. Louis, an oral historian, playwright, and director of a readers theater group, is a proud recipient of HSNM’s 2025 Edgar Lee Hewett Award.

Victor Yamada oversees Project CLOE (Confinement in the Land of Enchantment), which includes a publication, a traveling exhibit, a prison roster, lectures, and community forums. Aiko Allen was born in Osaka, Japan, to a Native American G.I. father and a Japanese mother. Her roles in this program are as a living history performer and moderator.

## **CHASE RANCH TOUR**

SATURDAY 8:30 –10:00 AM including travel time (Limit 10 per tour)



*Your tour features an exclusive look inside the Main Chase Ranch House, where generations of ranching history come alive. Afterward, take a peaceful stroll across the expansive, scenic Chase grounds. You will have the chance to wander through the lush Chase orchards and step inside the original Chase tack room, which houses vintage equipment that tells the story of the ranch's working heritage.*

## **ON-SITE PRESENTATION AND TOUR AT RAYADO**

SATURDAY 8:30 AM-12:00 NOON including travel time (limit 24 per tour)

“Those who came before” - When Apaches and Utes arrived at Rayado, they expected to be fed. Native hospitality called for this courtesy, and to the Apaches, this was their country. They had lived here for centuries despite attacks by tribal enemies and the US Army. Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell tried but weren't always successful in maintaining good relations with area tribes. **Sherry Robinson** is author of *I Fought a Good Fight: A History of the Lipan Apaches* and *Apache Voices*.

*On this tour, you will explore the beautiful adobe museum built on-site by Scouting America in 1950. Named in honor of Kit Carson, this immersive interpretive area vividly recounts the dramatic exploits of Maxwell, Carson, and the brave settlers and traders who shaped the Wild West. (Limited to 24 people)*

## **VILLA PHILMONTÉ HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR**

SATURDAY 10:30-11:30 AM (Limited to 24 per tour)

*Escape to the Spanish Mediterranean-style estate that served as the luxurious 1920s vacation home for oil tycoon Waite Phillips and his family. Spanning over 28,000 square feet, this architectural treasure spared no expense, featuring modern conveniences of its era - like a seven-*

*headed shower and steam heat - alongside extensive gardens and ornate furnishings sourced from Europe and the American Southwest.*

**SESSION 6A - BUSTER BROWN WAITE** SATURDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

**Route 66: Our Mother Road at 100**

Session Sponsors: Bob and Nelcine Roland

Presenters: **Debbie Post** and **Rick Holben, John Taylor,** and **Roger Zimmerman**

“Route 66 from ABQ to Santa Rosa in Rural New Mexico” - How did the 118-mile stretch of Route 66 from the eastern border of Albuquerque to Santa Rosa evolve from different trails and roads? What was the impact on local communities and what iconic businesses flourished? This richly illustrated talk covers the many routings of Route 66 through this area, as well as stories of iconic businesses such as “Trading Posts” with “Indian Curios.” This presentation draws upon a new book by Rick Holben, published by the East Mountain Historical Society. **Debbie Post** is president of the East Mountain Historical Society; **Rick Holben** is a photo historian and author for the East Mountain Historical Society.

“The impact of the 1937 Rerouting of Route 66 on Valencia County” - From 1926 through 1937, Route 66 was routed south from Albuquerque to Los Lunas before turning west to Grants, Gallup, and points west. In 1937, largely due to the efforts of Clyde Tingley and other New Mexico politicians, the Mother Road was rerouted directly from Santa Rosa through Tijeras Canyon and Albuquerque, leaving Los Lunas and Valencia County “in the lurch.” This presentation explores this rerouting and the impact that it had on the town and the county. **John Taylor** is a retiree from Sandia National Laboratories. He has written over 30 books on New Mexico history and other topics.

“Gallup Route 66 Highway and Railroad Interface” - Transcontinental railroad expansion shaped the early layout of Gallup, New Mexico, in the 1880s. When Route 66 was established in 1926, it followed Railroad Avenue bringing growth but eventually creating major congestion after World War II. Downtown streets had to be adjusted to accommodate highway and railroad right-of-way needs. Throughout the 1950s the City of Gallup and the Santa Fe Railway worked through difficult right-of-way and design challenges to widen Route 66 and keep the highway and its vital commerce healthy. Final solutions were reflected with construction of Interstate 40 in the 1970s. **Roger Zimmerman** is retired from Sandia National Laboratories and is an author and researcher on New Mexico history topics.

**SESSION 6B – MIRANDA** SATURDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

## **Supporting History: HSNM Grants Program**

Moderator: **Heather McClenahan**, HSNM Grants Committee Chair

At each year's New Mexico History Conference, the HSNM Grants Committee features highlights from the previous year's grant program and answers questions about the program.

2025 HSNM Grant recipients:

**Nick Pappas**: *The Great Blizzard of 1967*

**Cornerstones Community Partnership**: New Mexico Historic Preservation Conference

**Javier Marin-López**, Soundscapes and Musical Traditions of Hispanic New Mexico

**Andrés Armijo**, *Don Manuel de Arteaga: an alcalde of Albuquerque in the late 1700s*

**The Museum of Frontier Life in Corona**, Updates and Improvements to the Entertainment Room in the Museum.

**SESSION 6C - MAXWELL A&B** SATURDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON

## **The Art in History**

Moderator: Sylvia Ramos Cruz

Presenters: **Enrique Lamadrid**, **Carmella Scorcio Pacheco**, and **R.J. Striegel** and **Jennifer Goodland**

“Llano Estacado Indita Ballads” - The death of a young buffalo hunter who fell on his own lance and the tale of Marcelina the captive who sees her family and friends killed and is carried away are the two most iconic ballads of the Llano Estacado. The Indita ballad is New Mexico's unique contribution to millennial Hispanic traditions, with female gendered poetics, intercultural themes, first-person voicing, and reflective choruses. Ballads live through their variants. Marcelina lives on in ritual settings and Manuel Maes is still celebrated for his bravery, a reminder of the times before the arrival of Manifest Destiny. **Enrique Lamadrid** taught folklore, literature, and cultural history at UNM and edits the Querencias Series at UNM Press.

“The Tragic Consequences of Honor in *La finada Paula Ángel*” - *La finada de Paula Ángel*, one of the best-known ballads of northeastern New Mexico, recounts the tragic episode of Paula Ángel, the only woman ever legally executed in Territorial New Mexico. The speaker will address the implications surrounding redemption, honor, and the juridical system through the ballad. She will compare the nineteenth-century ballad to several other Mexican and Mexican American tales of honor and redemption which include the song, *El Asesino*, performed by the northern New Mexican band, Sparx, which speaks to the legal right of killing another under the guise of honor.

**Carmella Scorcia Pacheco** is a post-doctoral fellow with the University of New Mexico's Hispanic Southwest Studies Program.

“Writer/Librarian Coaching for Researched Historical Fiction” - Cimarron has a history stranger than most fiction between land grant wars and frontier violence. Author **R.J. Striegel** and librarian **Jennifer Goodland** will discuss the making of *Land Shadows*, Striegel's award-winning historical fiction rooted in Cimarron's past. Their collaboration is unusual: novelist and research librarian who worked not as author and consultant, but as creative partners. They'll explore what a writer owes the historical record and where storytelling must take precedence.

### **Tour of Cimarron**

SATURDAY 10:30 AM-12:00 NOON including travel time (Limit 24 per tour)

*Where the Santa Fe Trail meets the rugged Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the town of Cimarron still echoes with the footprints of frontiersmen, outlaws, and pioneers. This guided tour invites you to explore Northern New Mexico's most untamed history, tracing the roots of the Old West through its beautifully preserved structures.*

### **LUNCH PLENARY**

SATURDAY 12:15-1:15 PM Dining Hall

“*La Crónica* at 50” – HSNM President **Joseph Britton** will close our Philmont residency with an overview and appreciation of *La Crónica*, official publication of the Historical Society of New Mexico, and its evolution over the past half-century.