



# Fort Concho Dispatch



Spring 2021 issue

San Angelo, TX Fort Concho National Historic Landmark

April 2021



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Fort Concho is open for self guided tours. Come see us 7 days a week.

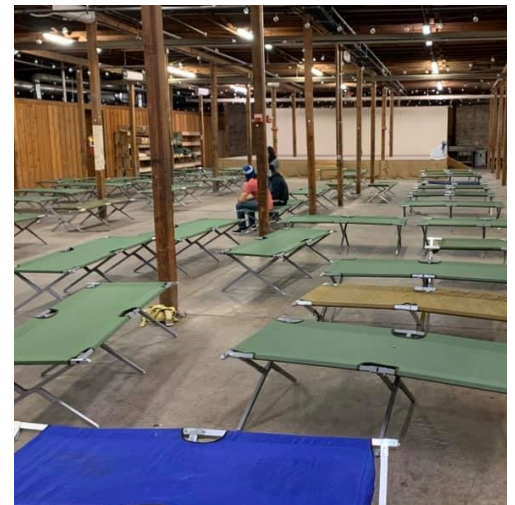
Monday through Saturday we are open from 9AM– 5PM and 1PM-5PM on Sunday.

*As of March 10th, we no longer require masks to enter buildings. Masks are still recommended!*

*Surprise snow storm hits Fort Concho, photo taken by Robert Bluthardt*

Above: This photo was take Friday, February 19th as the snow finally began to melt when the temperature was able to get above 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

Below: For the third straight year, San Angelo has been recognized as one of the top 10 True Western Towns of 2021!

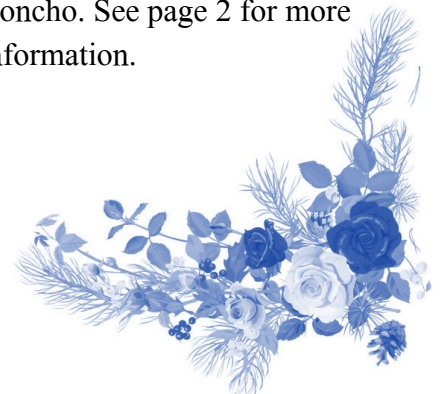


Above: The Warming Center at Fort Concho. See page 2 for more information.

**TRUE WEST**  
CELEBRATING THE WESTERN SPIRIT

**SAN ANGELO**

**TOP 10 TRUE WESTERN TOWNS OF 2021**





## Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day

This year, Henry Crawford spoke on February 28th at our annual Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day. Crawford discussed the tools Buffalo Soldiers used and what life was like for the soldiers.

Because of COVID restrictions, we had to limit the number of people available to attend but we also had the video available for streaming via Facebook Live. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

## Fort Concho Warming Center

It is unlikely Texans will ever forget February. On February 14th, we experienced temperatures unlike anything before and it continued through the entire week. With heavy amounts of electricity out, Fort Concho opened up the Stables as a warming center for the city. Quick thinking and concern for the community allowed for the fort to continue to support the community. To all who helped their neighbors during those cold days, thank you.

## Regional Cavalry Competition

Spring is here which means it is time for the Regional Cavalry Competition! The event will be taking place April 22nd through April 24th. The competition includes events in military horsemanship, combat horsemanship as well as jumping, pistol, and saber. The course and regulations will be the same as those in effect for the USCA annual event in Fort Reno, Oklahoma.

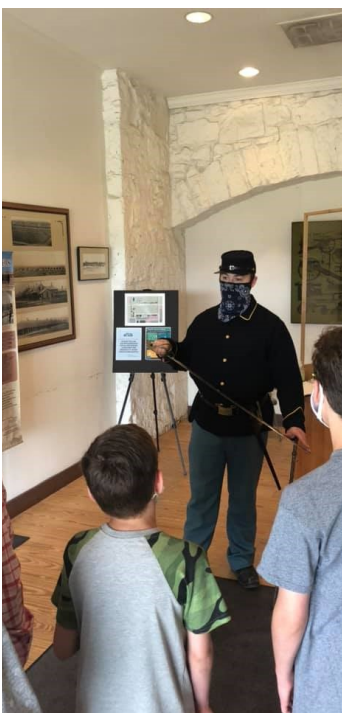
If you would like to enter in the Cavalry competition, here is a link to the registration forms: <https://fortconcho.com/events/calvary-competition-registration-forms/>

Good luck to all who are competing!



## Spring Break at Fort Concho

Spring break would not be complete without some adventure and history! Fort Concho opened up walking tours twice a day for Spring Break. Hundreds of people came to Fort Concho to learn the history of the fort and to just enjoy a nice walk on the grounds. Hans dressed as a cavalry soldier and discussed the uses of the saber before beginning the tour. Brendalee wore a frontier dress and discussed why Fort Concho began and how San Angelo was created. With COVID restrictions lifting, guided tours will become a normal feature of Fort Concho in the coming months. We look forward to having more guest return to learn about Western Frontier history.



## Officers Family Living History

On March 6th, Fort Concho opened up Officers' Quarters 6 for an Officers Family Living History program. March was Women's History month. Fort Concho hosted over 150 guest who learned about the families that followed their soldiers to the frontier to create a completely new life. At the program, the ladies explained the various layers a woman wore, how life had transformed as they moved West, and discusses the different diet people in the West had versus the East.

A special thank you to Alison, Anamarie, and Ms. Kat for helping bring the Officers' Quarters to life!



Richter, Daniel K. *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*.

Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.

Reviewed by Sarah Ross, HIST 618.99: American West.

In *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*, Daniel Richter provides history with a new perspective of what Native Americans experienced by “facing East.” Rather than focusing on a Eurocentric narrative of colonization and the inevitable creation of the United States, the book describes the Native Americans’ perspectives of European being strangers, allies, and the very group that betrays them. Richter explores the conflicts Native Americans experienced by taking sides with different European groups. Within the restrictions of limited primary sources, Richter’s book provides a strong source of Native Americans’ perspective of European settlement in order to gain a broader understanding of early American history. (9-10)

He begins with the initial arrival of Europeans in the sixteenth century. Richter argues Europeans’ advent did not have as significant an impact on Native Americans as historians have argued. The Europeans’ arrival was a chance for Native Americans to develop mutually beneficial relationships for trade. As their relationship evolved into the seventeenth century, Europeans began to impact cultural exchange, import ideas and animals, and exposed the natives to diseases affecting their population. The Europeans agricultural patterns disturbed native lands and domesticated animals ate the local games’ food, effectively disturbing the Native Americans’ pattern of life. (59) Native American culture and life transformed as more Europeans arrived in America. The author uses stories of individuals from Pocahontas, Kateri Tekakwitha, and King Phillip to show “not all colonial history was the story told by English-speaking victors.” (109)

Referred to as the imperial world, early eighteenth-century America saw Native Americans’ entire relationship with the Europeans transform. Native Americans and Europeans had been coexisting for over 200 years. (151) Various Native Americans had developed allies with the French or the British. Richter argues these relationships were not entirely imperial, but rather they used their European allies to fight their tribal enemies. (155) These relationships were used both by the Europeans and the natives to fight various wars in the eighteenth century. However, following the French and Indian War, the English largely pushed the French out of America, and “the structural framework upon which the modern Indian politics had depended for two generations imploded.” (187) This disruption led to the rise of individuals such as Neolin and Pontiac. The Revolutionary War took place a few years later and the British were also pushed out. Richter argues with the removal of British control, the Native Americans found themselves betrayed. (223) From the 1783 Treaty of Paris onward, Native Americans began to be pushed farther West and were continually being excluded from the new version of America. This push led to the rise of “nativist religious prophecies” and created the tension that led to the War of 1812. The book concludes with victorious America beginning to write Native Americans’ out of its history. (252)

Richter's decision to write this book explores the curious exclusion of Native American history. By "facing East," the author rejects the Eurocentric perspective of American history. He also explores how historians can focus from this new perspective. (9) The book is organized chronologically from Europeans' arrival to the War of 1812. He also briefly discusses Native Americans during the Jacksonian era. His arguments provided in the thesis are included in a summary at the end of each chapter. Richter weakens his arguments with comments on limitations where he must use his imagination to decipher the Native Americans' perspectives. Richer clearly states where he uses his imagination. In the first portion of the book, there are clear gaps in Native Americans' perspectives, though the author explains these gaps. Primary sources from Native Americans, especially in the beginnings of European settlement, are limited to oral tradition, which has been changed over generations prior to being recorded; Also, European writings easily misunderstood natives in their limited contact. (11) Richter is able to capture a broader scope over time as Native Americans' perspectives became more available. Richter's use of excerpts of speeches and writings from Native Americans help strengthen his argument. The author also strengthens his argument by consulting some of the latest research available at the time of this book's publishing.

Historical works have largely left Native American influence out of the narrative of building the United States. Works such as *The Middle Ground* by Richard White exhibit the conflict of culture and the complexity of relationships experienced between the Native Americans and the European settlers. Richter cites Richard White and concurs the cooperation needed between the two groups. "On the middle ground diverse peoples adjust their differences through what amounts to a process of creative, and often expedient, misunderstandings."<sup>1</sup> White's argument attempted to find the middle ground between the Natives and Europeans, strengthens Richter's decision to write *Facing East*; Richter builds upon historical arguments such as White's by presenting Native Americans' point of view.

*Facing East from Indian Country* tells the story of European settlement of America from the perspective of the Native Americans. Throughout the book, the author paints a vivid picture of the complex relationship shared between the two groups rather than the European conquest of America. Native American lives changed when the Europeans arrived. Though there was the cultural exchange and the ability to trade, Native Americans ultimately lost much of their land in the process. By writing *Facing East*, Richter has allowed historians to develop a more complex understanding of Native Americans' perspective of early American history.

1. Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*, 20th anniversary ed (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), XXVI.

#### Bibliography

- Richter, Daniel K. *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.
- White, Richard. *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*. 20th anniversary ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Would you like to be featured in Fort Concho's



Dispatch? We are looking for short pieces that discuss unique historical elements on the western frontier. Fort Concho is a western frontier fort.

However, the history involving the fort goes much wider than the military. Civilian life, buffalo hunting, Native American culture, and much more are elements that will be included in the Dispatch. Legends and their origins are also welcome.

Please email [livinghistory@fortconcho.com](mailto:livinghistory@fortconcho.com) if you would like to be featured. (Please include sources.)

### Upcoming Events for 2021 at Fort Concho:

Speaker Series—Every Wednesday of April at Fort Concho Stable (on Henry O Flipper Street) from 12PM– 1PM

San Angelo Rodeo Parade—Downtown San Angelo— April 10, 10AM till end of parade

Star Story Night—San Angelo State Park—April 22, 9PM-10PM

Regional Cavalry Competition—April 22-24

Fort Concho Frontier Day— April 24, 8AM-12PM

For more information, please check out our Facebook page.



This dispatch was created by your local, friendly Corporal, Sarah Ross.



Be sure to follow us on all of our social media!

-Fort Concho National Historic Landmark



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