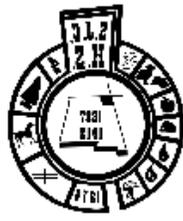


Please Join Us!



San Juan County Historical Society

AZTEC MUSEUM



PIONEER VILLAGE

Message in a Viga:

Historic Inscriptions at the Aztec West Great House

A program by Fred Blackburn with Victoria Atkins and Logan Dean

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 6:00pm

Farmington Civic Center

200 W. Arrington Street, Farmington NM 87401



Since 1986, Colorado historian and author Fred Blackburn has researched historic inscriptions throughout the Four Corners. Sometimes thought of as graffiti, inscriptions within an historic context can offer valuable insight into the history of archaeological investigations as well as public visitation and regional settlement.



At his current project at Aztec Ruins National Monument, Blackburn and his team have so far documented approximately 1,800 inscriptions on the wooden roof beams and stone walls of the 12th century Aztec West great house. In addition to establishing a contextual database with photographs, the end goal is to track down biographic details of the inscribers – many of whom based their homes in San Juan County. These inscriptions create a unique time capsule of 19th and 20th century San Juan County.



While defacing historic sites is considered vandalism today, these inscriptions are like messages in a bottle left for later generations to discover. Blackburn's research has involved collaboration with the San Juan Historical Society and Aztec Museum & Pioneer Village and he continues to welcome new information and insights from longtime local families.

Presenting with Blackburn on November 15 will be Victoria Atkins, the primary project field cataloger, and Logan Dean who is continuing the inscription research online.

This is a **FREE** public program.

Be a part of history with the San Juan County Historical Society and the Aztec Museum & Pioneer Village. For questions call the SJC Historical Society at 505-334-7163 or the Aztec Museum at 505-334-9829. Local historical books will be on sale at the event!

