

## A LOOK BACK AT HUTCHINSON COUNTY HISTORY

### Kit Carson

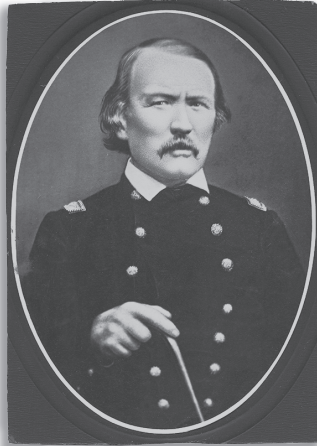
Kit Carson was bigger-than-life. Though small in stature and reported by many to be a quiet man of few words, Kit Carson was known to be a fearless man of action.

Carson was a remarkable man. Because he traveled widely, he was very familiar with the western part of what is now the United States. He was known by many and respected by most.

An accomplished guide and scout, Carson was appreciated for his knowledge of the territory and his ability to lead men to their expected destinations. He scouted for many early western expeditions. Carson was loyal, honest and kept his promises — even if keeping a promise meant he was inconvenienced or put himself in danger. He spoke Spanish and several of the native languages well enough to communicate wherever he traveled.

As an Army officer, Carson had a keen sense of situational awareness borne of his experiences in the unsettled west. In 1864, after his troops burned and destroyed a Kiowa village on the Canadian River near Adobe Walls in what is now Hutchinson County, his junior officers urged him to pursue the scattering Indians and continue the fight. His understanding of the battlefield situation led him to call for an orderly retreat to Ft. Bascom, New Mexico. Though significantly outnumbered, he lost few.

Kit Carson died in 1868 at Ft. Lyon, near present-day La Junta, Colorado. He was 59 years old. He is buried in Taos, New Mexico, with his wife Josepha close to the home where they raised 8 children. ■



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