

EL MONTE SOFA

Doña María Gertrudes Barceló, the mid-nineteenth-century figure known more commonly as “La Tules,” was a legend in her time—the most notorious lady gambler of the New Mexico Territory and perhaps the entire region west of St. Louis, Missouri. So widespread were the stories about her that it is difficult to separate fact from fiction, and historians still debate their accuracy. Who was this person who commanded such attention at a time when women—especially Hispanic women—were largely invisible in public life? Most sources agree that La Tules was a Monte card dealer who operated a gambling hall and salon in Santa Fe during the 1840s and 1850s, when New Mexico was in the process of being annexed from Mexico by the United States. With its sumptuous button tufting, deep back and hand-hammered nail details, the Monte Sofa is named for the famous card game and inspired by the style of sofas one might have found in a late 1800s gambling hall.

BUILLION WHOLESALE LIQUORS,
STEARNS, BENTZ & COMPANY SALOON,
CA. 1885

KIT CARSON GAME CHAIR

Kentucky-born adventurer Kit Carson achieved legendary status as a scout, trapper, hunter, soldier, and, most notably, a guide with John C. Fremont's 1842 expedition to map the West. His daring and skill made him perhaps the West's first hero, celebrated in field reports and dime novels for his courage and ability. During his trapper days, Carson learned to tan hides and make buckskin clothing. With the exception of when he was soldiering, fringed buckskins were Carson's everyday wear. They were cool in the summer, warm in winter and held up well in the rough Western landscape. In honor of his skill, adventurous nature and love of buckskin clothing, King Hickory created this chair.

KEARNY CHAIR

During the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), Brigadier General Steven Watts Kearny, commander of the U.S. Army of the West, led his troops 900 miles down the Santa Fe Trail from Leavenworth, Kansas, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. There in August 1846, he successfully claimed the territory for the United States. With the territory in American hands and a civilian government established, Kearny and 300 troops left to conquer and claim California from Mexico. On the trail to California, Kearny encountered the famous scout Kit Carson, who carried important dispatches informing Kearny that the U.S had successfully captured California. King Hickory created this chair in homage to Kearny, a great historian and an avid reader, for his important role in Western history.

