



## NMSU Library News Release

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### Web Exhibition on Shalam Colony Announced

The Rio Grande Historical Collections of the New Mexico State University Library is pleased to announce a new web exhibition. The exhibition, called “Shalam Colony: A Utopian Experiment,” can be viewed on the Internet at <http://archives.nmsu.edu/exhibits/shalam/>.

Shalam Colony was founded in the fall of 1884, six miles northwest of Las Cruces, by New York dentist and doctor John B. Newbrough and a group of his religious followers called Faithists. The purpose of the colony was to create a home for outcast and orphaned children, and to raise them to be “the spiritual leaders of a new age.” Financed by a wealthy wool merchant from Boston, Andrew Howland, the colony was developed into one of the finest agricultural areas of the Southwest. Disaster befell the colony in 1891, when John Newbrough died of influenza. His widow, Frances, and Howland tried valiantly to keep the colony going, but the obstacles proved overwhelming, and in 1901, Shalam Colony closed.

The exhibition provides historical information about the Shalam Colony and about *Oahspe*, the Bible written by John Newbrough. There is also a timeline of events about Shalam and a bibliography of resources, compiled by retired librarian Linda Blazer. Blazer conducted the research for the exhibition, and archivist Portia Vescio did the web design. For more information about the exhibit, please contact the Rio Grande Historical Collections at 646-3839 or email [archives@lib.nmsu.edu](mailto:archives@lib.nmsu.edu).

