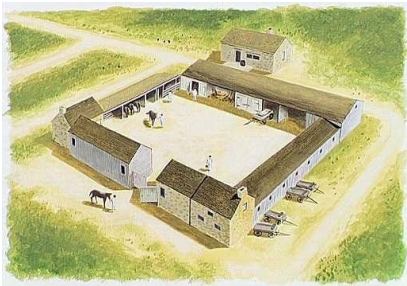


The Community at Fort Scott

Position Descriptions

Quartermaster-

This position was vital to the success of any frontier fort. The quartermaster oversaw all supplies except for food. He was in charge of the construction and maintenance of the fort. The quartermaster was also in charge of building roads and bridges to transport supplies to the fort. He had to acquire fuel and provide uniforms. He was paid 50 dollars per month. The quartermaster worked very closely with the skilled workers including the blacksmith, farrier, millwright, carriage-makers, artificer, and armorer.



Commissary of subsistence-

This individual distributed the food, oversaw the bake house, and handed out the soldier's daily food rations. He was also in charge of the storehouses where the food and supplies were kept. He was paid 50 dollars per month.

Millwright-

He oversaw the sawmill. The sawmill was built along the river and turned cut trees into lumber. Most of the fort was made of wood. The sawmill repeatedly broke down or there was a lack of water to power the equipment as well as a lack of skilled workers to operate the sawmill. These were some of the biggest obstacles during construction of the fort.

Officers-

There were two types of officers in the Army in the 1840's: Commission and Non-Commission. Commission officers attended college while non-commission joined the army and moved up the ranks according to merit. The officers were in charge of the enlisted men. They were responsible for their drilling, training, and

disciplining. Most officers attended college. They were provided better living quarters and pay than the enlisted men. They were allowed to bring their wives and children with them. They also had more free time than the enlisted men. Officers were required to purchase their own uniforms, food, and furnishings for their quarters. If they violated the rules, they were put under house arrest while the enlisted men were placed in the guardhouse and faced harsh punishments. The officers' pay was as follows:

- Major 60-50 dollars a month
- Captain 50-40 dollars a month
- Lieutenant 33-25 dollars

*Officers were responsible for purchasing all their food and furniture, etc.



Officer's Rows

Officer's wives-

These women were usually from back east and educated. Their role was behind the scenes. The ideal woman of the day was seen but not heard. Usually, the officer's wives were in charge of entertaining and raising their children. The wives had a huge impact on the fort because they brought a civilizing influence.

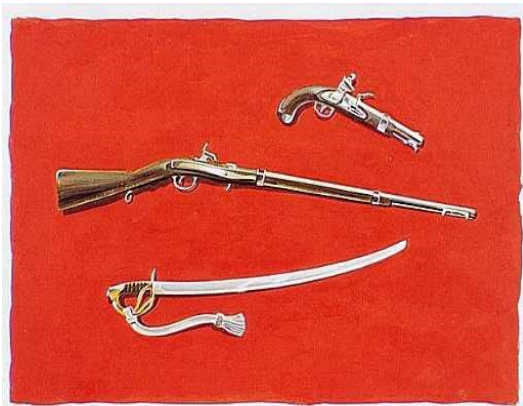
Enlisted men-

Enlisted men were volunteers that did not attend a military school such as West Point. The enlisted men performed most of the grueling work of constructing the fort. Their duties included drilling, fixing roads and bridges, constructing and maintaining buildings, guard duty, cleaning, farming, and if you were a dragoon, you cared for the horses. Enlisted men lived in cramped living conditions. They took turns cooking and working in the bake house as well as growing vegetables in the gardens. If the enlisted men broke the rules, they were punished more harshly than the officers. Many of the enlisted men were recent immigrants from Europe. These men had to not only adjust to life in the army but also to a new language and customs. The enlisted men's pay was as follows:

- Private- 7-8 dollars a month
- Corporals- 9-10 dollars a month
- Sergeant- 13-16 dollars a month (highest rank an enlisted men could achieve)

*They were given additional pay for extra duty work

Dragoons-



The dragoons were a prestigious unit that was an early form of the cavalry. The unit consisted of both officers and enlisted men. Dragoon units were ideal for fighting on the vast open areas of the Great Plains. This allowed them to respond rapidly to problems at various distances from the fort. The dragoons were excellent horsemen. Most of the men were between the ages of

Dragoon weapons

25-35 and were born in the United States. The dragoons wore colorful uniforms and were well armed. They received better pay than the enlisted men in the infantry. They were given the best equipment including the most modern of weapons. Dragoons were given more training than a typical unit. Not only were they trained to fight on horseback but also off the horse like infantry. Dragoon units were provided 1840 heavy Sabers, 1842 percussion pistol, a lighter breech loading Carbine, and a lance. One other benefit was they were allowed to grow mustaches while the infantry could not.



Dragoons on patrol

Infantry-



Unit comprised of both enlisted men and officers. The infantry were the foot soldiers that made up the backbone of the army in the 1800's. The enlisted men did most of the physical labor at the fort, which made them feel more like cheap labor than fighting men. The infantry were provided a .69 caliber flintlock musket made in 1816 with bayonets. The bayonets were more often used for cooking and securing tents than in combat.

Sutler-

A civilian who sold items to the soldiers including tobacco, toothbrushes, beer, wine, candy, books, playing cards, pencils, paper and other personal items. Prices were set by the military so the sutler could not charge outrageous prices. The sutler would pay a fee to the military for the privilege of setting up shop. He would also trade with local Indians and white settlers. The sutler's store was a popular place for the soldiers to gather and play games. He was also in charge of the post office. The sutler would extend credit to the soldiers and would be paid first when the soldiers received their pay.

Date	Description	Amount
224	From J. M. Enette	
225	To 8 1/2 doz. Blue Cakes	1.50
225	Major M. Graham	
	To Cash - Menden	1.00
	" 1 Bottle Sherry Wine	1.00
	" 1 " Madeira "	1.00
	" 6 Cut Glass Tumblers	.75
	" 2 doz. Sugars	.25
	" 2 " "	.75
228	Cash To Merchants	
228	Rec'd as sales	15.00
228	Major Graham	
	To 1 Doz. Br. Sugar	.88
228	Capt. B. Terrell	
228	To Cash On	3.00
228	Cash from Merchants	
228	Capt. B. Terrell	
	To 1 Doz. Nails	.10
228	J. M. Brown	
	To 1 Doz. Nails	.10

Sutler's ledger

Post Surgeon-

He provided examinations and treatment for the soldiers as well as civilians. He recorded the weather and scientific data including plant and animal life around the fort. The post's surgeon was paid 50 dollars a month.

Laundress-

A female civilian who washed and repaired the men's clothing. She was provided one ration of food per day. She rarely had any formal education. Usually, she married a non-commission officer. She charged from 4.00 dollars to .50 cents per soldier for laundry services per month. In total she was better paid than most enlisted men. Mending of items cost extra. Her prices were as follows:

Prices for laundry and mending

Buttons

- Small \$.01 per button
- Large \$.03 per button

Mending

- Drawers \$.09
- Shirts \$.10
- Coats \$.25
- Vests \$.12
- Pantaloon \$.19

- Great Coat \$.37 ½

Altering

- Vests \$.37
- Pantaloon \$.37 ½
- Coats \$.40
- Shortening vest \$.12 ½
- Lengthening vest \$.20
- 1-yard muslin thread \$.20

Other Position Pay Scales

- Blacksmith paid between 30-11 dollars
- Farrier paid 11 dollars
- Armorer paid between 30 and 9 dollars
- Carriagemaker paid between 30 and 13 dollars per month
- Artificer paid 9 dollars a month
- Bugler paid between 17 and 9 dollars per month
- Chaplain paid 40 dollars per month

Questions:

1. Who was in charge of the sawmill?
2. What men did most of the grueling work at the fort?
3. Who were two civilians (non-military personnel) that work near or at the fort?
4. What person distributed the food?
5. What person recorded the weather and other scientific information?
6. Besides trading with the soldiers what other two types of people did the sutler do business with?
7. What are three ways the officer's lives at the fort were better than the enlisted men? Do you think it was fair for officers to be treated better than the enlisted men?
8. What are three ways the Dragoon's were different than the infantry?
9. Who are some people in your town or community who perform some of the same duties as people you just read. Remember you can have more than one person who does the work of one of the fort's people.
10. Compare prices of the laundress with your local dry cleaners?
11. Make a chart comparing the pay of the different positions at the fort.
12. Choose an individual and find out what role he played at the fort? Choices are blacksmith, farrier, millwright, carriage-makers, artificer, armorer, bugler, and chaplain.