

Fort Scott: Frontier Fort

"A cracked post on the frontier"



a) What is a fort used for?

Why was Fort Scott built?

- Protect Indian frontier
- Keep peace between white settlers and natives
- Protect western trails
- Explore unmapped territories
- Stop the unlawful sale of alcohol to natives

1. “The dragoons should be constantly kept patrolling along this road (military road), to enforce the non-intercourse law, and prevent the introduction of spirituous liquors into the Indian country... They (whites) introduce whiskey into the Indian country, and sell it to the Indians at enormous price. The Indians get drunk, commence quarrelling, and in this state of excitement, commit acts of depredation, which, in many cases, lead to war.”

-Captain GP Kingsbury, 1837

2. “West of the Neutral ground are the Osages, the greatest thieves near the frontier and who have committed more depredations in Missouri than all the other Indians together...These are the Indians, and not the Cherokees that require to be over-awed by the presence of a Military force...”

-Major Ethan Allan Hitchcock, 1842

3. “A post on the neutral ground would be at all times ready to chastise Osage marauders and by thus protecting the people of Missouri prevent a border difficulty which has several times been on the point of breaking out....”

-Major Ethan Allen Hitchcock, 1842



MAP
SHOWING THE LANDS
assigned to
EMIGRANT INDIANS
WEST OF
ARKANSAS & MISSOURI

Scale of 40 miles to 1 inch

* This tract has not yet been granted to the Choctaws, but provision has been made for selling it to them by a treaty now pending the action of the President and Senate.

** This small tract (shaded green) between the Little and Great Smoky Rivers was granted by the Treaty with the Confederate Tribes of the Five and Five of July 1846 to the Half-Breeds of the Choctaws, Creeks and Shawnees.

Estimated quantity of Land assigned to the tribes who have emigrated from the Kansas to the Western side of the Mississippi.

Cherokee	200,000
Creek & Seminole	150,000
Shawnee & Delaware	100,000
Choctaw	50,000
Potawatamie & Winnebago	100,000
Delaware & Shawnee	100,000
Shawnee	100,000
Delaware	100,000
Choctaw	100,000

Statement of the number of the Indians who have emigrated.

Delaware	100
Shawnee	100
Choctaw	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100
Winnebago	100

Statement of the number of Indian tribes west of the Mississippi.

Indians in New York	1700
Indians from New York	1700
at Green Bay	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700
Winnebago in Ohio & Michigan	1700

* Part of these have gone west of the River but their number is not known.

Statement of the number of the Indian tribes within that of the Mississippi.

Choctaw	100,000
Creek	100,000
Seminole	100,000
Choctaw	100,000
Choctaw	100,000
Choctaw	100,000
Choctaw	100,000
Choctaw	100,000
Choctaw	100,000
Choctaw	100,000

* The Treaty with the Five and Five of August 1846 assigned to their Half-Breeds the tract shaded red between the Little and Great Smoky Rivers, and South of the continuation of the North Boundary of Missouri to the Mississippi River.

Map Division
5-MAY 1862
Library of Congress

Proposed at the 24th of February
Bureau
{ Feb. 23, 1862 - R. H. Rogers

Western Frontier Military

ROAD.

THE undersigned having been directed to put under contract that portion of the Western Frontier Military Road extending from the Marais de Cygne, to Spring River, about

85 MILES,

invites all those who may be desirous of becoming Contractors for any portion of this work, and wish to become acquainted with the topography of the country through which the survey passes, to meet him at Westport, Mo., on THURSDAY, the 19th inst, & accompany him in an examination of the Route.

The whole distance will be divided into sections of convenient lengths, and each section offered for contract separately. Detailed plans of the different sections will be prepared as soon as the route shall have been examined, and due notice given of the time when the contracts will be let.

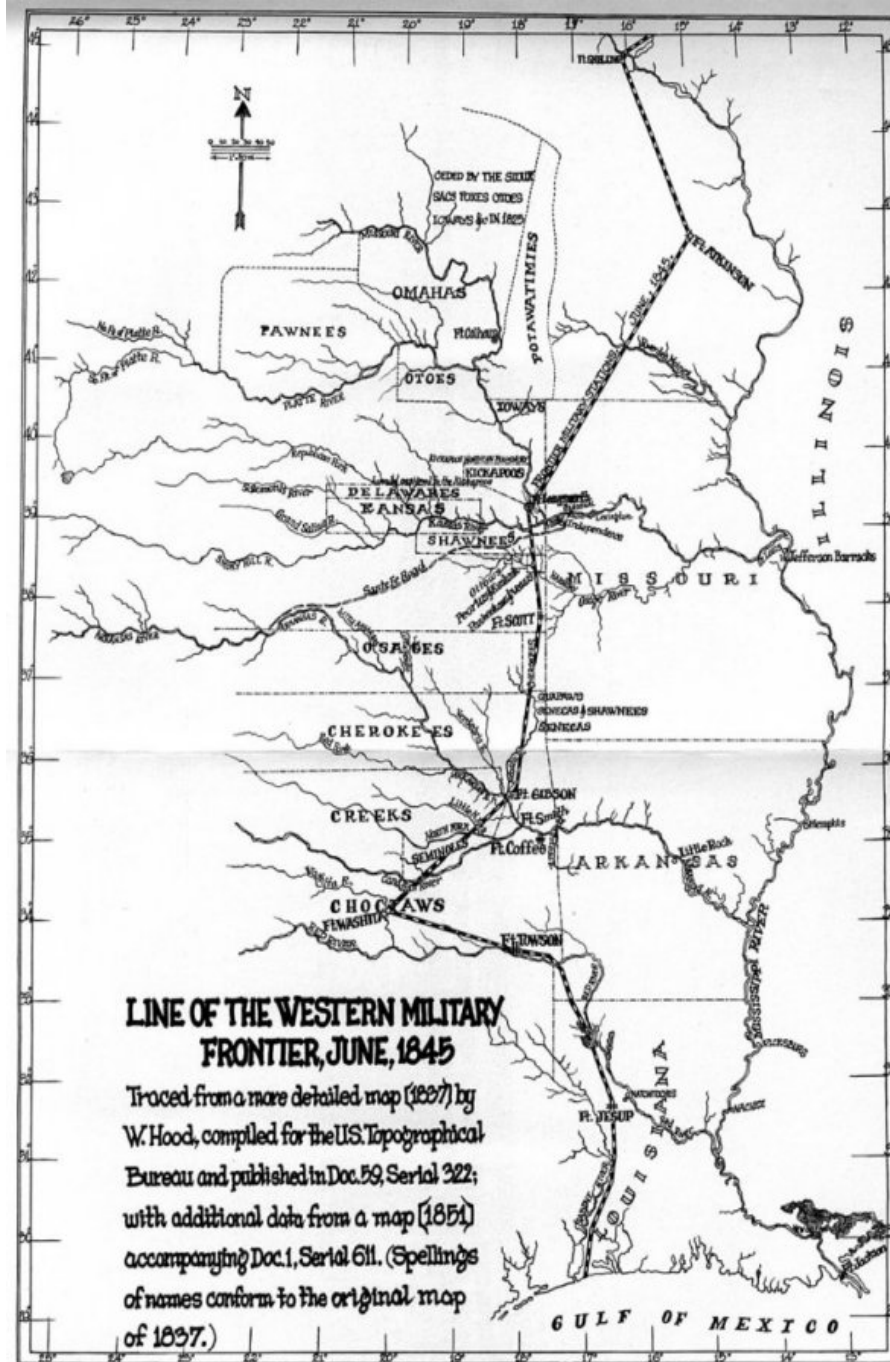
The following extract from the act of Congress, defines the mode of construction:

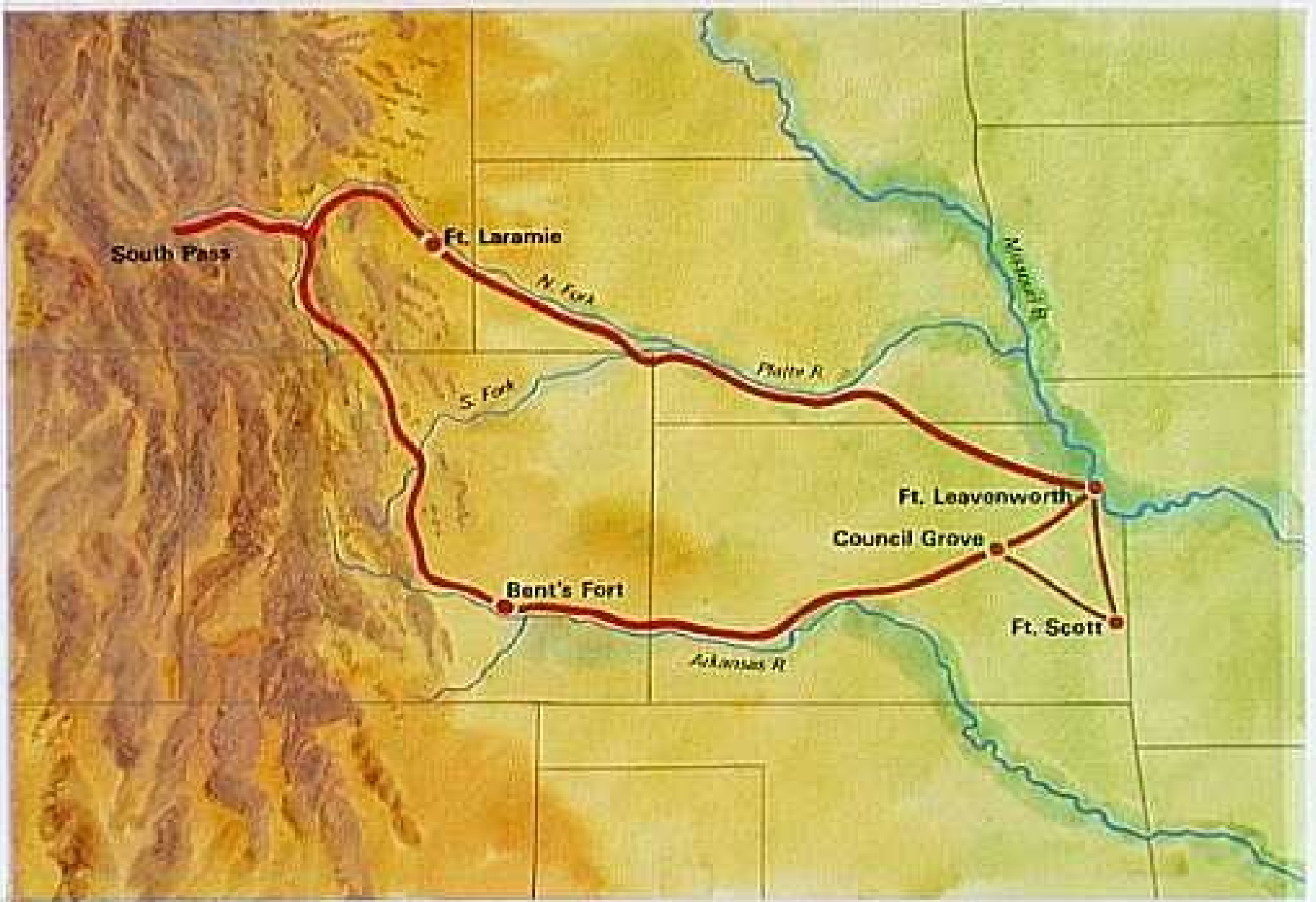
"The timber shall be cut down to a reasonable width, and the wet and marshy places shall be causewayed or otherwise rendered passable; cheap bridges shall be erected on the smaller streams not having good fords across them; and when it may be found necessary, the road may be thrown up in the centre."

THO'S. SWORDS, *Capt. A. Q. M.*

Asst. Qr. Master's Office,
Fort Leavenworth, Sept. 10, 1839. }







South Pass

Ft. Laramie

N. Fork

S. Fork

Platte R.

Missouri R.

Ft. Leavenworth

Council Grove

Bent's Fort

Ft. Scott

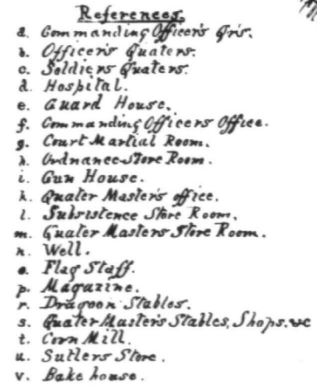
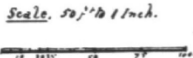
Arkansas R.

**b) Where is a good
place to build a fort?**

Why was Fort Scott built where it was?

- Built near where the Marmaton River and Mill Creek meet which provided plenty of freshwater and help power the sawmill
- Built on top of a plateau with a sharp ridge below which provided protection on three sides.
- Home to many of animals which provided food.
- Built in between other frontier forts which allowed the soldiers to get supplies and patrol the area.

PLAN
of
FORT SCOTT.



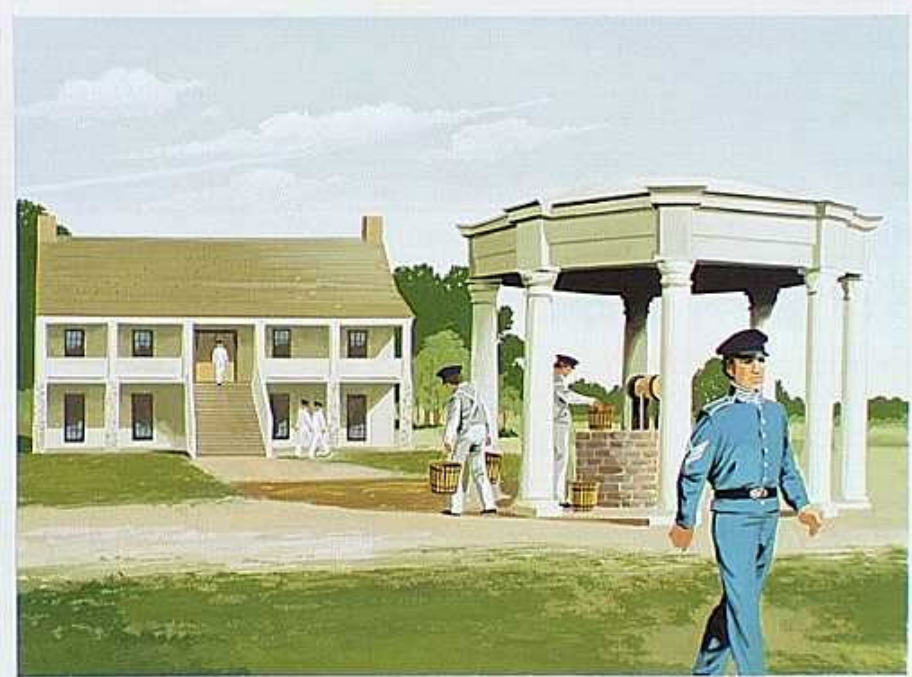
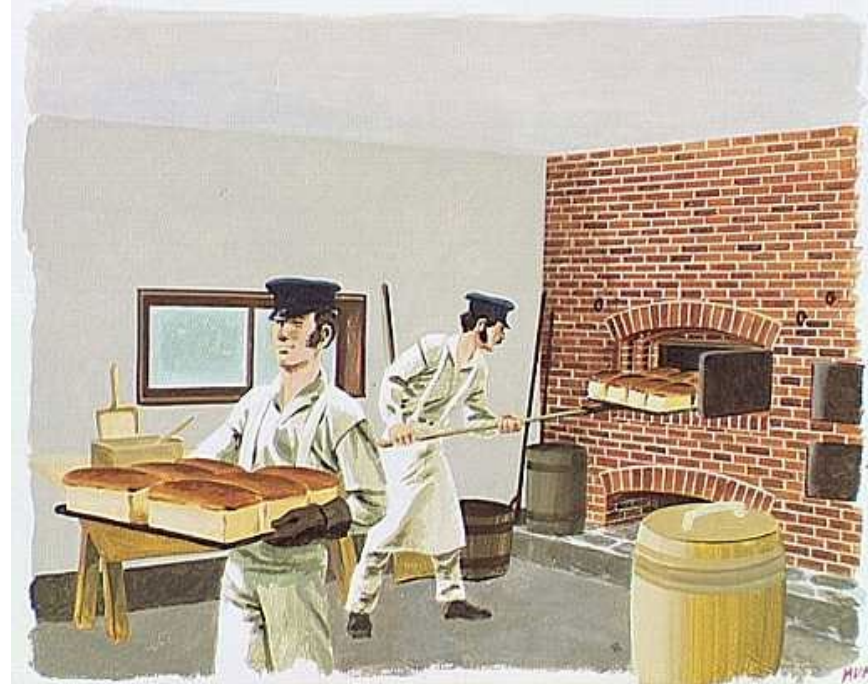
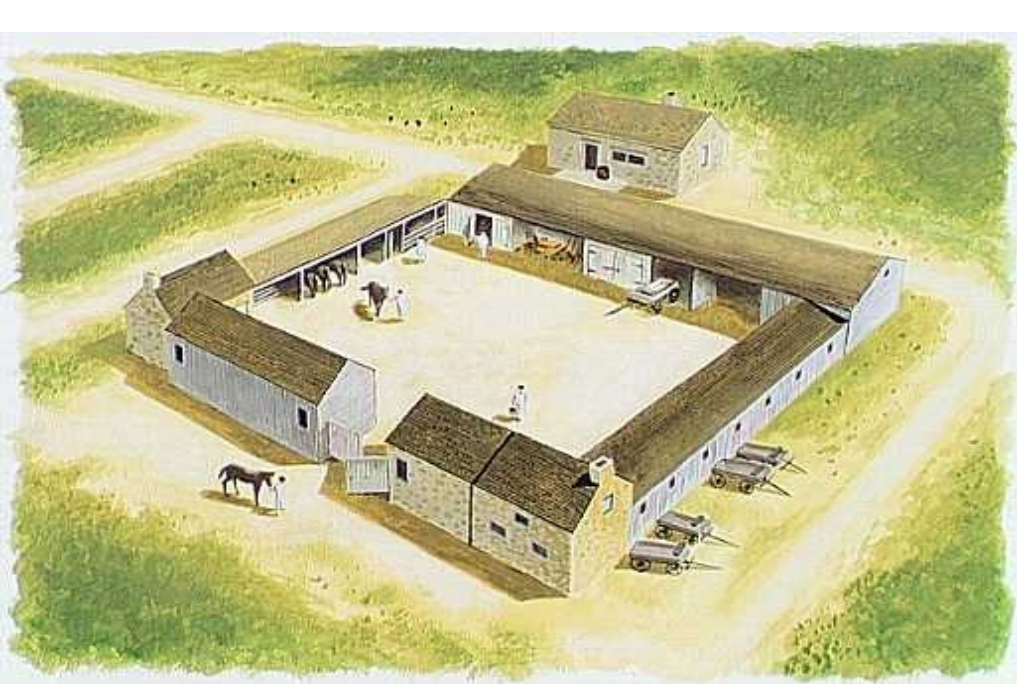
4. “The site is a ridge seventy or eighty feet high projecting like a wedge into a dry timbered bottom...A fine stream of water flows at its base and the timber is more than sufficient both in quantity and quality...”

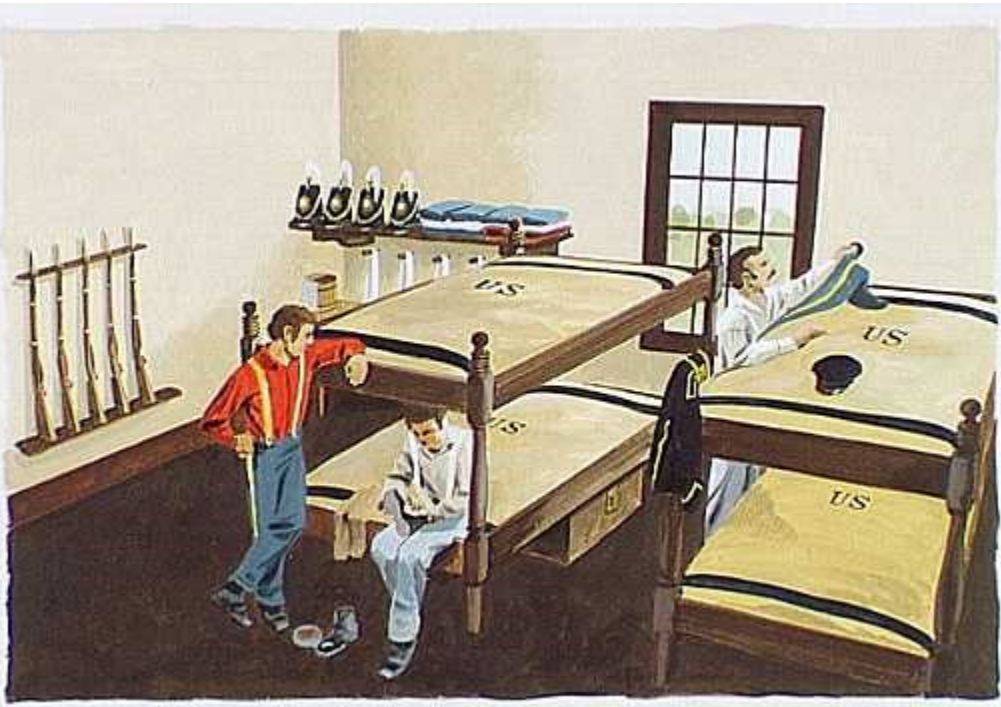
-Captain Moore, 1842

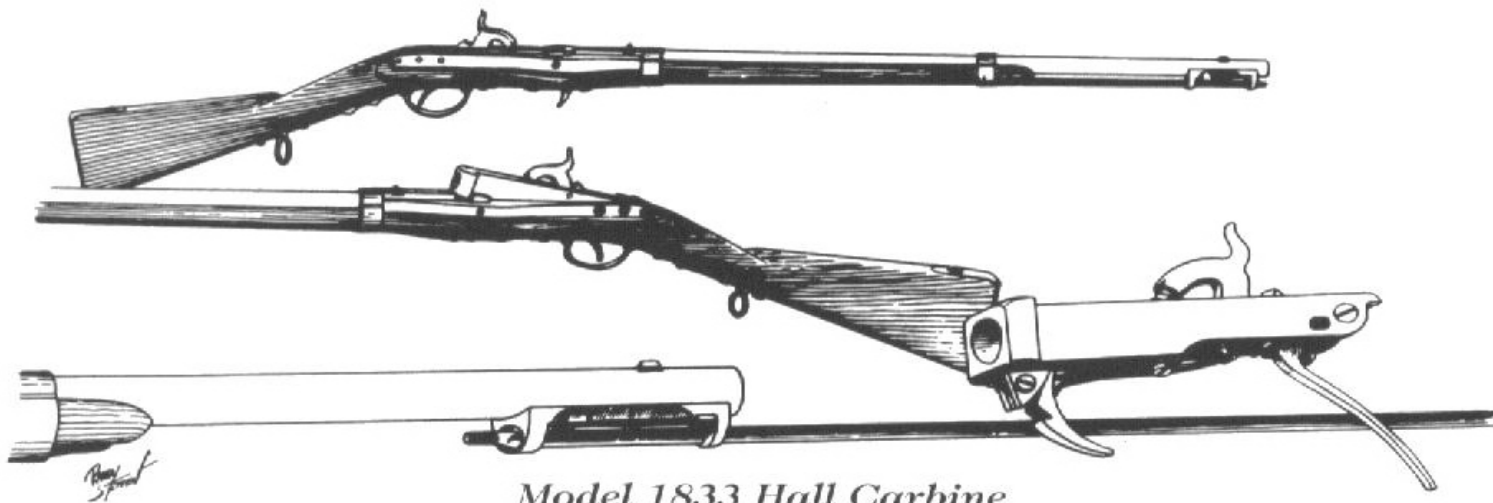
c) What are some people you would find at a fort?

People you would find at Fort Scott

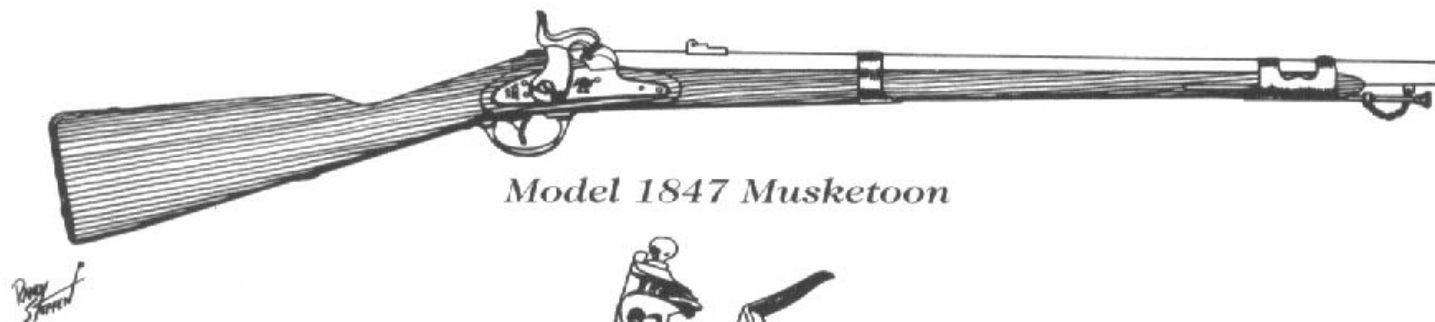
- Soldiers
- Surgeon
- Quartermaster
- Commissary of subsistence
- Sutler
- Millwright
- Civilian skilled workers
- Laundress
- Officer's wives



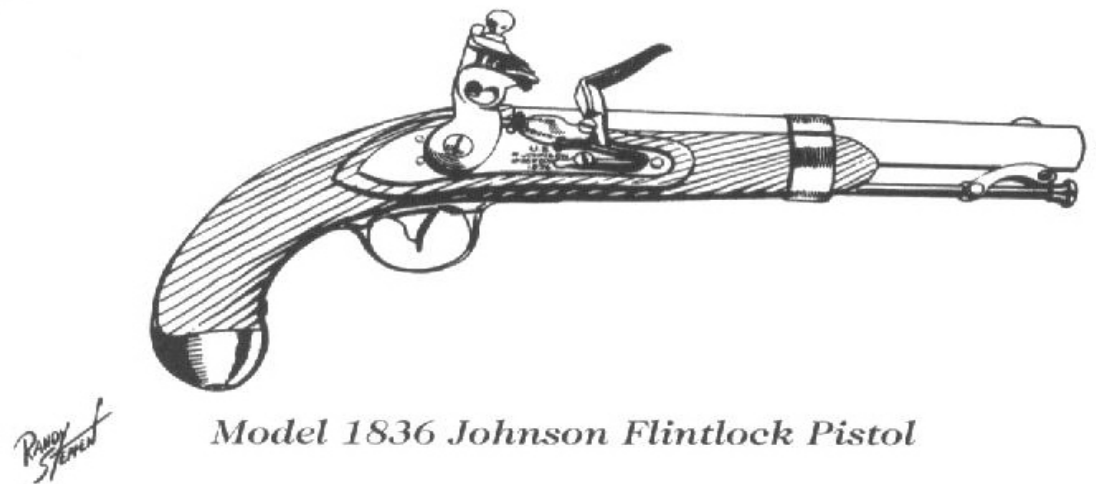




Model 1833 Hall Carbine



Model 1847 Musketoon



Model 1836 Johnson Flintlock Pistol

d) What are some things that you would find at a fort in the 1840's?

Structures at Fort Scott

- living quarters for officers and enlisted men
- stables for horses
- hospital
- quartermaster supply areas
- drinking well
- latrines
- Artillery
- magazine storage where ammunition was stored





Structures at Fort Scott

Cont'd

- Sutler's store
- guardhouse
- Bake shop
- Headquarters
- Outbuildings
- parade grounds
- gardens







Hospital















GAY OLD CHASE HOUSE

29-11

e) What are some hardships or obstacles the people at the fort would have faced?

Hardships and obstacles faced at Fort Scott:

- Isolation
- Work was monotonous and hard
- Boredom
- Lack of skilled workers
- Sawmill kept on breaking down
- Lack of funds
- Extreme weather
- Soldiers deserted.

5. “Wish you were here to consult with about matters and things am thrown entirely upon my own resources for plans &c. Not one of them here can draw a straight line, even with the assistance of a ruler...”

-Capt. Thomas Swords to Lieut. Abraham
Johnston

6. “We have hardly had rain to lay the dust since last July...everything as dry as a powder horn... the mill idle...and no lumber...”

-Capt. Thomas Swords 1845

7. “I have this day requested of Major R.B Lee C.S at St. Louis one thousand pounds of good hard candles to be forwarded as early as possible; those furnished by the contractor were very nearly as soft as hog’s lard”

-1st Lieut. C. Hoskins,
Assistant Commissary Subsistence, 1844

f) What would life be like at a frontier fort in the 1840's?

Life at Fort Scott

“We are the most humdrum set you ever saw-No body drinks, no body hunts, no body does any thing but eat and sleep, and so our lives pass in vegetable state of existence. The flies and musketoes are so bad that we cannot move out either to walk, ride, fish or hunt...”

-Captain Thomas Swords, 1845

8. “I hunt with my husband and in the hall stands my bow and arrow ready strung for the first unfortunate Buffalo that makes his appearance at Scott...”

-Charlotte Swords, 1844

9. “The opportunities for fishing, and hunting cannot be surpassed at any other post in the Army, and I have improved and enjoyed them too, very much since I have been here. The objections I have to this Post are, a total waste of society, and its great distance from any other place.”

-Lieutenant Russell, 1845

10. We get along here very slowly with the buildings, and Terrett is heartily disgusted with having so many of his men on extra-duty-Duck-shooting and wolf chasing are the only things that reconcile him to the place...”

-Captain Thomas Swords, 1844

11. “Our time is mostly passed in reading, within a few days there has been a considerable addition to the library.... When the books become irksome, we ride, fish, and walk, collect all the pretty flowers we see and try to become botanist, the flowers have far surpass those of Leavenworth in fragrance....”

-Charlotte Swords 1843

g) What were the ways people in Fort Scott in the 1840's would have...?

- **Transported goods/travelled**
 - Horse and Wagon, Steamboat,
- **Communicated**
 - Letters, special courier
- **Heated their homes**
 - Fireplace and cast-iron wood burning stove
- **Cooked their food**
 - Open hearth, Dutch oven

- **Obtained drinking water**
 - Drinking well
- **Washed their clothes**
 - Laundress would wash clothes by hand
- **Washed their bodies**
 - Wash houses, Bathe in the river
- **Attained reading light**
 - Natural sun light, candles, lanterns
- **Cooled off in the summer**
 - Open windows, paper fans
- **Powered their machines**
 - River, animal, man