



From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”

ADJUTANT’S REPORT

By Galen R. Ewing

Thanks to all the volunteers and staff for another successful Candlelight Tour! Figures show that 137 VIPs donated 1189 hours. The quality of this program continues to shine as expressed from many favorable visitor comments! We really appreciate your help with this quality event.

Saturday, January 30 will be the annual volunteer banquet. This is our opportunity to thank all of you who helped make 2009 such a success for Fort Scott National Historic Site. **Lunch will be catered in the Grand Hall at 12:00 noon. Be sure and note the time.** Following the lunch will be our ever-fun and exciting bingo games. We look forward to hearing from you.

RSVP by calling Janette or me at 620-223-0310 or email me at galen_ewing@nps.gov by January 23rd.

Friends of Fort Scott

By Reed Hartford

Progress continues in the development of our new Friends organization as a cooperating community group to support and assist the mission and goals of our National Historic Site and its staff. We are now recognized as a corporate entity by the Kansas Secretary of State. Two major organizational steps remain; first the application to the IRS for our 501c(3) non-profit status, and finally the establishing a cooperating agreement between our group, Fort Scott NHS and the National Park Service.

The Friends have had three successful projects this fall. We have to date over 60 “Founding Friends” (our goal was 100 at \$30 each). In October we hosted the premier of the Fort’s new interpretive film. The Liberty Theatre was brimming full that evening as all enjoyed the food and fellowship in the atmosphere of the restored community landmark. In November and December we were honored to offer for sale Christmas Ornaments based on Gary Hawk’s painting “The Courier.” This is the first of a series of four that Gary Hawk is donating in support of the Friends of Fort Scott NHS. There are still some of the ornaments available.

The Friends of Fort Scott NHS will meet to adopt by-laws, elect officers and plan future projects on Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m., at the First Christian Church, 101 South Judson, in Fort Scott. Everyone interested in being a part of our organization, is welcome to attend, as together we seek to support and assist the mission and goals of our National Historic Site and its staff.

For further information you can contact the Friends of Fort Scott NHS at Box 442, Fort Scott, KS 66701, or by calling 620-223-9570.

News from the Bear's Den

By Barak Geertsen

Greetings to all you lovely volunteers. We had a great candlelight tour this year, and I just want to thank all you for your help. I had a fun time in Scene 2 with the high school students, Matt and Katie, Jon, Blu, Hannah, and the Gum Springs Serenaders and any others whose name I didn't mention. Regan, as always can be counted on for some entertainment. Kids say the funniest things.

To those of you who are technology oriented, I would welcome your help. We are looking at doing some innovative things with technology such as podcasts and video on our website. We are also working with Greenbush (Southeast Kansas Education Center) to establish a distance learning center at Fort Scott. Our cell phone tour, which was launched last year, will soon have a new feature-GPS location. Visitors will actually be able to go to our website and link to a map (also available via iPod and cell phones with internet connections) that has the coordinates of each cell phone tour stop plotted on it. We will be expanding our cell phone tour this year also to include audio descriptions for the visually impaired.

Education programs are coming up in April and May. As in the past, we will be asking for volunteer assistance to help us greet buses, work the visitor center, and for those of you willing, you could also help present programs. The dates for this year's education programs are April 29 and 30, May 5, 6, 7, 13, & 14. May 5th and 6th are the dates when we need the most help, but any of those days, assistance would be appreciated.

Finally, we have received our new junior ranger booklets. Many of your pictures are featured in these booklets. We actually have two books-one for younger kids and one for older kids. Kids can choose which book they would rather do, so there really is no preset age for either book. Look for the new junior ranger program to be launched soon-definitely by the end of February.

Thanks again for all your help with past programs and projects and I look forward to an enjoyable and challenging 2010. Be safe out there in the cold weather.

Also if any of you are on Facebook, feel free to look me up and add me as a friend.



We want YOU to Volunteer!!!

For the “Voices From the Quilts” symposium.

By Kelley Collins

During March, the park will be hosting a quilt exhibit and the “Voices From the Quilts” symposium. We are looking for volunteers to assist in installing and staffing the exhibit. Exhibit installation is scheduled for the first week in March. Staffing will be needed for Saturdays and Sundays throughout the month and also on Friday, March 26. Please contact Kelley if you are interested in helping.

A Farewell to Alan

By Kelley Collins

As many of you already know, Museum Technician Alan Chilton has accepted a promotion at Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. Alan has been the go to guy for all things curatorial for nearly 20 years. He will be greatly missed. Alan’s last day is January 15. Come by and wish him well. Or better yet, come to his potluck going away party at 6:00 p.m. on January 16 in the Grand Hall. Bring your Alan stories and a dish to share.

College Sophomores and Juniors: Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program Open for Applications

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History invites college sophomores and juniors with a passion for American history, and academic excellence in the field, to apply for the Gilder Lehrman History Scholars Program in New York City, which includes:

- 10 Gilder Lehrman History Scholarships to a five-week research program from June 27 to July 31, 2010.
- Up to 30 awards for One-Week Scholars to attend our program from June 12 to June 19, 2010.

History Scholars conduct primary-source research, meet with eminent scholars in American history, and explore archives and museums. One-Week Scholars have access to leading historians and in-depth tours of select New York City archives and museums. All applicants will automatically be considered for both programs.

Application Deadline: March 3, 2010

To apply, visit: http://www.gilderlehrman.org/education/hs_overview.php



Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

Traveling by car:

- Prepare your vehicle for winter driving. **Make sure you don't leave without a winter safety kit for the car including:**
 - a cell phone and charger
 - ice scraper
 - tow rope and jumper cables
 - sand or cat litter to aid with traction
 - blankets
 - flashlights, matches, emergency candles, and first aid kit
 - portable radio
- Plan ahead and know the weather forecast for where you are going. **Be prepared for a change in course.** Give yourself extra travel time.
- Do not practice "Distracted Driving!" Talking or texting on your cell phone, eating, reading, or watching videos while driving is just as dangerous as drinking and driving! Hands on the wheel, eyes on the road!

Wash hands frequently and carry antibacterial hand cleanser! When you stop, remember, thousands of people may have touched that restaurant menu or rest area bathroom door handle.

Fort Scott National Historic Site Schedule of Activities for 2010

Civil War Encampment

April 10 – 11

Women's History Month Activities

March 1-31: Exhibit: Reflections on the War:
Women and Their Civil War Quilts

March 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 26-28: Exhibition of
mid-19th century quilts and sewing notions

March 26-27: Voices of the Quilts Symposium

Highlights in History

May 29 - 31, July 3-4, September 4-6

Daily Guided Tours

May 29 – September 5

Trailblazers Day Camp

August 2- 6

Candlelight Tour

December 3 - 4

For more information on these events, call
620-223-0310

Or visit our website at www.nps.gov/fosc