



From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”

ADJUTANT’S REPORT

By Galen R. Ewing



Spring is fast approaching and with it our busy tourist season begins. Our annual Civil War Encampment will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19. The Holmes Brigade, 4th Missouri Cavalry, Western Bluecoats Field Hospital, Northwest Arkansas Historical Education Association, Union Armies of the West, and a cadre of park volunteers will be here providing Living History and Historic Weapons demonstrations.

We could use some assistance with counting visitors and event support from our local volunteers. If you would like to help, give me a call at 620-223-0310.

In February, two new volunteers began working in the visitor center. Mary Sanders, a native of Fort Scott, joins us as a senior community support volunteer. Mary’s current schedule has her working 24 hours a week Monday – Friday. Joyce Allen, also from Fort Scott, is volunteering on Wednesday afternoon. Although this is generally a slow time of season, it has allowed them time to review visitor center operations manuals and gain knowledge of Fort Scott’s history. Both are looking forward to Education Days in order to help with sales for the elementary school children.

News From the Bear

By Barak Geertsen

Well the year is just flying by. We have been busy with several projects. One of those is the website. In preparation for the NPS centennial next year, the Park Service is restructuring the menu on its website to make it more streamlined and more user friendly for those with mobile devices. It will also make it easier to search across parks for desired information. I have been busy redesigning not only Fort Scott's website but also other NPS sites in the Midwest Region.

The site has given quite a few distance learning programs in the last few months. We have connected with sites in Wisconsin, Ohio, Texas, and Georgia and have given programs on African American and American Indian soldiers, Civil War medicine and the role of the Civil War quartermaster at Fort Scott. In the next couple months we have programs scheduled with schools in Ohio, North Carolina, California, and New York.

We are also busy planning for our spring education programs. Our dates for Sweep Through History (5-8) are April 30, May 1, May 13, 14, and 15. Our Life in the Frontier program for grades K-4 will be held May 7 and 8. Nevada High School will be helping us again this year and for the first time, Fort Scott High School's AP History Class will be helping to present programs. As always we could use help with greeting buses, staffing the bookstore, assisting with logistics, even giving programs. Contact Barry Geertsen at 620-223-0310 if you are able and willing to help.

One last thing I wanted to advertise is our Civil War Weekend evening program held at 6:30 p.m. on April 18. In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Lincoln assassination, the site will hold a Chautauqua featuring several characters involved in the story of the Lincoln assassination. Characters being featured are Mary Surratt (the female conspirator who was executed), Clara Harris (who was in the box with Lincoln when he was shot), Dr. Samuel Mudd (who treated Booth's ankle, which was injured when he jumped onto the stage), Boston Corbett (who shot John Wilkes Booth) Edwin Stanton (Secretary of War who oversaw the investigation and trial). We also have Charles Porter, who was here at Fort Scott when Lincoln was shot and recorded the local reaction to the news. We have reenactors playing the President and his wife; they will start the show by telling of events of that day and how they came to be at Ford's Theater. One character we do not yet have is John Wilkes Booth, if you know of someone who can play that role, please let me know as soon as possible.

Hoping everyone has a fantastic spring.

Fort Scott NHS Becomes a United States of America Partner Vietnam War Commemorative Partner

By Bill Fischer

Fort Scott National Historic Site was recently recognized as a United States of America Vietnam War Commemorative Partner. Congress has authorized the Department of Defense, through its Office of Commemorations, to conduct a nationwide commemoration to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War for their service and sacrifice on behalf of a grateful nation; to thank and honor the families of these veterans; to pay tribute to the contributions made by Americans on the home front; to highlight advances made in technology, science, and medicine relating to military research conducted during the Vietnam War; and to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by United States allies during the war.

In addition to interpreting the 1840s/1850s US Army frontier fort and the fortified Civil War town that grew from it, Fort Scott National Historic Site interprets the enduring struggle for freedom, a theme that resonates

with the service, valor, and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans and their families. As such, many upcoming events will be tailored to include such recognition.

More information on the national commemoration can be found at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

By Reed Hartford, President



On February 21, Matthew and Katie Wells represented the Friends in the 5th Annual Fort Scott Dancing With Our Stars. The theme was “Dancing through the Decades.” The Well’s performance of a Civil War Ballroom dance was very well received at both performances. The Judges awarded Matt and Katie the Best Costume / Best Theme Betrayal trophy. A big thanks to Matt and Katie for their time and talent. At the booth we were represented by Friends members Dana McKenney, Joyce Gobl, Marlene and Tom Braker.

On April 21 the annual “Friends Fest” is scheduled for the Liberty Theater. This year we will honor nationally known Artist Gary Hawk. Gary has been a great friend of The Fort for many years. He painted the four original scenes for the Fort (Dispatch Rider, Troubles Coming, Officer’s Row, and Pawnee Patrol). Gary created the Fort Scott ornament for the NPS Christmas tree in the George W. Bush White House. In recent years he created the four Christmas ornaments for the Friends. Again this year Friends members may purchase discounted tickets to the Friends Fest.

On March 7, thanks to a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council. The Friends in partnership with the NHS hosted “The Things They Carried Home” workshop, featuring PSU Librarian Deborah White. The workshop provided veterans and their families with assistance in caring for and preserving military mementos.

This spring several school groups will visit Fort Scott NHS and a group of 5th Graders from Fort Scott will travel to Brown vs Board NHS in Topeka. These field trips are made possible through a “Ticket to Ride” grant the Friends are administrating in cooperation with the Fort Scott NHS.

Other items on the Friends calendar include; a Period Plant Sale on the Plaza, April 18, during Civil War Weekend. The week before we will provide lunch for the young folks who will participate in parade ground Dandelion Dig.

If you are not a member of the **FRIENDS** please consider joining, as we work together to support our National Historic Site and to enhance the programs and visitor's experience at Fort Scott NHS. Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Box 442, Fort Scott, KS 66701-0442; 620-223-9570

The Trumpeter

By Sam Young, Fort Scott NHS Volunteer

It is 1863, and you are a new recruit reporting for duty at Fort Scott, Kansas. One of the first things you hear is a bugle, during which you see soldiers running to line up, for what you do not know. You ask the older soldier with you, "What was that?" He answers you with "That was the Cavalry trumpeter sounding Assembly. It tells the soldiers to report to their assigned place in formation. From now on, until you leave the Army, your life will be in response to bugle calls."

The trumpeter had one specific duty: sound the calls that relayed the commander's orders. In a garrison environment such as Fort Scott during the Civil War, the calls included Reveille, Stables and Water, Drill, Guard Mount, Boots and Saddles, and Taps. In the field, and especially combat, the calls included As Skirmishers, Charge, Recall, To Horse, and Officer's Call. Following is an example of bugle calls combined to convey the commander's orders:

1. Attention
2. Fours Right
3. Column Right
4. March

"Attention" alerts the cavalrymen a command is to be given. To be called to Attention, the cavalry unit had to be at a halt.

"Fours Right" is a preparatory command and tells the cavalrymen there will be four files abreast in the formation (a file is a line from front to rear). During the first formation each morning the cavalrymen count off by fours. The first set of fours is the first rank (a rank is a row, from right to left). Number one is always on the right of the rank and number four is always of the left of the rank in the formation. Thus the right most file is the ones and the left most file is the fours, with the twos and threes in the middle of each rank. The formation will have only four files and multiple ranks. This is how cavalry units marched; not in two files as seen in the movies.

"Column Right" identifies the direction the formation will travel with the first rank turning to the right, followed by the other ranks.

"March" starts the formation moving.

According to August V. Kautz in his book *The 1865 Customs of Service for Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers*, each cavalry regiment had a Chief Trumpeter who was a member of the regimental headquarters. It was his duty to keep the roster of trumpeters within the regiment (there were two trumpeters assigned to each company of the regiment), train the company trumpeters in the performance of their duties, and assign them to guard duty or to act as orderly trumpeters for the officers of the regimental headquarters. He was held

responsible for their neatness and appearance on duty and their presence at roll-calls when the companies were co-located with the regiment. His pay was twenty-three dollars per month.

Company trumpeters were privates. They were recruited for their musical abilities and may have been younger than eighteen. When their companies were not co-located with their regiment, their first sergeant assigned their duties. There was always a trumpeter on guard duty to sound the calls. When the companies of the regiment were together, the musicians of each company united under the Chief Trumpeter for the purpose of instruction and learning the bugle calls (over 100 of them): how to recognize them, play them, and their meaning.

This is the first of two parts. Part II will be in the May Volunteer Newsletter...ed.

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

The CDC has discovered a new virus that may have contributed to a Kansas man's death. Named the Bourbon virus after the county where the patient lived, the virus is likely spread by tick or insect bites, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

A 50-year-old man suffered multiple tick bites in the spring of 2014 while working outside on his property, the CDC said in an article published in the agency's "Infectious Diseases" journal.

The man fell ill over the next two days, went to a doctor on the third day, was hospitalized and died of a heart attack 11 days after becoming sick, the CDC said.

While the man was hospitalized, test results for many infectious diseases came back negative, the press release said. A blood sample was sent to the CDC, which determined a new virus had been discovered, the press release said.

The man's symptoms included fever, tiredness, rash, headache, other body aches, nausea and vomiting, the website said. The man had low blood counts for cells that fight infection and help prevent bleeding, the website said.

Though the CDC only has one case to work with, the agency said "it is likely that Bourbon virus is spread through tick or other insect bites."

The CDC recommends people protect themselves by tick bites by using insect repellents, wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants, avoiding bushy and wooded areas and checking for ticks after spending time outdoors. The Bourbon virus is part of a group of viruses linked to tick or insect bites in Europe, Asia and Africa, the CDC said.

This is the first time a virus in this group, known as thogotoviruses, has been known to cause illness in the United States, the CDC said.

19th Century Past Times

By Kelley Collins

In keeping with the theme of the Fort's Good Ol' Days activities, there will be a program highlighting various recreational past times; including the clothing worn, and equipment used for the various activities. If have an idea for a past time to be featured or want to be involved, please contact Kelley Collins at vehkac@suddenlink.net or 620-223-4767.

Civil War Encampment, April 18 & 19, 2015

The schedule of activities is listed below:

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

- 9:00 am – Flag Raising
- 10:00 am – Cavalry Drill
- 11:00 am – Infantry Drill and Weapons Demonstration
- 1:00 pm – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration
- 2:00 pm – Infantry Drill and Weapons Demonstration
- 3:00 pm – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration
- 4:00 pm – Flag Retreat
- 6:30 pm – “Martyr of Liberty” – Lincoln Assassination Chautauqua

SUNDAY, APRIL 19

- 9:00 am – Flag Raising
- 10:00 am – Church Service
- 11:00 am – Civil War Medical Talk
- 12 noon – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration
- 1:00 pm – Cavalry Drill
- 2:00 pm – Infantry Drill and Weapons Demonstration
- 3:00 pm – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration

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