



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Scott National Historic
Site

Old Fort Boulevard
P.O. Box 918
Fort Scott, KS 66701

620-223-0310 phone
620-223-0188 fax

Fort Scott National Historic Site News Release

Contact(s): Kelley Collins
Phone number: 620- 223- 0310
Date: February 23, 2010

Quilting to be Featured during Women's History Month at Fort Scott National Historic Site

Fort Scott, KS - Quilting as a form of creative expression and record of history will be the theme of several Women's History Month activities slated for the month of March at Fort Scott National Historic Site and throughout the community.

Opening March 1 and continuing throughout the month is the traveling exhibit *Reflections on the War: Women and their Civil War Quilts*. Turbulent times in Kansas are captured in this intriguing exhibition Civil War era quilts and textiles. Produced by the Kansas Humanities Council and part of the Kansas Interpretive Traveling Exhibits Service, this exhibit explores Kansas women's roles in protesting the injustices of slavery, aiding those running from slavery on the underground railroad, nursing the sick and wounded during the war, and later raising funds to purchase monuments to heroes of the conflict. Visitors may view this display free of charge.

In conjunction with this exhibit, National Park Service staff and volunteers have assembled a collection of 19th century sewing notions borrowed from local collectors, Steve and Laura Dunfee of the Sutler of Fort Scott and the park's museum collection. These tools used to create beautiful yet utilitarian quilts and clothing will be on exhibition throughout the month. Both exhibits are located in the museum Infantry Barracks at the Fort and are available for viewing from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily.

Additionally, the public can view six 19th century quilts that will be on exhibit in the park's Grand Hall every weekend in March. Many of the quilts are on loan from private individuals and have never before been on exhibition. Visitors will have the opportunity to inspect the quilts close up to allow full appreciation of the skill and creativity of their makers. The Hall will be staffed from

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturdays and from noon until 3 p.m. on Sundays. The quilts may be seen during the week by making advance reservations.

March 26- 27 will feature, “Voices from the Quilts”, a two day symposium that will feature nationally know quilter and author Terry Clothier Thompson along with other speakers who will discuss quilting and its role in giving women a voice and in preserving stories of our past.

To compliment the activities at the National Historic Site, the community is sponsoring a variety of other events that weekend. A Shop Hop will be held at the River Room inside the Stout Building, 3 W. Oak Street. Vendors will be onsite for shopping and demonstrations. Visitors will be able to view an “Airing of the Quilts” from Dolly the Trolley as local residents and merchants display colorful quilts on their front porches and in their store windows throughout town. The Friends of Fort Scott National Historic Site will host an opening reception at the Old Congregational Church, 502 S. National Avenue. During this event Terry Thompson will give a short presentation, sign books, and will examine vintage quilts brought in by participants for dating. The cost for this event is \$10 per person at the door, and refreshments will be served.

For more information on Fort activities call 620- 223- 0310 or visit www.nps.gov/fosc. Details on the Shop Hop, Trolley tours, or the opening reception can be obtained by calling the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce at 620- 223- 3566.

Fort Scott National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park System, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. An entrance fee of \$3.00 is charged for individuals 16 years and older. Children under 16 enter free.