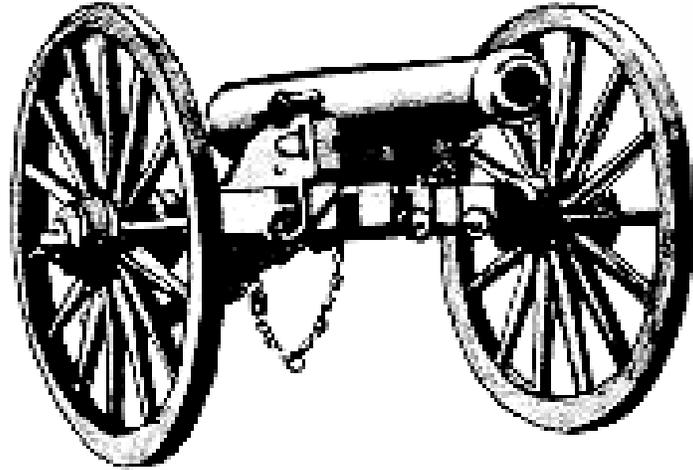




From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”

Adjutant’s Report

By Galen Ewing



Thanks to all the volunteers and staff for another successful Candlelight Tour! Figures show that 104 VIPs donated 935 hours. The quality of this program continues to shine, largely thanks to your continued support with this Special Event! A special thanks to Reed Hartford and Chad Johnson for making 99 new candle lanterns for this year’s event.

Saturday, January 20, plan on coming to the park and enjoy food and festivities by attending the annual volunteer banquet. This is our opportunity to thank all of you for helping make 2017 such a success for our park. Lunch will be catered in the Grand Hall at 12:00 noon. Be sure and note the time. Following the lunch and the award ceremony will be our ever-fun and exciting bingo games. Please email me or call 620-223-0310 if you are planning on coming by January 15.

Magic Room Inventory

By Dottie Messer

Where did the year go? Hope everyone had a great holiday and I wish all of you a healthy and happy New Year. As you know, January is when I start the inventory of the Living History Collections. At your convenience, please return any items that you have checked out.

Have you lost anything? Stop by the visitor center and check out the lost and found. There are a few items that have been left on site.

My Clothes are Hand Stitched, But No One Will Talk to Me

...this article is courtesy of Fort Ticonderoga. It offers good tips for interacting with visitors in your interpretive living history roles at Fort Scott NHS... ed.

3 Tips for Getting Conversation Going With Visitors

For re-enactors, living historians, and the like, a lot of work goes into the details of bringing history to life for visitors you hope to inspire or educate. Maybe you've stayed up all night finishing off that new broadcloth coat or worsted gown. Maybe you've driven ten hours to be on the original battlefield, on the same day and same time as the actual battle. Sometimes the public, the very folks you are trying to engage, just won't come see what you're doing. They walk around you or snap a picture and walk away. If this sounds familiar, you may be giving off some subtle cues that keep visitors away. Interpretation—the art of engaging people with the people and stories that make history come alive—is an art to be mastered in its own right. However, there are a few tricks that can make your next living history event come alive. Make all the work that goes into doing great living history count: talk to some visitors.

Just say, “Hello”

Even though living history is nothing new, visitors don't necessarily know what your deal is. They don't know if you are portraying a character or what's going on. You have to make the first move and greet visitors you encounter. Period clothing, especially uniforms with period arms and accouterments, set you apart and can be intimidating. Simply saying, “hello,” “good morning,” or “welcome,” lets folks know that despite the historic attire, you are a regular, approachable human being. This simple step lets folks know that you are available to talk. Body language is important too; we all know what bad service in a store looks like and how it makes us feel. Don't accidentally do this to visitors. Greet folks with a genuine smile. Even if you are seated or working with your hands, look up at people you greet. A friendly greeting breaks the ice and lets people know you're there to talk, hopefully about the really cool period activity you are doing.

Don't Huddle

Part of the fun of living history events is hanging out with old friends at the event. It's easy to circle together and catch up. While this is a lot of fun, it sends a very clear signal to visitors. Football teams huddle for a reason: to keep the other team out of the discussion. Spread out to make space for visitors to join the conversation. Breaking open circles will allow you to greet and invite visitors in, without giving the impression that visitors are interrupting.

Numbers are Intimidating

A whole platoon or more of re-enactors is imposing to visitors. It is wonderful to create the real size and spectacle of military units. It can give folks a perspective on the scale of events we are trying to portray. The weight of numbers that made military units useful is imposing to visitors. Snappy drill and a military bearing, which make for a better presentation, make these portrayals even more imposing. Activities like firings and drill require safety margins, but don't miss out on a great conversation about what's going on. To have the imposing spectacle of numbers while interacting with visitors, pull out a handful of re-enactors to go out and engage visitors. These individuals will be more approachable, to explain the demonstration, be it firings, maneuvers, or even cooking mess en-masse. This problem is not unique to military portrayals, any large living history activity—framing a building, washing laundry—can be big and impressive enough to keep visitors away. Here

too, take the spare hands from the work, get them out talking to visitors. You're doing something cool; make sure visitors get the opportunity to know just how neat it is.

<https://www.fortticonderoga.org/blog/my-clothes-are-hand-stitched-but-no-one-will-talk-to-me/>

Some 1847 News

By Robert Thomas

On February 8, 1847 the following advertisement appeared in the Indianapolis Indiana Journal.

UNITED STATES ARMY

Recruiting Service—Wanted for the United States Army, able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 35 years, being above 5 feet 3 inches, of good character, and of respectable standing among their fellow citizens. None need apply to enter service, but those who are determined to serve the period of their enlistment, honestly and faithfully for the term of five years.

Table of established rates of pay agreeably to existing laws.

Monthly Pay

Sergeant Major, Quarter-Master Serg't. Chief Musician and Chief Bugler, \$17

1st Sergeant of a Company 16

Ordnance Sergeant 18

All other Sergeants, 13

Corporals 10

Buglers 9

Musicians 8

Farriers 11

Privates 8

Besides the monthly pay, as above stated, one ration per day is allowed every soldier, which is amply sufficient for his subsistence; also a large supply of comfortable and genteel clothing. Good quarter and fuel are at all times furnished; and every attention will be paid to those men who may enlist and are determined to serve their country in good faith. The best medical attendance is always provided for the sick soldier; and no deduction of pay is made during the period he is unable to perform his duty. Should the soldier be disabled in the line of his duty, the laws provide a pension for him. By the above it is seen that pay and allowances are respectably and that, with prudence and economy, the monthly pay of the soldier may be laid up—as everything requisite for his comfort and convenience is furnished by the Government, including sugar and coffee. The prudent soldier, therefore, may readily save from \$420 to \$1020 during his enlistment of Five years; and at the expiration of the term he can, if he chooses, purchase a small farm in any of the Western States, and there settle himself comfortably, on his own land, for the rest of his life.

JOHN LOVE,

1st Lieut. 1st regt. Dragoons

Lt. Love served at Fort Scott in 1842-43. He was assigned to recruitment duty in 1845-47.

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

January is the deadliest month for carbon monoxide poisoning

According to [a study](#) by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the first month of the year is the worst for carbon monoxide poisoning. At least two people die each day from carbon-monoxide poisoning in January—three times the fatality rate recorded in August and July. Unintentional carbon monoxide exposure accounted for 15,000 emergency room visits annually between 1999 and 2004, with an average of 439 people dying each year.

Fatalities were highest among men and senior citizens: Men because they are engaged in more high-risk behaviors such as working with fuel-burning tools or appliances and seniors because they are likely to mistake the symptoms of CO poisoning (headaches, nausea, dizziness or confusion) for the flu or fatigue.

It should come as no surprise that CO deaths are the highest in winter (December is the second highest month). Cold weather increases the use of gas-powered furnaces as well as the use of risky alternative heating and power sources (portable generators, charcoal briquettes, propane stoves or grills) during power outages. It's also understandable that the highest CO death rates are in colder states: Nebraska, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and North Dakota. By contrast, California has the lowest fatality rate.

With these sobering facts it's a good time to remember the following safety tips to prevent CO poisoning:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil or coal-burning appliance inspected and serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install battery-operated CO detectors on every level of your home.
- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside the home, basement or garage or outside the home near a window.
- Don't burn anything in an unvented stove or fireplace.
- Don't let a vehicle idle inside a garage attached to a house, even if the garage door is left open.
- Don't heat a house with a gas oven.

If a CO detector sounds, leave your home immediately and call 911 from outside. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and if you or someone in your household is feeling dizzy, light-headed or nauseated.

Courtesy of consumerreports.org

News From the Bear's Den

By Barak V. Geersen

Greetings and Happy New Year to all of you wonderful volunteers. We are looking forward to another fun-filled and educational year at Fort Scott. I personally want to thank each of you for your assistance with Candlelight Tour. We received many positive comments on the audience participation and the tour in general. The tours were completely sold out and our visitation for the tour was the 2nd highest it has been in 15 years. Kudos to all involved. It is not too early to start planning for candlelight tour in 2018, so if you have any suggestions on what the theme should be or have ideas on individual scenes; please let Galen or I know.

I am pleased to announce that our Mobile App has been completed and has officially been launched. It is available at this time only on iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touch. It can be accessed through the Apple AppStore. The name of the App is NPS Fort Scott. You will need internet access to download the app, but once you have done so, you can use the app without internet access.

The app has information about all the buildings and furnished rooms and includes photos and audio description. It is designed for accessibility so that those who are mobility impaired can view photos of the rooms and exhibits that they are not able to access. There is also a tour function, which will assist visitors in taking a self-guided tour. There is also an electronic map of the site available that includes large font sizes, easily distinguishable walkways and multiple zoom levels. Our 19th century fort has officially joined the 21st century.

The purpose of the app is primarily for accessibility, but it is also a way of reaching an increasing number of visitors who are tech savvy and who access information with mobile devices. Our visitors who play Pokémon Go on site should especially welcome the new Mobile App.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the app. We worked with people from Harpers Ferry Center and the Midwest Region on the project and we had a contractor do the audio description. Special thanks to Galen, Dottie, Tiffany, and Holly, who helped provide content for the app. Andrew Smith, who was here with the Pathways program in summer of 2016, also input a lot of the content and located photos for the app.

Although winter is officially here with cold temperatures, my thoughts are already turning to spring education programs and Good Ol' Days, which will have a recreation theme in 2018. Let me know if you are available to help with either of these events. Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2018.

Friends of Fort Scott, Inc.

By Reed Hartford

2017 was a busy year as we joined with the National Historic Site and the community in celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Fort's founding in 1842. The year's celebration came to a wonderful conclusion with a **SOLD OUT** Candlelight Tour.

Immediately after the holidays the Friends will be preparing to participate in the Rotary's 2018 Dancing with Our Stars. Katie Wells and Dee Young have teamed up to plan this fundraising opportunity for the Friends. Dee writes, *"We are in the process of planning for the Fort Scott Rotary's annual Dancing with Our Stars fund raising event, February 17. In the past we have had couples represent the Fort. It is a lot of fun and we do try to raise money for the Friends of Fort Scott NHS and the activities they do. This year the theme is "Dance Makes the World Go Round." In previous years our dances have been more traditional 1800s style dances and on the serious side. We were hoping we could shake things up a little this year, have fun, and certainly entertain the audience. Our idea; based on reports in Civil War era literature is a "Stag dance", 8 guys (4 in uniform and 4 dressed in the "feminine persuasion" with hoop skirts/pantaloons over their pants) all dancing round dance."*

Dancing has relevance to the military side of the era since dancing could also be considered the first "drill" for young men who would become soldiers during the Civil War. The formation dances taught right from left, how to keep marching time, how to maneuver in a formation, and the importance of team work.

The first practice is planned Saturday, January 20 (the day of the annual Volunteer Banquet). We continue to need two or three guys to be a part of this dance team. This is a fun way to help raise the funds the Friends need to continue to support activities at the NHS in 2018 and beyond.

If you are interested in this project, either as a dancer or helping with the fund raising please contact; Dee Young 913-269-1632, Katie Wells 417-684-1724, or Reed Hartford 620-223-9570.

News from the Museum World

By Tiffany Durham

Greetings everyone, do you like history or art? Do you need an excuse to get out of cold or cheer up from the winter blues? The Fort Scott NHS Museum has a wonderful treat for you! Come to Fort Scott National Historic Site and learn the history of the site as told by art, created by youth from across the United States and throughout the world. Fort Scott NHS will host a “New Faces, New Neighbors” art exhibit. This exhibit will be on display from **Thursday, February 1st** through **Saturday, March 31st**, 2018. It will be located on the second floor of the Infantry Barracks Museum in the hallway next to the theater.

“New Faces, New Neighbors” is a theme that has resonated throughout the history of Fort Scott. Soldiers and American Indians found themselves as new neighbors and had to face many challenges and adaptations along the way. During the Bleeding Kansas era, conflict evolved among neighbors, as the topic of slavery became an issue that divided the town of Fort Scott and Kansas Territory. During the Civil War, Fort Scott saw new faces as American Indians and African Americans enlisted to fight for the Union Army. In addition, Fort Scott became a place of refuge for many people of diverse backgrounds. Caring for these refugees provided an opportunity for the town’s residents to work together for a common cause. After the Civil War, more new neighbors came to Fort Scott with the railroads as the town transformed into a regional trade center. This story of settlement and resettlement, promises made and broken, dreams built and shattered, and facing challenges with new neighbors can all be seen through the creative minds of youth in the “New Faces, New Neighbors” exhibition. We welcome you to come join us and explore this amazing story of Fort Scott.

In order to create this wonderful art exhibit, Fort Scott NHS has collaborated with the International Fiber Collaborative, INC. (IFC) based out of Topeka, KS. The IFC is a nonprofit organization that works to create deeper learning experiences through art, and cross-curricular themed-based programs. The IFC also promotes programs designed to link arts to science, math, engineering and the humanities. Information, a schedule of events, and other projects associated with the IFC can be found at <https://ifcprojects.com/>.

For further information please feel free to contact Tiffany Durham by email or by phone at Tiffany_durham@nps.gov or (620)223-0310. We look forward to seeing you at this incredible display.

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