Adjutant’s Report

By Galen Ewing

A special thanks to all of you who contributed to the Civil War Encampment. Volunteers took on many tasks that weekend including program presentation, working the Visitor Center, counting visitors, and working behind the scenes in the Magic Room. This year 85 volunteers contributed 1,626 hours for close to 800 visitors. Thanks to group volunteers including the Holmes Brigade, 3rd Kansas Light Artillery Battery B, and the Western Bluecoats Field Hospital, Inc. I also appreciate all the individual volunteers helping with numerous living historical impressions, visitor center work, and counting visitors.

Our annual park survey is coming up in June. Fort Scott National Historic Site participates in this service wide program (developed for the Government Performance and Results Act) to measure visitor satisfaction and visitor understanding of the significance of the park they are visiting through a visitor survey card. Please give me a call if you are willing and able to assist with this important task.

News From the Bear’s Den

By Barak Geertsen

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped us with education programs this year. Over 2000 students and adults have attended programs here since the beginning of April and there is still more to come.

I would especially like to thank Reed Hartford and the rest of the Friends group for administering the Every Kid in a Park Grant. We received over 4000 dollars last year from the National Park Foundation to bring 4th graders to the site and still had money left this year to fund several fourth grade trips. The Friends group acted as fiscal agent for the grant.

The Every Kid in a Park program was started in conjunction with the NPS Centennial. It is targeted toward fourth graders and is designed to encourage them to visit the parks. Fourth grade students can get annual passes that will allow them and their families to visit the parks free of charge. The National Park Foundation made funding available through grants to fund
Fourth grade field trips. This worthwhile program will continue to be offered for the foreseeable future.

We have several seasonal employees working at Fort Scott this spring. Skip and Gary are back and we are happy about that. Jason Lewis started in April as a seasonal park ranger, Jennifer Pulsifer came on board last week as an SCA, and three more employees will start this week, Roger Behrend, Ryan O’Connell, and Paul Goodman. Stop by, say hi, and make these folks feel welcome.

Memorial Day Weekend is coming up. We are just doing one day of programs this year, which will be on Saturday, May 27. We are offering small arms demonstrations and living history programs. We will offer black powder programs and tours on Sunday and Monday of that weekend, but our living history efforts are concentrated on Saturday. If you would like to volunteer to do a station or help out in some other way that day, please let Barry or Dottie know.

In addition, our Camp of Instruction is coming up in June and July and we could use volunteer assistance with that. Contact Barry for more details.

We have had a substantial amount of rain this spring, but hot temperatures are no doubt coming so stay cool and keep yourself hydrated.

### 2017 Hartzog Award

"When a VIP agrees to share his talents, skills and interests with the National Park Service, he is paying us one of the highest compliments possible by offering a most valued possession - his time."

George B. Hartzog, Jr.  
Director, National Park Service, 1964-1972

In 1970, while director of the National Park Service, Mr. George Hartzog started the Volunteer in Parks (VIP) program. Sometime later it was decided that volunteers should have a more formal recognition for what they do and the Hartzog Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service began. Categories include Individual, Individual Youth, Group, Youth Group, Program and Enduring Service.

Here at Fort Scott NHS we have a special group of talented and dedicated volunteers. This is evidenced by the fact that since the origin of the Hartzog Awards a total of 5 groups or individuals volunteering at Fort Scott NHS have received this prestigious award; the Friends group, Nevada High School, Susan Anderson, Reed Hartford and this year’s recipient for the Youth award, Barrett Young.

Barrett’s nomination submission included the following:

“Barrett continues to take the initiative with a variety of interpretive tasks, including assisting with living history events, offsite programs, scanning library documents into electronic database, assembling interpretive equipment, and promoting our park activities at his college. He showed a willingness to take on any task that came his way. This year, he volunteered to become part of the Fort Scott NHS Color Guard. He has done this admirably and is the only volunteer at our park that serves in this capacity. Barrett, along with his family, were invited to participate in “Live on Green”, a three day event in Pasadena,
2017 Hartzog Award, Continued:

CA, promoting the National Park Service Centennial. Barrett prepared an interactive Junior Ranger display prior to the event. Once completed, it was displayed at the Santa Monica NRA mobile visitor center at the Rose Bowl Float decorating area. Barrett passed out Junior Ranger programs, directed people to the mobile visitor center, and provided photo opportunities at his display. He was highly involved engaging visitors and sharing his personal Junior Ranger experiences across the country. Barrett has participated in Fort Scott NHS’s annual Candlelight Tour special event nine years in a row. We gave Barrett the added responsibility of scene leader for one of the scenes for this event. He admirably made sure the scene went smoothly. Barrett also showed initiative by adapting the script and improving the scene. He also assisted in set up as well as cleanup activities, as well as spending extra time helping clean candles after the first night of this two night event.”

CONGRATULATIONS to Barrett Young for his well-deserved recognition!

Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

By Reed Hartford, President

2017 marks another milestone. On May 30, 1842, Companies “A” & “C” of the First Dragoons, under the command of Captain Benjamin Moore arrived on the bluff overlooking the Marmaton River and established Fort Scott along the Military road from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Gibson. We have already begun the celebration of the 175th Anniversary of our “Old Fort.”

On April 18th the Friends gathered for our 8th annual Friend Fest. During the evening Holly Baker, Chief of Interpretation and the NHS presented Barrett Young with the 2017 Midwest Region Youth Hartzog Volunteer Award, recognizing his 1500 hours of volunteer service to the NPS.

Another feature of the evening was George and Diane Bernheimer’s portrayal of Hiro and Elizabeth Wilson describing life and events in the early days of Fort Scott.

On May 30th the Friends plan to serve cake at the Fort to commemorate the actual anniversary of the Fort’s founding and 175 years of anchoring our community.

Hope you will support the friends of Fort Scott NHS with your membership as we seek to represent the Fort to the community and the citizens of Fort Scott to the NPS.

Living History or Reenacting

By Sam Young, Fort Scott NHS Volunteer

Recently I was asked the difference between “living historians” and “reenactors”. That is a fair question as many of us do one or the other and maybe both, but probably do not know what they mean. So I started researching and found many one or two sentence answers, but almost all were incomplete and/or confusing.
Living History or Reenacting, Continued:

Then I happened on the Alamo’s website, [http://www.thealamo.org/living_history.html](http://www.thealamo.org/living_history.html), where I found an exceptionally thorough description, with more answers than I originally sought.

The following, when in ““ is from the Alamo. I will share some examples, preceding them with the word EXAMPLE.

**“Definition of "Living History"**
“The term "living history" refers to a method of interpreting the past through the use of a person or persons dressed in period clothing. The technique is usually enhanced by having the person or persons use period tools and engage in period activities.”

**EXAMPLE**: Pete, the Fort Larned NPS blacksmith, is an outstanding example through his period dress, use of period blacksmithing tools and techniques, and in the actual Fort Larned blacksmith shop he uses. He “talks the talk and walks the walk.” Pete was at Fort Scott NHS displaying his blacksmithing skills during one of the 100th birthday events of the NPS.

**“Who are "Living Historians??"**
“The term is applied (as well as misapplied) to anyone who attempts to convey information about the past while dressed in period clothing. The term "re-enactor" is often used in place of living historian. It is important to note, however, that while living historians can "reenact," not all re-enactors make good living historians. Reenacting is actually a recreational pastime, carried on by individuals with an interest in history. Dressing in period clothing and engaging in period activities allows re-enactors to "experience" the past. Living historians, on the other hand, tend to be associated with museums and historical sites that specialize in interpreting the past through a format that allows visitors to visualize the past through the use of their senses. Living historians can also be dedicated private individuals who volunteer their talents and services to historical sites and as such are a valuable resource.”

**“What does the term "first person" mean?”**
The term refers to a technique where a person takes on a historical persona and acts as if he or she was that person. The persona can be that of a well-known historical figure like Sam Houston or Abraham Lincoln. It can also be of an actual but unknown historical figure like a farmer or soldier. A generic persona based on actual historical figures can be effective "first person" impressions. Conversations with visitors or other interpreters are carried out using the pronouns "I" and "we." For example, "I told my constituents that they could go to hell and I’d go to Texas!" or "We built our cabin down by the spring." A person in true first person mode does not know anything about events or the world outside his or her historical timeframe.”

**“What does the term "third person" mean?”**
Unlike in the case of first person interpretation, individuals using the "third person" do not leave the present time. Third person interpreters are essentially modern people dressed in period clothing, discussing the past.
Living History or Reenacting, Continued

with visitors or other interpreters. The clothing and other objects are used as tools to teach about the past. Conversations with visitors or other interpreters are carried out using the pronouns "he," "she," and "they." For example, "He told his constituents that they could go to hell and he'd go to Texas!" or "They built their cabin down by the spring." A person in third person mode knows about the modern world.”

EXAMPLE: Dee Young is an outstanding third person living historian who can easily transition to first person and back to third. She portrays a cook in a garrison kitchen, whether using an old Army iron stove or an open fireplace and hearth. She can also easily transition to an open or pit cooking fire in a non-garrison environment. She dresses as a cook during the historical period portrayed at Fort Scott NHS. She knows how to manage her cooking fire with some parts hotter than others as necessary for what she is cooking, which could be for a small number of folks or a large number. Depending on the scene in which she is working she could be either first person or third person.

“What does it take to be a successful living historian?”
“Knowledge and props. While this sounds simple, quality living history is extremely difficult and takes commitment and practice on the part of its practitioners. He or she must be familiar with all aspects of daily life of the time period to be interpreted. Additionally, knowledge of the historical events and important figures of the day is essential. The interpreter must also be familiar with clothing and other physical items (usually referred to as material culture) that are characteristic of his or her time period. Visitors can tell when interpreters are untrained or are using inauthentic items. They deserve the best that you and your site can provide.”

“How does living history work?”
“Living history requires interaction between the interpreter and visitors. This means the interpreter must draw visitors into his or her world. While some visitors may approach the interpreter with a question, it is the interpreter's responsibility to initiate contact. It can be as simple as asking a question such as "Have you ever seen a long rifle before?" The key to success is making visitors feel comfortable enough to want to stay and participate. Let them ask questions and make comments. Even though this is an educational experience, don't lecture.”

EXAMPLE: As a cavalry saddler living historian I wear either the period cavalry uniform or the clothing of a civilian contracted by the fort as a saddler and share with visitors the period hand-sewing techniques and equipment used to repair and/or make leather equipment or canvas such as wagon covers. I also compare performing those duties in a garrison saddle shop and in the field using what is available for a temporary fix, such as using a stirrup strap to make a girth. Since living history is educational, I always seek opportunities to compare period equipment and techniques with those used today. I believe that makes history interesting and relevant.

“Living history is hands-on-education. Encourage visitors to touch and involve them in period activities.”

“Tips for success.
• What sets a "living historian" apart from others is not the clothing but his or her knowledge of the period being portrayed and a familiarity of that period's material culture.
• While living history is entertaining, it is a proven educational method. Take it seriously and refrain from developing a "theme park" mentality.
• Complacency results in stagnation. Interpreters who engage in living history must always strive to learn more about the time period they portray.”
Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

**What is allergy-induced asthma?**
Allergy-induced asthma, or allergic asthma, is the most common type of asthma. Allergic asthma and non-allergic asthma share most of the same symptoms, but the triggers may be different. Allergens that trigger allergic asthma may include pet dander, pollen or dust. When you are exposed to these allergens your body creates chemicals called IgE antibodies. These antibodies cause the release of histamine, which causes the passages in the airways of your lungs to become inflamed and swollen, resulting in asthma symptoms like coughing and wheezing, shortness of breath and tightness in the chest. If you think you may have allergic asthma, an allergist or immunologist can help you diagnose your symptoms and develop an asthma management plan.

Sources:

Welcome Aboard!

As mentioned above by Barry we have several new people helping out this year. I don’t have room for everyone’s biography in this month’s Newsletter but I will try to get them in future ones.

Our new SCA is Jennifer Pulsifer:

I am the SCA intern at Fort Scott National Historic Site for Summer 2017. I was born and raised in Haughton, LA, and I stayed there until I went to college in Natchitoches, LA. So, this is the first time I have ever lived outside of Louisiana! I graduated from the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Scientific Inquiry and a minor in Mathematics. I enjoy hiking, gardening & yard work, reading, and playing music. My parents have been taking me to National parks across the country as long as I can remember. I have been to several on my own since then. Through these trips I developed the greatest appreciation for the National Park Service and the environmental and cultural resources that they protect. I am so excited to be here. Every day I walk to work I am so overwhelmed by the beauty of the buildings and landscaping. I am also thrilled to be working with such a great team.