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 107 volunteers contributed 1,843 hours for 528 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

From the editor: Barry is has been extremely busy not only doing his own job but he has also taken on the responsibilities of Acting Chief Ranger. Hang in there Barry!

From the writer: Despite rumors to the contrary, I am not too busy to write a short newsletter article. I have been busy with Acting Chief Ranger duties and with coordinating school programs. I would like to thank all those volunteers who helped us with any capacity during our spring education programs. Over 1000 students attended our Life on the Frontier program for grades K-4. Nevada High School helped provide programs on May 10 and Fort Scott High School participated on April 27. For our upper elementary program, Sweep through History, we had over 500 students over three days in May. I am especially grateful to those volunteers who did programs; they would be Reed Hartford, Matt Wells, Rondi Anderson, and Gary Herrmann.

We have three seasonal employees returning from last year, Robert Thomas, Ryan O’Connell, and Paul Goodman. All have been doing an outstanding job. We have a Pathways student who will be joining our ranks in June, Sarah Stepanik from Wisconsin. She will be supervising four Youth Conservation Corps employees, high school students who will be working at the site this summer.

In addition to all of our special events, we also have a couple of additional activities in June. On June 9, the American Legion will be here conducting a flag retirement ceremony. Quite a few unserviceable flags will be retired that morning. The public is invited to come out and be a part of this solemn occasion. One week later, on June 16, several hundred bicyclists will be on site, commemorating the end of a week-long Biking Across Kansas event.

As you can see, it has been a very busy spring and the summer will not bring a respite. I sincerely appreciate everyone’s efforts for supporting us in this transition period. I expect by the time next newsletter rolls around that our new Chief Ranger will be on board.

Our Flag

By Paul Goodman

The American Flag
We get many questions about our big US 30 star flag that we fly above the Fort. So I decided to do a little research and share the knowledge I found. One of the most common questions by the public is that “is that a Garrison Flag?” It is not a Garrison Flag because it is too small. The flag that flies over the Fort is similar in size to that of a Storm Flag, which is 5ft Hoist (height) and 9’6” Fly (Length). There are many different types, uses, and sizes of flags so I decided to dig a little deeper.

Before 1860, the military used flags mainly as just a symbol. Whether it be flying over a fort or carried into battle. In 1860, The American Signal Corps was founded by Albert Meyer. His early method was called the Wig Wag. By holding a flag a certain way could represent a number and would convey a message to battle commanders. Over time it has become more complicated and there are more types of flags used by the US military. These are the different types used today:

• Garrison Flag: This type of flag is one of the largest American Flags used on special occasions. The US Garrison Flag measures 20 foot hoist by 38 foot fly.¹
• Post Flag: Traditionally, post flags are used to simply identify a military post and symbolize the location and significance of a location in which the US military has established camp. The US Post Flag measures 8 foot 11 3/8 inches hoist by 17 foot fly.
• Field Flag: The US Field Flag measures 6 foot 8 inches hoist by 12 foot fly and is flown when distinguished guests are present.
• Storm Flag: Like the name indicates, storm flags are hung when there is a storm over the military post. The US storm flag measures 5 foot hoist by 9 foot 6 inches fly.²
• Internment Flag: Also known as burial flags, these are used to honor and show respect to fallen soldiers and veterans during the funeral. The US Interment Flags measure 5 foot hoist by 9 foot 6 inches fly and are typically made of cotton material.
• Color Flags: Various sectors of the military and their officials are represented by colors that differentiate them from others.
• Distinguished Flags: Used to mark where high-ranking officers or military headquarters are located.

We also get many questions about why we don’t fold it into the triangle when we take it down. It is because it is a period American Flag. During the 1840s and up until the Second World War, there was no set of rules for flag folding or flag code. When the soldiers that were posted at the Fort took the Flag down for the day, they would have more or less stuffed it into a sack. We roll it up so that it looks more professional.

“Our flag honors those who have fought to protect it, and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation’s founders and heroes. As the ultimate icon of America’s storied history, the Stars and Stripes represents the very best of this nation.”

A Glimpse into the Past

By Robert Thomas

I was recently going through some old newspapers on line and came across the following article. Since we often have staff and volunteers doing open fire cooking in period clothing, i.e. long dresses, and sometimes-young children might be nearby, I thought this might be a strong reminder for all of us to be careful while doing so.

“Shocking and Fatal Accident --- Sarah, a little daughter of Mr. Johnathan Rogers, who lives about three miles east of Fort Scott was burned to death on Thursday morning last. She had been left in the house to take care of an infant, which was sleeping in the cradle when in playing about the fire he clothes accidently caught. Her agonizing screams did not reach the ears of the family till every stitch of clothing had burned off and she presented a hideous mass of charred and quivering flesh. She lingered in extreme agony a few hours when death put a period to her sufferings. ”Fort Scott Bulletin, April 1861

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

Prevent Mosquito and Tick Bites

The Basics

- Spending time together outdoors is good for the whole family. Don’t let mosquito and tick bites ruin your fun.
- Most bug bites are harmless, but some mosquitoes and ticks spread viruses and bacteria that can make you sick. Some of these viruses and bacteria are very serious – and may be deadly.
- Mosquitoes spread viruses like Zika, West Nile, chikungunya, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), and dengue (“DEN-gee”).
- Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are just 2 of the serious diseases you can get from tick bites.

Protect yourself from mosquito and tick bites.

- When you spend time outside, take these steps to protect yourself:
- Use bug repellent (also called bug spray or insect repellent) on your skin and clothing. Find the right repellent for you.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks to cover your skin.
- Check everyone for ticks after spending time outside.
- Take a shower within 2 hours after being outside to help wash away ticks.
- Put dry clothes in the dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks.
Volunteers needed for Good Ol’ Days event, June 2

We will be needing help with the following:
Set up and take down on tables, etc.
Help exhibitors set up
Counters for the programs
Counters for the visitors entering
Parking lot attendants

It should be a fun day with lots of interesting exhibitors.
If you would like to help, please contact Tiffiny or Dottie at 620-223-0310
or email tiffiny_durham@nps.gov or dottie_messer@nps.gov

Old Fashion Picnic – Bring your lunch and listen to the storyteller spin his tales.
Memorial Day Weekend Schedule of Events

Below is the schedule of activities for Memorial Day weekend. If you would like to help out in living history stations, counting, or artillery please let me know by May 21. Thanks, Galen

SATURDAY, MAY 26

10:00 a.m. – Cast Iron Skillets and Dutch Ovens: Cooking Demonstration and Talk
11:00 a.m. – Guided Tour
   1:00 p.m. – “Crime and Punishment” – Guard Duty Talk
2:00 p.m. – “The Gun That Shoots Twice” – Artillery Demonstration
3:00 p.m. – “Plug, Port, and Peaches” – Post Sutler Talk
4:00 p.m. – Flag Retreat

SUNDAY, MAY 27

11:00 a.m. – Guided Tour
   1:00 p.m. – “Bleeding Kansas” – Guided Tour
2:00 p.m. – “The Gun That Shoots Twice” – Artillery Demonstration
3:00 p.m. – “Saws, Leeches, and Mercury” – 19th Century Medical Demonstration

MONDAY, MAY 28

11:00 a.m. – Guided Tour
   1:00 p.m. – “The Gum Springs Serenaders” – Musical Program
2:00 p.m. – “The Gun That Shoots Twice” – Artillery Demonstration
2:45 p.m. – Honoring Fort Scott’s Fallen Officers
3:00 p.m. – National Moment of Remembrance
Fort Scott National Historic Site needs your help!

We are looking for volunteers to help Fort Scott NHS set up the flags for our Symbols of Sacrifice event on **Friday, June 29th, 2018** and take down the flags on **Friday, July 6th, 2018**. Feel free to come when you can to help us set up and take down flags.

**When:** Friday June 29th, and Friday July 6th, 2018  
**Time:** Come when you can  
**Location:** Fort Scott NHS Visitor Center  
**Please contact Tiffiny Durham or Skip with any questions and if you are interested in set up and take down of Flags.**

Tiffiny Durham  
tiffiny_durham@nps.gov  
Skip  
robert_thomas@nps.gov  
620-223-0310