



# “THE CRACK POST OF THE FRONTIER” VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER



FORT SCOTT NATIONAL  
HISTORIC SITE

## ADJUTANT’S REPORT

*By Galen R. Ewing*

Thanks for all of your assistance for interpretive activities this year. Our fiscal year totals have 457 volunteers donating 10,535 hours of time! Reed Hartford earned top honors this year with 380 hours donated!

Candlelight Tour time is fast approaching. You will find with this newsletter a Candlelight Tour interest form. Please mail it back by October 23. Tickets will go on sale Monday, November 1st! Ticket prices are \$7.00. Tickets can be purchased with cash, personal check, or credit card (Master Card, Visa, or Discover). We will be having a Saturday afternoon dance this year from 1 pm – 3 pm so come in and cut a rug.



## Seasonals’ Greetings

*By Enoch Doubledee*

Fort Scott National Historic Site welcomes two new Student Conservation Association Interns this month working with the Interpretation and Resource Management staff.

Elisabeth LeBlanc hails from New Orleans and is a graduate of the University of Florida. She studied anthropology and historical archaeology and is interested in museum and curatorial work. Heather Holzman, from Boerne, TX, is a recent graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. She also has a degree in anthropology with a focus in physical and forensic anthropology. Both are excited to be working at the Fort this fall.



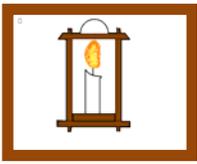
## Editor’s Note

*By Enoch Doubledee*

Over the last year, I have been the one behind the scene that has stitched the volunteer newsletter together. It has been an interesting time trying to coordinate getting the articles in on time, so that they can be edited and formatted in to the finished product. I have tried to improve the newsletter as I have learned more about producing it. This issue of the newsletter has a new look and I have tried to follow a theme of the upcoming candlelight tour in the graphic and extra pictures I have added. Hopefully, the pictures will bring back fond memories of candlelight tours

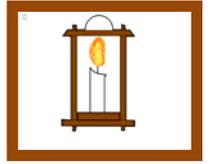
A recent inventory of the tack room revealed that we are missing a valise (wool bag) and a frock coat. It might be possible that they got mixed up with a reenactor’s personal gear. Please check to see if you have these items and let a ranger know if you have these items.





# News from the Bear's Den

By Barak Geertsen



It is now October, which means that our thoughts turn toward Candlelight Tour. In August's newsletter, I discussed the scenes that we will be presenting in this year's candlelight tour. As a reminder, our theme for the tour centers on a march toward Civil War. We will have two scenes from the 1840s, two from the Bleeding Kansas era, and the final one set in December 1860. Each scene will follow the story of how the nation became increasingly divided until the eve of Civil War when states began seceding from the Union.

I wanted to thank the volunteers who helped us for Labor Day weekend, especially those who were in the videos that I took. I am working on placing these videos on our website hopefully by the end of October. Look for videos of the bakehouse, quartermaster, and hospital.

I recently returned from two weeks out of the office, one week on vacation in NYC, and one week attending regional lead coaching in Harpers Ferry, WV. For those of you unfamiliar with the coaching network, which is relatively new in the last couple of years, here are some of the details.

The Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands (Eppley) has worked with the National Park Service (NPS) to develop an on-line training program anchored to the NPS Interpretive Development Program (IDP). There is a training module linked to most of the IDP skills including Informal Interpretation, Interpretive Talk, Interpretive Writing, and Conducted Activities-Guided Tours. The whole idea behind this is to professionalize the discipline of interpretation.

Before beginning any of the skills courses, students must complete the free course entitled *Foundations of Interpretation*. The knowledge gained in that session will be built upon in each of the subsequent classes. The training has two levels of accomplishment. The basic is an on-line course in which interpreters work at their own pace. At the end of the class a multiple choice test must be passed to gain the basic



certificate. The second level of training requires the interpreter to be paired with an interpretive coach. This is a one-on-one training opportunity. Throughout the training, the student will have activities to complete and to share with the coach. The coach will offer direction and guidance so that the student may complete all activities. Once all assignments are completed, the interpreter will receive an advanced certificate.

These classes are available to employees, volunteers, or any other partner of the National Park Service. The advertised price for these sessions is \$59. However, NPS and its partners may participate in the classes at the rate of \$28. See Kelley or me for the discount code. If you would like to be coached through the advanced activities in one of these courses, contact me and I can get you set up with a coach.



## Fit To Be Tied

By Kelley Collins

On September 10-12, several volunteers gathered to learn the intimate details of corset making. Marti McCartney, master corsetiere, led the class. The whirr of sewing machines could be heard for hours on end as each woman worked to complete an accurate 19<sup>th</sup> century foundation garment tailored specifically for her. Over 343 volunteer hours were donated for the project. Participants included: Abi Anderson, Kai Anderson, Katie Wells, Pauline Farra, Joyce Gobl, Susan Anderson, Rebecca Anderson, and Kelley Collins.

Many thanks for Marti for sharing her knowledge and Joyce for her assistance in helping set up the workshop!



## Friends of Fort Scott NHS Inc.

By Reed Hartford

We honor those “First Friends”. As a first lady once said, it takes a village . . . and it did -- not a village actually but a city to work on and petition our national legislators to make the “Old Fort” into a National Historic Site.

It was not an effort by one nor a one-time effort, but an ongoing and lengthy process to finally achieve the goal of preserving the “Old Fort” as a National Historic Site.

We want to thank these visionaries who worked so tediously to make this happen. Not just the final successful attempt but the attempts that went before.

The Friends of Fort Scott will be hosting their Second Annual Event on Tuesday,



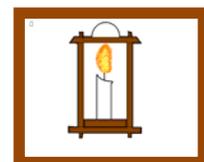
October 19, at the Liberty Theatre. Tickets are \$20 and include the program and a dinner reminiscent of Fort food. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a social hour until 7. Dinner and program will follow.

If you're not yet a member of the Friends of Fort Scott National Historic Site, see Reed Hartford that evening to join the group.

And for those of you who missed out on the 2009 Gary Hawk Christmas ornament they will be there for sale as well as the 2010 Gary Hawk Christmas ornament.

It promises to be a fun evening so come out and join us for this event. As with any Fort event, period clothing is always welcome!

Martha Scott





## A founding member of the Fort Scott NHS's Family is moving on.



By *Enoch Doubledde*

Mary Beth McClure, who has been with Fort Scott NHS for 31 years, is taking a job in Omaha at the NPS's Midwest Regional Office. Mary Beth has been with the National Park Service since 1979 when she was hired on at the newly established Fort Scott NHS. During that time, she has served as the administrative officer and has been in charge of the budget, contracting, human resources,

property management, and information technology. She is a cheerful person when I have been around her and did help me fill out some of the less than intuitive paper work needed to get my seasonal job here at Fort Scott. Even though Mary Beth has enough years of service, she is not retiring, but she is moving on in her career with a new job in Omaha at the NPS regional office. She has been a much loved and integral part of the Fort Scott NHS family and will be missed greatly.



## Passing of Harry Myers

From the NPS ALUMNI

Harry Myers, a career NPS employee who retired in 2007, died in Santa Fe, New Mexico on August 31st after a massive heart attack. He was 60 years old.

Born on June 6, 1950, Harry served in the U.S. Army's Security Agency as a communications specialist from 1969 to 1972, after which he attended Western Illinois University in Macomb, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1977. Soon afterward he commenced a 28-year NPS career which began as the director of Fort Scott National Historic Site and continued at the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha. Beginning in 1981, he served a seven-year stint as the superintendent at Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial (Ohio).

He then moved west to New Mexico, where he served for the next thirteen years as the superintendent at Fort Union

National Monument. In 2001 he moved to Santa Fe, where he served on the staff of the National Trails System Office until retiring from the NPS in 2007. Soon afterward he became the association manager for the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), a position he held at the time of his death.

Harry was one of the leading authorities on the history of the Santa Fe Trail, the author of numerous articles on the Santa Fe Trail and an enthusiastic proponent of the trail. His particular interest lay in geographical history and early trail routes, the Hispanic trade on the Santa Fe Trail, and the impact of the arrival of Europeans on American Indian Tribes. He has published articles in *Kansas History* magazine, *the Prairie Scout*, and was a frequent contributor to the SFTA's publication, *Wagon Tracks*. One of his contributions was an article of an update of Jack Rittenhouse's 1971 bibliography of the Santa Fe Trail, in which Harry added close to 500 titles to that compilation. He enjoyed locating maps,

diaries/journals and artwork that depicted the history of the Santa Fe Trail.

Harry has been the recipient of several awards from the Santa Fe Trail Association, including their highest award, the Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award, for lifetime achievement in research and writing about the history of the Santa Fe Trail.

Harry was a member of the Santa Fe Trail Association, which he joined in 1989, and served on various committees through the years. He also served as coordinator for the 175th anniversary celebration of the Santa Fe Trail. Harry took a leading role in the Corazon Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Not only was he one of the co-founders of the chapter, he served as secretary and was serving as president of that chapter at the time of his death.

Harry will long be remembered for his keen sense of humor, his infectious warmth, and his extensive knowledge of the Southwest and its trails.

## Passport Photo Contest Announced

Each year, Eastern National holds a contest for National Park Service employees and Volunteers In Parks to select ten new images for the collectible Passport To Your National Parks® stamp series. The stamps (one national and nine regional) are on one perforated sheet and fit into the official passports.

Image submissions of national parks with special events or anniversary celebrations during 2011 are encouraged, and a brief statement about the event should be enclosed with the photograph.

National parks previously featured on Passport stamps are not eligible for the contest. However, NPS employees and VIPs from those parks can submit photographs of parks not previously featured.

Submissions must be received by Eastern National in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, by **October 15th**. Here are the basics:

- All submissions must be reproduction-quality color originals, as a 35mm slide, color print, 4" x 5" transparency, or 300 dpi tiff file. Inkjet prints and low-resolution files are not acceptable.
- Only National Park Service employees and Volunteers In Parks (VIPs) are eligible for the contest.
- All submissions must be clearly labeled, stating park name and image location, photographer's name, photographer's status as an NPS employee or a VIP, current park assignment, and the photographer's mailing address (no post office boxes please), telephone number and e-mail address
- Eastern National will review all submissions and make final selections. Images will be judged on quality, interpretive merit, and appropriateness of subject matter. Lacking a suitable entry, Eastern National reserves the right to select a photograph from other sources.
- By submitting their work for review, photographers agree that if their photograph is chosen, Eastern National may use the winning photograph for the Passport stamp and promotional purposes. Eastern National will not be responsible for any lost or damaged photos, slides or transparencies. All submissions will be returned to the photographer.
- Contest winners will be announced in January 2011. Eastern National will pay the photographer \$500 for the winning photograph in each category. If the winning image is a National Park Service slide or transparency, or was taken on government time, Eastern National will donate \$500 to the photographer's park to support that park's interpretive program.

Send your submissions to Eastern National Passport Photography Contest, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Questions should be directed to Eastern National at (215) 283-6900 ext. 158 for more information





# SAFETY SENSE

## CANDLE SAFETY RULES



"With Candlelight tour just around the corner, it is a good idea to review the following tips on candle safety."

- Kelley Collins

**The National Candle Association urges consumers to follow these rules for candle safety.**

**Always keep a burning candle within sight.** Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.

**Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire.** Place candles away from drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.

**Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.** Don't place lighted candles where they might be knocked over by children or pets.

**Trim candlewicks to ¼ inch each time before burning.** Long or crooked wicks cause uneven burning and dripping.

**Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use.** The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain drips or melted wax.

**Be sure the candleholder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.** This will also help prevent possible heat damage to underlying surfaces and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking.

**Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times.** Always read and follow the manufacturer's use and safety instructions carefully. Don't burn a candle longer than the manufacturer recommends.

**Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, ceiling fans and air currents.** This will help prevent rapid, uneven burning, and avoid flame flare-ups and sooting. Drafts can also blow light weight curtains or papers into the flame where they could catch fire.

**Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.** Don't burn too many candles in a small room or in a "tight" home where air exchange is limited.

**Don't burn a candle all the way down.** Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container. For a margin of safety, discontinue burning a candle when 2 inches of wax remains or ½ inch if in a container.

**Never touch or move a burning candle when the wax is liquid.**

**Never use a knife or sharp object to remove wax drippings from a glass holder.** It might scratch, weaken, or cause the glass to break upon subsequent use.

**Place burning candles at least three inches apart.** This ensures they won't melt one another, or create drafts that can cause the candles to flare.

**Use a snuffer to extinguish a candle.** It's the safest way to prevent hot wax splatters. Never extinguish candles with water. The water can cause the hot wax to splatter and might cause a glass container to break.

**Be very careful if using candles during a power outage.** Flashlights and other battery-powered lights are safer sources of light during a power failure. **Make sure a candle is completely extinguished and the wick is no longer glowing before leaving the room.**

**Extinguish a candle if it flickers repeatedly, smokes, or the flame becomes too high.** The candle isn't burning properly. Let it cool, trim the wick, check for drafts and then re-light. **Never use a candle as a night light.**

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# FORT SCOTT CANDLELIGHT TOUR ASSISTANCE FORM



We are recruiting volunteers for this year's Candlelight Tour and Victorian dance held in conjunction with Homes for the Holidays, Dec. 4. A brief description of each assignment is on the next page. If you can help, complete and return this form. In the assignment category, mark your top three choices in order by placing a "1" in the blank next to your first preference, a "2" for your second choice and so on.

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail**

\_\_\_\_\_

I can help Friday, Dec. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

I can help Saturday, Dec. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer meetings will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13 at 2:00 p.m. or Monday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m. Assignments, background material and scripts will be distributed at the meetings. Living history clothing can also be checked out after the meeting.**

## Assignments

**Visitor Center:**

Greet visitors: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Timekeeper: \_\_\_\_\_

Desk: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour Follower: \_\_\_\_\_

## Living History Scene Roles:

I prefer a speaking role: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a non-speaking: \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Hall Reception: \_\_\_\_\_

I will do anything: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check the following as applies:

I will stay overnight at the Fort: \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with the dance on Sat.

(1pm- 3pm) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the form to:

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

OR

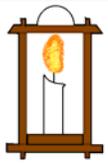
Call or e-mail Kelley by October 29.

Phone: 620-223-0310,

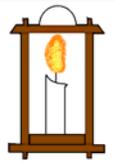
Email: [fosc\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:fosc_interpretation@nps.gov)

Please return **By October 23**

PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE OR IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.



## FORT SCOTT CANDLELIGHT TOUR VOLUNTEERS WANTED ASSISTANCE DESCRIPTIONS



**We are in need of volunteers for this year's Candlelight Tour. Here is a list of different duties that we need to fill.**

**Visitor Center Desk Attendant:** Handles last minute ticket pickups and sales.

**Greeter:** Welcomes visitors and asks them the time of their tour. Directs them into the information area to wait or directly to their tour if it has already begun. Keeps track which tours have begun and helps gather the next tour to go upstairs.

**Ticket Marker:** Inspects the ticket for the correct date and time. Cancels tickets with a check mark and directs visitors upstairs to the auditorium where the tour begins.

**Timekeeper:** Counts and records the number of people on each tour as they come up the stairs. Keeps the official clock. Closes the door to the auditorium at tour time. Knocks on the door one minute before the five-minute introduction is to end. Signals the greeter to send up the next group when the preceding tour has left the building.

**Tour Leader:** Develops and conducts tours presenting information about the history of the site, prepares visitors for each living history scene, and answers questions.

**Tour Follower:** Assists the tour leader with the logistics of the tour. Opens and closes doors, lights dark areas, assists visitors as needed and keeps visitors moving.

**Living History Role:** Dressed in period clothing, scene participants play the part of 19<sup>th</sup> century people in and around Fort Scott. Speaking and non-speaking parts are available. Knowledge of 19<sup>th</sup> century deportment, manners, and appearances is helpful. Scripts for speaking parts are provided.

**Grand Hall Reception:** The tour ends at the Grand Hall where visitors are served snacks and drinks and are given the opportunity to help decorate a tree, dance, or listen to music. Grand Hall workers help with these activities.

