



# From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”

## ADJUTANT’S REPORT

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*By Galen R. Ewing*

A special thanks to for all of you who contributed to the Civil War Encampment. Volunteers took on many tasks that week-end including program presentation, working the Visitor’s Center, counting visitors, and working behind the scenes in the Magic Room. Although the rain put a damper on visitation, as always special thanks to the Holmes Brigade and the 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry for excellent programs.

Memorial Day week-end and Good Ol’ Days is just a few weeks away. We can use volunteers for assisting with these days. If you would like to help on Memorial Day week-end contact Barry.

The theme for Good Ol’ Days this year is the American Indian: Then and Now. I can use volunteers in support roles for Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. If interested please Contact me and we go over the details.

## From the Bear’s Den

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*By Barak Geertsen*

Thanks to all who have volunteered this spring for our education programs. We have had a busy spring with about 2400 students attending education programs over a period of four weeks. Our SCAs and seasonal rangers have done a great job stepping up to the plate and presenting school programs as have students from Nevada High School and Erie High School. Tim Field has also helped out with our medical program a couple of times this spring. Lois Pendrak, the teacher who spearheaded Nevada High School’s involvement in our education programs for the past thirteen years is retiring this year and we would like to thank her for her efforts.

We are now gearing up for Memorial Day Weekend. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help. Michelle Martin will be doing training for period cooking Saturday morning and laundress Saturday afternoon, so those who would like to be trained in those two skills are invited to show up for that. We will also be firing artillery all three days that weekend and will have a mounted horse demonstration on Saturday. On Monday, one of our SCAs, Heidi Hansen will be presenting a brand new program on Civil War music which will include her playing the bugle.

## Memorial Day Weekend Schedule

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### Saturday, May 26, 2012

- 10:00 a.m. Securing the Perimeter: Guard Duty at Fort Scott
- 11:00 a.m. Thunder Wagon: Artillery Demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. Hardy, Dashing Looking Fellows: Mounted Demonstration
- 1:00 p.m. Guided Tour
- 2:00 p.m. Saws and Scalpels: 1840s Medicine
- 2:30 p.m. Letters From the Edge: 1840s Officers Wives
- 3:00 p.m. Washboarding: Life of an 1840s Laundress
- 3:30 p.m. Fallen Fort Scott Officers – Artillery Demonstration
- 4:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

### Sunday, May 27, 2012

- 11:00 a.m. Thunder Wagon: Artillery Demonstration
- 11:30 a.m. At the Ready: The Letters of Charlotte Swords. Officer's wife
- 12:00 p.m. Brass, Felt and Feathers: The Post Sutler at Fort Scot
- 1:00 p.m. Guided Tour
- 2:00 p.m. Flash flood: fort Scott and Westward Expansion
- 2:30 p.m. Mourning Noon and Night: Victorian Mourning Customs
- 3:00 p.m. Thunder Wagon: Artillery Demonstration
- 4:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

### Monday, May 28, 2012

- 11:00 a.m. Thunder Wagon: Artillery Demonstration
- 12:00 p.m. Letters From the Edge: 1840s Officer's Wives
- 1:00 p.m. Guided Tour
- 2:00 p.m. Hardtack and Coffee for the Soul: Civil War Music
- 2:30 p.m. Memorial Day Program
- 3:00 p.m. Moment of Silence
- 4:00 p.m. Flag Retreat

## Some New and Some New But Familiar Faces

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### Lucy Marquardt

**H**ello! My name is Lucy Marquardt and I am one of the SCA interns for the spring/early summer season. I am from Tomah, Wisconsin but have recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I have a BA in Broad Field Social Studies-History and a minor in music. I love to travel and experience new places. I spent a semester in Winchester, England and left a part of heart there. Someday I hope to return and leave more of it.

In my free time I like to watch movies and old TV shows, eat and research the Civil War. I started Civil War reenacting a couple of years ago but it is taking me a while to decide on and design an impression. I'm interested in so many areas of Civilian life and I want to be as authentic as possible. The community of people I'm getting to know is truly wonderful. Friendships that will last a lifetime! When I'm not obsessing about the Civil War I enjoy perfecting my musical skills with the piano, flute and guitar or watching/reading historical dramas of all kinds.

I'm enjoying my time here in Fort Scott. It reminds me a lot of my hometown which is only slightly larger. The people I've met have been very nice and helpful. I'm looking forward to learning more about my co-workers and their careers with the NPS as well as the many wonderful volunteers that help the site. Thank you to all involved with the park for this wonderful education opportunity. I'm sure I'll go home with a great experience and an even deeper love for the National Park Service! ☺

### **Heidi Hansen**

**H**i! I'm Heidi. I'm one of the SCA interns here at the fort. I'm a California Girl and this is the first time I have lived in a small town. I am enjoying small town life so far. I graduated in December of 2011 with my bachelor's degree in Public and Oral History at California State University, San Bernardino. I am planning on attending California State University, Fullerton in September to obtain my master's degree in Public History, and hope to enter a PhD program after that. After I finish school, I would like to design exhibits for museums and make documentaries for the public.

Aside from studying history, I enjoy eating healthy and I have been known to spend hours on some days working out at the gym. I particularly like Power lifting and Olympic lifting, cross fit workouts, and running. My goal is to complete a half marathon before the end of the year. I also enjoy dancing. My favorite kind of dancing is swing dancing. I have yet to enter into a dance competition, but hope to someday. I also enjoy watching movies. I like to watch historical documentaries and historical fiction, but most of the movies I watch are old classics. My favorite genres are westerns, especially John Wayne, James Stewart, and Lee Van Cleef westerns, and musicals with Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Gordon MacRae.

### **Jackie D. Messer**

#### **Career with the National Park Service:**

Jackie Messer is a 35 years career National Park Service employee returning to Fort Scott after 2 ½ years in Oklahoma. He is married to Dottie Messer who also will be working at the Fort. They have one son living in Fort Scott.

#### **Positions Held:**

Facility Manager - Chickasaw National Recreation Area (2 ½ years)  
Facility Manager - Fort Scott National Historic Site (7 1/2 years)  
Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor - Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (8 years)  
Buildings and Utilities Supervisor - Grand Tetons National Park (3 years)  
Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor - Natchez Trace Parkway (4 years)  
Utility Systems Operator - Big Bend National Park (3 years)  
Utility Systems Operator - Mount Rainier National Park (3 years)  
Sewage Plant Operator - Shenandoah National Park (4 years)

In addition to being a Facility Manager he has been a Safety Officer for the Central, Midwest, and Intermountain All Hazard Incident Response Teams. Some of the deployments are Hurricanes Rita, Wilma, Isabelle, Floyd, the Greater Sioux Conference, Piedrata SAR, and The Mississippi Canyon Oil spill.

He states he was sitting in a third grade class when he first heard of something called the National Park Service. They sounded like wonderful distant spots that only existed for someone else. When he was nineteen and he visited his first national park and discovered the wonders that were truly there. From that experience he wanted to be a part of preserving, protecting, and sharing the National Parks. There are so many kids and adults out there who really don't know about National Park Service. For that reason, if none other, they must be preserved and protected.

## Dottie Messer

Well, here I am back at Fort Scott. Spent the last 2 ½ years at Chickasaw National Recreation area. Worked fees there for a while and then went to administration. Other parks that I have worked at include Natchez Trace Parkway, Big Bend National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Every park has had something special but Fort Scott is home.

Hopefully, we'll be back in our house soon, and I can get back into gardening. Last summer I couldn't get a tomato to grow in Oklahoma. Looks like summer is just around the corner and we'll be back in the full swing of things. Be sure to stop by and say HI.

## Rodney Blanton

I was born in Harlan, Kentucky, one of nine children. I got my first job at the age of 14 at the local theater and joined the Army at age 17. After the Army I worked at several jobs before accepting a job in the restaurant business. Almost 23 years later I retired at 53. My wife and I became full-time RV'er for the next four years during which time I went to work for the Park Service. Fort Scott NHS is the 14th different Park Service sites that I have worked.

I live in the country outside of a small town in Central Kentucky. I have an Associate Degree in Business Administration with a major in accounting.

# **The Confounding Nature of National Park Designations**

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*By Bill Fischer, Historian*

## **The Confounding Nature of National Park System Unit Designation**

If the National Park Service (NPS) administers the National Park System, why then is Fort Scott a “National Historic Site” and not a “National Park”? The numerous designations within the National Park System are confusing to the point that the public may not even know that a certain “park” or “site” is an NPS unit. I found this out first hand while staffing the NPS booth at the 2010 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. Time and again a fair-goer stopped by and was surprised to learn that there are five “National Parks” in Kansas, although none go by that name. But not everything with “National” in its title is part of NPS.

Specific name designations are determined by the U.S. Congressional enabling legislation authorizing a site or by Presidential fiat when proclaiming a “National Monument.” While unit names are often descriptive and easily understood, such as Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield, or Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, others cannot be so neatly characterized. Most Americans have at least heard of Yellowstone and Grand Canyon and recognize them as “National Parks,” but little Nicodemus National Historic Site, now barely a crossroads on the windblown north-central Kansas prairie is also part of the National Park System. And Nicodemus holds equal legal standing with those great icons of the National Park System. Here are the more common NPS unit designations and the general reasoning behind their use:

**National Park (NP)** – generally large natural places having a wide variety of attributes, including significant cultural (i.e. historic) resources; such as Glacier NP in MT.

**National Monument (NM)** – the Antiquities Act of 1906 authorized the President to declare landmarks, structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on publically owned/controlled lands to be national monuments; such as George Washington Carver NM in MO. Furthermore, NMs are also administered by the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service.

**National Historic Site (NHS)** – usually contains a single historic feature. The designation derives from the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and is typically authorized by act of Congress; such as Fort Scott NHS, Fort Larned NHS, Nicodemus NHS, and Brown vs. Board of Education NHS, all in KS.

**National Historic Park (NHP)** – generally applies to historic parks that extend beyond single properties or buildings; such as Valley Forge NHP.

**National Memorial (NMem)** – is commemorative of a historic person or event and need not occupy a site historically connected with its subject; such as Mount Rushmore NMem.

**National Battlefield (NB)** – is confusing because there are several variations on the theme, including National Battlefield Park, National Military Park, and National Battlefield Site, which all commemorate battles of national significance; such as Gettysburg National Military Park.

**National Preserve (NPres)** – protected public areas where certain activities not allowed in National Parks, including public hunting, trapping, and oil and gas exploration may be permitted; such as Big Cypress NPres in FL. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a unique partnership between NPS and the Nature Conservancy.

**National Recreation Area (NRA)** – designates public natural areas that provide outdoor recreation opportunities in places where recreation demand is not being met through other programs, yet are consistent with related Federal natural and cultural resource programs; such as Lake Mead NRA. This category is further confused because several Federal agencies manage such areas that also are known by National Lakeshore, National Seashore, National River, National River and Recreation Area, Scenic and Recreational River, and National Scenic Riverways.

**National Scenic, Historic, or Recreational Trail** – part of the **National Trails System** which promote, preserve, and provide public access to enjoy and appreciate our nation’s natural and cultural resources not found in one specific location; such as the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and Appalachian National Scenic Trail. These differ from **Parkways (Pkwy)** such as the Blue Ridge Pkwy, but I won’t get into that. These are also multi-agency administered.

If you are not yet confounded, there is also the **National Wild and Scenic River** program, with multi-agency management, that protects notable rivers while providing limited recreational opportunities. Furthermore, there are nearly 50 **National Heritage Areas**, that are enacted by act of Congress and managed by NPS but are not units of the National Park System. **National Cemeteries** are typically administered by the VA, although NPS does manage a few, such as Vicksburg National Cemetery. And finally, there are some unique unit designations; **Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine** and **Saint Croix International Historic Site** – in Maine, not the Virgin Islands (although NPS has sites there too).

Hope this clarifies things for you. If not, then just get out and enjoy them, whatever they are called. After all, they belong to you!

## Safety Sense

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*Thanks to Susie Staples*

## Skin, Eyes and the Sun

### **M**ay is Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month

Along with warmth and light, the sun also produces ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which can cause sunburn, wrinkles, sunspots, cataracts and skin cancer, and probably contributes to macular degeneration. The tan was once a symbol of health, but now has been shown to be the result of exposure to dangerous UV radiation.

There are many ways to protect yourself from skin cancer and other sun damage. Using sunscreen, covering up and wearing sunglasses that block UV rays will help you enjoy the sunshine safely.

Some UV radiation, however, is important for the body to make vitamin D, which helps in the absorption of calcium and phosphorus. The World Health Organization says that 5 to 15 minutes of sun on the hands, face and arms two to three times a week during the summer is adequate for this.

### Use sunscreen

Choose a sunscreen that contains both UVA and UVB protection. Look for the words "broad spectrum sunscreen" or ingredients such as micronized zinc oxide, titanium oxide and avobenzone on the label.

Wear sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 whenever you go outdoors. It's best to apply sunscreen about 20 to 30 minutes before going outside so your skin has time to absorb it. You should reapply sunscreen often, especially after exercising or swimming.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, most people don't use enough sunscreen. The average-sized person needs at least one ounce --about two tablespoons --of sunscreen to cover his or her body.

Studies show the sun exposure is greater when it's reflected by water, snow or concrete, so use sunscreen and wear sunglasses even while sitting under an umbrella.

### Cover up

Here are more guidelines to protect your skin:

- Wear a hat with a brim that's at least four inches wide. Baseball caps don't protect your ears or neck.
- Wear protective clothing that covers your neck, arms and legs. Fabrics with a tight weave help block sunlight.
- Limit the amount of time you spend in the sun between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For more information: [www.melanomamonday.org](http://www.melanomamonday.org)

## Glimpses of the Past

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By Robert Thomas

### "Thus was the Soldier's Burial"

**S**unday, May 18, 1862 – from the journal of Capt. Charles W. Porter, Co. F, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry  
"After inspection and at the hour of 11 o'clock I witnessed the burial of our fellow soldier of Co. D. He was buried with military honors which was solemn and impressive and in the following manner: there were eight privates commanded by a corporal and marched to the front of the hospital and formed in two ranks with arms at the shoulder. On the appearance of the corpse, which is borne by six pallbearers, the corporal commands "present arms." The coffin is taken to the right and halted. The corporal then commands "Shoulder arms, by company left wheel. Then "march" when the escort moves off proceeded by a band of music.

The coffin is now drawn by or in an ambulance. The escort with arms reversed by bringing the firelock under the left arm, butt to the front, barrel downward, left hand sustaining the lock, the right steadying the firelock behind the back, they then march in slow time to solemn music.

On reaching the grave the escort was ordered to "right wheel into line" opposite the grave. The coffin is then brought to the front to the opposite side of the grave and halted. The corporal then commanded the escort to "shoulder arms" then "present arms" and when the coffin was placed at the grave, the command was "shoulder" and then "rest in arms" which was done by placing the muzzle on the left foot, both hands on the butt, then their heads on their hands or bowed and right knee bent. The Chaplain then performed his service and the coffin lowered into the grave.



**The command was then “attention” then “shoulder arms” then load at will, after which three rounds were fired over the grave. This being done, they then wheeled to the right into line and marched away in quick time, the band playing a lively tune or air. Thus was the soldier’s burial.”**

I would like to give a big thank you to Arnold Schofield, former historian at Fort Scott National Historic Site, for providing the above excerpt from Capt. Porter’s Journal. Arnold, along with some volunteers, transcribed the original journal which was published, in part, and is available at the bookstore under the title “*In the Devil’s Dominion*”. The published journal begins in June of 1862, so the above excerpt is not included.

## **Good Ol’ Days, Saturday, June 2, 2012**

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**A**s American Indians were being removed west of the states of Arkansas and Missouri, Fort Scott was established in 1842 to enforce the “permanent Indian frontier”, where the relocated tribes’ new land would be protected from white settlement. Once Kansas became a state, many of these tribes once again were forced to remove to new lands. Over the years, the American Indians have struggled to adapt to a new lifestyle while retaining their culture and traditions. These traditions help them to persevere and continue to grow stronger today. Take a Teepee tour, participate in Indian games and try your hand with hide and shield painting at the Indian craft area. Take part in Indian Dancing and listen to traditional music performed by the Oklahoma Fancy Dancers. Learn the history and lore of the Shawnee presented by Eastern Shawnee Chief Glenna Wallace. Come to Good Ol’ Days at Fort Scott National Historic Site and join us in honoring the American Indian, then and now.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

11:00 am – The American Buffalo: Supermarket on the Plains – Prairie State Park Ranger

12:30 pm – “Quilt of the Morning Star” - American Indian Quilts – Mildred Jordt of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes

1:30 pm –Shawnee Tribal History – Chief Glenna Wallace

2:30 pm – Oklahoma Fancy Dancers – American Indian Dancing

3:30 pm – “Quilt of the Morning Star” - American Indian Star Quilt - Mildred Jordt of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes

6:30 pm – Oklahoma Fancy Dancers – American Indian Dancing

**UNITED STATES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**  
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