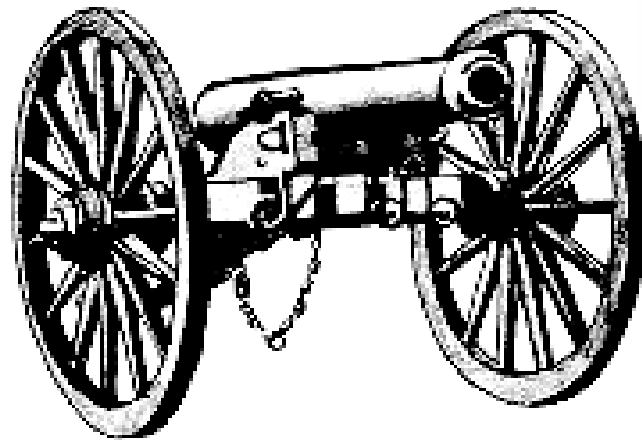




# From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”

## Adjutant’s Report

By Galen Ewing



Thanks to all the volunteers and staff for another successful Candlelight Tour! Figures show that 117 VIPs donated 1,083 hours. The quality of this program continues to shine, largely thanks to your continued support with this Special Event! Next year we will continue honoring the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with scenes focusing on the year 1865.

Saturday, January 24 plan on coming to the park and enjoy food and festivities by attending the annual volunteer banquet. This year, 473 volunteers donated 10,720 hours supporting Fort Scott National Historic Site! This is our opportunity to thank all of you for helping make 2014 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. We look forward to hearing from you.

RSVP by calling Janette or me at 620-223-0310 or email me at [galen\\_ewing@nps.gov](mailto:galen_ewing@nps.gov) by January 18th. I know it is a short turnaround but hope you can make it.

If you haven’t heard, Chief Ranger Kelley Collins retired from Federal Service on January 2, 2015. She has helped guide our interpretive staff for over 20 years and we will miss her guidance.

# Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

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*By Reed Hartford*

2014 was a full and exciting year at the National Historic Site and for the Friends. In a joint effort with the NHS we received a grant to present four films in the *Created Equal* civil rights series. Early in the year “The Abolitionists” was presented with a discussion lead by Professor Diane Mutti Burke from UMKC. In the coming year we anticipate presenting additional films in this series.

In April our annual Friends Fest honored longtime friend and volunteer Anne Emerson for her many projects which have enhanced the Fort Scott NHS experience for visitors. Most recently she conceived and helped implement the Symbols of Sacrifice observance for the second successful year.

In July it was again the privilege of the Friends to serve Home Made Ice Cream to visitors during the Fourth of July weekend. This has become one of our favorite projects of the year.

September brought Symbols of Sacrifice with the nearly 7000 American flags on the Parade Ground for the second year, followed just two weeks later with our 4th consecutive Naturalization Ceremony on the Parade Ground. The Friends are always honored to offer these new citizens their first lunch as U.S. citizens.

The Candlelight Tour was a wonderful success this year with over 500 visitors over the two nights. Again this year the Friends hosted the reception in the Grand Hall at the end of the tour.

In 2014, our membership campaign was very successful. We appreciate all who support our endeavors through your membership and volunteer efforts. If you are not yet a member of the Friends please consider joining as we advocate for Fort Scott National Historic Site in the community, and represent the community to the National Park Service.

## Kelley’s Retirement Message

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On January 2, I donned my Chief Ranger hat and badge for the last time. After nearly 33 years with the National Park Service, 23 of them at Fort Scott National Historic Site, it is time to slow down a bit and pursue other interests. It has been a fulfilling career. One of the most rewarding aspects of this job has been working with you all. I appreciate your dedication and passion in sharing Fort Scott’s story, assisting our visitors, and caring for the park resources. I am amazed by your talents and selfless contribution of your time. Thanks for all your help and friendship through the years. Next time you see me I will be wearing a different hat as I plan to join your ranks as a V.I.P. (Volunteer-in-Parks), helping where I can. See you around the fort!

Kelley Collins

# FOSC Partners on BSA Historic Trails Award

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*By Bill Fischer*



Fort Scott National Historic Site recently partnered with the Ozark Trails Council's Mo-Kan District during its Fall Camporee in Fort Scott to enable scouts to earn the coveted BSA historic trails award.

The award requires scout units to locate a historic trail or site and study about it, then hike or camp two days and one night along the trail or in the vicinity of the site. The unit then works with a group, in this case park staff, to restore and mark the trail or site, or perform a public event related to the site or trail.

Boys and leaders from six troops across the five county Mo-Kan District, which straddles the Missouri-Kansas (Mo-Kan) border, participated. Besides conducting flag raising and retreat ceremonies using the large garrison flag on the site's historic parade ground and performing service which helped the site prepare for its candlelight tour, the units toured the fort with site historian Bill Fischer (a scout district commissioner) and park ranger Barry Geertsen (former local scoutmaster) to learn more about its history.

Going the extra mile, the units also researched another historic trail that traversed the four-state region. The scouts gave public presentations on the Santa Fe Trail, the Cherokee Trail of Tears, the Pottawatomie Trail of Death, the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, Zebulon Pike's journey to the Rockies, and the Fort Leavenworth-Fort Gibson Military Road that traversed the area adjacent to the park. District Cub Scout packs were encouraged to visit the site and participate in the Junior Ranger program as well as spend time in camp learning scouting skills.

With support from the City of Fort Scott, the scouts camped just northwest of the park at the newly-developed Marmaton Riverfront Park. Despite overcast weather, the predicted precipitation stayed away and allowed the scouts to enjoy an evening presentation by the river, with retired park historian Arnold Schofield spinning yarns about Fort Scott during the tumultuous Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War eras.

The scouts, sated by the warm gooeyness of s'mores, were held spellbound by Arnold's tales of intrigue, his towering presence accentuated by the light cast from the flickering flames of a crackling campfire. The next morning as the boys broke camp a bald eagle silently soared overhead, bringing a fitting end to a weekend of fun and learning.

# Safety Sense

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By Galen Ewing

Winter driving can be hazardous and scary, especially in northern regions that get a lot of snow and ice. Additional preparations can help make a trip safer, or help motorists deal with an emergency. This sheet provides safety information to help prevent motor vehicle injuries due to winter storms.

*The Three P's of Safe Winter Driving:*

» **PREPARE** for the trip; » **PROTECT** yourself; and » **PREVENT** crashes on the road.

## » **PREPARE**

**Maintain Your Car:** Check battery, tire tread, and windshield wipers, keep your windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, and check your antifreeze.

**Have On Hand:** flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.

**Stopped or Stalled?** Stay with your car, don't over exert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you run your car, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

**Plan Your Route:** Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and expected arrival time.

## **Practice Cold Weather Driving!**

- During daylight, rehearse maneuver slowly on the ice or snow in an empty lot
- Steer into a skid
- Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes
- Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space such as a garage

## » **PROTECT YOURSELF**

- Buckle up and use child safety seats properly
- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag
- Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat

## » **PREVENT CRASHES**

- Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving
- Slow down and increase distances between cars
- Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road
- Avoid fatigue – get plenty of rest before the trip, take a break at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible
- If you are planning to drink alcohol, designate a sober driver

# 2015 Schedule of Activities

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March 7

*The Things They Carried Home* preservation workshop

March 21

*Shared Stories of the Civil War: The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War*

April 18-19

Civil War Encampment

May 23-25, July 4-5, September 5-7 Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day weekends

Highlights in History

June 6

Good Ol' Days – Outdoor Recreation Theme

June 27

*Shared Stories of the Civil War – Compromise to Conflict: Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska Act*

July 27-31, August 3-7

Trailblazers Day Camp for Kids

September 11-17

Symbols of Sacrifice

September 25

Citizenship Ceremony

October 24

*Created Equal* Civil Rights film and discussion series – Slavery by Another Name

December 4-5

Candlelight Tour

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