



Adjutant's Report

By Galen Ewing

Thanks to Joyce Gobl, Pauline Farra, and Suzanne Street for assisting in handing out Visitor Survey Cards. This annual survey provides valuable information to improve visitor services, protect natural and cultural resources, and increase management efficiency at Fort Scott National Historic Site.

Labor Day weekend is fast approaching. This is our opportunity to educate visitors on soldiers and women performing labor at a time before Labor Day was a national holiday. If you are interested in helping out, please give Barry a call at 620-223-0310 or email Barry at barak_geertsen@nps.gov

Mark your calendar for Friday, September 29 for an Immigration and Naturalization ceremony on the Fort Parade Ground. We expect over 100 new men and women from all over the world to be sworn in as U.S. citizens that day. This momentous event will begin at 10:30 a.m. Please give me call if you are willing to help with this event.

Also, it is time to think about Candlelight Tour 2017! Deadline for returning forms (see below) is October 22 but by all means get them back earlier if you can. Thanks.

Eastern National Announces the 2018 Passport To Your National Parks® Photo Contest

FORT WASHINGTON, PA, July 17, 2017: Eastern National is pleased to announce the 2018 Passport To Your National Parks® Photo Contest. The contest is open to active National Park Service employees and Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs). Ten winning national park photos will be featured on the 2018 Passport To Your National Parks® annual stamp series—nine by Passport geographic regions and one National Stamp.

The photographer of each winning photo will receive \$500, or if the photo was taken on government time, \$500 will be donated to the interpretive program of the photographer's park. Park employees and VIPs are encouraged to submit photos taken during special events or anniversaries, and a brief description of the photo should accompany each submission. Images will be judged on quality, interpretive merit, and appropriateness of the subject matter.

FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

From "the Crack Post of the Frontier"

Parks that have been previously featured on the annual Passport stamps are not eligible. Submissions must be received by Eastern National in Fort Washington PA by August 25, 2017, and must be reproduction quality color originals in the form of a 35mm slide, color print, 4" x 5" transparency or 300dpi .TIFF or JPEG file on cd or thumbdrive. Submissions will not be returned to the photographer. The winners of the 2018 Passport To Your National Parks® Photo Contest will be announced in November 2017.

Eastern National reserves the right to select photos from other sources, should there be a lack of appropriate submissions. By submitting photos for this contest, photographers release the rights of their photos to Eastern National for promotional purposes. Submissions should be mailed to: Eastern National, ATTN: Passport Photo Contest, 470 Maryland Drive, Suite 1, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

News From the Bear's Den

By Barak Geertsen



When Day Turns to Night

By Tiffany Durham

The day starts out with a bright and wonderful sun, in a blink of an eye, the sky darkens and the sun disappears. Everything is still, an eerie silence lingers. For Centuries this phenomenon has inspired curiosity, fear, beliefs of evil spirits, Myths and legends.

On Monday August 21, 2017, millions of people across the United States, will get to witness this unique experience; a Total Solar Eclipse. During a Total Solar Eclipse, the moon gets in the way of the Sun's rays and completely blocks out the sun. Then a 100 mile wide shadow is cast down over the Earth turning the day into night.ⁱ As this occurrence happens, stars and planets can become visible.

Eclipses are thought to be a rare spectacle, but despite popular belief, they occur every 18 months somewhere in the world. The last Total Solar Eclipse to reach the portions of the United States was in 1979, and the last Total Eclipse to cross the whole United States (west Coast to East Coast) was in 1918. Though this event happens often, due to the rotation of the earth, moon, and sun, on average it will take an average of 375 years for the eclipses to roughly occur in the same area againⁱⁱ.

Fort Scott National Historic Site may not be in the complete totality path of the solar eclipse, but we will have the ability to see a pretty spectacular Partial Eclipse. Come join us on **August 21, 2017 from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm** as we celebrate when the day turns to night. Eclipse glasses will be available on a first come, first serve bases.

Eclipse Safety

- Be patient with other people, as millions will be watching this event and looking upwards instead of in front of them
- Sunlight from the Eclipse is so powerful, that looking directly at the sun's rays cause damage to your eyes, on a rare occasion blindness
- Don't use sun glasses to look up at the eclipse, they don't have a specific ISO 12312-2 filter to block out the sun rays during an eclipse and will cause damage to your eyes
- Don't look through cameras, binoculars, or telescopes without a proper sun filter, as the reflection can damage your eyes and your equipment
- Make sure your eclipse glasses have **meets ISO12312-2 requirements stamped on them**. There are several companies that are producing eclipse glasses without the proper requirements. These glasses have been known to cause harm in your eyesight

i Information obtained from <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/eclipses/en>
ii www.space.com

A Glimpse into the Past

By Robert Thomas

“As we write this paragraph a gigantic thundercloud with ebon feet and crests of snow is lifting its shaggy front in the northwest like the ivory crowned battlements of some ancient ruin whose frown terrified the glance its magnificence attracted. The black wings of this storm demon stretching away on either hand half way around the earth and the distant but terrible grumble and rumble and roar presents a scene of magnificence beyond the power of man to equal.

We can't think of anything equal to it unless it be a couple of cats courting under your bedroom window.”

Fort Scott Democrat, June 3, 1865

Captains Terrett's Problem

By Gary Herrmann



B. A. Terrett, of the United States Dragoons

Burdette Ashton Terrett was born August 21, 1812 and died March 17, 1845. He was raised in a military family and was to become part of the 1st Regiment of Dragoons as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1834. This was an honor as he was one of only four officers to transfer from the Mounted Rangers to the Dragoons without being a West Point graduate. By June, 1842 he had become Captain of Company A 1st Dragoons stationed at Camp Scott, later named Fort Scott, Indian Territory and remained there until his death. His career seems to have moved forward in a very positive manner, but he had one problem that would trouble him for almost half of his time in the Army.

On Oct. 23rd, 1840 Captain Lewis posted Order #77 from Fort Jesup, La. The order contained five sections the fourth of which became the problem. “IV----Capt. B. A. Terrett Asst. Quarter Master will furnish the necessary transportation for the Staff, Non Com. Staff, Band, & Books & papers of the Regiment, and Companies ‘D’ & ‘E’ including the authorized allowance of Laundresses.”

Captain Terrett began the process of procuring wagons for the task. He certified with each voucher that he had employed a “wagon for purpose of transporting the baggage of a detachment of the 3rd Inf. viz. Companies D. E. non-com & Staff & Laundresses from Fort Jesup to Alexandria La. for the sum of Eighty Eight Dollars.” Captain Terrett employed fourteen different wagons for the transfer. The transfer was completed and paid for by the middle of November 1840.

We have no record but prior to the fall of 1841 General Jesup, Quarter Master of the Army, denied the need for fourteen wagons and stated eight would have completed the job, therefore Captain Terrett must pay back to the U.S. Army \$528, the cost for the extra six wagons. Captain Terrett begins to fight back against the ruling by having the Adjutant, 3rd Inf. Lieutenant P. M. Bartous write to General Jesup certifying the circumstances under which the move was made. On September 9, 1841 Bartous wrote, “I do hereby certify that the almost impossible state of the road and the large quantity of baggage to be transported (which owing to the removal of the command to a distant part of the country was allowed and which could not have been left without considerable individual pecuniary sacrifice) rendered necessary the employment of all the wagons which Capt Terrett did employ and although the teams were not heavily loaded the command had frequently to help them out of the mud. ... Capt Terrett was directed to transport the Laundresses and their children who owing to the wretched state of the road could not possibly have walked. This required one large wagon. ...from his correctness and adherence to the requirements of the Regulations in the discharge of his official duties, I am satisfied that he must have had on order. Besides the Camp Equipage and baggage of the command the chests and desks containing the Regimental Books and papers (which of themselves required more than one wagon), the Company desks, 17 days subsistence for 200 men and several pieces of clothing were directed to be transported. In short the transportation furnished was barely sufficient for the command – it could not have moved with less”.

When the Adjutant, 3rd Infantry stands squarely behind your actions surely the Quarter Master of the Army will listen and stop making demands to return the \$528. However, on January 20, 1844 Capt Terrett, in a letter to T. P. Andrews wrote “I received a few mails ago from the 3rd Auditor’s office the enclosed statement of differences amounting to \$528 being for the hire of 6 Teams which was a part of the transportation furnished a detachment of the 3rd Infy in 1840 from Fort Jesup to Alexandria, La on this route to Florida. The Q. M. Genl in his remarks herewith enclosed says that “The employment of more than 8 Teams cannot be sanctioned unless it is made to appear that more were absolutely necessary.”

After almost 4 years the Quarter Master Department was still looking to recover the \$528 from Capt. B. A. Terrett.

The Capt. B. A. Terrett problem will be completed in the next newsletter...

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

With the heat of the Summer upon us, the following tips are good to consider to keep you safe...

Sun Safety

With one in five Americans developing skin cancer, childhood education about sun safety is a vital step toward reducing risk and improving public health. Overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays seriously threatens human health. Besides the immediate effect of sunburn, over time excess UV radiation can cause skin cancer, eye damage, immune system suppression, and premature aging. About 23 percent of lifetime sun exposure occurs before the age of 18. Learning about sun safety and dangers of sunbeds is the key to reducing the risk of future health problems.

Water Safety

According to National Safety Council Injury Facts, 3,858 people died in 2008 due to drowning, including swimming and water transport accidents. More than one in five drowning victims are children 14 years-old and younger, and for every child who dies from drowning, another four receive emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries. Most drowning and near-drowning incidents happen when a child falls into a pool or is left alone in the bathtub.

Surviving the Hot Weather

Heat illness includes a range of disorders that result when your body is exposed to more heat than it can handle. Anybody not accustomed to hot weather is at risk of suffering from heatstroke (the most serious and life-threatening heat-related illness) as well as heat exhaustion and heat cramps.

Candlelight Tour

We are recruiting volunteers for the 2017 Candlelight Tour, Dec 1 & 2. 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. 1 _____

I can help Saturday, Dec. 2 _____

I can help both nights _____

Assignments

Visitor Center:

Greet visitors: _____

Mark tickets: _____

Timekeeper: _____

Desk: _____

Tour Leader: _____

Tour Follower: _____

Living History Scene Roles:

Civilian speaking role _____

Civilian non-speaking _____

Military speaking role _____

Military non-speaking _____

Grand Hall Reception

Greeter _____ Decorator _____

Server _____ Other _____

I will do anything _____

Volunteer meetings will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m. or Saturday, Nov. 11 at 2:00 p.m. Assignments, background material and scripts will be distributed at the meetings. Living history clothing can also be checked out after the meeting.

Please return the form to P.O. Box 918, Fort Scott, KS 66701, call 620-223-0310, or e-mail us at galen_ewing@nps.gov by **October 21**.

PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
P.O. BOX 918
FORT SCOTT, KS 66701-0918

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

