



From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”

Adjutant’s Report

By Galen R. Ewing

Thanks to all the volunteers and staff for another successful Candlelight Tour! Figures show that 116 VIPs donated 1032 hours. The quality of this program continues to shine as expressed from many favorable visitor comments! We really appreciate your help with this quality event and look forward for your help next year.

Saturday, February 5 will be the annual volunteer banquet. This is our opportunity to thank all of you who helped make 2010 such a success for Fort Scott National Historic Site. **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 by January 29th.

“March to Glory” Event January 29-30

By Galen R. Ewing

January 20-30, 2011, Fort Scott National Historic Site will be hosting a special event commemorating the Sesquicentennial of two significant historical events. On January 29, 1861, Kansas became the 34th State of the Union. Captain Nathaniel Lyon and his company B, 2nd U.S. Infantry, were encamped at Fort Scott to keep peace between local partisan factions. On that same day, Lyon was ordered to defend the St. Louis Arsenal. Little did anyone know that as these soldiers marched east out of Fort Scott on February 1 that their journey would include Camp Jackson, the St. Louis Massacre, and the campaign culminating in the Battle of Wilson’s Creek where Nathaniel Lyon became the first Union General killed in the Civil War. Lyon’s crusade to save Missouri for the Union literally began at Fort Scott and was realized more than a year later after the Union victory at the Battle of Pea Ridge. Lyon and his men were the first saviors for the new State of Kansas.

If you would like to participate as town civilians for this event, please email me at galen_ewing@nps.gov or call me at 620-223-0310. If you can’t volunteer this weekend, please come and enjoy the wonderful programming. A schedule of activities is included in this newsletter.

Friends of Fort Scott NHS, Inc.

By Reed Hartford

As we move into 2011, we observe the first anniversary of the Friends of FSNHS, Inc. as an officially chartered Kansas non-profit organization. It's been an exciting and busy year. Last spring the IRS granted our status as a 501(c)(3) organization and three Board members attended a national gathering for NPS Cooperating Partners. This fall, our second annual dinner honored the "First Friends;" who as early as 1946 were hoping to preserve and restore the "old fort." We have also offered the second in our series of Gary Hawk Christmas ornaments.

The National Park Foundation (NPF) has approved a \$9,000 grant proposal entitled "Using Technology to Engage Students in the Stories of the Kansas-Missouri Border during the Sesquicentennial of Kansas and the Civil War." These funds will be used to; 1) distribute "Dreams and Dilemmas: Fort Scott and the Growth of a Nation" DVDs to Middle Schools throughout the Freedom's Frontier NHA, 2) sponsor an essay contest among Middle School students, and 3) encourage school groups to visit our National Historic Site. This will be a partnership between the Friends and the staff at Fort Scott NHS.

Another possible grant from NPF will be awarded to 7 Friends groups across the 7 NPS regions to help with initial organization and development needs. We are among the 21 finalists for this grant and hope to hear the final selection by the middle of January.

The Friends will be contributing to the "March to Glory / Kansas 150th Birthday" celebration at the Fort the weekend of January 29-30. We hope to see you there. Another event coming in February will be the mass reading of Lincoln's farewell speech on Friday, February 11, at 11am, the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's departure for Washington and his place in history.

New memberships in the Friends are always welcome. You can find us on Facebook and at friendsoffortscott.com.

Mass Reading of Lincoln's Farewell Address, 11 a.m., February 11, 2011

By Bill Fischer

On February 11, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln departed Springfield, Illinois, on his Inaugural journey to Washington, D.C. Lincoln made a short impromptu speech to the assembled crowd at the Great Western Depot before boarding his train.

The speech will be re-enacted at that same depot at 11 a.m. Central Standard Time on February 11, 2011, and organizers are inviting people from around the nation to join in and simultaneously read Lincoln's Farewell Address (only nine lines) through a variety of live media links that will be set up for that purpose. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, GateHouse Media, the National Park Service, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, and the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition encourage everyone to join in this simultaneous reading.

Fort Scott National Historic Site encourages the public to participate with us in the live **Guinness World Record™** attempt. The current record for reading aloud from the same document simultaneously occurred on December 13, 2006, when 223,363 participants at 909 venues did so across the United States.

Come join us at Fort Scott National Historic Site as we honor the memory of Abraham Lincoln and the symbolic beginning of his journey to save the nation from disunion. Please plan to arrive by 10:45 a.m. to receive your copy of the address as well as get final instructions before the simultaneous reading.

If you cannot join us, then consider organizing your own simultaneous reading event with local schools, home school groups, or service organizations. Specific information for organizing your own event can be found at <http://extras.sj-r.com/lincolndepot/>

Let's help remember the sacrifices of one of our greatest presidents.

Seize the Moment – Tips on Interpretation

By Barak Geertsen

This is a new feature in the newsletter that will focus on different interpretive techniques that will help you to “seize the moment” when talking to visitors and to help them connect to the meanings of Fort Scott and its stories. It is appropriate that we start the first year of the Civil War sesquicentennial by focusing on a technique known as sharing multiple points of view.

“To the victor belongs the spoils” is a well-known quote and it is true that history is often written from the victor’s point of view. History books often vilify the losing side in a battle or judge nineteenth century philosophies and actions from a 21st century perspective.

Much of the writing on the Civil War tends to take a point of view that paints either the South as a ‘wicked slaveholding aristocracy’ or the North as a dictatorial aggressor. Using multiple points of view in interpreting the Civil War can help the visitor understand the motivation and beliefs of all parties involved in the war. When looking at the beliefs and attitudes of various individuals, the goal is to help the visitors understand that point of view without the interpreter placing value judgments on history. Visitors are sovereign and should walk away with their own conclusions and beliefs, not the belief that the interpreter wants them to have. One way that I bring about multiple points of view in interpreting Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War is sharing the motivations behind the various parties. For example, on the topic of slavery, even though slavery is almost universally condemned today, I do not try to vilify the slave-owners; rather I explain their point of view of wanting the freedom to move wherever they wanted with their property. Likewise, I don’t like to paint the abolitionists as radicals; rather I show them as people of ‘strong beliefs’.

Even though the interpreter may have his or her own opinion on a subject, it is not the interpreter’s job to impose that opinion. Through careful research into people’s motivations, we can help visitors draw their own conclusions and not the ones that we want them to have.

National Historic Landmark Status

By Bill Fischer

Fort Scott National Historic Site received National Historic Landmark status in 1964. Just what does that mean? We all have visited places that have left us awestruck at their beauty, meaning, and significance. But only a select few are officially awarded the designation of “National Historic Landmark.” To be one

means that a building, site, object, structure, or district has been recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. While there are nearly 86,000 entities primarily having state or local significance listed in the more familiar National Register of Historic Places, there are fewer than 2,500 National Historic Landmarks (NHL, all of which are also in the National Register).

The National Historic Landmark program was established during the Great Depression as a result of the Historic Site Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-292). In similar fashion, the National Register was established through the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), during another period of turmoil highlighted by widespread highway development and urban renewal that was irreparably changing the face of cities, towns, and even the rural landscape. The National Park Service (NPS) administers both programs, but before a site can achieve NHL status, it must first be evaluated by the NPS National Historic Landmark Survey, forwarded for review by the NPS Advisory Board, then recommended to the Secretary of the Interior for designation.

Listing in the National Register or designation as a NHL requires private owner approval. Designation does not obligate owners to restore their property nor does it prevent owners from making structural changes, including demolition, even if the property is of national significance. However, NHL owners may find federal, state, and local grants, loans, or tax incentives available to help maintain or enhance the historic integrity of their property.

There are currently 23 NHLs in Kansas and 37 NHLs in Missouri. Besides Fort Scott, Kansas NHLs range from the Marais des Cygnes Massacre Site in Linn County to the Parker Carousel in Abilene to the Santa Fe Trail Remains in Ford County. Forts Larned and Leavenworth are the only other NHL frontier forts in the state. The nearest Missouri NHL to Fort Scott is the Osage Village Sites in Vernon County. Get out and enjoy these national treasures.

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

It's that time of year – yes, the cold and flu season! Influenza or "The Flu" is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. In 2009-2010, a new and very different flu virus (called 2009 H1N1) spread worldwide causing the first flu pandemic in more than 40 years. Flu is unpredictable, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from influenza:

Take time to get a flu vaccine.

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- While there are many different flu viruses, the flu vaccine protects against the three viruses that research suggests will be most common.
- The 2010-2011 flu vaccine will protect against an influenza A H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season.
- Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated against the flu as soon as the 2010-2011 season vaccine is available.

- People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older. Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- Vaccination also is important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to high risk people.
- Children younger than 6 months are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should be vaccinated instead.

Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. This is especially important after you go out in public and do things such as:
 - o Touch shopping carts
 - o Touch staircase hand rails
 - o Shake hands
 - o Utilize common areas or items such as restrooms or hand tools.
- Wash your hands or utilize hand sanitizer before and after eating or smoking.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.

Fort Scott National Historic Site Schedule of Activities for 2011

“March to Glory”

January 29-30

Reading of Lincoln Farewell Address

February 11

“Thundering Hooves on the Border”

Civil War Cavalry Weekend

April 16-17

Citizenship Ceremony

May 13

Highlights in History

May 28 - 30, July 2-4, September 3-5

Good Ol’ Days

June 4-5

Vignettes on Parade Evening Guided Tours

June – September TBA

Trailblazers Day Camp

August 1- 5

Candlelight Tour

December 2 - 3

For more information on these events, call 620-223-0310

Or visit our website at www.nps.gov/fosc

Daily Guided Tours

May 28 – September 5

Fort Scott National Historic Site

“March to Glory” January 29-30, 2011

Saturday, January 29

- 8:00 AM – Military camps open to public; roll call; drill; orders of the day
- 9:00 AM - **‘A Tale of Two Hotels’**: Fort Scott and Western Hotels open for business.
- 10:00 AM - **‘Lyon Meets the Press’**: Capt. Nathaniel Lyon meets with newspaper correspondents.
- 11:30 AM - **‘Seeding Civil War: Violence and Political Discourse in Bleeding Kansas’**: Interaction of free-state and pro-slavery partisans on parade ground, military summoned to keep the peace.
- 1:00 PM - **‘A State Born in Strife’**: Celebration of Kansas’ admission to the Union as the 34th State.
- 2:00 PM - **“Nathaniel Lyon and the Union Cause in Missouri, 1861”** – Dr. Bill Piston
- 3:00 PM - Music by the Gum Springs Serenaders
- 4:00 PM - Military retreat formation and flag lowering. Hotels closed for business.

Sunday, January 30

- 8:00 AM – Military camps open to public; roll call; drill; orders of the day
- 9:00 AM - **‘A Tale of Two Hotels’**: Fort Scott and Western Hotels open for business.
- 10:00 AM - **‘Maintaining Order & Discipline’**: Military formation to demote/promote corporals, deal with deserter.
- 11:30 AM - **‘Seeding Civil War: Violence and Political Discourse in Bleeding Kansas’**: Interaction of free-state and pro-slavery partisans on parade ground, military summoned to keep the peace.
- 2:00 PM - **‘Lyon’s March Toward Destiny’**: Military formed to march to Sedalia. Speeches, well wishes and thanks by period civilians to Captain Lyon and his men.