

Volume 29 Number 5

October 2015



FORT SCOTT NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE

From “the Crack Post of the Frontier”



Adjutant's Report

By Galen Ewing



Thanks for all of your volunteer support for various activities this year. Our fiscal year totals include 442 volunteers donating 9,241 hours! The precious time you donate helps Fort Scott National Historic Site continue to be one of top notch sites in the country.

Candlelight Tour is fast approaching. If you have not filled out the Candlelight Tour interest form from the August newsletter, I have enclosed another interest form in this newsletter. Please mail or email it to me by **October 24**. Tickets will go on sale Sunday, November 1. Ticket prices are \$8.00 and can be purchased with cash, personal check, or credit card (Master Card, Visa, or Discover). Please plan on attending one of the Candlelight Tour meetings: either **Wednesday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m.** or **Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m.**

Our new Chief Ranger, Holly Baker, will begin duty on Tuesday, October 12. As you will see with her biography, she is excited to be here.

Holly Baker



Hello! My name is Holly Baker and I am the new Chief of Interpretation at Fort Scott National Historic Site. I am very excited to be starting this new adventure and can't wait to meet everyone. I will be arriving in Fort Scott about the same time as this issue of the newsletter—in mid-October. I will share a little bit about my background as a way of introduction:

I grew up moving around the country in a military family, which may have planted a seed for a career moving around with the National Park Service. As a kid I lived in Louisiana, Germany, Arizona, Alaska, and Florida. Since leaving the nest, I have lived in Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah – and now Kansas! While earning a degree in biology at Florida State University, I discovered the field of Interpretation and was hooked. My first job after graduating was teaching students about marine life through a traveling aquarium program with live starfish, sea urchins, and crabs!

I joined the National Park Service in 1999 as a seasonal ranger at Grand Teton National Park. I led flower walks, geology talks, campfire programs, and generally got my fill of mountain hiking. After a few seasons, I headed to Bandelier National Monument in northern New Mexico. There I had a wonderful time learning about the ancestral Puebloan culture and people and got to enjoy the great cultural experiences of Santa Fe,

which was close by. I especially enjoyed attending Pueblo feast days and visiting the Georgia O’Keeffe museum.

In 2007, the red cliffs and canyons of Zion National Park became home. I served as a lead front-line ranger and then as the Operations Supervisor in the Division of Interpretation. I gained new professional experiences on-duty, like managing a large staff and busy visitor center, and had some unusual adventures off-duty, like rappelling down a narrow slot-canyon. After nine years I decided I was ready for a new adventure and a new challenge.

In my free time, I enjoy learning new things, exploring cultural attractions, and traveling the world. I like to think I have a decent sense of humor and enjoying laughing and try not to take life too seriously. I am very much looking forward to this next chapter in America’s Heartland. I am thrilled to be joining the team at Fort Scott and can’t wait to get started!

News from the Bear’s Den

By Barak Geertsen

I am quite thankful that it is October and we are experiencing cooler weather. I have been here at Fort Scott for 23 years and never have gotten to the point where I like the hot humid summers. It has been a very busy two months since the last newsletter with an evening tour in August, Labor Day Weekend, Symbols of Sacrifice, a teachers’ workshop and the Naturalization Ceremony. It took a lot of volunteer help to pull these events off.

During Labor Day weekend, I videotaped several of you telling why you like volunteering and National Parks. Our SCA intern, Chanda, is working on editing this video and it will be released soon, hopefully as part of the Midwest Region Find Your Park video series.

Another project involving technology that I have been working on is a mobile app. The National Park Service is developing mobile apps for a number of parks and Fort Scott will be among the first twenty or so that have mobile apps. The app will be designed for onsite visits primarily as an accessibility tool. Visitors will be able to access information, images, etc. using their smartphones.

Our exhibit installation is coming along nicely and by the time you get this should be just about ready to open to the public. The exhibits look to be very professionally made.

I hope to see many of you participating in our candlelight tour in December. We will be presenting 1865 scenes from Fort Scott history and our theme is A New Birth of Freedom.

Take care and enjoy this fall weather!

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

A special thanks to William C. Chapman, Facilities Operation Specialist at Fort Larned National Historic Site for contributing this article.

This page provides basic safety tips and how to what to do before, during and after a power outage.

Before a Power Outage

- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Make sure you have alternative charging methods for your phone or any device that requires power.
- Charge cell phones and any battery powered devices.
- Know where the manual release lever of your electric garage door opener is located and how to operate it.
- Purchase ice or freeze water-filled plastic containers to help keep food cold during a temporary power outage.
- Keep your car's gas tank full-gas stations rely on electricity to power their pumps.If you use your car to re-charge devices, do NOT keep the car running in a garage, partially enclosed space, or close to a home, this can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Learn about the emergency plans that have been established in your area by visiting your state's or local website so you can locate the closest cooling and warming shelters.
- If you rely on anything that is battery-operated or power dependent like a medical device determine a back-up plan.

During a Power Outage: Safety Tips

- Only use flashlights for emergency lighting, candles can cause fires.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Most food requiring refrigeration can be kept safely in a closed refrigerator for several hours. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.
- Take steps to remain cool if it is hot outside. In intense heat when the power may be off for a long time, consider going to a movie theater, shopping mall or "cooling shelter" that may be open in your community. If you remain at home, move to the lowest level of your home,

since cool air falls. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.

- Put on layers of warm clothing if it is cold outside. Never burn charcoal for heating or cooking indoors. Never use your oven as a source of heat. If the power may be out for a prolonged period, plan to go to another location (the home of a relative or friend, or a public facility) that has heat to keep warm.
- Turn off or disconnect appliances and other equipment in case of a momentary power “surge” that can damage computers and other devices. Consider adding surge protectors.
- If you are considering purchasing a generator for your home, consult an electrician or engineer before purchasing and installing.
- Only use generators away from your home and NEVER run a generator inside a home or garage, or connect it to your home's electrical system. For more information about generators visit:

After a Power Outage

- Throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40° F (4° C) for 2 hours or more or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. When in doubt, throw it out!
- If food in the freezer is colder than 40° F and has ice crystals on it, you can refreeze it.
- Contact your doctor if you're concerned about medications having spoiled.
- Restock your emergency kit with fresh batteries, canned foods and other supplies

FORT SCOTT CANDLELIGHT TOUR ASSISTANCE FORM

We are recruiting volunteers for the 2015 Candlelight Tour, Dec 4 & 5. 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. 4 _____

I can help Saturday, Dec. 5 _____

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. 4 at 5:30 p.m. or Saturday, Nov. 7 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 24**.

PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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