

FORT STANTON INC. NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2012



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

If you are not familiar with the Fort Stanton Garrison I encourage you to get familiar with it. Saturday April 21st was their first practice, which was open to the public. It was well done and well received by the many that enjoyed not only a beautiful day at the Fort but watching what it looked like in the "old days".

Fort Stanton Live 2012 is taking shape. If you would still like to be a part of this great weekend, contact Peggy, Charlotte, Betsy or me. There is much to do and we always welcome help. So, please get involved. Remember it is July 13, 14 and 15.

Hats off to Mike O'Rourke for volunteering to re do the park benches. The next project will be the picnic tables. If you would like to help Mike with this project, give him a call. Big news: Nick has volunteered to construct a TB tent, and it should be ready for Fort Stanton Live. This will be a great addition to the museum experience for our visitors.

Thanks are in order to Steve Duffy who is helping Fort Stanton by writing grant proposals, and two have been submitted to date. Thanks Steve!!!

It is clear that there is a lot going on at the Fort. There have been many new visitors and lots of returning visitors. You docents are making their experience worth their time and effort to visit the Fort.

I thank all of you for wanting to be a part of Fort Stanton Inc.

CLINTON SMITH

THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Just a reminder---we are a non-profit group and all of our monies go into either the Museum or doing something for the Fort. We cannot keep up the work we are doing without membership help and support. The memberships are due by the end of January each year and are tax deductible, as are any donations. Membership dues are accepted anytime during the year. If you have any questions concerning your membership, please email me at: pegw@valornet.com.

PEGGY WHITEMORE

DATES TO REMEMBER

What: Fort Stanton Board Meetings
When: Third Wednesday of each month 4:30 pm
Where: Fort Stanton Museum

What: Museum Hours - Summer
When: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10:00 am-4:00 pm, Sundays 12:00-4:00 pm
Where: Fort Stanton Museum

What: Garrison
When: The third week-end of every month, Next – May 19th
Where: Fort Stanton

What: FORT STANTON LIVE!
Where: Fort Stanton
When: July 13, 14 and 15

Fort Stanton Inc
P. O. Box 1
Fort Stanton, NM 88323

OFFICERS

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Vice President Charlotte Rowe
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pegw@valornet.com

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The Fort Stanton Inc Newsletter is published four times yearly by the organization for its members. Annual membership dues are due by the end of January each year, and are tax deductible, as are any donations. Membership dues are accepted anytime during the year. Send all address changes to Fort Stanton Foundation P.O. Box 1, Fort Stanton, NM 88323.

Remember our website:
www.fortstanton.org

JAN SAWYER

Jan Sawyer's talents are many and varied ranging from piloting an air plane to creating beautiful weavings. This much admired lady was born in Flint, Michigan, grew up in Davison and attended the same school from kindergarten to graduation. After earning a BSE in Materials Engineering from the University of Michigan, she married Gary. Their fifty year marriage took them to many states and countries; Wisconsin, South Dakota, Washington, Kansas, and Saudi Arabia. While Jan worked for Cessna Aircraft, she earned a pilot's license. Gary is also a licensed pilot, but both are no longer active.

During these busy years two children joined the family, Jeff, now residing in Georgia and Amy in Kansas. Happily, seven grandchildren are now a part of this clan, six in college and one in high school.

The Sawyers retired to New Mexico in 1996 and built their dream home, a log cabin. Jan became actively involved as a Fort Stanton volunteer using her computer skills to enter its inventory data into a computer. Since those days Jan has played many roles in the preservation and restoration of the Fort, serving now as a member of the Fort Stanton Inc. Board and Editor of the newsletter. In addition, she has agreed to assume the role of laundress of the newly formed Garrison.

Her skill as a weaver is well known as she created the fabric used in the vests worn by the Ruidoso Valley Greeters, where she was a member for many years. Her skill as a seamstress, as well as a weaver, is reflected in her stunning wardrobe. Jan contributes many hours to the Humane Society, walking dogs among other activities. Her volunteering does not stop there; she is active in her church, singing in the choir and teaching craft classes. The Sawyers also manage to squeeze in several trips each year to far flung, exotic locations.

It may be exhausting to read about the many interests of this "retired" lady. No doubt her energy level is boosted by an annual trip to Michigan. Jan and Gary spend every summer at their lake side home on Higgins Lake. There they enjoy old friends, boating and family visits. What a wonderful reward for a life well-lived.

CHARLOTTE ROWE



THE FORT STANTON THEATER

Hiding behind the boarded-up windows on the second level of what was the Amusement Building in Public Health Service days and now is the maintenance shop is an empty, floorless space that once was an auditorium and 174-seat movie theater. The Fort Stanton Kids have fond memories of attending the twice-a-week movies, which cost a nickel and later a dime. There usually was a cartoon, a Pathe News reel, and then the feature. If the movie was especially good, some kids would climb into the projection booth or onto the roof of the back porch (no longer there) to watch it a second time on “patient nights”—movies were shown to employees one night, hospital patients the next. The stage in the theater also was used for performances by the Fort Stanton School orchestra and other events like school Christmas plays.

The auditorium existed for many years before the July 1930 purchase of “sound equipment for moving pictures apparatus,” and that purchase indicates silent films were shown earlier. A structure was built on one end of the Amusement Building to house the carbon arc projectors, and in August 1931 Medical Officer in Charge Dr. R. L. Allen proudly reported that “we now have sound motion pictures.” In January 1932 it was reported that “now we have two projection machines.” With one machine, there would be a short intermission while the projectionist switched reels; with two, he could place a reel on each projector and splice them together to run the movie from beginning to end.

Though the theater is long gone, a number of its seats were rescued and are in storage. The Kids hope that someday perhaps they can be restored and used in a mini-theater in the Administration Building museum.

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



The Fort Stanton School orchestra performing on the stage in front of the movie screen. The door at right leads to the stairs down to the first floor; the door at the left led to rooms used as dressing rooms.



The theater curtain, painted in the 1930s by artist Dan Kusianovich, who later was hospital administrator.



The Amusement Building in the 1920s or earlier, with Bldg. 10—one of two hospital buildings no longer in existence—to its right.



The Amusement Building plainly showing the projection booth added to the second floor.

FORT STANTON GARRISON - A LISTING

January's newsletter contained a listing by year of the regiments and companies serving at Fort Stanton. The following chart compiled by Mike Bilbo is separating the units into mounted, artillery and infantry. All references can be found in the January newsletter.

BY UNIT - MOUNTED	
1 st Regiment, U.S. Dragoons/1 st Regiment, U.S. Cavalry (redesignated 1st Regiment, U. S. Cavalry in 1861)	1855-1856; Companies B, I, K; 1894-1896; Troop A
1 st Regiment, New Mexico Mounted Volunteers/1st Regiment Cavalry (organized May 31, 1862, by consolidation of the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Regiments of New Mexico Infantry. Garrison duty by detachments at Fort Stanton)	1862-1865, Companies A, G (1862), & periodically B, C, D
1 st Regiment, New Mexico Cavalry	1866, Company C
1 st Regiment, California Volunteer Cavalry	1865-1866, Company B
2 nd Regiment, U.S. Cavalry	1891-1892; Troop G
U.S. Regiment of Mounted Rifles/3d Regiment, U. S. Cavalry (redesignated 3 ^d Regiment, U. S. Cavalry in 1861)	1856-1861; Companies A, B, C, D, H; 1866-1870, Companies F, H
BY UNIT - MOUNTED	
2 nd Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers, Confederate States of America	Aug-Sept 1862; Company D
4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry	1881-1884, 1886-1887; Troops B, D, I, L, M
6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry	1884-1890, Troops D, E, H, L
8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry	1870 - 1875, Troops B, D, G
9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry,	1875 - 1881 Troops F, M (Mar 78), G, H (Feb-Mar 78)
ARTILLERY	
2 nd Regiment, U.S. Artillery	1855-1857, Company D
INFANTRY	
1 st Regiment, New Mexico Volunteer Infantry/1st Regiment Cavalry (organized May 31, 1862, by consolidation of the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Regiments of New Mexico Infantry. Garrison duty by detachments at Forts Stanton)	1862-1865, Company A; 1862, G
1 st Regiment California Volunteer Infantry	1862-1866, duty at posts in New Mexico, detachments from companies A,D, G, K
3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1855-1856, Companies A, E, K
5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1860-1862, 1864-1865, Companies B, I
5 th Regiment, California Volunteer Infantry	1863, Company A
7 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1863, Company C
8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1855-1860, Companies B, E, I, K
10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1888-1894, Companies B, E, I, K
13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1881-1888, Companies C, E
15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1869-1881, Companies B, C, H, I
24 th Regiment - Colored, U.S. Infantry	1896, Detachments from Companies D, E, F, G
37 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry	1867-1869, Company I
57 th Regiment - Colored, U.S. Infantry	1866, Companies I, K
125 th Regiment - Colored, U.S. Infantry	1866-1867, Company E

THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) AT FORT STANTON, NEW MEXICO

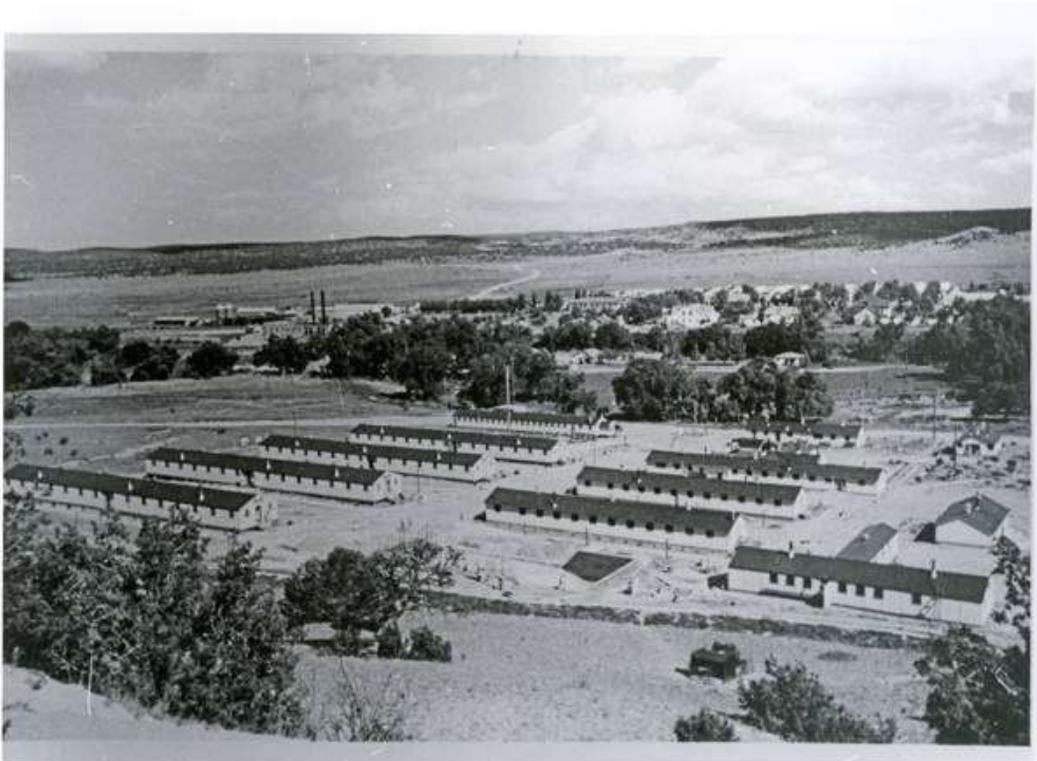
The CCC began in 1933 as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal" administration. The plan was to put 500,000 unemployed young men between the ages of 18 and 25 to work in forests, parks, and range lands in various areas of the U. S. They were to be supervised by LEMs—"Local Experienced Men." The CCC proposal was based on a proposal, in 1915, by conservationist George H. Maxwell.

Nationally, the CCC was divided into nine corps areas, with New Mexico in the eighth area (with Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and Wyoming). New Mexico was in Region 3 of the Eighth Corps, with headquarters at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Enrollees were first sent to Army posts, including Fort Bliss, Texas, where they underwent a two-week conditioning and training program before they were sent to work camps. At the height of the CCC, New Mexico had approximately 3,000 young men in fifteen camps.

A CCC camp was located at Fort Stanton, New Mexico, across the Rio Bonito from the hospital, possibly beginning in the mid 1930s. It housed enrollees who worked with the National Forest Service in Lincoln County. Primary duties of these young men were re-forestation (made necessary by drought of the 1930s), building roads and trails, cutting junipers for use as fence posts, digging post holes, stringing fencing, building observation towers, and erosion control. Known specific project numbers of Fort Stanton are SCS-6, Company #836, dated 1/12/36, and project SCS-5, Company #836 dated 7/25/38.

At various locations along New Mexico Highway 220 between Ruidoso and Fort Stanton, there are some areas with old fencing and juniper fence posts, possibly constructed by the CCC. There is also a culvert on this road, probably constructed by the CCC. However, the best-known remaining CCC project in Lincoln County is F-17, built by seven young men: Monjeau Peak Lookout Tower—a proud, and lasting, achievement.

ROBERT ROWE



WHAT IS NEW AT THE GIFT SHOP?

Old Time Toys

A selection of toys children played with long before electronic devices were around, Ball and Cap, Paddle Balls and many more,

Old Fort Stanton Jam

An assortment of delicious jams made exclusively in Lincoln County from fruits grown in the County.

Books

“Apache Voices” by Sherry Robinson

A story of survival as told by Eve Ball

“Rescue at Pine Ridge” by Erich Hicks

A story about the Buffalo Soldiers which begins at Fort Stanton.

“Capitan: Home of Smokey Bear” by Gary Cozzens

Well known local author and historian tells the story of the coal boom in New Mexico.

“Forgotten Tales” of New Mexico by Ellen Dornan

Tales of the rich culture of the Land of Enchantment.

CHARLOTTE ROWE

FORT STANTON KIDS PLAN TO MEET

Though our numbers are dwindling, the “Kids” who spent their childhood at Fort Stanton in the Public Health Service days hope to gather on July 14 to socialize and reminisce, share our stories with visitors, and perhaps enjoy a meal together that evening. We expect to have a “reunion table” in an easy-to-find location. Check our www.fortstantonkids.org website for updates.

THE OLD MILL

The year 1868 saw the building of the historic Dowlin Mill, Ruidoso’s oldest building by Captain Paul Dowlin and his brother Will. “Captain Paul”, as he was known by locals, was stationed at Fort Stanton during the Civil War and decided to make his home in New Mexico.

The mill served many purposes during its youth, as grist mill, saw mill, bean thrasher, blacksmith shop, general store... and possibly, according to the tales of old timers, a source of “moonshine”.

The little village which grew up around the mill came to be known as “Dowlin’s Mill” and the mill was the first post office, presided over by postmaster Frank Lesner as “Capitan Paul” had met a violent end, murdered by a disgruntled employee.

Many stories surround the mill, with a list of characters as colorful as the Wild West itself. Pat Garrett was known to frequent the place, perhaps sometimes in search of the young desperado, William Bonney, who became known as “Billy the Kid”. Billy was known to enjoy visiting the mill and once was saved from apprehension by the swift action of young Annie Lesnet who hid him in a handy flour barrel as a posse approached. Billy was well liked by the Dowlin and Lesnet families and enjoyed the village suppers and dances held in the mill building. Lt. John Pershing, later known as “General Black Jack” dropped by while

he was at Fort Stanton, and later on, another soon-to-be famous soldier, Douglass MacArthur stopped in as well.

As the twentieth century progressed, the mill, having been supplanted by more modern milling methods, fell into disrepair and was fast disintegrating into a ruin until it was rescued by Carmon and Leona Mae Phillips in the late 1940s. Through heroic, exhausting efforts, they restored the old building, thereby saving one of New Mexico's historic treasures. The Phillips opened a very popular gift shop there in 1950. For years, visitors were enthralled with the mill race and the graceful giant old wheel once more turning the massive grinding stones, One of the few remaining operable large-scale water wheels in the Southwest.

Now, once again, the future of the Old Mill is uncertain. An opportunity is afforded history buffs and other concerned citizens to participate in the effort to once more save the mill and see it working again. A group called The Old Mill Gang has been formed to help the current owner of the mill, Carmon and Leona's daughter, Delana Phillips Clements, find viable uses for the building which will afford possibilities for raising the funds to keep the lights on, the roof from leaking and the wheel operating again. The non-profit Old Mill Preservation Corporation has been formed, and a 501© 3 designation obtained.

Those wishing to join the effort are urged to contact Mrs. Clements at 575-257-1090 (mclcmd@beyondbb.com) or Sally Burkstaller at 575 258-9220 (sburkstaller@windstream.net). Help to get the old wheel turning by contributing to The Old Mill Preservation Corp, 313 Spring Road, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Donations are tax deductible. Watch for the new website coming soon...and come join this worthwhile effort to save Ruidoso's birthplace.

SALLY BURKSTALLER



FORT STANTON GARRISON

The first scheduled living history event at Fort Stanton was held on April 20 – 22. There were six members present for the week-end. Friday night a Sibley tent and a wedge tent were set up as well as a horse picket line. Saturday was spent organizing the group and fitting equipment. Drill was joined and the flag raised. Larry Pope presented 'Introduction to Living History' to the group. Matt Midgett and Mike Bilbo hosted a tour of the Fort grounds to both visitors and volunteers. Larry Auld gave a talk about artillery safety and operation. Larry Pope and Matt Midgett hosted a talk about horse safety. Throughout the day visitors were greeted by the volunteers and displays explained. The day closed with a final drill session and the retiring of the colors. Sunday opened with a drill session and the flag ceremony, and then there was a mounted drill session with sabers.

The next scheduled living history event will take place on May 19th. Suggested activities will be dismounted drill, mounted drill (saber exercise), Ration issue and cooking, constructing musket rounds. The Garrison plans to be at Fort Stanton on the third week-end of every month.

LARRY POPE



Two new recruits. Stetson and Wayne



Emily and Amanda eating a sausage lunch.



Matt Midgett and Larry Pope during mounted drill



Jeff Coon, Larry Auld and Dan Judy

MORE PHOTOS OF THE GARRISON



Larry Auld instructing volunteers in cannon safety



Lining up during drill



Mike Bilbo in front of Sibley Tent



Members during drill



Lowering the Colors



Larry Auld and Jeff Coon folding the flag during evening Colors

As well as being at the Fort every third week-end, look for the Garrison during Fort Stanton Live.

Events at Live!

Lantern Walk

Reenactors

Mescalero Apaches

Buffalo Soldiers

Minstrel Show

Military Ball

Historical Tours

Food

Talks:

Dr. Noel Pugah as Governor Lew Wallace

Dr. Richard Melzer – New Mexico's path to statehood

Nisha Hoffman – storytelling

Drew Gomber – something on Billy the Kid

Cynthia Orosco – slide presentation on Fort Stanton Ranch

Authors for book signing:

Earl Pittman

John Ryan

Gary Cozzens

Dr. Richard Melzer

Jim McBride

Sherry Robinson

Look for updates and the schedule of events on our website: www.fortstanton.org

FORT STANTON



LIVE!



*July 14, 9 am~8 pm
July 15, 9 am~noon
Admission \$5*

Military Reenactments
Flying J Wranglers
Buffalo Soldiers
Living History & Military Ball
Historical Tours & Presentations
Concessions & Live Music



www.fortstanton.org



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JOIN FORT STANTON, INC. – HELP PRESERVE THE FORT

Membership

Student-----\$15.00 Individual---\$20.00

Family-----\$25.00 Life-----\$250.00

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AND NEEDED

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE BY THE END OF JANUARY, BUT ARE ACCEPTED ANYTIME

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

NAME: _____

STREET/PO BOX: _____ CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FORT STANTON, INC. – MEMBERSHIP
P.O. BOX 1, FORT STANTON, NM 88323

in conjunction with **FORT STANTON** *Live!*



Friday, July 13th
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
www.fortstanton.org

Lantern Tour 2012