

FORT STANTON INC. NEWSLETTER, January 2012



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi Everyone:

We are off to a great start here at Fort Stanton. Before I discuss that, I would like to say a word about our friend Jay Smith. Jay worked with us for some time and had many great suggestions to make the fort and museum better. He has moved on and we will miss him.

On a happy note we have new help. Steve Duffy has agreed to come aboard and write grants for Fort Stanton. He will be much appreciated. He also is looking forward to working with us at Fort Stanton Live 2012.

This year Fort Stanton Live 2012 will be held the second week end of July the 13th, 14th and 15th.

We have a number of new things planned. If you have been looking for an opportunity to get involved with our major event now is the time to call.

One of the big programs that we are helping to sponsor is a Fort Stanton Garrison. It will become active in April, meetings are now in progress. If you would like to be a part of this program please contact us. Watch for news of the garrison in the local papers.

Remember if you want to be involved with Fort Stanton we are always looking for those good people who would like to be docents and tell our visitors about our history here.

Thanks for being interested in the history of Fort Stanton, and I hope that you, if you aren't already, will feel like being an active member of our group.

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 WHITTEMORE

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: Museum Hours - Winter
When: Saturdays 10:00 am-4:00 pm, Sundays 12:00-4:00 pm
Where: Fort Stanton Museum

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

**President Clinton Smith
pcscm58@windstream.net**

**Vice President Charlotte Rowe
cfrowe@windstream.net**

**Secretary Betsy Burnett
dlsbb1952@gmail.com**

COMMITTEES

**Membership:
Chair: Peggy Whittmore
pegw@valornet.com**

**Museum Operations:
Chair: Charlotte Rowe
cfrowe@windstream.net**

BOARD MEMBERS

**Bill Jeffrey - lbjeffrey1@windstream.net
Charlotte Rowe - cfrowe@windstream.net
Clinton Smith - pcscm58@windstream.net
Betsy Burnett - dlsbb1952@gmail.com
Dee Kessler - dkessler01@windstream.net
Earl Pittman - wpittman@uwa.edu
Jan Sawyer - gsawyer1@windstream.net
Jeannine Isom - jeannine@janjiwebdesign.com
Peg Whittemore - pegw@valornet.com**

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**

TONY DAVIS

Tony Davis was born Leighton Ira Davis, Jr at Wright AFB in Ohio. His father informed his wife, Tula, that there could not be another Leighton Ira Davis, so Tony's older sisters Eva and Jennifer picked the name Tony, and it stuck.

Tony's Father had a long (over 33 years) and colorful military career beginning at West Point, on to MIT with a Master's in Science. He was the base commander at Holloman AFB, then on to Patrick AFB/Cape Canaveral, overseeing all military support for the Space Program.

With the military background of his Father, Tony's dream as a child was to become a pilot. That dream was dashed when he learned he would have to wear glasses---at that time pilots had to have 20-20 vision. Tony loved Math and Science and excelled in school. He went on to Princeton majoring in Physics, and to Ohio State receiving a masters in Electrical Engineering. He began his working career in Michigan with Ford Motor Company in its Scientific Research Lab. Tony's name appears on fifty publications and twenty-one Ford Patents over his 33 years with them. And it was here he met and fell in love with Joyce Westerbur.

Tony's Father and Mother eventually retired and moved to Albuquerque which allowed Tony and Joyce to discover and fall in love with New Mexico.

Over the years of living here in Lincoln County, Tony has become involved in the Democratic Party and even ran for a spot on the County Commission. He and Joyce are involved with the White Mountain Search and Rescue and love hiking. Tony eventually discovered Ft Stanton and loves being a docent.

To quote Tony, "one of the great things about being a docent is the interest of the visitors in discovering the museum. Some just happen upon the Fort and are curious enough to explore and find the Museum. Some are locals, some come from far away. Last Sunday there were only 18 visitors, but they came from: Alamogordo, California, Wisconsin, upper New York state, London, England and Helsinki, Finland. The new Museum is a great, light, airy space, warm and inviting. The displays and historical pictures follow logically and give the feeling of how people lived in their eras. As a docent I really appreciate Joe and Carolyn Arcure's DVD, which compresses about 150 years of history at the Fort into 10 minutes.

PEGGY WHITTEMORE



FORT STANTON HISTORY - THE AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Smitty (Clinton Smith) asked me to write this article, so everyone in the Fort Stanton family would have a better understanding of the events and times that led to the internment of the Germans at the Fort.

The story begins 72 years ago on December 19, 1939. Hitler just invaded Poland in September and Europe was once again at war and in preparations for war. At this time, the United States was still neutral, even though FDR knew that we would be involved eventually. Therefore, he established a Naval Neutrality Patrol 300 miles east of the American Coast, to help protect our interests.

During this time, the German Luxury Cruise Ship Columbus was making her normal ports of call along the Atlantic coastline of the U.S., prior to the Polish invasion. This ship was the German equal to the British Queen Mary in stature and would carry many Americans on each cruise.

At this point, it's important to understand what was happening in Europe by 1939. The German Concentration Camp System was well underway and word was leaking out about the persecution of the Jews, Gypsies, minorities and political dissidents by way of letters, radio messages and personal witnesses; Dachau 1933, Buchenwald 1937 and Mauthausen 1938 were examples of these camps.

Growing up, I always heard the stories about my uncle, Captain Badt, the Germans and the USS Tuscaloosa from family members but very little from him personally.

He was born in Tyler, Texas in 1884, in 1908 he graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD then he did WW1 Convoy duty, later became the Captain of the USS Tuscaloosa and ended his career as a Naval Commodore. Family stories abounded about his naval service including the mapping of the Aleutian Islands and his sense of fairness and competence as a Naval Officer. My favorite story as a kid was when Badt encountered a young shivering sailor standing watch. Badt asked the sailor if he had his "long johns" on and the young sailor answered "No Sir", Badt asked why not? The young sailor answered, "Quartermaster did not issue me any". Badt reportedly ordered the Quartermaster to stand the young sailor's watch without "long johns".

Once the war began, the Columbus disembarked its passengers and made off to the neutral port in Mexico. One can only speculate as to "why" the ship left Mexico knowing the British ships were searching for it in the Atlantic. Was it because Mexico said leave, or was it because orders came from Hitler to return to Germany? Why did the ship not head for another neutral port? Who KNOWS? This we do know, the British did not want the Columbus to return to Germany to be refitted for war and its crew to become part of the Krieg Marine. This theme would dictate the events that would guide the Germans to the fort.

According to my cousin (Badt's daughter), the entire event took less than 7 hours off the coast of New Jersey. The British finally told the Columbus to halt, and the ship was scuttled by its captain. After numerous radio messages between the British Destroyers and the Tuscaloosa, Captain Badt picked up the 575 survivors and they began their trip to Ellis Island, NY.

Headlines of the day read, "Jewish Naval Captain Saves Nazi Crew" - "Nazi Spy Hunted since June Falls into G-MEN'S Lap". It turned out that this spy was on board the Columbus and was trying to get back to Germany. These events led to FDR giving a speech on the Tuscaloosa in 1940.

The evening of the rescue the two captains met for dinner, and according to the family stories, Captain Daehne was apologetic for the actions and persecutions of the peoples of Europe by his country, knowing that Captain Badt was Jewish. Captain Badt responded "you're not my guest, but the guest of the United States Government etc," which relaxed the atmosphere during the dinner. Also, I'm sure that many of the Columbus's crew as well as their captain, wanted to stay neutral, due to their interactions with the Americans.

After attempts to return the "Distressed Seaman" to Germany and with the strong British attitude, they ended up at Fort Stanton. According to Jim McBride, Captain Daehne probably was not a "Party Member", even though the top officers of the cruise line were. Also, his actions on the Tuscaloosa and at the Fort later, would seem to support that hypothesis.

But, ultimately when everything is said and done, American sailors were aiding German sailors, a German Naval Captain, and an American Jewish Naval Captain were having dinner on the Atlantic in 1939, one week before Christmas, probably discussing with regret the events that led to the loss of the Columbus and dreading the upcoming events of the future.

For more information; see SS Columbus 1939, Cruising the Past SS Columbus, and Captain Harry Badt, on the web

Information is also available in books by Jim McBride (Interned) and Lynda Sanchez (Fort Stanton, Legacy of Honor, Tradition of Healing) which are in the museum store.

PHIL SCHREIBER

FORT STANTON GARRISON

"Come back with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear..." is the invitation from the Fort Stanton Garrison to men and women, from teens to senior citizens, interested in reenacting history for the purpose of education, historic preservation and interpretation. The reenacting arm of Fort Stanton, Inc., the Fort Stanton Garrison is now in the formation stage, according to Mike Bilbo, organizer of the garrison.

Fort Stanton was built in 1855 by soldiers of the 1st Dragoon and the 3rd and 8th Infantry Regiments to serve as a base of operations against the Mescalero Apache Indians. It served that role through 1896. Troops marched out from the Fort to search for and fight the Mescalero Indians during numerous campaigns from 1855 until the 1880's.

"We are forming Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry detachments at Fort Stanton to do Living History Weekends for visitors," Bilbo stated. "The most important thing is authenticity." 1858 to 1874 are the years that the exploratory committee has decided upon. Although generally not troops, women can play an important role in the garrison, portraying everything from army wives to laundresses. Teens can participate, too, as messengers, drummer boys and more.

The next meeting of the exploratory committee will be held at the Fort Stanton Museum on Saturday, January 28 at 9:00AM. The group hopes to have the Fort Stanton Garrison up and running by the third weekend in April and certainly in time for Fort Stanton Live! on July 13-15. For more information, contact Mike Bilbo at 575-420-7121 or email mbbilbo@yahoo.com

If you are looking for special activities to help you understand the history of New Mexico, and a place whose beauty and activity will leave an indelible impression on you and your family, please consider becoming part of the Fort Stanton Garrison at the Fort Stanton State Monument and help make history come to life.

JACK SHUSTER

NEW AT THE FORT STANTON MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

BOOKS

[The Beer Bottles and Breweries of Fort Stanton, New Mexico.](#)

Yes, there were breweries at Fort Stanton. This book is an interesting history of the two breweries that served the Fort, and a study of the remains of the one still standing. It is also an archaeology report on the ten wagon loads of beer bottles of those breweries that were dumped near the Fort, and reports on the identifications found on bottles from the nineteenth century.

[New Mexico Centennial 1912-2012, Celebrating New Mexico's First Century](#)

This fascinating book has photographs, maps, recollections, and stories of "the way it was" during the first one hundred years of New Mexico's statehood. It discusses many of the people, places, and events, region by region, that have made New Mexico what it is today.

DVD, CDS, AND SONG BOOKS

DVD

[Sheriff Pat Garrett, Killer of Billy the Kid](#)

Videotaped entirely in New Mexico, and seen on PBS, this unique documentary of the lawman's rise and mysterious murder separates fact from fiction.

CDs

[Front Porch Favorites](#) Favorite tunes of the 19th century, played on authentic instruments.

[Ballads & Songs of the Civil War](#) A collection of songs from both sides.

[The Home Front](#) 17 authentic tunes of the Civil War

[Southern Soldier Boy](#) A collection of popular music played by soldiers during the Civil War

SONG BOOKS

[Front Porch Songs, Jokes & Stories](#) Words and music to 48 19th century songs, plus hilarious jokes, historical introductions, and vintage photos.

[Rousing Songs and True Tales of the Civil War](#) Songs and stories that made history.

CHARLOTTE ROWE

The following chart compiled by Mike Bilbo is a listing by year of the regiments and companies serving at Fort Stanton. Look for a different listing in newsletters to come – separating these groups into mounted, artillery and infantry.

FORT STANTON GARRISON, 1855-1896	
Mike Bilbo BY YEAR	
1855 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies A, E, K 8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 1 st Regiment, U.S. Dragoons, Companies B, I, K 2 nd Artillery, Company D	1856 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies A, E, K 8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 1 st Regiment, U.S. Dragoons, Companies B, I, K U.S. Regiment of Mounted Rifles, Companies A, B, C, D, H 2 nd Artillery, Company D
1857 8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K U.S. Regiment of Mounted Rifles, Companies A, B, C, D, H 2 nd Artillery, Company D	1858 5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B & I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K U.S. Regiment of Mounted Rifles, Companies A, B, C, D, H
1859 8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K U.S. Regiment of Mounted Rifles, Companies A, B, C, D, H	1860 5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B & I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K
1861 5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B & I 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies A, B, C, D, H (formerly the U.S. Regiment of Mounted Rifles; the unit was redesignated the 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry in 1861)	1862 5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B & I 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies A, B, C, D, H August - 2nd Regiment, Texas Mounted Volunteers, Company D, Confederate States of America October - 1st Regiment (under Maj. Chacon), New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, Companies A, G Possibly 1st Regiment California Volunteer Infantry, detachments from companies D, G, K
1863 7 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Company C 1st Regiment, New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, Company A (and periodically B, C, D, G) 1st Regt, Cal Vol Inf, Co A & possibly dets from Cos D, G, K	1864 5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B & I 1st Regiment, New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, Company A (and periodically B, C, D, G) 1st Regt, Cal Vol Inf, Co A & possibly dets from Cos D, G, K
1865 5 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B & I 1st Regiment, New Mexico Mounted Volunteers, Company A (and periodically B, C, D, G) 1st Regiment, California Volunteer Cavalry, Company	1866 57 th Regiment - Colored, U.S. Infantry, Companies I, K 125 th Regiment - Colored, U.S. Infantry, Company E 1st Regiment, California Volunteer Cavalry, Company B 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies F & H 1st Regiment, New Mexico Cavalry, Company C 1st Regt, Cal Vol Inf, Co A & possibly dets from Cos D, G, K
1867 37 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Company I 125 th Regiment - Colored, U.S. Infantry, Company E 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies F & H	1868 37 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Company I 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies F & H
1869 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 37 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Company I 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies F & H	1870 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 3 ^d Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Companies F & H 8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, G
1871 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, G	1872 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, G
1873 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, G	1874 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, G
1875 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 8 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, G 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G	1876 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G
1877 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G	1878 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, H (Feb-Mar), I 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops F, G, H, M
1879 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G	1880 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G
1881	1882

13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 15 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, C, I 4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, I, L, M 9 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G	13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, I, L, M
1883 13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, I, L, M	1884 13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, I, L, M 6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops D & E
1885 13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E	1886 13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, I, L, M 6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops D & E
1887 13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 4 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops B, D, I, L, M 6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops D & E	1888 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 13 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies C, E 6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops D & E
1889 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops D & E	1890 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 6 th Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troops D & E
1891 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 2 nd Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G	1892 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 2 nd Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop G
1893 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K	1894 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 1 st Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop A
1894 10 th Regiment, U.S. Infantry, Companies B, E, I, K 1 st Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop A	1895 1 st Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop A
1896	
1 st Regiment, U.S. Cavalry, Troop A – Closed Fort. Department then transferred it to the U.S. Marine Health Service and Fort Stanton was retrofitted as a tubercular sanitarium, primarily dedicated to care for the U.S. Merchant Marine, lesser amounts of other military patients and civilians.	

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617.

WHAT IS AN ARTIFACT?

Artifacts are what are left of lives and cultures gone by. They are objects, or what is left of objects produced by humans. Artifacts should not be collected. If they are removed from their context they become meaningless. Some research could be done, but it is critical to leave artifacts where they are found, "in-situ."

Archaeologists use artifacts in the study of human society, primarily through the recovery and analysis of the material culture and environment data. Because of this, in some cases, it is illegal to remove artifacts from their site.

At times visitors to the Fort Stanton Museum pick up items they believe are artifacts and present them to the volunteer at the desk. These items should be immediately returned to their site. If this is not possible, using a map, the location should be pinpointed. The items can be placed in an envelope, labeled and the Site Stewart notified.

Fort Stanton has not been excavated and needs to be protected from well-meaning individuals.

CHARLOTTE ROWE

FORT STANTON KIDS' REUNION

The "Fort Stanton Kids" who grew up at the fort during the Public Health Service days are making tentative plans for another reunion on July 14 during Fort Stanton Live. We hope to have a "reunion table" on the porch of the Administration Building, so look for us there. Check our website, www.fortstantonkids.org for updates.

DANNA HENDERSON

NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA HEADQUARTERS UPDATE 1883 OFFICERS' QUARTERS

The Eddy Building shown below is being renovated to serve as the NCA Headquarters Building. An EcoServants 8-person crew have almost finished the interior painting. They have provided in-kind services amounting to at least 1,744 hours or \$34,880! Not yet calculated is behind-the-scenes administration and coordination by Stephen Carter and crew round-trip travel from Ruidoso. That would've otherwise been contracted.

Thus your tax dollars are saved for other critical aspects like electrical and fire sprinkler system, floor and ceiling. The plan is to mimic the Museum. Flooring will be interlocking simulated wood flooring like the Museum's. We also need to replace 700 acoustical ceiling tiles.

The Roswell BLM budget is not quite enough after all other programs are said and done, so we're looking around for grant money to get ceiling and floor done. So if anyone sees any grant opportunities, please let me know.

Eventually, we'd like to interpret the building and its former occupants to the public. So if anyone reading this article has that kind of information, we'd appreciate your assistance in that documentation. Always keep your eyes and ears open for Fort Stanton items out there, especially being sold on Ebay, such as diaries, letters sent and received, official records, etc and actually not just for the NCA HQ, but any aspect of Fort Stanton. Such could also become your input to this newsletter.

On the occupants of this and other buildings during all phases - Army, Tubercular, CCC, German, Mental Health, Women's Prison - we should try to collect their stories - administrators, soldiers, patients, medical staffs, farming and other self-support, logistics, construction. When I conduct grounds tours, I always tell visitors that a way to look at this and other western forts is that often, these were THE towns - the major regional hubs of commerce. The myriad of stories are out there - we just need to keep on the lookout.

MIKE BILBO



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

