

# FORT STANTON INC. NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 2012



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Photo by David Tremblay

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As the holidays approach we have many things to be grateful for this year:

A new leader at Monuments and Museums, Mr. Richard Sims

A very successful Fort Stanton Live 2012

The new Fort Stanton Garrison has drawn a host of favorable press for the Fort

We have hosted three weddings and we were able to host a church when the Little Bear Fire destroyed their grounds.

In 2013 if all goes well we may welcome a full time professional manager here at the Fort.

Next year we would like to expand our hours of operation to 7 days so that we would have the same hours as Lincoln. What we need to accomplish this goal is a few more docents, so talk to your friends and neighbors about how much fun we have showing the Fort to our visitors.

I hope that all of you have a great holiday season and I look forward to working with you next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

"Smitty"

## 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](mailto:pegw@valornet.com).

PEGGY WHITTEMORE

In the August Issue, Photos of Live! were mistakenly credited to Bill Jeffrey, Gerald Garrett was the photographer.

## 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 10:00am-4:00pm, Sundays 12:00-4:00pm  
What: Museum Hours – Winter (starting Dec 1)  
When: Saturdays 10:00am-4:00pm, Sundays 12:00-4:00pm  
Where: Fort Stanton Museum

What: Garrison  
When: The third weekend of every month, Next – November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Where: Fort Stanton

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

### OFFICERS

**President Clinton Smith**  
[pcscm58@windstream.net](mailto:pcscm58@windstream.net)

**Vice President Charlotte Rowe**  
[cfrowe@windstream.net](mailto:cfrowe@windstream.net)

**Secretary Betsy Burnett**  
[dlsbb1952@gmail.com](mailto:dlsbb1952@gmail.com)

### COMMITTEES

**Membership:**  
**Chair: Peggy Whittemore**  
[pegw@valornet.com](mailto:pegw@valornet.com)

**Museum Operations:**  
**Chair: Charlotte Rowe**  
[cfrowe@windstream.net](mailto:cfrowe@windstream.net)

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Larry Auld** - [auldfam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:auldfam@sbcglobal.net)  
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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](http://www.Fortstanton.org)

## FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

Sue and Bob Macfarlane have been faithful docents at the Fort Stanton Museum for many years and always volunteer during Live! Sue says she doesn't remember how they became involved with the Fort, but it was probably because of their friendship with Trink Edmonds and Sally Burkstaller, also both longtime volunteers.

Sue was born in Spokane, Washington, but her family moved to Salt Lake City, Utah when she was six months old. She attended all her schooling in Salt Lake, graduating from the University of Utah with a degree in Business Education. As a freshman, Sue worked part time at a company in Salt Lake where she met Bob. He was born and raised in Pleasant Grove, Utah. He also graduated from the U and had completed two years in the military. He was 7 years older and wasn't sure he wanted to date a mere "freshman"! Well, the end of the story is that they were married in 1960 and celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010. Sue and Bob have two daughters, Marianne Ryan and Julie Gibbons and four grandchildren. Both families live in San Antonio, TX.

Bob was transferred to El Paso, Texas, with El Paso Natural Gas Company in 1970. About two years later they bought a small cabin in Ruidoso up Brady Canyon. Many weekends they would head to Ruidoso. Sue also worked for the Exploration part of El Paso Natural Gas Company as a Landman. Her responsibilities were to determine the ownership of mineral rights. When the Exploration Company was moved to Ft. Worth, TX in 1987, she went back to school at UTEP and earned a Master's Degree in Psychology. However, Sue never worked in that area. When Bob retired in 1992 they purchased another home in Ruidoso on Metz, near the Texas Club. In 1994 they moved to Ruidoso and two years later bought their home on Timberline Drive

Sue is also a Ruidoso Valley Greeter, a former member of Altrusa, on the Friends of the Library Board and both she and Bob are active at First Christian Church. She knows many people in town, because of her participation in varied civic activities.

They are both very physically active – exercising, playing golf and walking their Pomeranian, Pumpkin, at least twice a day.

Our organization needs many more volunteers like Sue and Bob – people who are faithful in their commitment to the Fort throughout the years.

JAN SAWYER



## STATE MONUMENTS REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

On September 25 Claudia G. de Campbell, Instructional Coordinator, New Mexico State Monuments introduced Fort Stanton, Inc. members to the history, goals and staff in the creation of State Monuments Registration Procedure.

Before any object is accepted for registration at the Museum of New Mexico Collections Committee, rigid standards must be met. The procedures to ensure the acceptance standards are listed in the New Mexico State Monuments Registration Procedures Manual approved by the Board of Regents. A class on these standards was conducted in the Fort Stanton Museum and attended by six members of FSI. Michele Gallagher Roberts, Chief Registrar with NM Museum of Art conducted a two hour Power Point Presentation listing these procedures. Monument staff and volunteers take an active role in acquiring, displaying and caring for objects entrusted to the monuments. At present Comprehensive Inventories are being conducted at all state monuments. This information is vital in future requests for loans and transfers from one monument to another.

Following this overview MS Roberts and MS Campbell led the group in a hands-on class on object handling, conditions and photo demonstration. Each participant was given an object and filled out a Temporary Transaction Form. This form is to be filled out when an object is offered to a staff member or volunteer at a state monument. It is the first step in possible acceptance of the object and great care and attention must be taken to fill out the TT Form accurately and correctly. A box of supplies needed to fill out the TT Form will be available in the museum when needed.

This class was extremely informative. The volunteers who attended feel confident that they are prepared to carry out the first step in acceptance of items offered to the New Mexico State Monuments.

CHARLOTTE ROWE

## FORT STANTON WEDDING

On September 22, Dan and Kate Judy were married in the Fort's chapel. Dan is a participating member of the Fort Stanton Garrison, and the members of the wedding party were saluted with sabers.



Photos by Larry Pope

## NEW KIDS AT FORT STANTON

Kids at Fort Stanton, learning and doing with their hands and minds! Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Reinactors. The Fort Lives! Check out the Smugmug website ([smugmug.com](http://smugmug.com), keyword Fort Stanton) for other images from the activities.



Photos by David Tremblay

## THE CUSHMANS AT FORT STANTON

Some 100 Cushman motor scooter enthusiasts stopped at Fort Stanton for lunch in September. They were given tours of the monument. The riders from eight states and one rider from Scotland spent three days in Ruidoso area. The vintage scooters date from the 1940's to the early 1960's.

The Cushman Company started in 1903 in Lincoln, Nebraska, by Everett and Clinton Cushman. The company incorporated as Cushman Motor Works in 1913. Until 1936 it produced engines for farm equipment, pumps, lawn mowers and boats. From 1936 until 1965 Cushman produced motor scooters, widely used by the US military in World War II and as alternative to automobiles before and after the war. One famous Cushman was the model 53, a military model from the WWII era. Designed to be dropped by parachute with Army Airborne troops, it became known as the Cushman Airborne. Other models were used on military bases for messenger service. The most successful model of Cushman scooter, the Eagle, was in production approximately 16 years. It resembled a motorcycle with its exposed engine and top tank. Other Cushman models used a step-through design common for scooters. The step-through design and ease of operation made it popular with men and women alike. Some late 50s Cushmans, designated Road King and Pacemaker, had jet-age body styling. Sears sold a version of these models under the Allstate brand. Cushman scooters featured an automatic centrifugal clutch, which allowed the rider to twist the right grip to accelerate. Oddly, the throttle twisted forward during acceleration, opposite the usual pattern in most other motorcycles and scooters. Cushman claimed 75 miles per gallon, and advertised penny-a-mile operating cost. Cushman scooters usually weighed about 250 to 335 pounds and had as much as 9 horsepower. Scooter production ended in 1965, but some remaining Eagles were sold as 1966 models. After scooter production ceased, Cushman manufactured golf carts, industrial vehicles and turf maintenance equipment. Cushman Trucksters were produced from 1958 to 2002. Small and light duty, they have been used for ice cream sales, mall and stadium maintenance, and by NYPD. Cushman became a division of the Outboard Marine Corporation in 1962. Ransomes (of Great Britain) purchased Cushman in 1989, and then Textron purchased Ransomes.

LINDA G. HARRIS



Photos by David Tremblay



## THE STORY OF THE COINS

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of the coins.

A coin left on a headstone or at a grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited. A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means that you served with him (or her) in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he (or she) was killed. According to tradition, the money left at the graves in national and state veteran's cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying the costs for indigent veterans. In the U.S. the practice became common during the Vietnam War, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war. Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

BILL JEFFREY

## FORT STANTON LIVING HISTORY EVENT

10-20-12

It was over this weekend that we decided to begin our 'Ladies Impressions' series, a sequence of presentations concerning women's dress, activities and history at Fort Stanton during the 1850's. These presentations, guided by Victoria Davis, are designed to enhance the authentic participation of women during Garrison activities. This initial presentation focused on the underpinnings of women's clothing and basic dress design. With the number of ladies present in period attire, Mrs. Davis had several examples to show in support of her sources. Several visitors attended the discussion and had good comments afterward.

In addition to the ladies' activity, several other scheduled activities took place in and around the fort. Following the morning flag ceremony, the garrison practiced stacking arms, a unique and necessary skill to keep muskets secure and safe. Mike Bilbo hosted a historic map making class describing the difference between modern contour maps and those made in the 1850's. Following the class, we marched to the old fort cemetery to put our new map making skills to the test. Matt Midgett engaged in a little mounted saber exercise in the late afternoon and evening flag ceremony closed out the day.

LARRY POPE



Victoria Davis, Sena Pope and Jo Pope in front of the nurse's quarters at Fort Stanton.

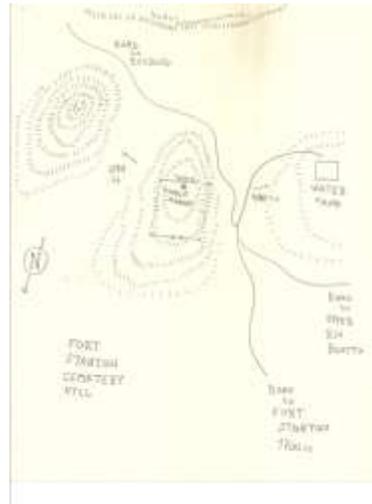


Victoria Davis during her presentation about women's clothing in the 1850's.

Photos by Larry Pope



Josh Judy, Ken Davis and Larry Auld consulting the disposition of the saloon on the map they just made.



An example of the maps made during the field exercise. Notice the contours made from hash marks instead of solid lines of modern contour maps.

Photos by Larry Pope



Photos by Mike Bilbo



## WWII VISITS FORT STANTON

New Mexico is known as the "Land of Enchantment". But sometimes it can be downright surreal. Take this last weekend for example. Old Fort Stanton was the site of another reenactment. But this time it was a large group (from Louisiana, Kansas and Texas), who used the Fort's buildings and open spaces to recreate significant battles of the Italian theater of WWII -- specifically, battles waged from Anzio, up the boot of Italy, to Rome, in the summer of 1944. So, there I was, in my 1858 Mounted Rifle uniform, giving Fort tours to Allied and Nazi soldiers from WWII... Italy... in the middle of New Mexico... It was different.

*As we arrive for volunteer duty, the horses check out yet another historic encampment at "their" Fort. "Hmmm, Belle, these guys aren't in blue or gray..."*



*Allied troops, Italian partisan fighters (and German soldiers), were everywhere.*



*Sometimes it really did look like old photos come to life.*

Photos by Matt Midget



*As the horses might say,  
"Humans sure are interesting!"*

MATT MIDGET

## THE OLD NURSES HOME DIDN'T BURN DOWN

What the Fort Stanton Kids knew as the Old Nurses Home was a lovely three-story building that stood next to the Commanding Officer's quarters in the area now occupied by the cafeteria building. Its function during the military era is somewhat unclear, but records seem to indicate that it was used primarily for entertaining and as guest quarters for distinguished visitors like Governor Lew Wallace while he was writing *Ben Hur*. The earliest maps of the Fort show the C.O. quarters where it is today and don't identify its neighbor.

After Fort Stanton was transferred to the Marine Hospital Service in 1898, the building was remodeled into quarters for the hospital's nurses. In 1936, a new hospital was built, the old hospital in former barracks buildings between the Amusement Building and the Pershing Building was demolished, and the pueblo-style New Nurses Home was constructed in 1940 on part of the old hospital site. The Old Nurses Home was essentially abandoned--except by the ghosts we children could see in the upper windows.

When some of us returned to Fort Stanton around 2000, we were surprised to see postcards of the Old Nurses Home saying that it had burned down because we knew that it simply had been demolished as unsafe after the end of World War II.

So why did latter-day historians think it burned down? We concluded it was because of the building numbering system created in the military days. The Commanding Officer's quarters naturally had to be Building #1, so the Old Nurses Home was #2 instead of vice versa. The duplex officers' quarters on the other side of #1 was #3 and the numbers continued around the Parade Ground to #13, the Pershing Building. In the 1920s the small house next to #13 was built and became #14. There were several residences and other buildings to the southwest of the Parade and their numbers started with #15, which was the engineer's quarters. In the late 1920s there was a fire in those quarters, and according to Willett White, who lived there, the building was reported erroneously to Washington as destroyed.

So it appears that someone put two and two together and came up with six: Because the C.O. quarters was #1 and the "little house" was #14, they decided the Old Nurses Home must have been #15, which was listed incorrectly as burned. Wrong!

DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON



Old Nurses Home in 1901, before remodeling



1912, with Commanding Officers quarters to its right.



In the 1930's, with nurses



Another view, probably after the nurses had moved.



Haunted house—see the ghosts in the third-floor windows? Bldg. #14 at left.



Bldg. 15, Engineer's House, Willett White in yard.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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



Photo by Mike Bilbo