

FORT STANTON INC. NEWSLETTER, JULY 2016



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THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We have a list of 196 contacts--people whom at one time or another have expressed interest in the Fort and have paid their membership donations in the past years. Right now we have fewer than 100 who have paid up memberships.

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---unless of course you have joined as a Lifetime member.

Unfortunately if membership donations are not paid this will be the last Newsletter you will be receiving. Please help us and support the Fort.

If you have any questions concerning your membership, please email me at: pegw@valornet.com

Thank you, **PEGGY WHITEMORE**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'd like to start by thanking Larry Auld for all the great work he has done on behalf of Fort Stanton Inc., and for his trust in me to serve as Interim President until the Annual Meeting at year's end. And thanks to the past, current and even founding Board members and stake holders who have pledged to assist me throughout this rather unique juncture in FSI's history.

While our own Board leadership is in transition, the Department of Cultural Affairs is also in the midst of a major reorganization, potentially impacting 7 of the 8 historic sites - including Fort Stanton and Lincoln. And while all this is happening, the process of deriving a General Operating Agreement (GOA) that is satisfactory to both DCA and FSI is also actively in-process. Until an agreement is reached, our Museum Shop remains closed, which has negatively impacted volunteerism at, unfortunately, our busiest time of the year!

Oh, and then there's Fort Stanton LIVE! It still amazes me that a team of mostly volunteers pulls this event off each year. Thanks to ALL who helped make it a success again, even amidst our current changes and challenges! Hats-off to you this weekend!

And, finally, thanks to Larry Pope and his staff. Together, working with FSI volunteers, not only have we reached our annual goal of 18,000 visitors, we surpassed it by another thousand guests! And the Fort Stanton Museum received a TripAdvisor® Certificate of Excellence in 2016, recognizing the quality and quantity of reviews submitted by international travelers on the world's largest travel site, over a 12-month period. If we can achieve all this, even with some intense adversity, I believe that we can meet the many challenges that lie ahead, we can stay true to our mission, we can reopen our museum shop, and that we can remain a stellar destination for living history of the American West for many years to come!

Yours in service,
STEVE DUFFY

DATES TO REMEMBER

What: Fort Stanton Board Meetings
When: Third Wednesday of each month 2:30 PM
Where: Fort Stanton Hub Building

What: Museum Hours
When: Seven Days/Week 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Where: Fort Stanton Museum

What: Garrison
When: The third weekend of every month, Next – Aug 20th
Where: Fort Stanton

WHAT: FORT STANTON LIVE!
WHEN: JULY 9TH 10 AM TO 10 PM
WHERE: FORT STANTON

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

OFFICERS

Interim President Steve Duffy
steveduffy1111@gmail.com

Vice President Peggy Whittemore
pegw@valornet.com

Secretary Dorothy Rogers
rdano101@yahoo.com

Treasurer Norm Ackerman
norm@DMFSD.com

COMMITTEES

Marketing:

Chair: Steve Duffy
steveduffy1111@gmail.com

Membership:

Chair: Peggy Whittemore
pegw@valornet.com

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Chair: Carl Stubbs
carboyman@hotmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Norm Ackerman - norm@DMFSD.com
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The Fort Stanton Inc. Newsletter is published three 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.

OUR WEBMASTER - KAYE KERNODLE

How do people find information these days? The internet is probably the first place they turn to. That is why we are so blessed to have Kaye as Fort Stanton's Webmaster. History buffs and ordinary travelers visiting our part of the world can find up to date information about Fort Stanton and its activities on our website. And even though the Fort is "off the beaten path" the museum had 19,000 visitors last year from all over the world – thanks in a large part to that website!

Kaye was born in Asheville, North Carolina and grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida. She graduated from Seabreeze High School there and went on to attend the University of Florida. After graduating with a B.S. degree in Nursing, she moved to Oklahoma City where she earned a Master's degree and taught nursing for a time. She moved to San Diego in 1986 where she married Bruce, her high school sweetheart. They both worked there for a time and then escaped the rat race to spent three years cruising on their sailboat in Mexico.

They moved to Ruidoso in 1993 and bought Story Book Cabins, which they operated for ten years. After they sold the cabins they were officially retired, but both have always been active in our community. Kaye was a Ruidoso Valley Greeter for 18 years, and has been a volunteer at Fort Stanton since the old little museum opened and a Fort Stanton Inc. board member for three years. She volunteers at the Lincoln County Humane Society. One of her favorite things to do is playing duplicate bridge and she has been on the Duplicate Bridge Board for 16 years. Another interest Kaye has is travel. She has visited over 30 countries and is always ready to go again. She and Bruce particularly enjoy doing Pub Crawls in London.

If you haven't looked at the website lately, be sure to do so as Kaye tries to keep the information up to date. The address is www.fortstanton.org.

JAN SAWYER



FORT STANTON'S CEMETERIES

The new State Veterans' Cemetery now under construction will extend a history stretching back some 160 years of Fort Stanton as the final resting place for soldiers, merchant seamen, German internees and assorted civilians including some associated with the Lincoln County War.

When the military turned the property over to the Marine Hospital Service in 1896, the remains of 58 soldiers, including 11 Negro (as they were then called) or Buffalo Soldiers, were disinterred from a cemetery near today's reservoir and pump house and moved to the National Cemetery in Santa Fe.

But is that where the Buffalo Soldiers originally were buried? Some intriguing memories of the Fort Stanton Kids suggest they may initially have been buried separately, as was common in those days, in a cemetery near the Bonito north of the fort, and moved when the river began to swallow their graves.

Ruth Jean Craig McAdoo says her mother, Jean Berry, spent her childhood at Fort Stanton and liked to ride horses down the river, and it was in this area, "through two gates, that she found the cemetery on the bank of the river. She said there were 10 or 11 graves with wooden markers in this location, but no one was interested in following her down there to see what she was talking about...perhaps they already knew? Many years later, Mother tried to locate the site again, but the river had changed course from numerous floods and there were no markers to be found."

The late Bill Hale, whose family roamed all over the Fort Stanton property and collected many Indian artifacts, also said there was a cemetery by the river but that the bodies had been moved by the time he knew of it in the 1920s. He said it "was in the flats." He "mentioned to my dad that the land down there didn't look natural and dad said no because it had been a cemetery."

The graveyard near the reservoir became known as "the civilian" or "staff" cemetery, as opposed to the "patients' cemetery" beside the Devil's Canyon road, and hospital staff were buried there into the 1940s. Tom Gould says there still were several military headstones there--"I remember one that said 5th Cavalry." They apparently were not moved to Santa Fe because of their large size and weight, and they disappeared sometime after the Public Health Service left in 1953. One reportedly decorates a garden in Phoenix.

Some "civilians" were buried in that cemetery before the military departed. We "Kids" know the history of some of the later graves. Ruth Jean's grandfather, Frank C. Berry, who helped to build the first water line to the fort in the 1920s, is there. A tiny grave contains the remains of Jane Payman, a baby born to staff member Leo Payman and wife Helen, who lived only one day. Another child's grave is that of Waldemar (Wally) Spickmire, who is said to have died during an appendectomy. Graves listed in a survey performed by the Lincoln County Historical Society include Dowlin (the builder of the Dowlin Mill in Ruidoso?), O'Bannion, and others not familiar to us. Badly neglected for years, this cemetery now has been somewhat rejuvenated.

The "patients' cemetery" with its rows of white crosses and white obelisk is familiar to Fort Stanton visitors. It was created shortly after the Marine Hospital Service/Public Health Service took over the fort and funerals there were, unfortunately, all too common (see photos). The tales told or suggested by the headstones are endlessly fascinating.



Left: This 2005 photo shows the abandoned "staff cemetery" on the site of the original military cemetery.



Right: The tiny grave of one-day-old Jane Payman.



Far from the sea: Merchant seamen being laid to rest in the shadow of the Capitan Mountains in the 1920s.



Far from the sea: Merchant seamen being laid to rest in the shadow of the Capitan Mountains in the 1920s.



Left: More obvious from above than from ground level, the cemetery obelisk and flagpole are located within the outline of the type of cargo ship familiar to the merchant seamen buried nearby. David Tremblay photo

Below: Hundreds of white crosses spread across the patients' cemetery. Happily, the weeds evident at right are a thing of the past now.



DANNA KUSIANOVICH HENDERSON

OVERVIEW OF FORT STANTON LIVE

We have quite a program scheduled this year for Fort Stanton LIVE! that builds upon the foundation of living historians and re-enactors that are a long-standing tradition of LIVE! and which serves as the annual fundraiser for Fort Stanton. Attendees can look forward to activities such as cavalry and military demonstrations, artillery cannon fire, spinners and fiber arts, pottery throwing, blacksmithing, quilt and rag rug making, Ladies Tea, children's activities, author and historian presentations on the long and diverse history of Fort Stanton, the Hondo Dancers displaying their rich Hispanic heritage through authentic traditional costumes and dance, a presentation on the evolution of the banjo in folk music, roaming troubadours, native american flute performances, and the Adobe Brothers performing bluegrass, folk and americana music during the day. In addition, there will be an evening dance and ball that will be open to the public which will have music performed by the Adobe Brothers from Albuquerque and dances that will be taught and called by Donna Howell from the Santa Fe area. Historic period dances will include a military Grand March, an easy square or quadrille such as the Cumberland Square, a Virginia reel, and a heel toe polka to round out the evening! The entire day will be emceed and reported on by Tom Ruiz of KWES 93.5 FM in Ruidoso. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration of the life and history of Fort Stanton!

JORIAH KAVANAGH

FORT STANTON LIVE! SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016

Gates Open at 9:00 AM

Schedule of Events

Parade Grounds	10:00 am 10:30 am 2:00pm 5:00 pm All Day	Morning Flag Ceremony Military Demonstrations Military Demonstrations Evening Flag Ceremony Children's Activities
Cafeteria	10:30 am 11:30 am 12:45 pm and 2:00 pm 3:00 pm 7:00	Cynthia Orozco "The Fort Stanton Ranch" Jim McBride "Fort Stanton Marine Hospital for Merchant Marine Tuberculous Patients 1899-1953" Dr. Nancy Owens Lewis "Chasing the Cure in New Mexico: Tuberculosis the Quest for a Cure" David Geary "Civil War Veterans After the War" Bill Haenn "Gone for a Soldier" Evening Dance with music by the Adobe Brothers, dances called by Donna Howell
Commanding Officer's Quarters	11:00am All Day	Ladies Tea (On the Back Porch) Victoria Davis Demonstrates Quilts and Rag Rug Making
Officer's Quarter #3	10:30am 1:00pm 3:30pm	BLM "Exploration Progress in Fort Stanton Cave" BLM "Exploration Progress in Fort Stanton Cave" BLM "Exploration Progress in Fort Stanton Cave"
Catholic Church	10:30am 1:00pm 3:00pm	Lanny Maddox "Native American Flute" Lanny Maddox "Native American Flute" Bruce Thompson "Folk Musical Instruments"
Officer's Quarters #13	All Day	Local Spinners and Fiber Arts Demonstrations on the front porch
Stage	EMCEE 12:00pm 12:30pm 1:30pm	Tom Ruiz (KWES 93.5) TBA Saber Presentation Adobe Brothers Band (ABQ -Period Bluegrass, Folk and Americana)
Museum Porch	All Day All Day All Day	Author's Book Signing (east end of porch) Gift Shop Sale Tables (east side of museum porch door) Lincoln County Historical Society (west side of porch)
Museum Side Room	9:00 to 3:00	Silent Auction
Museum Front Parking Lot	10:30am 12:45	Hondo Dancers Hondo Dancers
Nurses Quarters Courtyard	All Day	Judy Pekelsma Pottery Thrower, Pottery Making Demonstrations
Outside Nurses Quarters (Parking Lot side)	11:30am 3:30pm	Artillery Cannon Fire Artillery Cannon Fire
Hospital	10:30am 2:00pm	Robert Mallin "Civil War Medicine" Robert Mallin "Civil War Medicine"
Terrace Side Parking Lot	All Day	First Aid Station

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FOR OUR FORT STANTON LIVE 2016 SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2016

These donations need to be at the Fort by Friday afternoon, but it is still not too late to donate something.

We are looking for some higher value items to have in our auction. Remember this is a fund raiser for Fort Stanton Live. It is not a garage sale. Because of limited space there are a few things we won't be able to accept for the auction. We cannot take large furniture pieces and no clothes unless it is an antique dress or something along that line.

Here are some suggestions of items that we are looking for this year's auction. Keeping with the overall theme of Fort Stanton Live we are looking for:

Historic photos or paintings of our local area. If possible these should be framed or at least matted. We may be able to help you with the framing or having your picture matted.

Small child's antique rocker or chair. Must be in good condition.

A small ladies antique rocker in good condition

Small side or occasional tables. The small round ones on a single pedestal.

Antique cast iron cooking utensils in good shape.

Silver coffee and tea serving set with tray

China teapots with cups and saucers. No cracked or chipped items

Framed or matted historic maps and graphs of the Southwest

Antique or old cookbooks In good condition – no pages missing

Other historic or old books on Lincoln County and the Southwest. Again in good condition – no pages missing

Old fashioned quilts. Handmade if possible.

Coffee Table Books – on Lincoln County and the Southwest

Gift certificates from local merchants - Check with Peggy to see who she has contacted in Ruidoso so there won't be duplicate contacts.

These are only some suggestions; you may have some other ideas.

DOROTHY ROGERS call 575-937-2860 or email rdano101@yahoo.com

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

