

# Fort Larned Rocks!

**Fort Larned National Historic Site** – Visitors of all ages and backgrounds have found their way to this historic outpost on the Santa Fe Trail that is a national park. The “Find Your Park” campaign continues to be successful, not just at Fort Larned NHS, but throughout the park system including for our monuments, memorials, battlefields, waterways, preserves, and other designated parks.

Along with our annual living history special events throughout the year the fort hosted another Naturalization Ceremony in September where several hundred people including two high school government classes, witnessed 36 people taking the oath of citizenship to become US citizens. The ceremony was very impressive and we hope to continue hosting this very moving event.

The fort commemorated 150-years of Buffalo Soldier history by featuring a Buffalo Soldier encampment in April. This program paved the way for a variety of speakers over the next several months. The topics ranged from Buffalo Soldier history, to African American Settlement on the Great Plains, to the US 10th Cavalry, Company A and their presence at Fort Larned. As part of the spring field trip experience, students performed

dramas about the burning of the stables. Guest speaker Dr. John Langelier discussed his new book, *Fighting for Uncle Sam: Buffalo Soldiers in the Frontier Army* on a beautiful Saturday in May. He autographed copies of his book.

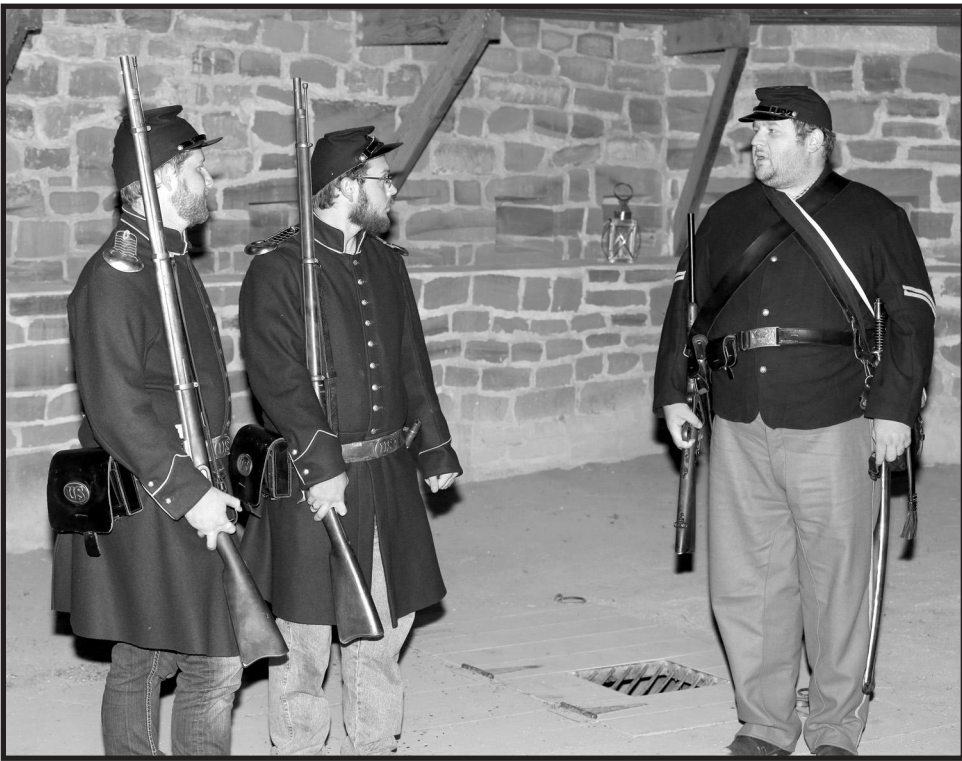
Students from over 26 schools visited the fort for their annual field trip. Many were part of the Every Kid in the Park Initiative which helps reimburse some of the costs for bus fuel. We welcomed back classes from Great Bend, Dodge City and Pratt. Natoma Elementary brought several classes for the first time, but hopefully not the last. Chase Elementary brought the entire school - 75 students! The education program offered was a combination of Santa Fe Trail history and Buffalo Soldier history with plenty of interactive opportunities. Fort Larned appreciates our partner teachers and strives to offer curriculum-based programs to help the teachers and students reach their goals.

The fort’s annual Memorial Day Living history event followed closely on the heels of the school field trip season. The staff and volunteers strive to present quality demonstrations and activities the whole family can enjoy, including programs on the life of the common soldier, the life of the company laundress, and how to grow

a post garden. The boom of the canyon, historic weapons program, and blacksmithing continue to attract audiences, not to mention the wonderful aroma of fresh bread baking in the deep oven of the post bakery. The fort had close to 40 volunteers here that weekend. We could not successfully present so much living history without our dedicated volunteers.

Many families enjoyed the single day 4th of July event. The Buffalo Soldier-themed activities for children were offered throughout the day. In addition to regular programs like the blacksmith, rifle and artillery firing demonstrations, kids were invited to “join” the army and find out about a soldier’s life, try their hand at a mapping exercise to find missing cattle (based on a historical record), and they made their own cavalry flag. Kids were also invited to help lower the flag at the end of the day.

The three day Labor Day weekend event saw beautiful weather and big numbers in visitation. Living history demonstrations included horseshoeing and a packing program that focused on the “Leave No Trace” approach to camping as it pertains to each time period. Presenters Jim and Robert Sellers shared with visitors the why and how, and the develop-



## Diversicare of Larned your State and National Leader in Quality Scores!

Out of 331 nursing centers in Kansas Diversicare of Larned was Ranked 19th in Quality indicators by the Great Plains Innovation Network. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) uses 13 quality indicators to measure quality outcomes on all Medicare/Medicaid licensed nursing centers in the U.S. (Source Great Plains Quality Innovation Network under contract with CMS)

In addition Diversicare of Larned will be receiving National

recognition “the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) recognized more than 1,575 skilled nursing care centers and assisted living communities nationwide through the organization’s Quality Initiative Recognition Program, which honors member facilities for their individual work in achieving AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative goals.” Congratulations to the Kansas Skilled Nursing Facilities that

have received this year’s AHCA/NCAL Quality Awards!

These deserving folks will be recognized in New Orleans in March, when AHCA/NCAL holds their Quality Summit.

*Diversicare of Larned*

Source: Kansas Health Care Association and the Kansas Center for Assisted Living 1100 SW Gage Blvd Topeka, KS 66604 PH: 785-267-6003 FAX: 785-267-0833

ment of preservation and its significance to Fort Larned. The conclusion tied it all together ....for today, 100, or 150 years from now, Trails Less Trashed will be here for future generations just as they are for us today, ideally without a trace that we were here in the interim.

The Candlelight Tours vignettes featured a very somber story in the fort’s history. On the morning of January 2, 1869, the

soldiers of Company A, 10th U.S. Cavalry stood in front of the smoldering ruins of the post cavalry stables. The fire had killed 39 of the company’s horses, and destroyed huge stores of hay and grain, as well as saddles and ammunition. It had started in the early hours of the morning while the men of Co. A were ½ a mile away guarding the post woodpile. The reason they were there and not

able to help put out the fire was the culmination of a series of racial incidents that began almost as soon as they arrived at the post. The fort’s commemoration reached a conclusion for the year by the sharing this tremendously sad event in the form of dramas acted out with staff and volunteers. But the Buffalo Soldier topic will always be an interesting one that

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