

3. Stables

To patrol the frontier, the army sent dragoon soldiers to Fort Scott. A dragoon was a horse soldier. My dad was a dragoon. He could ride fast. One summer, he and some other soldiers rode 2200 miles in less than 100 days. That's more than 20 miles a day. Come on inside the stables to learn more about horses.

If you could choose the color of your horse, what would it be?
Why would you pick this color?



Bay



Black



Sorrel



Gray

Horses are measured in "hands." Lay your hand sideways and measure the horse on the wall from the floor to the top of the shoulder.

How many hands tall is the horse? _____ How many hands tall are you? _____

One of the things that dragoons had to do every day was to groom the horse. There were several tools used to do this task. One of these tools is the mane comb. Take the mane comb from your haversack and brush out the tail of the woodcut horse on exhibit in the first stall on your right. Why was grooming an important task at Fort Scott?



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4. Dragoon Barracks

When the soldiers weren't out on horseback, they slept on the second floor of the barracks. Go upstairs to the squad room. Half the company shared this one room. As you can see, it was crowded in here. Sometimes this caused fights. There was one soldier who got killed at Fort Scott in a fight over a dog.


Study the beds. The single beds with ropes were for the corporals. They got their own beds. The bunks were for the privates. They slept two to a bunk, two on top, and two on bottom. Counting two to a bunk and one for single beds, figure out how many people slept in this room.

Look at the names on the bunks. These are the names of soldiers who were here. Write down the names of four of the soldiers

One of the exhibits across the hall tells about the weapons of the dragoons- the saber, the carbine, and the pistol.

The saber and the carbine were the main weapons. As you read the exhibit, compare the two weapons. If you were a dragoon, which weapon would you prefer, the saber or the carbine? Explain why you would make this choice. Hint: Think about how you would use each weapon.



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5. Laundress Quarters

Most of the work at the fort was done by the soldiers who were all men. There were some women though, called laundresses, that washed the soldiers' clothes. They worked hard scrubbing the soldiers' clothes on a washboard. They made extra money by mending rips and tears on clothes and sewing on buttons. Let's help the laundress do her work.



The laundress had many tools to do her work. Look at the pictures below and decide which of these tools the laundress would need to complete her work. Cross out the unnecessary items.



If a laundress did the laundry for 4 soldiers and then mended 2 coats, altered 3 vests, and sewed on 16 large buttons, how much money would she make?



From: Council of Administration
To: Post Laundress
July 1845

Prices for laundry and mending:
Set Price for laundry \$.50 per mo. per Soldier
Buttons- small \$.01 per button
 large \$.03 per button
Mending- coats \$.25
 vest \$.12
 pantaloon \$.19
 Great Coat \$.37 1/2
Altering-vest \$.37
 pantaloon \$.37 1/2
 coats \$.40
Shortening Vest \$.12
Enlarging Vest \$.20
Mending Shirts \$.10
1 yard of Muslin thread \$.20
Mending Drawers \$.09

Chairman of Council
Capt. Sydney Burbank
Commander of Fort Scott

Next to the laundress quarters exhibit is a washboard and tub. Remove the shirt from your haversack and pretend to scrub it on the washboard to experience the hard work of a laundress.



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6. Free State vs. Pro-Slavery

The army left Fort Scott in 1853. Two years later, the fort became a town. After my dad left the army, he moved back to Fort Scott with his family. My dad thought his adventures were over when he came here, but then people started fighting about slavery in Kansas.

Below are pictures of two buildings that became hotels. One was the Fort Scott or Free State Hotel. The other is the Western or Pro-Slavery Hotel. Look at some of the outdoor exhibits and figure out which one is which. Write your answer in the space below the pictures.



The town was so divided that all the streets on the west side of town were named after free state men and all the streets on the east side were named after pro-slavery men. Take the map of Fort Scott out of your haversack and study the street names. Write below the names of two free state men and two pro-slavery men.

Free State Men

Pro-Slavery Men

NPS Note: Most of the answers to Activities 6 and 7 can be found on two outdoor exhibits. The Western Hotel exhibit, which is located in front of the museum and the exhibit with the photo of James Montgomery located just in front of Officers' Row. If you have not already read the Western Hotel exhibit, you may have to go back there to do these activities.



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