



Oklahoma Chapter

Coalition of Historical Trekkers

Newsletter



May 1, 2010

Greetings to All,

As our membership dues are up in June wanted to be sure everyone in the area got a copy of this newsletter as a renewal application is also included. Sure other State reps have gotten this to you also plus there is always a copy in the TTG, just wanted to double check. I know of several in the SCT that renewed their membership at Ft. Osage so please disregard, for those that have already mailed or plan to will not get those updates from Membership Director Jim until his June roster.

As to State reps, Tracy Smith Missouri State rep and Bryan Everhart Kansas State rep have decided to step down after several years of dutiful service the entire membership owes these two very fine guys a Big Thanks for their help.

If there is anyone in these two States that would like to give the State rep position a go please contact me with any questions or concerns, happy to help.

The National Gathering 2010 was a great time and very much look forward to next year already, outside of a bit of rain Friday morning we had very good weather and great company in camp. For those that might have missed it on the member's message board including a posting from Mac in Nebraska, says a lot about the Gathering and the folks involved.

I certainly don't want to give anyone the impression I want to be snottie by posting here but I thought I could share a little more information about my experience this year. It is hard to move away from the present and gain the mind set of the past when thoughts linger about things to do in the now. I was looking forward this year to reuniting with my fellow Coalition brothers and sisters. However, my mind was riddled with things I forgot and things I had left undone at home. My good friend and fellow Nebraskan Scott Carlson was able to help me snap back to reality after some complaining about things that just didn't matter. The three and a half hour drive was just what I needed to gain a perspective of relinquishing petty issues. The closer we got to Fort Osage the more I became excited for participating in the gathering.

Shortly after arriving there was a smell in the air of old Fort. I felt as if I had come home after being gone for a couple of years. After a short walk around camp and seeing faces which were familiar I felt much more at ease. It did not take long to realize that we were back near a large body of water as the mosquitos tried first to suck my blood dry and then carry my lifeless body away from camp. The pests were thick as could be and gave a quick dose of discomfort. After being ridiculed by fellow comrades about the apparent

welts on body I finished setting my lean-to. I got changed and traveled back in my mind anyway to late 1700's. My clothing still smelled of events past and set the tone for my mind getting prepared for a great event.

After some common bantering with old friends about current events it was time for the first nights sleep under the beautiful night sky. I did not sleep real well that first night but it felt good to be there. Of course as usual the trains and local dogs greeted us throughout the night. As I remembered I awoke to the rising sun and a smell of smoke from those who had started morning cooking routines. I had decided early on that a trip to the outhouse to clean up might just get the body started right in the morning and so everyday I maintained the same routine so as to feel prepared for the day. Thursday was just what I needed a relaxing day of not much going on. There had been mention of a canoe trip but due to the highness of the great river Missouri we put the idea aside. "Long-Arm" did not disappoint by bringing his new water craft with him to the event and it was a fine piece of construction. It still amazes me that others possess such abilities to take Living History one step further by working with their hands to create extraordinary pieces. I did take plenty of time to roast a large portion of coffee beans over an open fire and although this task seemed menial I enjoyed sitting quietly moving beans and watching ever so carefully not to burn them. Thursday evening ended without much flare which was just fine by me. I slept much better this night and awoke again the next day keeping with my original plan. I spent some time this morning cooking a good breakfast and allowing myself the opportunity to awaken slowly. No reason to hurry and this provided a much needed opportunity to meet and greet others. I had a great privilege to meet Susie from Utah who was my closest neighbor. It never ceases to impress me the quality of folks our organization has drawn from all over the country. What a lovely woman who spent intentional time getting to know me and allowing me to do the same with her. I was very impressed with her independent spirit. Thanks! Susie for taking the time to let me get to know you I hope I have future opportunities. We took time on Friday to travel to the Arabia Ship Museum. I was very impressed by the array of artifacts that were recovered and to have one of the original men from the dig site come in and speak to us was very impressive. Thanks! "Rooster" for covering my fanny one more time. Did I mention we have incredible quality folks in our organization. If I did I don't mind doing it again. I had the honor of getting to know Chris and Dean from the Fort Atkinson area better. It would be hard to find two men with any more knowledge about blacksmithing and weapons than these two men. It truly was like opening a text book and trying to take in all of the information and feeling that information overload. These are two quality individuals that I hope to continue to pick the brains of over time. I had the chance to try some "port" and blue cheese provided by my very good friend Todd from South Dakota. There is something to be said for our Northern Brothers hospitality. They are the most generous group of "frontier trash" I believe I will ever run across. More than once they have kept me out of trouble and longing for more. I found myself wandering up for tavern night earlier than normal. I think the anticipation of such an event was more than I could handle. Once again it did not disappoint. Plenty of hot buttered rum to go around. Lots of laughter, pipe smoke, music (I special requested COO-COO NEST for "Cabin-Boy" Paulie) and the chance to meet new friend like "Miss Penny." What a lovely gal that took all of our joking in stride. After plenty of maylay it was time to hit the wool blanket for a rainy but very peaceful nights sleep.

Saturday made for a very full day of spectators coming to visit the encampment. Many of whom were children who could not see. You guessed it in normal form our gracious members allowed them to touch, smell and excite their senses so that they could

experiance "Living" History. Did I mention that we have the best group of folks in the country for making History come alive. If I did well we do! The day also included a silent round robin trade blanket which was just as enjoyable this year as in years past. I did come home with a few more things. Scott! I told you not to let me bring back more than what I took. Saturday would not be complete without a council meeting and dinner. The food was fabulous! I never did get my trout done but the anticipation was nice. The auction was a great way to end the early evening and have a few more dollars returned to the budget. "Out of the Ordinary" performed and there was talk of a dance that didn't quite happen. I did wander back up to the Fort for a shorter tavern night and again spent some quality time fellowshiping with fine folks. The temp. dropped Saturday night to around 38-39 degrees. I hunkered down in the wool and stayed pretty darn warm. Sunday made for a sad ending to a great week and after packing our stuff up Scott Carlson and I headed home for Nebraska. I of course special requested our yearly stop at "Cracker-Barrel" for breakfast and Scott abliged. I explained to Scott both coming and going that I had perhaps the best year yet. My appriciation for the event, those that work hard to put it together and all those that participate has grown over the years. I failed to mention Dave "Long-Arms" demonstration of melting pine tar and using it to waterproof items was very interesting and educational. He stated several times we were all learning together which is the way it should be.

Mr. Pickle and Mr. "Moon" Hinton, I appriciated the chance to get to know both of you better and could not finish without mentioning that both of you have contributed so much to both the organization and my own further base of knowledge about History past. I look forward to more oportunites to rub elbows and exchange ideas. Lets not let another full year go by before we make plans to get together.

Lastly, without sounding completely "cheesy" (get it) I have to mention Scott Carlson who has been a good freind and mentor. Each year he gives of himself and this last year took on his own position and the State Rep. postion which I had intended to fulfill. Scott, Thanks for all you do. It is an honour to travel with you and consider you a friend. You have contributed much to my intrest and success as a "Living Historian."

I sure hope that those that that missed the gathering this year can begin to plan to make next years event. Ther were plenty of pictures taken and mention of a picture c.d. that could be made avalible. I would be interested in any photos that were taken.

Thanks for letting me ramble. With the Most Humility,

Mac (green-cheese-eating; coffee making) Stewart

I would like to Thank Mac for the posting as well allowing to use it in the newsletter, for those that missed a few of the inside jokes guess you'll have to make 2011 to let Mac explain them in person, plus get a great cup of coffee.

Also have a copy of the current Treasure's Report from Mr. Carlson, it won't fit this time with everything else so include that in the June issue, until then.

Best to All, Take / Give Care,

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