

Rock Creek Station State Historical Park Labor Day Weekend 2015/1865

It's been a busy summer along the trail, with the Civil War at last coming to a close. All sorts of folks are headed west and the usual freight trains continually roll over the dusty road at Rock Creek.

At Rock Creek, the people are determined to lay claim to the profits the road brings, despite the reported danger and rumors of possible Indian attack. With late summer setting in, the early westward traffic is quieting, allowing time for chores, field work, and the cutting of hay for the impending winter.

1865 has brought new folks to Rock Creek and the small settlement now boasts a new stone post office, offering service to both locals and travelers. There is an occasional patrol of military who have kept up a vigil along the road, but attention has shifted westward toward the high plains and north to the new railroad tracks being laid west of Omaha City.

***Make Ready for September 5th - 6th 1865.
Will you be at Rock Creek Station?***

ROCK CREEK STATION STATE HISTORICAL PARK

NEWS RELEASE

PROGRAM TIMES AND DATES: Labor Day Weekend, September 5-6 – Open to the Public

PLACE: Rock Creek Station State Historical Park, 57416 710th Road, Fairbury, NE 68352.

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Rock Creek Station invites you to join them for a weekend long living history event taking place over Labor Day weekend, September 5 and 6 2015.

A vehicle park entry permit is required; and can be purchased at the Visitor Center. With your admission you gain access to Rock Creek's pristine site and park activities. Rock Creek Station is located between Beatrice and Fairbury, Nebraska, near US Highway 136, the Heritage Highway Byway. The park address is 57416 710th Road, Fairbury, NE 68352. Experience history come to life; this is not an opportunity you will want to miss!

Rock Creek Station, one of America's most picturesque westward trail sites, has been beautifully reconstructed along the Oregon, California, and Pony Express trails. This amazing 394 acre site features original trail ruts, native and restored tall grass prairie, woodland edges and 5 log buildings, situated along the banks of Rock Creek. Rock Creek Station was active during the 1850's and 1860's as a stopping place along the overland trail, and was a station stop, for the short lived Pony Express. This Pony Express swing station or 'road ranche' was host to many historic characters, the most colorful being Wild Bill Hickok; who killed his first man at Rock Creek Station in 1861.

Over Labor Day weekend, the public will be presented an opportunity to step back to 1865; depicting the events of 150 years ago. We invite you to experience a day in the life of the early Nebraskans who laid claim to the Great Plains. The Civil War has come to a close, and the nation is once again setting its sights on expansion in the West. The overland trails surge with traffic. Many are heading westward in pursuit of opportunities in the unsettled territories – providing the economic life-blood for road ranches like Rock Creek Station. Visitors will have a chance to see life as it was, as living historians portray the daily tasks of those living and working at the Station. Activities will include: hand cutting of prairie hay, garden tended, blacksmith forge running, cooks kettles boiling, and other activities. While the smoke from Wild Bill's guns may be long gone, this scenic site along the overland trails will come to life this Labor Day weekend.

The Park's Visitor Center is open from 10am-5pm, seven days a week (April 25-Sept. 20); Visitor Center admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children 3-12 years of age. The park boasts miles of scenic trails, providing the perfect place to walk, hike, bike, or bring your own animal and saddle up for a trail ride. Both modern and primitive camping facilities offer campers a place to relax, with a variety of amenities including special facilities for those with horses.

About Rock Creek Station and the Great Plains Garrison

The Great Plains Garrison is a group of living historians from across the state dedicated to supporting the historic sites of Nebraska. They host annual events at Rock Creek Station and other State Historic Parks and museums throughout the state. They also put on small Living History days every 3rd Saturday at the Rock Creek Station from May to October.

For more information about the events, please call 402-729-5777 or visit www.OutdoorNebraska.org

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