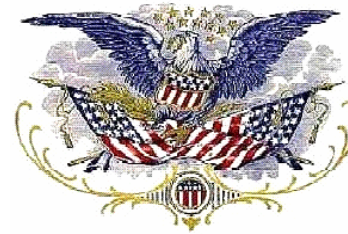


Fort McKavett State Historical Site
P. O. Box 68
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

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‘West Texas Heritage Days’

This year’s event went very smooth even with showers on Friday and Saturday. Visitation (about 500) was down due to the weather but as you all know it’s hard to get mad at rain in Texas.

We were able to get most of our demonstrations done as well as the Memorial Service.

Special thanks need to go to, John and Randy Cobb, John Schultz and his family John and Sara, Mark Stine, Matt Weeks, Jim Bosworth, and many others for their assistance with all the duties that go along with an event like this. I would also like to thank Susan Dial, Dixie Hoover, and Lisa Lester for all the wonderful photographs of the event which are posted on the Fort McKavett website.

Tours were given on Friday afternoon and Sunday morning of the Powder Magazine, the Post Gardens, and the Stables. The folks that got to go on this tour seemed to really enjoy it.

Mark your calendars for:

March 27, 2004

West Texas Heritage Day

This will be the date for next year’s event.



Photographs of the event can be viewed at:

www.yahhoo.com/group/FortMcKavett

From the Archives

From the Medical Records of Fort McKavett in February 1882, we find Post Surgeon W. E. Waters records:

Three Children of the garrison were poisoned by eating the bulbous root of an unknown plant growing on the edge of an aqua in the Post Garden.

They were all attacked with convulsions of the form of opisthotones about half an hour after they had eaten the root. Violent and frequent with sick of them, and continuing for five hours. They continued unconscious between the convulsions. The pupils were largely dilated and insensitive to light, and continued dilated for several hours after the cessation of the convulsions.

The boy least seriously affected, had but one convulsion, but was much excited, struggled violently, and was unconscious for an hour.

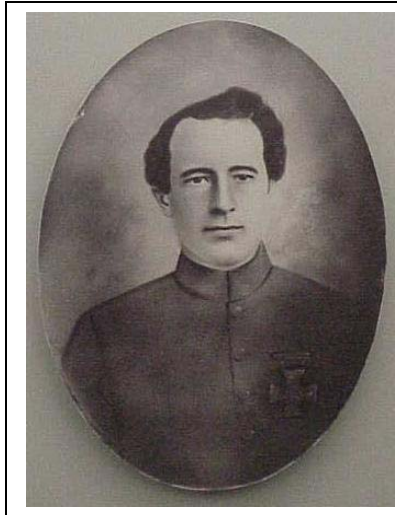
They all recovered.

No similar case of poisoning has ever occurred here.

The plant is unknown by its root to all in the vicinity, but it may be identified when it matures and a specimen of it will be allowed to grow for that purpose.



Historic Figures at Fort McKavett



Chief of Scouts James J. Callan

James J. (JJ) Callan was the Chief of Scouts for the Army at Fort McKavett from 1868 until 1880. He was born in Ireland in 1834, emigrated to the United States in 1842, arrived in Texas in 1855, served as a Texas Ranger before and during the Civil War, founded newspapers, and founded the Menard County Town of Callan with a donation of land to bring the Railroad to Menardville.

J.J. Callan was paid the princely sum of \$75.00 per month, rations and housing while employed as Scout at McKavett. For information about him, and others, check in the Fort McKavett Post Library.



Upcoming Events



Fort McKavett Volunteers and
Living History Events

- May 2-4, Texas Forts Trail, Fort Worth (Contact Buddy at the Site)
- May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline
- May 16-17, 2nd Annual Living History Days, Fort Chadbourne
- May 30- 1st, Memorial Day Tours at the Post
- July 4-6, Guided Tours and Living History at Fort McKavett
- Dec. 5-7, Christmas at Fort Concho

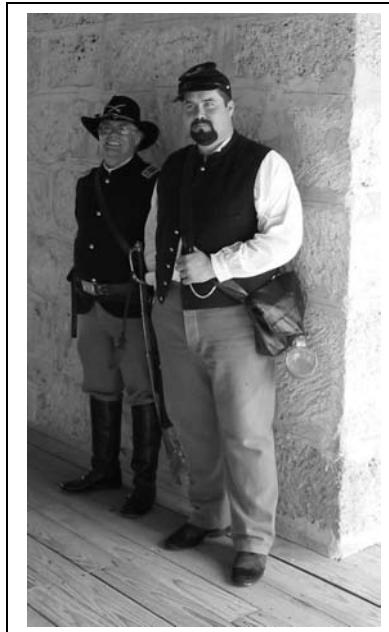


Left, Wendell Prince
and Otis Williams



Fort McKavett

Below, Kenneth and Tad



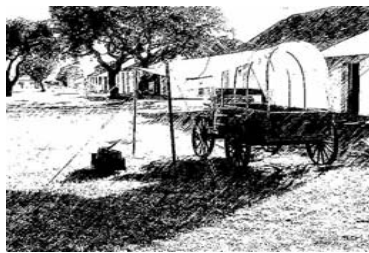
Furniture for the Officers Quarters

Texas Parks and Wildlife has scheduled May 20 as the date to furnish the Captains Row buildings.

Gabe is going to Austin to meetings on April 1st about these.

We are waiting to see what this will look like when they get it done.

Updates to come...



May 1877 brought this report from Dr. Goddard about the Post Gardens...

Post and Company Gardens:

During the month of April, the ground used in former years for garden purposes was ploughed up, and divided into seven equal portions, six were allotted to the six companies on duty at the post, and the seventh portion set apart as a post garden, for use of the staff and non-commissioned staff officers. Each section of land was placed in charge of two enlisted men who attend to its cultivation. The gardens this year have proven unusually good. Large quantities of vegetables, such as onions, beets, cabbage, radishes, corn, lettuce, squash, parsley, turnips, okra, cucumbers, string beans, peas, tomatoes, water and musk melons have been saved.

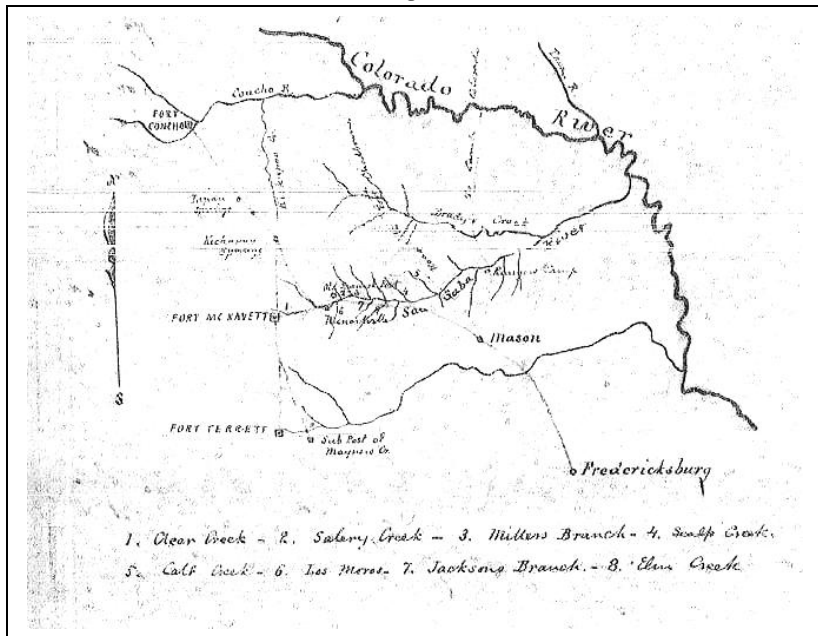
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If you haven't made the tour of the Post Gardens, Stables, and the Powder Magazine, contact Gabe at the Post for information. This is on private property and reservations have to be made.

1871 Sub Posts of Fort McKavett



This is one of the maps in the new CD available for use at the Post Library. This is from the Scouting and Expedition Reports showing the Sub Posts and Patrol Area where Fort McKavett Soldiers operated. The Sub Posts named are Old Fort Terrett, Mayners Creek, Kickapoo Springs, Indian Springs and the Texas Ranger Camp east of Menardville (now Menard).

For this other information about Fort McKavett, the Buffalo Soldiers, Texas Indian Wars, Pioneer Women, and General Indian Wars research material, contact John "Gabe" Schooley at Fort McKavett's Post Library for an appointment.

Cemetery Update

We now have the names of all of the 31 Officers and Enlisted Men left at the Cemetery from the time frame before 1859. We have also come across the names of family members, soldiers, and civilian employees who were left at the Post as well. There will be a major update on all of this in the May Fort McKavett Gazette.

Report from the Star Party



From Lisa Lester

JSCAS members began arriving at the fort in force on Thursday, March 27. Thursday afternoon and evening the winds were between 15 and 25 mph with gusts up to 45mph. This did not make the owners of the larger telescopes happy! Luckily, the operators of the smaller scopes were willing to share eyepiece time so spirits were high! They remained high until the clouds began to roll in. Most people quit observing around midnight and went to bed hoping for a better night on Friday.

Friday dawned cold and overcast but the winds were only 5 to 15 mph! By afternoon the clouds had burned off and the temperatures had warmed up a little and everyone was anticipating a wonderful Messier Marathon. Everyone gathered to cook their dinner on the outdoor grills and share a wide variety of side dishes. Several toasts were made to the memory of Dave Brown and then it was time for what Dave loved so much; observing. The Messier Marathon began! Working as a team was very effective and a number of the objects were observed until the clouds started gathering! By 10:30 there were only a few holes in the clouds and the temperatures had dropped so many people covered up their scopes and visited or went to bed.

Saturday morning was cold and cloudy but the skies cleared in time for our traditional BBQ lunch. Before lunch was served a short memorial service was held to honor Dave Brown and the rest of the crew of STS-107. Scouts and grown-ups enjoyed the talks and hands-on activities held in the schoolhouse during the late afternoon. As the sun set the skies were clear and the seeing was the best all weekend. Unfortunately, the temperatures were also the lowest they'd been in a long time; 21 degrees! Despite the wind and the cold weather as people said their goodbyes many made plans to return in October.