

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 6, Number 4

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## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

**April 13-15**, "Fort Richardson Days", 140th anniversary, Friday is Education Day

**April 27-28**, Lake Brownwood SP, "Open House and Youth Outdoors", Education Day on Friday

**April 27-28**, "Texas Forts Trail Muster", Fort Worth Stockyards

**May 4-5**, Fort Chadborne, School Day on Friday the 4th, General Public on the 5<sup>th</sup>

**May 12**, Mission Tejas Folk Festival, 1820 to 1880 Living History

**May 18-20**, Texas State Railroad, School Day on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>

**Jun 23-24**, Last Frontier Heritage Celebration, Morton

**Oct 12-13**, "Fort Griffin Living History Days", 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**Dec 7-9**, "Christmas at Old Fort Concho", San Angelo

*Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett Gazette's can be found at:*

[www.fortmckavett.org](http://www.fortmckavett.org)



## West Texas Heritage Days 2007



The School House bell was formally dedicated by Dr. Billy Dippel during our West Texas Heritage Day's noon lunch. Dr. Dippel was instrumental in spearheading the efforts to find and purchase an appropriate reproduction bell. We wish to thank the following for their generous contributions: Dr. and Mrs. Billy I. Dippel; Gary and Dr. Kathryn Barnett; Laura Norman; Jerry Spain; Dr. Bryce Reid; Mathew McConnell; and Rodger and Carolyn McCartney.

# Gone with the Wind...

*In spite of heavy winds, Saturday's event went off great!*



*Hard winds collapsed the big tent at Fort McKavett Friday night. This was a surprise for everyone that got up for breakfast and found our mess hall on the ground! With everyone's help, we were able to get the big tent back up in time for one of Buddy's great lunches! Lots of hands were involved, thanks!*

*We had enough folks on hand, everyone got on a rope and after a few minutes, we were able to get the tent back up!*



*To keep the winds from taking the big tent down again, it was anchored with a tractor and a pickup on the corners. Note the dark clouds in the background in these photos.*

*Buddy Garza is shown overseeing the preparation of breakfast in the Schoolhouse after the tent went down. There was plenty for everyone to eat. Buddy was up from 2 AM on during the storms and aftermath.*



**WARRINGTON'S REPORT**  
Scouting Expedition, Southern Column  
Fresh Fork Brazos River, Tx.  
Dec 19, 1874  
Asst. Adj. General  
Scouting Expedition

*Lt. Warrington was assigned to Co. "F" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at Fort McKavett. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for this action. He died in 1879 and is buried at San Antonio's National Cemetery.*

**Sir:**

Receiving orders from General R. S. Mackenzie 4 Cavalry Dec. 8th while camped at Head of Moocho Kaway [Mucha-que, between Gail and Snyder, Texas] to move out after a party of Indians which had been seen in vicinity of the camp, I started with ten men of Co I 4 Cavy, after riding three miles, five Indians were seen.

Taking advantage of a ridge for two miles I managed to get within a mile of them before being discovered and immediately gave chase-after running two miles, one of the Indians abandoned his horse and endeavored to catch [blur] of a number driven by them, but being unsuccessful ran on foot about a mile when he was overtaken by me, as he made no attempt to use his arms and thinking possibly he would be of service to the command I took him prisoner.

By this time my men where strung along the trail, ordering two men who were in near me to push and turning the prisoner over to a man with a jaded horse, I started in pursuit of the others, after a run of two miles the remaining four Indians dismounted to fight and by closing upon them by two men and wounding one of their number who was assisted upon a horse they mounted horses they were driving and for a time lengthened the distance, within three miles one of the number dismounted and ran over a mile on foot, when he was overtaken by myself and Private Bengenchall, Co. I, 4th Cavalry who shot and mortally wounded him, Private O'Sullivan of the same company shooting him a second time, encouraging the men to urge their Jaded horses on, two more Indians were dismounted and ran for some distance when one was overtaken and turned to fight, being within a few yards I shot him through the lungs and dismounted from my horse. His bow being broken by one of two men, he threw an arrow which missed it's mark and then rushed upon and endeavored to stab me, keeping him off with my carbine while endeavoring to get at the cartridges which had broke through the lining of my coat, he turned and attempted to mount my horse, being weak from loss of blood and a well directed shot, put an end to his existence.

The wounded Indian made his escape on horseback, and the remaining one on foot, my horse being completely broken down and the Indian the best man on the run. As the sun was setting and but two men within a mile I returned to the Camp of the command which was distant nearly eighteen miles, having one warrior and satisfactory evidence of the death of two together with nine captured horses. During the chase a party of about twenty Indians scampered off to the right. I did not pursue them owing to the tired condition of my horses and having but two men with me.

Hoping that the above may meet the approbation of the Commanding Officer. I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully  
Your Obdt Servant  
LEWIS WARRINGTON

*There are no known photographs of Lt. Warrington at this time.*

## *This Year's Event a Hit!*

Fort McKavett's 2007 "West Texas Heritage Day" was a big hit in spite of the weather. We raised \$2,200.00 with the Silent Auction and the donations at the Barbeque on Saturday.

We got to visit with a lot of our old friends and made new ones this year. Our thoughts go out to Fort Griffin who had damage to their five tents on the Parade Ground in the high winds Friday night. They had to pack up their equipment on Saturday morning, but stayed around for the entire event without displays or tents.

We decided to cut everyone loose on Saturday afternoon early (3:30) when we were told there was more bad weather on the way. Everyone took time in their packing to police up the area before they left.



*Flag Raising on Saturday Morning at Fort McKavett. Note the dark clouds and rain in the background.*

**A Special Word of Thanks from the Friends of Fort McKavett to all the Living History Participants in this Years Event. For "Actions Above and Beyond the Call of Duty"**



**Muzzie McDaniel 104 yrs old and Robert Flutsch 97 yrs old were our special guest at the West Texas Heritage Days (WTHD) March 24<sup>th</sup> and gave us the honor being photographed with Ken Pollard and the Texas Buffalo Soldiers.**



**The Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society's Spring Star Party at Fort McKavett was a great success. Despite bad weather predictions, more than 30 astronomers from the Houston area showed up and were treated to 3 nights of clear skies. The public star party on Saturday night was well attended by local residents and 2 Boy Scout groups from Camp Sol Mayer.**

# Update from Austin on Fort McKavett's Future



Friends of Fort McKavett Director and Texans for State Parks Director, John Cobb met with the Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Committee in the House, the Governor's Staff, Lt. Governor's Staff and the Speaker of the House Staff members the last week in March over the future of Fort McKavett State Historic Site. They were all presented with a petition signed by 215 members of the Friends of Fort McKavett asking the site stay part of Texas State Parks and not be transferred to the Texas Historic Commission

**We are urging all Friends of Fort McKavett to contact their local Representative in the House and their State Senator to ask for full funding for Texas State Parks and to have a 2 year moratorium on any transfers until there is an in depth study made on this plan.**



*The Texas Buffalo Soldiers used our Fort McKavett Wagon this year at the Heritage Days Event. As you can see by the photo on the left, they were a hit with the students on education day.*

The Texas Buffalo Soldiers have a new website, visit it at:  
[www.texasbuffalosoldier.org](http://www.texasbuffalosoldier.org)

*Education Day this year was a grand success! The weather held off and the temperatures were comfortable for the students to see over 15 exhibits and nature hikes to the Government Springs. We had close to 500 kids this year on Friday. Thanks to everyone who gave their time to make this happen!*



*Civil Air Patrol Squadron TX403 from Bell County Temple, TX.*

Helping us get ready for this year's event, CAP Squadron TX403 helped the Staff at Fort McKavett by cleaning up the site and trimming trees. Thanks to them, the fort looked great this year!



*Left: Fred and Barbara Van De Valde of Post Texas along with their son Freddie and Lydia Garza, provided great chuck wagon cooking throughout the event. The staff wants to thank the Van De Valde's for showing up every year to help make the event a success*

*Right: Children from the Burnett Coop Area Home Educators school group at recess in front of School House.*