

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 7, Number 4

April, 2008



April 5, Johnson Space Center  
Astronomical Society Star Party  
April 11-12, Fort Richardson Days,  
Friday is Education Day.  
April 12, "Living History Days",  
Mission Tejas State Historic Site  
April 26-26, Lake Brownwood State  
Park School Day and Open House  
May 2-3, Fort Chadbourne Days  
Living History Event, Student Day is  
the 2nd  
May 10, Fort Mason 150th  
anniversary  
May 8-10, Fort Worth Stockyards  
June 28-29, Texas' Last Frontier  
Heritage Celebration, Morton



**Buddy finally  
getting to eat  
thanks to a full  
staff this year!**

*Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett  
Gazettes can be found at:*

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



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

[www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

## A Note from the President

This year's event was a great success. We had over 600 students for education day. Schools sent their students from all over the area. The weather was chilly on Friday, but Saturday warmed up and was comfortable in our wools.

As usual, Buddy and the Staff did a terrific job of getting the Post ready for the event. The food was great and, hopefully, nobody went away hungry.

The presentations for Colonel McTaggart were really special and it gave us all quite a thrill to be part of his day.

We want to thank Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Menard County, the 344<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion, the Friends of Fort McKavett, and Buddy for making it a great presentation.

I would also like to thank all the exhibitors for coming to this year's event. We wouldn't be able to do it without this great team effort!

**John Cobb**  
Friends of Ft McKavett

## Victorian Ladies Post Conference

*Submitted by Lisa Lester*

Bea Garza, Nancy Jacoby, and Lisa Lester attended the Fourth Annual Victorian Ladies: Women on the Post Conference at Fort Concho on March 8 -9, 2008. This was the first time that any of the three of them had attended the conference. They attended presentations on health & hygiene during the Victorian era, toys of the period, and everyday life. They also learned a little bit about making lye soap and cooking over a wood fire. Everyone enjoyed trying their hand at tatting and they were very happy that what they made actually looked like lace! In the afternoon, the group walked across the parade ground to see the display of historical dresses. Everyone learned a lot about the changes in dresses from the 1860's to the 1870's. Later, the group was taught the first steps in making a quilt. The pattern that they were using was the first quilt pattern published in a magazine in the United States. On Sunday, the ladies had a devotional and learned to make pew babies which were used to entertain the children at church. Throughout the event, opportunities were given the attendees to share ideas and experiences, and to shop at the Ladies Bazaar. Bea, Nancy & Lisa thoroughly enjoyed the conference and are looking forward to participating in next year's event.



*Photographs from Lisa Lester at Fort Concho's Ladies School*  
*Left: Nancy Jacoby and Right: Bea Garza*  
We are looking forward to seeing them at more events.

## Meet the Staff



Chris Fischer is a native of Fort Worth, Texas and has always had a strong sense of, and love for, history. Many of you may have met or seen Chris at some of the various living history events around the state. Chris has a Masters in Museum Studies and has worked at the U.S. Cavalry Museum, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Museum, and Historic Fort Snelling, as well as having been involved with living history since 1989. Chris is also a certified teacher and has spent the last 3 ½ years teaching Texas History in the San Antonio Independent School District. Chris first became aware of Fort McKavett and its living history programs through the prompting of Kent Vining in 2002. Since then, he has participated in various events with Fort McKavett and now has a deep affection for the site, its history, and the Friends of Fort McKavett. Chris is looking forward to many years here at Ft. McKavett.

## Fort Clark Event



Living History Director John Schultz, Andrew Schultz, and Fort McKavett's Chris Fischer attended this year's Fort Clark event. There were students on Education Day (Friday) and open to the General Public on Saturday. There were many visitors to the site.

# West Texas Heritage Days



Colonel Richard McTaggart was honored at this year's event for his many years of service to Fort McKavett. Guest Speakers presented the Colonel with honors from Texas Historical Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife, the U.S. Army, Menard County, the Texas House of Representatives and our own Friends of Fort McKavett. Photo by Kat Walker



*Left: the Plaque presented to Colonel McTaggart from the Friends of Fort McKavett. Below, the Metal Plaque, now on the wall at the Post Library, dedicating the Research Wing to the Colonel.*



# More photographs from McKavett



**Left: Representative Harvey Hilderbran, The Chairman of the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee in the House of Representatives with Tom Alexander, our Commissioner with the Texas Historical Commission**



**Left: Camels in the Senior Officers Parade Ground at Fort McKavett**

**Right: Colonel McTaggart and Lt. Col. Chester from the 34<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion from Goodfellow AFB**



**Right: Part of the large exhibit brought by Fort Griffin State Historic Site**



**Left: Fort Richardson shared their fire with cold students**



## Meet our Commissioners, Tom Alexander

Thomas E. Alexander of Kerrville was appointed to the Texas Historical Commission in 2003 and serves as the commission's professional historian. He is president of The Alexander Company, specializing in historical research, television documentary development and consulting. He is the author of numerous books about Texas military history, the first of which was awarded the Publication of the Year Citation by the San Antonio Conservation Society in 2001.

Alexander served with the Strategic Air Command of the United States Air Force and with the Illinois Air National Guard where he held the rank of major. He retired from Neiman Marcus as executive vice president for marketing after nearly 20 years of service. He also ranched for many years in Central Texas.

Alexander earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado and his master's degree from the American Military University in West Virginia with honors in Civil War Studies. He is a member of the Western Writers of America and the Texas State Historical Association, The East Texas Historical Association, the Panhandle Plains Historical Society and the West Texas Historical Association where he serves on the board of directors. He is also a Life Member of the Air Force Association, the Military Officers Association of America and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



*Photograph and biography courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission*

Commissioner Alexander has worked closely with the Staff and Volunteers at Fort McKavett in the transfer process, as well as keeping up with our events and programs. He is a “hands on” type of Commissioner and we are very pleased to have him help guide us in our mission.

*Commissioner Alexander and his wife “Cappy” have joined us at Fort McKavett several times from their home in Kerrville*

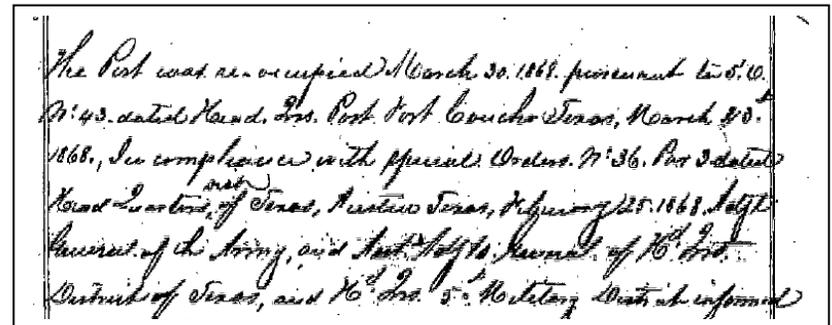


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## The Month of March at Fort McKavett

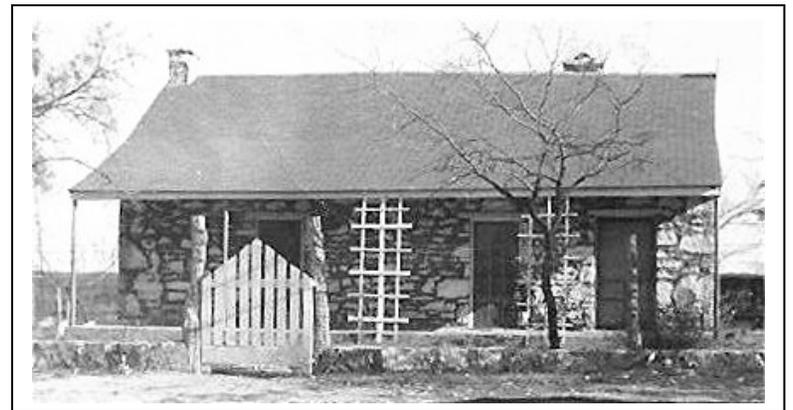
March has always played an important part in the History of Fort McKavett. The Post was founded in March, 1852 and was abandoned the first time in March, 1859. The Army came back in March 1868. Sgt Emanuel Stance was in the action where he received the Medal of Honor while serving at Fort McKavett in March. And, of course, our West Texas Heritage Days event is held in March.



*From the Post Returns of Fort McKavett, March 1868*



## Post Trader's Home at Fort McKavett



The Post Trader was assigned housing at the Post and, after the Army left, Sam Wallick bought the property. This photograph was taken in 1937. It was located in front of the church. Today, there are just a few stones left.