

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 8

August, 2008



## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

**Oct 10-12**, Fort Griffin Days, Fort Griffin. Education Day on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>

**Oct 25**, Friends of Fort McKavett Meeting and Star Party

**Dec 5-7**, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, San Angelo. Education day on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>

**Feb 14-15** (2009), Battleship Texas Time Line (Remember the Maine), Houston

**April 17-18** (2009), Fort Richardson Days, Education Day on Friday

**April 25** (2009), Mission Tejas Folk Festival, Mission Tejas State Park



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*

First of all, I would like to thank Alfredo and Ken for the photographs for this month's newsletter. I had some things come up and was unable to attend several events this month. Their input was greatly appreciated. As you can see, there has been a lot going on and there are plans for a lot more to happen over the next few months.

Second, keep your calendar open for October 10-12 to help Fort Griffin at their annual event.

Third, our Friends of Fort McKavett meeting is on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have elections, a star party, and another auction (our main money maker for the group). If you have something you can add to the auction items, contact Alfredo at the Post.

There are some meetings going on about the addition of the Presidio to our complex. We will know more about this in the next few months...

*More Later...John*

## New Work done on Nature Trail...

The Staff at Fort McKavett has been busy widening and cleaning the trail from the Hospital at Fort McKavett to the Springs. They have done a good job of cleaning up the area of the Lime Kiln and the quarry on the trail. This is the kind of work we can accomplish with a full staff on board!



*The lime kiln area has been cleaned up with excess growth removed.*

*Right: The quarry area for the lime kiln has been cleared of excess vegetation and loose rocks so visitors to the site can see what the area looked like in the 1800's.*



**Left: Tractors, chippers, the mule, trucks and trailers were some of the equipment used (by the way, this is all new equipment) to widen and clear the paths leading down to Government Springs and the Nature Trail. Make sure you visit these the next time you are on the site.**



## Old Stories, New Voices 2008



This year's Old Stories, New Voices was a big hit with the almost 50 campers who got to take part in a full week's worth of camping, canoeing, outdoor crafts, heritage education, swimming, historical education, horsemanship, and water safety plus much more.



The award winning National Endowment for the Humanities grant program, the Friends of Fort McKavett, Texas Historical Commission, the Texas State Historical Association, and the Colorado Historical Society.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we have done this, and there are two more coming up in the next couple of years.

There is a link to the Old Stories New Voices blog on our website:

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



## New Vicar of St. James – Fort McKavett

I am excited to be called to be the Rector of St. John's – Sonora, Texas and the Vicar of St. James – Fort McKavett. Tish and I are both native Texans. Tish's family is originally from Beeville, Texas. She was born in Kingsville while her dad was assigned there with the U.S. Army. He retired as a colonel from active duty in New Braunfels but as a result of his career Tish and her siblings grew up in many different places ranging from California to Holland. Tish and I met during our college days at Southwest Texas State University. She graduated with a B.S. in Social Work and worked with the Texas Department of Child Protective Services as an Investigator for 9 years prior to moving to Tennessee for seminary. She currently is working with children in Youth Development and Leadership training.

I was born in Corpus Christi, Texas but moved to New Braunfels at the early age of 13 months. My parents and their families have been residents of the Coastal Bend Area for many years. I come from an Irish and Yaqui Indian/Mexican American background. My mother's family moved from Tennessee to farm in Gregory-Portland, Texas in the 1850s. My father's family have been residents of South Texas for five generations. Dating further back to our native Yaqui roots you could say that they didn't cross the border...it crossed them. Law enforcement is on both sides of my family including a Texas Ranger and various other types law enforcement officers. My father is the first in our family to be appointed as a Police Chief and I continued our law enforcement tradition as a Police Captain at Texas Lutheran University Police Dept.

My hobbies and interests are also diverse. I have always had a passionate interest in anything related to railroading. I've been an avid railroad historian and modeler since early childhood. I attended seminary at the School of Theology, University of the South and received a Masters in Divinity. Additionally, I received a B.A. in History with a concentration in Military History. At times I've been asked by the History Department at Texas Lutheran University to be an adjunct history lecturer on Military History. As a young adult I was active in scouting as an Eagle Scout and was a member of Explore Cavalry Post 857 (A Troop, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment -Memorial). Our boy scout troop and explore cavalry post spent many nights on the parade ground at Fort McKavett, so in a sense it feels like I'm coming back to a second home. And for those of you that have seen the back of my Jeep and seen the "Starfleet Academy" sticker you will know that I am a Star Trek fan.

God's Speed and Blessings, Father Chris

*Father Chris is a re-enactor and living historian. He is a most welcome addition to our Fort McKavett family*



## Medical Officer at McKavett

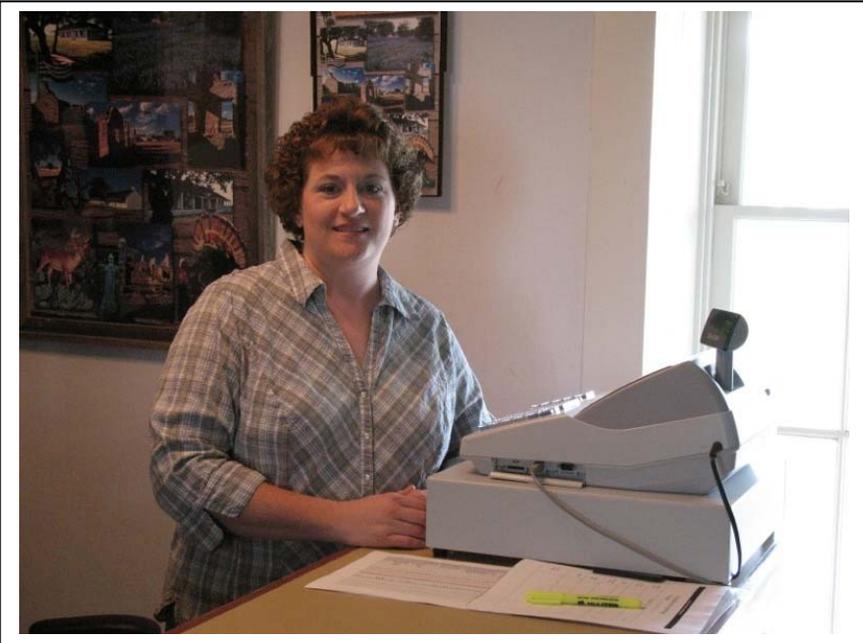


Asst. Surgeon S. M. Crawford was assigned to Fort McKavett from March 1852 until August 1853. Having stayed in the Army until the start of the Civil War, he chose to become an Infantryman to take part in the war. He rose through the ranks to Major General by the end of the war. One thing he had left us is a copy of his report of the flora and fauna of the McKavett area as well as observations of the weather, the geology and the fossils of West Texas. We have copies of these reports in the Post Library

**\* Crawford, Samuel Wylie. Pa. Pa. Asst surg 10 Mar 1851; maj 13 inf 14 May 1861; brig gen vols 25 Apr 1862; hon must out of vol ser 15 June 1866; lt col 2 inf 17 Feb 1864; col 16 inf 22 Feb 1869; tr to 2 inf 15 Mar 1869; retd 19 Feb 1873 and with rank of brig gen 3 Mar 1875 to date from 19 Feb 1873 (act 3 Mar 1875); bvt col 2 July 1863 for gal and mer ser in the battle of Gettysburg Pa; brig gen 13 Mar 1865 for gal and mer ser in the battle of Five Forks Va; maj gen 13 Mar 1865 for gal and mer ser in the field dur the war and maj gen vols 1 Aug 1864 for conspicuous gallantry in the battles of the Wilderness Spottsylvania C H Jericho Mills Bethesda Church Petersburg and Globe Tavern (Weldon R R) and for fai ser in the camp; died 3 Nov 1892.**

Crawford from Heitman's Registry

## Meet the Staff...



*Fort McKavett's new Clerk II, Wanda Martinez*

Wanda Martinez has lived in the Fort McKavett area for over nine years. She moved here from San Angelo with her husband and her two daughters. Her daughters attend Menard Elementary and Menard Junior High School. She enjoys reading, photography and fishing. Wanda says "I am very excited to be working with the staff at Fort McKavett Historic site".

*Welcome on Board Wanda!*



*A tip of the hat...*

*Wanda gives us a full compliment of eight full time employees. This is a first for Fort McKavett and shows the dedication of the Texas Historical Commission and adequate funding towards keeping our Post as the premiere site on the Texas Fort's Trail.*



### **More Boy Scout overnight programs**

*BSA Troop 703 came out on July 12, 2008 had an overnight stay at the Post and performed a service project for Fort McKavett.*



### **Texas Historical Commission's Main Street Project Visits Fort McKavett**



*Members of THC's Main Street Program came out on Wednesday July 30 to tour the site and helped us lower the flag. They were attending a THC Workshop that was held in Sonora, Texas.*