

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 11, Number 8

August, 2012

## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

- \*August 11, Fort McKavett, Trades Program
  - September 14-15, Caprock Canyons State Park, Buffalo Days, School Day on Friday
  - September 29, Palo Duro Canyon, Anniversary of the Battle, No Education Day
  - \*October 12-13, Fort Griffin Living History Days, Education Day on Friday
  - \*October 13, Fort McKavett, Star Party
  - October 20, Fort Stockton, one day event, no school day
  - Dec 7-9, Fort Concho, Christmas at Old Fort Concho, School Day on Friday
- \*THC Historic Sites Event

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

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

*Join us on Facebook  
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## President's Message...

The summer season is winding down and if you haven't had a chance to visit the site, now is a good time to do so.

A contract for the restoration of the doors and windows on the selected buildings has been awarded and planning for this project is underway at this time. This, as you can guess, is a major project and will stabilize our buildings for years to come!

Congratulations are in order for Heather Treadwell, our treasurer with the Friends of Fort McKavett for being named the Post Master of the Menard Post Office. Our Post Office at Fort McKavett is remaining open part time and is as secure as any Post Office is at this time.

As soon as I can travel again, my first trip will be to Fort McKavett. Hope to see you there.

**John Cobb**  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett

# Ken Lester Retiring



Ken Lester, a fixture at Fort McKavett for years as a volunteer, then as a member of the staff is retiring on October 31<sup>st</sup> this year. After retirement he will continue serving as a member of the Friends of Fort McKavett and as a volunteer to the site.

Ken plans to “kick back” for a while, continue with his wood working and get back into his Astronomy hobby. He will be enjoying his new home that he and his wife Lisa have built. Ken said his over 6 ½ years on the Fort McKavett staff has been a “wonderful and rewarding experience”. The Friends of Fort McKavett thank him for his hard work and time at the site! We wish him a very productive and enjoyable retirement. We will be seeing him around!



**Fort McKavett Star Parties Dates have been set for 2013**

**April 13, Spring Star Party**  
**October 5, Fall Star Party**

**Remember our Next Star Party October 13<sup>th</sup>. Planning is underway about Archeology Day and we will announce it next month!**



The School House at Fort McKavett was built in the 1870's and is available for reunions, weddings, meetings, and other family outings. Contact Fort McKavett State Historic Site for details and charges. You will find it very affordable. The building is heated and air conditioned. Note: picnic tables available under the trees.

## Follow Up on Old Stories, New Voices 2012



The Old Stories, New Voices Camp this year was a great success due to the hard work of our staff. Funding for the camp was provided in part by a grant by Humanities Texas. The Friends of Fort McKavett was very pleased to be able to

supplement the funding for this year's camp. We are hoping to be able to perform this service again this coming year. We are already working on this project and will keep you updated through the coming year.

## When Supplies Came into Fort McKavett

**1727.** When packages of military supplies are opened, for the first time, after coming into possession of an officer of the Army, he, or some other commissioned officer, shall be present at the opening, and shall verify the contents by actual weight, count, or measurement, as the case may require, and make a written report to the post commander as to the quantity, quality, and condition of the articles so inspected.

If the officer accountable for the property be present and make the report, he will secure the attendance of one or more civilians, or enlisted men, to make the affidavits required by law in cases of deficiency and damage.

If, on account of deficiency in, or damage to, the articles invoiced, a Board of Survey is convened, the post commander will turn over to it the report made to him by the examining officer. When sworn to, such report may be filed with the proceedings as evidence.

At arsenals and depots where there are persons whose especial duty it is to receive and issue public stores, the reports herein required may be made by them instead of officers of the Army.—[*G. O.* 79, 1873.]

**1728.** When an officer to whom stores are forwarded has reason to suppose them miscarried, he shall promptly inform the issuing and forwarding officer, and the Bureau of the Department to which the property appertains.—[*Regs.* 1863, ¶ 1035.]

**1729.** As far as practicable, every officer in charge of public property, whether it be in use or in store, will endeavor by timely repairs to keep it in serviceable condition, for which purpose the necessary means will be allowed on satisfactory requisitions; and property in store so repaired will be issued for future use. Public animals will not be condemned for temporary disease or want of condition, but may, by order of the commanding officer after inspection, be turned in for rest and treatment, if unfit for the service for which they are immediately required.—[*Regs.* 1863, ¶ 1025.]

**1730.** It is the duty of all officers to guard the public property for which they are responsible by all means in their power. When-

ever information is received that horses, mules, or other property belonging to the United States, are unlawfully in the possession of any person not in the military service, the Quartermaster, or other Staff officer of the Department to which the property belongs, will cause proper proceedings to be promptly instituted and diligently prosecuted before the civil authorities for the recovery of the property, and, if the same has been stolen, for the arrest, trial, and conviction, and due punishment of the thieves, and of all those who aid and abet them by receiving the stolen property, or otherwise.—[*G. O.* 28, 1870.]

Food item supplies were kept in the commissary warehouse. All other items except medical supplies were kept in the quartermaster warehouse. Medical supplies were kept in the hospital's dead house which was used as a medical supply building. Officers served on a rotating basis on most of these supply shipments.

## Officers Became Teachers

### DETAIL AS PROFESSOR IN A COLLEGE.

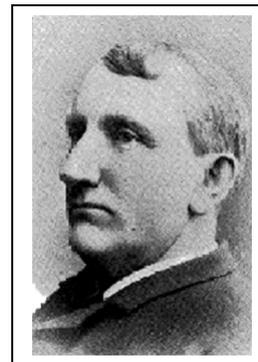
**SEC. 1260.** Any retired officer may, on his own application, be detailed to serve as professor in any college. [But while so serving, such officer shall be allowed no additional compensation.]

15 July, 1870, c. 294, s. 23, v. 16, p. 320.  
27 Feb., 1877, c. 69, v. 19, p. 243.

[That upon the application of any college, university, or institution of learning incorporated under the laws of any State within the United States, having capacity at the same time to educate not less than one hundred and fifty male students, the President may detail an officer of the Army on the retired list to act as president, superintendent, or professor thereof; and such officer may receive from the institution to which he may be detailed the difference between his retired and full pay, and shall not receive any additional pay or allowance from the United States.—*Act approved May 4, 1880.*]

*An officer could request duty as a teacher at a college after 1880 and keep his rank and privileges*

**Pratt, Richard Henry.** N Y. Ind. Corp'l A 9 Ind inf 20 Apr to 29 July 1861; sergt A 2 Ind cav 18 Sept 1861; 1 lt 11 Ind cav 20 Apr 1864; capt 1 Sept 1864; hon must out 29 May 1865; 2 lt 10 cav 7 Mar 1867; 1 lt 31 July 1867; capt 17 Feb 1883; maj 1 cav 1 July 1898; tr to 10 cav 2 Aug 1899; lt col 14 cav 2 Feb 1901; tr to 15 cav 7 Mar 1901; col 13 cav 24 Jan 1903; ret'd 17 Feb 1903; bvt 1 lt and capt 7 Mar 1867 for gal and mer ser dur the war.



An example of this law was Lt. Richard Pratt of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (served at Fort McKavett in the 60's), who founded the Carlisle Indian School. In 1879, he persuaded the Department of the Interior and War Department to allow him to establish an indian school in Carlisle Pennsylvania. His assignment to the Carlisle Indian School was to last twenty-five years. Pratt was promoted to Brigadier General shortly before his forced retirement in 1904.



## *Trades Program at Fort McKavett State Historic Site*



*Mark your calendars so that you don't miss out on our "Trades Program". On Saturday, August 11 there will be a special program that will focus on cordwaining, also known as shoemaking. During the 1850s and 1870s, Fort McKavett had its own shoemaker's shop. It was located on the east of the fort near the present day Hirschfield's Chapel which is on the east side of FM 864. Visit the fort during the program and see how shoes were constructed during the mid-19th century!*



*Left: One of Fort  
McKavett's shops that  
is on private property.  
From the photo  
collection of John  
Cobb*

## *From the Army Cooks Manual*

### **STEWED RABBIT.**

1 rabbit.                      1 small onion.  
¼ pound fat pork.        Mace, nutmeg, pepper, and salt.

Prepare and clean the rabbit as directed for baking, cut it into pieces, and wash it again in cold water; mince the onions; cleanse the pork and cut it into small pieces. Put the rabbit into a pot with a little over a pint of cold water, together with the onion, pork, and seasoning; cover; simmer until tender, stirring it occasionally. When cooked take it up and set it aside to keep warm. Leave the gravy in the pot and add to it a cup of boiling milk or water. Stir in gradually one well-beaten egg; then one or two tablespoonfuls of blended flour. Boil one minute, pour it over the rabbit, and serve.

It may be served by pouring it into a dish containing toasted or fried bread.

### **BAKED POTATOES.**

Time, twenty-five to thirty minutes.

Wash the potatoes and wipe them dry. Nick or cut off a piece at the pointed or eyed end. Put them into the oven; avoid if possible their touching one another. Bake in a uniform heat; turn each potato frequently.

Potatoes should be pared when baked with meat. Lay them in the baking pan around the meat; sprinkle them lightly with salt; baste them when the meat is basted. They take from fifty to sixty minutes to bake. Serve with the meat or separately. They may be boiled in their skins, peeled, and laid in the baking pan with the meat twenty-five or thirty minutes before it is done.

Potatoes may be baked in their skins in hot ashes.

