

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



Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 14, Number 8

August, 2015

Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

October 10, Fort McKavett State
Historic Site, Archeology Day*

October 10, Fort McKavett State
Historic Site, Fall Star Party*

October 9-10, Fort Griffin, Living
History Days, Education Day on
Friday*

December 4-6, Christmas at Old Fort
Concho, Education Day on Friday

May 6-7, 2016, "West Texas Heritage
Days", Fort McKavett State Historic
Site, Education Day on Friday*

**THC Historic Sites Event*



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

www.fortmckavett.org

Join us on Facebook
Friends of Fort McKavett



President's Message...

*Friends of Fort McKavett
President, Lisa Lester, is away on
personal business and will be
back after the first of the month
and able to give us a President's
Message for our September
edition of the Gazette.*

*This month, you will find updates
on some of the things going on at
the site as well as information
about our spring event. We are
moving our event from March to
May. See inside for more
information. Keep your calendars
clear for it.*

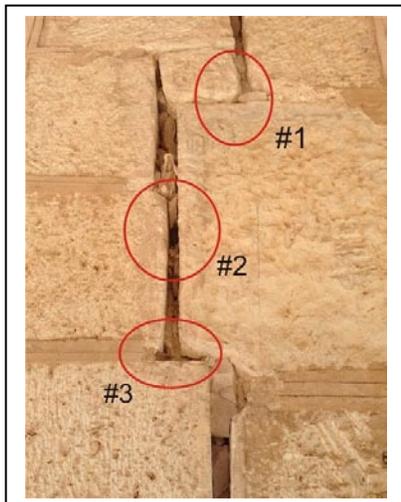
*If you are traveling this August,
stay safe and watch the heat.*

*We also send our condolences to
Cynthia Schneider (the Soap
Lady) for the loss of her husband
Don on July 6th. Don and Cynthia
have been great supporters of the
Friends of Fort McKavett, the
Buffalo Soldier Program, and our
site for many years.*

*John Cobb
President Emeritus, Friends of
Fort McKavett*

About our Post from the Staff

During routine maintenance of the 1870's Hospital we discovered something interesting. We found that the mortar between the stones on the south wall is only about one to a half an inch thick. Underneath the cover mortar we found that the cut stones were mortared together using caliche instead of actual mortar. Caliche is a very poor quality limestone that is often very brittle or powdery. It can be used to mortar cut stone together during construction when actual mortar is unavailable. There are different grades of caliche but this type was most likely in a near powder form and was mixed with water to create a paste. This method was popular during this time because sand, an important ingredient in mortar, was not readily available in this area. Within the caliche, we discovered plant fibers that would have been present when the caliche mortar was mixed. These plants have been very well preserved and are very easy to see. The pictures here are those plants. The first one is a picture of the entire wall itself with the locations of the up close shots indicated. In order to make them easier to spot, we identified the fibers in each photo. The 1870's Hospital was completed in 1874. It was the only building on the post that was built entirely by civilian contractors and is the only structure that is not whitewashed. The building was originally planned to be two stories but budget restrictions limited construction to only one story. The color of these fibers indicates that the caliche (and the plants, unintentionally) was mixed together with water to create the paste that was used to hold the stones in place.



Photographs of what was found at our Hospital

Fort McKavett Cordwaining Workshop



Fort McKavett Site Manager Cody Mobley is shown working on shoes and teaching a class on cordwaining (shoe making) at Fort McKavett this July.



Participants learned the art of shoe making from the raw materials to the finished product. It was well attended and they learned how to make their own.

There will be no Mini-Event for August

Important Notice

Due to a recent development whereby Ft. Chadbourne has decided to stop holding its annual event, the Texas Historical Commission has given its approval to Ft. McKavett to change its event date from the traditional last weekend in March to the first full weekend in May, beginning May of 2016. This will hopefully address the problem we've been having concerning low numbers of students on Education Day, due to late March being the last prep dates for state-mandated testing. We feel the new dates will also allow many of our living historians/reenactors who participate in Texas Rev events in March & April to now attend our event as well.

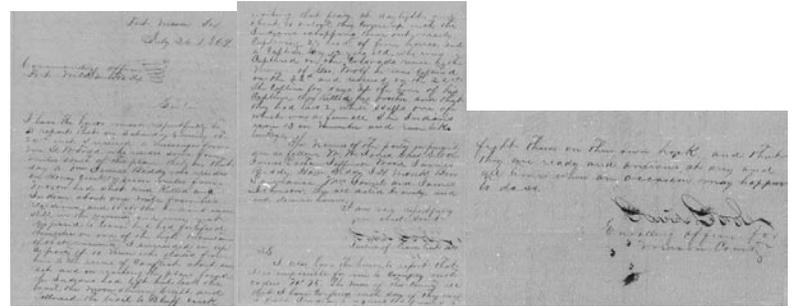
For now, we're asking you to set aside 06-07 May 2016 for Ft. McKavett's West Texas Heritage Days. A more formal announcement and registration materials will be forthcoming, being sent directly from Ft. McKavett later this year.

Joe Gonzalez
Friends of Fort McKavett
Living History Director



Buffalo Soldiers at this last March's event

From the Fort McKavett Archives



David Dooley was the Justice of the Peace for Mason County (1st Precinct) in July 1869. One the 24th of that month, Mr. Dooley led a party of ten men to chase down some Comanche Indians that had a run in with a Mr. James Biddy on his property near the Fort. Biddy had killed one of the raiders but the reminder of the party fortified themselves in some high grounds near Bluff Creek. After a long night of following the Comanche's trail to their fortified area, Mr. Dooley and his party set about "whipping them out" and succeeded in chasing them off. The action resulted in the capture of 27 horses and one 12 year old boy who had been carried off two days prior to this. Mr. Dooley did not identify the boy but he was carried off near a George Wolf's property. The boy told Dooley that the Indians had killed his brother and when they found them, the Comanches carried two Anglo scalps with them (potentially his parents').

This action took place during the Reconstruction and Mr. Dooley, in a postscript to Col. Mackenzie, mentions his inability to comply with "order No. 75." He says this was because the men in his jurisdiction he spoke with wanted to "fight [the Indians] on their own hook." Order No. 75 is most probably a requirement that armed men form official militias under the JP's to fight Indians that was enacted as a result of Reconstruction. We have not been able to find wording of Order No. 75 as of yet.

*This and other stories can be found in the Fort
McKavett Research Library*

Indian Wars Army Regulations

Officers Pay

PAY AND ALLOWANCES.

RATES OF PAY.

SEC. 1261. The officers of the Army shall be entitled to the pay herein stated after their respective designations:

The General: thirteen thousand five hundred dollars a year.

Lieutenant-general: eleven thousand dollars a year.

Major-general: seven thousand five hundred dollars a year.

Brigadier-general: five thousand five hundred dollars a year.

Colonel: three thousand five hundred dollars a year.

Lieutenant-colonel: three thousand dollars a year.

Major: two thousand five hundred dollars a year.

Captain, mounted: two thousand dollars a year.

Captain, not mounted: eighteen hundred dollars a year.

Adjutant: eighteen hundred dollars a year.

Regimental quartermaster: eighteen hundred dollars a year.

First lieutenant, mounted: sixteen hundred dollars a year.

First lieutenant, not mounted: fifteen hundred dollars a year.

Second lieutenant, mounted: fifteen hundred dollars a year.

Second lieutenant, not mounted: fourteen hundred dollars a year.

Chaplain: fifteen hundred dollars a year.

Aid to major-general: two hundred dollars a year, in addition to pay of his rank.

Aid to brigadier-general: one hundred and fifty dollars a year, in addition to pay of his rank.

Acting assistant commissary: one hundred dollars a year, in addition to pay of his rank.

Ordnance store-keeper at Springfield armory: two thousand five hundred dollars a year.

All other store-keepers: two thousand dollars a year.

2 Mar., 1867, c. 145, s. 7, v. 14, p. 423.

15 July, 1870, c. 294, s. 24, v. 16, p. 320.

24 July, 1876, c. 226, v. 19, p. 97.

BREVETS.

SEC. 1264. Brevets conferred upon commissioned officers shall not entitle them to any increase of pay.

3 Mar., 1863, c. 82, v. 12, p. 758.

3 Mar., 1865, c. 79, s. 9, v. 13, p. 488.

MAXIMUM OF COLONEL'S AND LIEUTENANT-COLONEL'S PAY.

SEC. 1267. In no case shall the pay of a colonel exceed four thousand five hundred dollars a year, or the pay of a lieutenant-colonel exceed four thousand dollars a year.

15 July, 1870, c. 294, s. 24, v. 16, p. 320.

TO BE PAID MONTHLY.

SEC. 1268. The sums hereinbefore allowed shall be paid in monthly payments by the paymaster.

15 July, 1870, c. 294, s. 24, v. 16, p. 320.

From the Army Cooks Manual

REMARKS ON GRIDDLE AND PAN CAKES.

If the pan or griddle has been unused for some time cleanse thoroughly with soap and hot water, then wipe dry with a towel, and, lastly, rub thoroughly with dry salt to remove all moisture.

If the griddle is clean and smooth, only occasional greasing will be required; the best way is with a clean rag containing butter. The griddle must either be scraped or greased after each cake is cooked. Pancakes should be fried in a small pan. When the cake is cooked on one side, turn, and cook it on the other.

When yeast is an ingredient and the batter rises over night, the articles to be stirred in the morning should be added thirty minutes before the cakes are to be cooked.

The batter should be removed gently from the vessel to the griddle with the least possible disturbance to the batter.

Baking powder and sweet milk may be substituted for soda and sour milk.

CORN-MEAL BATTER CAKES.

1 quart sour milk. 2 eggs, beaten. 2 teaspoonfuls salt.

1 teaspoonful soda in sufficient hot water to dissolve it.

Mix in enough sifted meal to make a thin batter.

Cook on a griddle, over a quick, clear fire. Each cake should be buttered as soon as cooked, and kept hot until served.

BATTER CAKES, No. 1.

1 quart sifted flour.

$\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoonful salt.

2 heaping teaspoonfuls baking powder.

1 teaspoonful brown sugar.

2 eggs, beaten light.

Put flour into a deep dish, and mix with it the salt, baking powder, and brown sugar. Add warm milk sufficient to make a thick batter. Then add eggs. If eggs do not thin down the batter sufficiently, add more milk. Beat thoroughly and cook at once.