

Fort McKavett State Historical Site  
P. O. Box 68  
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# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

**Volume 1, Number 7**

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TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

## PARKS & HISTORIC SITES



### ***Veterans Day on the Post***

**Gabe Schooley, John Cobb, and Dale gave tours of the Post for Veterans Day Weekend. Although the turnout of visitors was not large in numbers, several people did take advantage of these tours.**

**Dale also delivered the new refrigerator to the shop for use by staff and volunteers.**

### **Christmas at Fort Concho**

Fort McKavett will have a large display this year at Fort Concho on December 6-8. We will have tents, displays, people representing all the time periods of the lifetime of the Post and our own Ladies will be present with their own displays.

The Ladies, led by Gay, Dixie, and Darcy will be serving tea during the day, showing their period displays and on Saturday night at 8:00 PM, will host a Christmas Party for our Fort McKavett Volunteers, Staff and invited guests.

Period dress is strongly encouraged, but not required.

Please make plans to support our Post Ladies.



## *Call to Arms...* Events For Fort McKavett



December 6,7,8, Christmas at Fort Concho

February 14-15, Battleship Texas, U.S.S. Maine Memorial and Living History Timeline

March 21-23, Fort McKavett, West Texas Heritage Days

May 17-18, Texas State Railroad Living History Timeline



*Captains Row at Fort McKavett*

Officers Quarters #8-10 are scheduled by the State to be furnished and kept in a timeline showing a two room 1872 Lt.'s Quarters, a 1877 Captains Quarters with children, and a 1883 Married Captains Quarters with no children. The first of these buildings will be furnished sometime in December, 2002. We have had assurances from TPWD Austin that guided tours will continue through these buildings.



*1800's Mess Kit*

The mess kit used during most of the Indian Wars were the same basic U. S. Army Mess Kits issued from 1872 until after the turn of the century. This issue consisted of the meat pan, flatware, and the tin cup. These were made of tin and were lead soldered. They were improved after the turn of the century by being manufactured of aluminum and not lead soldered

The meat pan was also the frying pan, plate, and holder for bags of sugar (brown sugar), salt, pepper, and green coffee beans. They had to be roasted in the mess kit, then ground. This was done with the butt of a revolver when there were no officer's present or another hard surface when they were. One of the ways Indian Wars revolvers can be recognized is by the circular grind marks on the butt of the weapon.

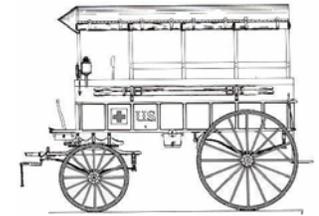
Small "Coffee Boilers" were carried as well to boil coffee or used to cook meals.

All of this equipment was kept in the haversack as well as the saddlebags and carried mounted or dismounted.

## THE UNITED STATES IN 1883

- Brooklyn Bridge opens
- Buffalo Bill organizes his Wild West Show
- Edison discovers electricity can travel through space
- Klebs discovers the bacillus bacterium
- Ladies Home Journal is founded
- Life Magazine publishes first issue
- Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain published
- First skyscraper built in Chicago. Ten stories
- Howard Pyle writes/draws The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood
- New York's Metropolitan Opera House opens
- Classes begin at U.T. Austin on September 15, 1883, with 221 students (163 men, 58 women), and eight male faculty.
- Texas purchases The Alamo from the Catholic Church to preserve it as an historic shrine.
- "Buffalo Bill" Cody stages his first Wild West Show at the Omaha fairgrounds
- Buffalo hunters gather on the northern Plains for the last large buffalo kill, among them a Harvard-educated New York assemblyman named Theodore Roosevelt
- The first rodeo ever held was in Pecos, Texas in 1883
- Fort McKavett, Texas is abandoned

## Fort McKavett Medical History



### Small Pox and Fort McKavett in 1857

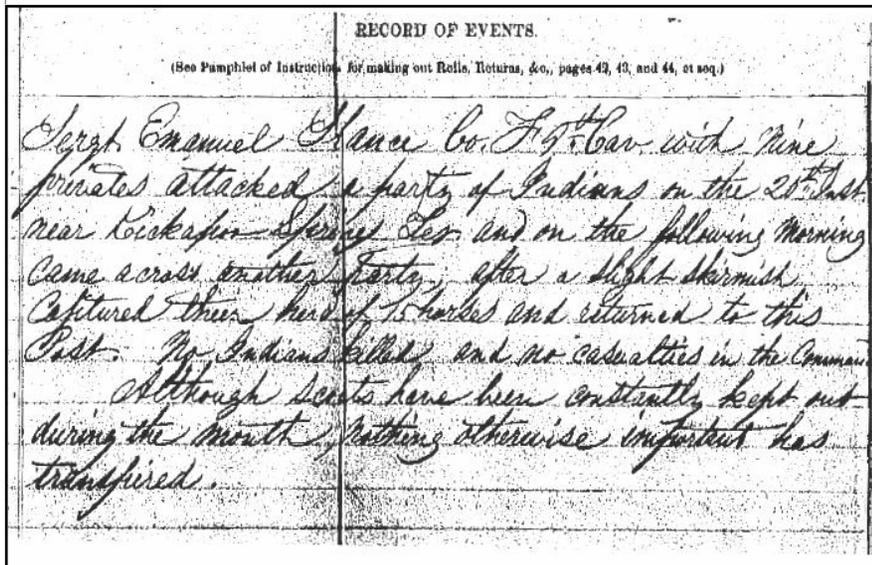
Army surgeons had by this time apparently realized that although it was often difficult to obtain a potent vaccine, revaccination was advisable whenever soldiers were likely to be exposed to smallpox. The surgeon at Fort McKavett, Texas, for example, reimmunized most of the men at his post in 1857 after hearing of a smallpox epidemic in San Antonio. Because of the difficulty of obtaining vaccine, he started by immunizing only infants and children who had never undergone the procedure. Using material taken from their lesions, he then vaccinated the 22-man post band. The procedure took for all but four of this group, two of whom had already been vaccinated and two more of whom bore smallpox scars. With material obtained from members of the band he next vaccinated half of the remaining men, and with material from these, he immunized the final group.<sup>22</sup>

Vaccinating the people at Fort McKavett in relays ensured the potency of the vaccine matter used after the first round. The department encouraged other surgeons to propagate their vaccine similarly and also tried to develop an exchange system among its physicians. The New York purveyor experimented at this time with shipping the inoculum in small sealed glass tubes, but since these containers were quite fragile, the department generally continued to use vaccine crusts to ship the virus, although this method of shipment carried the risk that the material might be ineffective when it reached its destination.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup>*Statistical Report*, 1855-60, pp. 189-90. Unless otherwise indicated, material on diseases in the Army is based on vols. 2 and 3 of these *Statistical Reports*.

<sup>23</sup>Ltrs, Heiskell to McDougall (1 May 1849), to W. S. King (20 Aug 1849), and to Wood (27 Mar 1854), all in RG 112, entry 2, 20:33, 216 and 24:32, respectively; Cooper to Lawson (24 Apr 1849) and Satterlee to Lawson (3 Nov 1857), both in RG 112, entry 12; Rpt, Coolidge, in *Statistical Report*, 1855-60, p. 97.

# From the Archives



This is an example of what you can find in the Fort McKavett archives. This is the “Record of Events” section of the Post Returns dated March, 1870.

This particular write up is the first mention of Sgt. Emanuel Stance and the action where he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

To find more of this action, you would need to look in the “Company Returns” of Company “A”, 9th Cavalry and “Letters Sent”.

These microfilms can be found in the Post Library and you can make reservations with Gabe at the Post for a time to come to the Research Center and go through them.



## A note from the Fort McKavett Ladies

On Saturday and Sunday, Dec 7 & 8, at Christmas at Old Fort Concho, there will be a new “Ladies’ Tent.” We expect to have tea/coffee all day long, so please stop by and chat for a bit (even gentlemen are welcome).

At 3:00 pm on Saturday, Dec 7, the Ladies of Forts Concho and McKavett will hold a proper “Ladies’ Tea.” Featured will be period correct “buffalo tongue” sandwiches and cookies.

We invite you to join us. Ladies, bring your favorite needlework, book or newspaper. It was often the case at such ladies’ gatherings that one woman would read passages from a favorite book or newspaper while the others worked on needle projects. Gossip was another way to pass the time! Anyone who wishes to bring simple cookies (like sugar cookies) or punch is welcome to help provide refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Darcy Maloney

